

**Record of the Marblehead School Committee Meeting
Thursday April 28, 2022
Marblehead High School-Library**

Members Present: Sarah Gold, Meagan Taylor, Emily Barron and David Harris
Remote Participants: Sarah Fox
Also: John J. Buckey, Superintendent
Michelle Cresta, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations
Gina Hart, High School Social Worker

Link: <https://marbleheadschoools-org.zoom.us/j/96438056573?pwd=bzZRZE0vdEhrZIBFcm16bmFuaml2QT09>

- I. Initial Business
 - a. Call to Order
Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
 - b. Commendations
None
 - c. Student Representative-Yasen Colon
Mr. Colon would join the next regularly scheduled school committee meeting.
 - d. Public Comment
 - Josh Baron of Vassar Rd. inquired, after hearing what he termed “troubling comments”, about the process in place for ensuring that student accommodations for children of school committee members are equal for members of the community. He further inquired about what process was or should be in place for further investigating the validity of the comments.
 - Jessica Benedetto of Bradlee Rd. spoke about bus runs and the opportunity to add additional riders. She spoke in favor of adding Veterans students to the Pay to Ride program contingent upon available seats and an additional bus driver.
 - Catherine Martin of W. Shore Dr. shared her disagreement with no committee member intervening during an earlier public comment that referenced “privilege protected information regarding children’s disabilities in their IEP’s.”

Prior to Ms. Hart presenting her survey, Ms. Fox asked for a motion to adjourn for a brief five-minute recess. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barron and a roll vote was taken, passing 5-0. Ms. Gold noted that the meeting would return at 7:19pm.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Barron, Mr. Harris and Ms. Fox-all yes.

Ms. Gold called the meeting back to order at 7:19pm.

- II. Superintendent Report
 - a. Youth Risk Behavior Survey Presentation-Social Worker, Gina Hart
High School Social Worker, Ms. Gina Hart presented the results of a youth at risk behavior survey sharing that just under 600 students from across all four high school grade levels participated in the anonymous survey. It was explained that the survey looked at how certain risk related and protective factors made students more vulnerable towards or protected against substance abuse and mental health concerns.
 - b. District Updates
 - The stipend committee continues to meet to discuss stipends and review the categories and steps of each category.

- The principal search for the Brown School is wrapping up and a recommendation should be shared with the committee at the next school committee meeting.

III. Finance and Organizational Support

a. Monthly Financial Report

Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Ms. Michelle Cresta shared a monthly financial report as of March 31, 2022 sharing that 61% of the operating budget had been expended. It was mentioned that deficits were expected in the out of district tuition and out of district transportation accounts along with the custodian over time account. She noted that the substitute account would also have been in deficit without the one-time \$100,000.00 expenditure offset from the state for COVID sick time reimbursement. Ms. Cresta also included an update on COVID related ESSER grant funds availability as of March 31, 2022.

b. Schedules

Ms. Gold asked for a motion to approve the schedule of bills totaling \$554,906.94. The motion was moved Mr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Taylor with a roll call vote all in favor, 5-0.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Barron, Ms. Fox and Mr. Harris-all yes.

IV. School Committee and/or Discussion Items

Ms. Gold asked that the Article 33 discussion be taken out of order and discussed first as a member of the Park and Rec was in attendance.

A conversation regarding the consideration of property liability and transferring the ownership of the property located at the Beacon and Green Streets to the Town took place. After a discussion regarding the use of the property by the BikMor group occurred, Ms. Gold asked for a motion to transfer the parcel of land known as Beacon Street with parcel identification number 169200 shown on the assessor's map as map 159 lot 20 to the care and custody of the recreation and park department. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Fox with a roll call vote taken, passing the motion 5-0.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Barron, Ms. Fox and Mr. Harris-all yes.

Ms. Gold asked for a second motion to support Article 33 at the annual town meeting.

The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Fox with a roll call vote taken, with the motion passing 5-0.

