

Record of the Marblehead School Committee Workshop
Thursday June 29, 2023
Marblehead High School
Library Conference Room
7:00pm

<https://marbleheadschoools-org.zoom.us/j/92807484203?pwd=NVP2SFgyaFIRQ1lzME9Tei91VkxsQT09>

Members Present: Sarah Fox, Brian Ota, Jennifer Schaeffner, Alison Taylor and
Members Absent: Meagan Taylor
Also: Superintendent John J. Buckey
Assistant Superintendent Finance and Operations Michelle Cresta

I. Initial Business

- a. Call to Order
- b. Ms. Fox called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.
- c. Committee Organization
 - i. Chair
Ms. Schaeffner nominated Ms. Fox as Chairperson which was seconded by Ms. Alison Taylor. The motion passes, 4-0
 - ii. Vice Chair
Ms. Fox nominated Ms. Schaeffner as Vice-Chair which was seconded by Mr. Ota. The motion passes, 4-0
 - iii. Secretary
Ms. Schaeffner nominated Ms. Alison Taylor as secretary which was seconded by Ms. Fox. The motion passes, 4-0
- d. Commendations
 - Chairperson Fox commended former committee member Sarah Gold for her five years of service on the committee.
 - Ms. Alison Taylor commended the elementary school staff for their planning of the moving on ceremonies. She also recognized all community members who ran for elections.
- e. Public Comment
 - Paul Baker congratulated new committee members Mr. Ota and Ms. Schaeffner. He further recognized former committee member Ms. Gold for her years of dedication and service to the schools during a time which required “steadying of the ship.” He spoke against revisiting the list of budget cuts noting the difficulty in determining the importance of which positions should be reinstated over others. Mr. Baker also inquired about the status of a discrimination lawsuit against the district.

II. Consent Action and Agenda Items

- a. Schedule of Bills
Ms. Fox asked for a motion to approve the schedule of bills totaling \$602,846.57. The motion was moved by Alison Taylor and seconded by Brian Ota. The motion passes, 4-0.

III. Superintendent Report

- a. District Updates
 - i. Elementary Literacy Curriculum Roll out
Superintendent Buckey explained that principals set evaluation goals for their educators pertaining to literacy and math and significant progress was made in which most educators met or exceeded their goals.

The leadership team met on Monday for professional development related to the new K-6 ELA curriculum Wit and Wisdom. Assistant Superintendent Julia Ferreira provided a brief presentation about the training and plan for implementation. It was mentioned that literacy leaders will be assigned at each school and grade level. Discussion pertaining to phonics, the use of Foundations and aligning curriculum took place.

IV. School Committee Communication and Discussion Items

a. FY 24 Budget Discussion

A discussion about the list of budget cuts took place. Ms. Schaeffner and Ms. Fox spoke in favor of using surplus funds to prepay out of district tuition costs. It was also recommended by Chairperson Fox that a reprioritized list be created to determine which eliminated positions could be brought back.

Superintendent Buckey and Assistant Superintendent Cresta spoke against revisiting the list as it was a list that was collaboratively generated with the leadership team in preparation of a failed override. Ms. Cresta confirmed that prepayment of out of district tuition costs would occur, but she cautioned against using any additional one-time revenues to pay for costs that would be part of the following year's budget.

Ms. Schaeffner spoke in favor of reinstating Freshman sports and Ms. Fox recommended looking into increasing user fees to fund Freshman sports. Committee members Fox and Alison Taylor recommended scheduling a meeting with the Town to revisit the ARPA funds discussion.

After a discussion about the budget took place, Superintendent Buckey reminded the committee of the collective bargaining year ahead, the \$400k in technology updates anticipated for FY25 along with additional curriculum related increase.

Chairperson Fox asked for a motion to revisit the budget cuts pending reports from Assistant Superintendent Cresta. The motion was moved by Ms. Schaeffner and seconded by Principal Ota. The motion passes, 4-0

Ms. Schaeffner made a motion to reinstate Freshman sports which was seconded by Ms. Alison Taylor. The motion passes, 4-0.

Chairperson Fox recommended meeting next on July 6th to discuss appointing liaisons and subcommittees, go over protocols and address potential adjustments to the budget. Ms. Fox mentioned reaching out to committee member Meagan Taylor to confirm her availability.

b. School Committee Summer Retreat discussion

The week of the 24th was discussed as a possible date to meet for the retreat.

c. Massachusetts Association of School Committees Annual Conference

The conference will take place on November 8th through the 10th and a discount will be applied for early registrations. Interested committee members should notify Ms. Fox if they would like to attend.

V. Closing Business

a. New Business

Ms. Alison Taylor requested additional information pertaining to a specific records request. She suggested scheduling an Executive Session to be further informed. Ms. Schaeffner suggested scheduling an Executive Session to also be informed about pending lawsuits.

When Chairperson Fox requested the above referenced information from Superintendent Buckley, he noted that he has been working with legal and will confirm with legal what he can release.

Ms. Fox recommended having legal attend a meeting to explain how the district was advised to respond to a records request requested by community member, Ms. Day. She noted her concern with responding to requests in a manner that aligns with records request law.

b. Correspondence

Ms. Taylor spoke about correspondence received about the vacant Coffin School. Ms. Fox explained how the only mechanism to sell the Coffin School is by putting a property on a Town Article to begin the process to turn the building back over to the Town.

c. Adjournment

Ms. Fox adjourned the meeting at 8:29pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Dimier, Secretary
Marblehead School Committee*

Approved August 11, 2023

*Schedule of Bills
Wit and Wisdom Presentation
Reduced Service Budget Detail
ARPA Requests
MASC Conference Information
School Committee Meeting Dates
School Committee Operating Protocols
Subcommittee and Liaisons List*