

Marblehead School Committee

June 18, 2020

7:00 PM

Zoom Conference-Meeting ID: 935 9554 1055 & Password: 470175

<https://zoom.us/j/93595541055?pwd=Y2gvb2ZqUkxheE9xRTREZkNzYOUT09>

Dial In (415) 762-9988 with ID and follow prompts

Meeting ID: 935 9554 1055

Members Present: Sarah Gold, Meagan Taylor, Emily Barron, David Harris
and Sarah Fox

Also: Dr. John J. Buckey-Superintendent
Michelle Cresta-Director of Finance

I. Initial Business and Public Involvement

1. Call to Order

Ms. Gold called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

2. Committee Organization

Election of Officers

i. Chairman

Ms. Taylor made a motion to recommend Ms. Gold as the School Committee Chair for the 2020-2021 school year sharing that she felt she had “a calm and thoughtful approach which was fair and inclusive.” Ms. Harris seconded the motion noting that Ms. Gold also worked well with the Interim Superintendent. A Roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Barron-Yes

Ms. Taylor-Yes

Mr. Harris-Yes

Ms. Fox-Yes

Ms. Gold-Yes

The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor

ii. Vice-Chairman

Mr. Harris made a motion to nominate Ms. Taylor as Vice Chair which was seconded by Ms. Gold. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Barron-Yes

Ms. Taylor-Yes

Mr. Harris-Yes

Ms. Fox-Yes

Ms. Gold-Yes

The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor

iii. Secretary

Ms. Fox shared that she had an interest in serving as the secretary for another year mentioning that she enjoyed taking the minutes when the Superintendent’s Assistant, Ms. Dimier was not able to.

Ms. Gold made a motion to nominate Ms. Sarah Fox as the secretary which was seconded by Ms. Taylor. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Baron-Yes

Ms. Gold-Yes

Ms. Taylor-Yes

Mr. Harris-Yes

Ms. Fox-Yes

The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor

3. Commendations

a. Retiree Recognition

Superintendent McAlduff recognized recently retired and retiring teachers Susan Buonopane, Cathy Castoldi, Betsy Gay, Joan Geary, Melissa Humphrey, Brenda Perroni and Steve Venezia sharing good health and best wishes to them all. He also recognized two retiring paraprofessionals, Ms. Jones-Tentindo and Ms. Younger along with retiring tutor Ms. Rombach.

Ms. Fox commended the teachers, students and parents for the team effort during the year. She also commended former school committee member Ms. Schaeffner for her years of service. Superintendent McAlduff thanked Ms. Schaeffner for her skills with organizing staff, the community and volunteers.

Ms. Gold commended Superintendent McAlduff for all of his guidance during the year sharing that she was “incredibly grateful for all that has been done.”

Mr. Harris agreed and commended Superintendent McAlduff for being present and participating with the building project.

Ms. Gold also thanked all of the teachers and staff at the schools for working hard to make it through the last three months to move the district forward.

Ms. Fox thanked Facilities Director Mr. Bloodgood and his custodial staff for their involvement with the election and keeping everything clean.

4. Student Representative-Dan Howells

- The last official day of the school year for all students was that same day, June 18th.
- The Virtual 8th grade middle school moving beyond ceremony was also scheduled for earlier that same day but was rescheduled to the next day due to technical difficulty
- Looking back on the school year, Mr. Howells shared some highlights including:
 - The Football and Powderpuff Thanksgiving Day wins
 - The statewide Cross Country meet
 - The swim team winning their 15th consecutive NEC Championship
 - The boys ski team also taking home a title for the year
 - The Drama Club production of Peter and Wendy moving on to the semifinalist round of the Drama Festival
 - The High School hosting their 2nd annual Cultural Feast
 - The March 13th Senior Show
 - The virtual graduation held on June 5th which turned out to be great given the circumstances

Ms. Gold thanked Mr. Howells for his thoughtful and prepared statements throughout the year and extended the offer for Mr. Howells to join as the student representative again during the 2020-2021 school year.

Superintendent McAlduff agreed that Mr. Howells is a great role model for the student body and shared what a pleasure it had been to have him as part of the meetings.

5. Public Comment

Ms. Catherine Martin of 29 W Shore Dr. took a moment to thank former school committee member, Ms. Schaeffner for her many years of service and volunteer work in the district sharing that “she was a prepared and hard worker advocating for teachers, students and staff.” She also thanked Superintendent McAlduff as well for his professional leadership traits.

Ms. Joan Miller of 34 Naugus Av. spoke on behalf of the Marblehead Education Association thanking Superintendent McAlduff for his steady leadership pointing out that “his experience and knowledge got Marblehead through the year.”

Ms. Cindy Loewen welcomed new committee member Ms. Barron and wished the group well with incoming Superintendent, Dr. John Buckey. She commended the work of the central administrative team and the school committee for their work in putting things back together.