Ms. Gold, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Barron, Ms. Fox and Mr. Harris-all yes.

a. Town Meeting Presentation Discussion

Ms. Gold mentioned providing an opportunity for committee members to comment on what it is they feel may be important to be included in the presentation to be shared at Town Meeting. She also recommended that Superintendent Buckey and committee member Mr. Harris be the representatives to present Article 46.

Ms. Taylor spoke in favor of supporting the recommendations for representatives.

Mr. Harris clarified that although Interim Town Administrator John McGinn would present Article 11, members should have specific information pertaining to the article readily available for questions such as information regarding the roofing and technology related budget requests for example.

Ms. Fox shared her interest in serving as the representative to answer questions pertaining to facilities under that Article. It was also asked that the IT Director provide additional information regarding the technology request for quick reference.

Ms. Gold also noted the importance of including information regarding benefits related costs associated with the Town and the larger facilities discussion to memorialize addressing the ownership and use of school owned properties.

Ms. Gold mentioned that it was of importance to address some misunderstandings out in the community pertaining to staffing and program cuts sharing that if the override did not pass, no staff or programs would be cut.

A conversation regarding the budget priority needs and increasing expenses due to postponing certain requests took place.

b. Superintendent Evaluation Discussion

Ms. Gold recommended that the Superintendent's self-evaluation be presented on May 19th with individual evaluations being turned in by June 2nd with the summative to be presented at the June 16th meeting.

Ms. Fox requested that a staff survey for the evaluation of the Superintendent be sent out and shared with the committee. Committee members Gold and Taylor did not support the idea of a survey as it was explained by Superintendent Buckey that most surrounding districts did not complete one. It was also noted that the MEA was not in support of generating a survey to send out to staff.

Ms. Fox made a motion to work with Ms. Barron to create a staff survey to evaluate Superintendent Buckey for the committee to review prior to sending out. The motion was not seconded and Ms. Gold spoke against going over the decision of the MEA to facilitate such a survey. Committee member Harris recommended exploring the possibility of a survey for the following year.

c. Article 33-Allocation of Land for Off-Road Bike Park Discussion

This agenda item was taken out of order and discussed before the Town meeting presentation discussion.

d. The Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity METCO-Parent Representative Process

Ms. Barron shared the Bedford and Lincoln Public Schools policy for having a METCO representative on the school committee. A discussion about how to proceed with determining who the representative would be took place. It was mentioned that the position could be further discussed at the meeting on May 5th scheduled at the METCO headquarters.

e. Subcommittee and Liaisons Updates

- Ms. Barron shared that the METCO program currently has representatives in each school
- The Cultural Fest will be Friday, May 20th at the high school
- Mr. Harris shared some photos of new fencing that was put up at the Brown School, photos of some raised garden beds and the playground.
- Mr. Harris shared that the project has received 95 % reimbursement from the MSBA and the final audit will be completed soon.

V. Closing Business

a. New Business

Ms. Gold discussed the option for transportation to the METCO headquarters for the meeting the following week.

Superintendent Buckey explained that the committee is scheduled to take a tour of the headquarters with dinner with METCO families to follow just before the start of the school committee meeting scheduled for 7pm.

b. Correspondence

Ms. Gold mentioned the Article 33 correspondence discussed earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Fox shared that Jean Skaane reached out to inquire about attending a school committee to discuss the mindfulness work she lead in district this year.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, recently deceased former Glover School teacher, Ms. Brooke Yanow was remembered and condolences went out to her family and friends. Ms. Gold recognized the number of impacted lives from her years of service in district.

c. Adjournment

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 9:06pm.

Materials Included:

Behavior at Risk Survey Presentation

Monthly Financial Report

ESSER Grant Status Report

Scheduled of Bills \$554,906.94

Article 33 and Green Street Wood Correspondence

Sample METCO Representative Policies-Bedford and Lincoln

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Dimier, Secretary

Marblehead School Committee

Approved June 2, 2022