II. Consent Agenda and Action Items

Minutes:

- a. April 2, 2020
- b. April 13, 2020
- c. April 16, 2020

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the minutes from April 2nd, 2020, April 13th, 2020 and April, 16th 2020. The motion was moved by Mr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Fox. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Barron-Yes
Ms. Gold-Yes
Ms. Taylor-Yes
Mr. Harris-Yes
Ms. Fox-Yes

The motion passes, 5-0 all in favor.

III. Superintendent Report

1. School Re-Opening Update

Superintendent McAlduff shared that the district was awaiting guidance from DESE regarding the fall reopening plan. He shared that incoming Superintendent Dr. Buckley would work to put together a school reopening committee to oversee the reopening process and planning. It was explained that the committee would be responsible for overseeing the protocols, procedure and social emotional needs of the reopening that would fall in line with DESE's reopening plan. Superintendent McAlduff mentioned that the committee should consist of district leaders and community representatives. He also noted certain topics for discussion to include family surveys, an internal technology audit and staffing considerations such as reassignments.

A conversation regarding PPE, Personal Protective Equipment procurement took place.

2. Student Fees Update

Superintendent McAlduff recommended no increase to the student activity fees given the current circumstances sharing that they were already increased last school year.

IV. Finance Organizational Support

1. Schedule of Bills

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the schedule of bills totaling \$1, 548,181.01. The motion was moved by Ms. Fox and seconded by Ms. Taylor. Prior to a roll call vote Ms. Fox inquired about a refund to parents for the Senior Project. She also confirmed that the Structural Field Peer Review was included in the building project budget to which Ms. Cresta confirmed that it was. A brief conversation regarding the legal fees budget took place. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Barron-Yes
Ms. Gold-Yes
Ms. Fox-Yes
Mr. Harris-Yes
Ms. Taylor-Yes

The motion carries, all in favor 5-0.

2. FY20 Monthly Report

Ms. Cresta gave a verbal update on the current surplus status sharing that a total surplus of \$424K was to be expected. She further shared that the remaining payroll would include all 52 week employees. It was explained that the district

would be prepaying \$200k in O.O.D Out of District tuition costs to decrease the budget needs for next year. Ms. Cresta also mentioned that the school department was working with the Town to use some of the additional surplus towards their capital needs for the next year with any remaining funds being returned to the town.

3. FY21 Budget Vote

Superintendent McAlduff explained that the FY21 budget of \$41, 521, 000 that was presented at the June Budget Public Hearing was the budget he would be asking the committee members to vote. He shared that the total budget included \$30k in funds from a late retirement that had been reallocated to the line item for unknown COVID-19 related expenses. He thanked the committee for their work on the budget and noted that the budget should put the district in a good place for the 2020-2021 school year.

Ms. Gold made a motion to approve the FY21 school operating budget for \$41,521,000. The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Fox.

Mr. Harris thanked Ms. Taylor and Ms. Fox for their work on the budget and also thanked Ms. Cresta for her work in making systems more efficient.

Ms. Taylor also thanked the Superintendent and Ms. Cresta for getting the district to a state where the school department can continue to be managed in a more efficient and transparent way. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Gold-Yes
Ms. Fox-Yes
Ms. Taylor-Yes
Mr. Harris-Yes
Ms. Barron-Yes

The motion pass, 5-0 all in favor.

V. School Committee Communications and/or Discussion Items

1. School Building Project Update

Mr. Harris shared the following building project updates:

- The rock crushing equipment had been moved offsite and ahead of schedule
- The post blast inspections that were recommended began last weekend
- Site prep and work was continuing and ground improvements would begin in the coming weeks
- The planning board approved the change related to color of brick
- The next scheduled committee meeting would be next Thursday

2. Schedule Summer Meeting dates

The committee discussed summer meeting dates and retreat meeting dates where a representative from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees would attend. Ms. Taylor noted that she had reached out to MASC representative Ms. Presser regarding discussing strategic planning and other focused topics. A conversation regarding the options for meeting in-person instead of virtually took place. Ms. Gold recommended meeting on July 8th or 9th via Zoom with a focus on reentry and to further discuss the plan for meeting over the summer. It was decided that the first summer meeting would be held on Wednesday July 8th at 7pm. A conversation regarding what topics may be of interest to discuss during the retreat took place. It was also mentioned that there should be a focus on the evaluation process for the new Superintendent.

VI. Closing Business

1. New Business

Superintendent McAlduff announced that the lunch program would continue on through the end of June. He also announced that Marblehead parent, Samantha Rosato had kindly offered to lead a fundraiser to help cover the costs to continue to run the program over the summer to which the school committee graciously accepted.

Superintendent McAlduff thanked the committee for the opportunity to join the Marblehead team. He also commended the staff stating that “they were an asset to the district.” He further commended the dedicated leadership team and the central office administrative team noting what a terrific group they were.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Gold adjourned the meeting at 8:41pm.

*Respectfully Submitted
Sarah Fox, Secretary
Marblehead School Committee*

Approved October 1, 2020