

Marblehead School Committee

August 20, 2020

7:00 PM

Zoom Conference - Meeting ID 92705319141 & Password: 529634

<https://zoom.us/j/92705319141?pwd=ZWh3bXNwaGpLcjAyem4wcWxNaEZqUT09>

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Meeting ID 92705319141

I. Initial Business

Sarah Gold called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

No Public Comment

II. Superintendent's Report

a. Reentry Update

Dr. Buckey noted the Commissioner of Education and Governor had just released the requirement of flu vaccines for all students and staff. Dr. Buckey requested families be very honest while filling out their surveys for the remote versus hybrid choice. Dr. Buckey noted he was unable to get too deep into specifics of what hybrid and remote looked like without knowing the results of the surveys and how many students each model would be servicing. Dr. Buckey stated the listening session recordings and FAQ notes as prepared by principals had been posted to the [backtogethermhd](http://backtogethermhd.com) website.

Dr. Buckey noted the color coding system and the current numbers are continually changing and he wanted to make sure the district has a solid plan for success prior to bringing back students in person. Dr. Buckey noted he was able to get the youngest learners back to in person learning sooner than third through twelfth grades.

Dr. Buckey discussed the importance of mask wearing and noted the district has obtained masks for all students and staff with the Marblehead logo. Dr. Buckey congratulated the community on the back pack drive and meeting the goal set.

b. 20-21SY Calendar Revisions

Dr. Buckey noted the Calendar would stay very similar. September 14 will be the first day of school and the last day will be June 14. Dr. Buckey stated the transition dates would be published for when students can transition between hybrid and remote if they chose.

Dr. Buckey thanked Kate Thomson for all the communications work and noted he felt very good about all the communications accomplishments

Dr. Buckey noted he wanted to have the reopening subcommittees share the work they are doing.

Meagan Taylor thanked Dr. Buckey for a great solution for the early learners and for clarifying how the first three weeks of remote would be used for training the students on the various platforms. Dr. Buckey noted he is getting a lot of outreach from parents asking how to best support students at home and noted helping parents with this would be part of the first three weeks.

Ms. Fox asked for clarification if families could move from hybrid to remote if they started to feel hybrid was not working for them particularly for safety issues. Dr. Buckey stated this would need to be on a case by case basis.

Ms. Fox asked if we could allow remote teachers to teach from home to free up classroom spaces, allow a safer environment for teachers who chose that method due to health risks and also to show the remote students that their teachers were also in similar situations to them. Dr. Buckey stated he was working out how this would be determined but that it was his hope that the majority of remote teachers would be teaching from the schools. Ms. Fox asked for clarification regarding quarter vs trimester transition points and Dr. Buckey stated it would align with how the various schools broke down their year with report cards.

Nan Murphy presented an update on the teaching and learning subcommittees. Ms. Murphy noted her pleasure with the work that had been done in only 7 weeks. Ms. Murphy shared the drivers for decision making. Ms. Murphy noted the subcommittee had further broken down into 6 more subcommittees. Ms. Murphy noted there would be a parent support section. Ms. Fox noted she felt the process had been very collaborative to date.

Todd Bloodgood gave a facilities subcommittee update. Mr. Bloodgood noted the district was in the process of adding different mechanisms to better control the outside air dampers, had contracted a company for indoor air quality testing, and noted the testing company strongly recommended testing prior and again after the buildings are occupied by staff and students. Mr. Bloodgood noted air purifiers had been obtained for the nurses offices as well as signage for social distancing and mask requirement. Mr. Bloodgood noted he was still working on getting tents for the schools. Mr. Bloodgood stated some staff had already been fitted for N95 but special educators and bus monitors still needed their fittings. Mr. Bloodgood noted the bubblers would be shut off and water bottles would be available for students who did not bring their own full bottle to school. Mr. Bloodgood also gave an update on bus capacity. Ms. Taylor asked when the new bus would be delivered and Mr. Bloodgood replied he is estimating delivery in mid-November. Ms. Fox asked if Mr. Bloodgood was confident we could transport all students until the new bus arrives in mid-November. Mr. Bloodgood noted he was still working on timing issues but he would be able to. Ms. Fox also asked if we would have dedicated bus drivers as we have utilized custodians as bus drivers in the past and was concerned with an increased demand on custodians this would be a potential issue. Mr. Bloodgood noted the district only had one dedicated bus driver and all others served as both custodians and bus drivers. Ms. Fox also wanted to clarify that a message should be released that all students should come to school with a full reusable water bottle from home and the single use bottle provided at school would be only for emergencies when a child does not have a water bottle from home.

Kathleen Hennessey gave a technology update. Ms. Hennessey stated the technology committee had looked at 12-15 different software packages and was polling teachers to come up with a standard list of platforms for students. Ms. Hennessey noted the committee had looked at four key areas: software, hardware, technical support and professional development. Ms. Hennessey noted hardware is backordered and the technology department would get the devices inventoried, configured and distributed as soon as possible. Ms. Hennessey stated she was trying to get bandwidth requirements calculated. Ms. Fox thanked Ms. Hennessey for all the extra work she and her team had been doing and asked if the Technology committee could release an FAQ with guidelines for families about any internet requirements to maximize results for remote learning. Ms. Hennessey noted they were working on those calculations and would be getting that information out. Ms. Taylor stated she was very happy to see standardizations of learning platforms and parent training. Ms. Gold noted the Clever program provided a lot of promise. Ms. Barron said the tech support portal was a must and asked if there was a way for parents to email in questions for immediate support.

Deanna McMahon gave an update on health and safety. Ms. McMahon noted the district was using the CDC, local and state board of health standards to set guidelines and the committee was currently working on a daily safety health checklist as well as a FAQ. Dr. Buckey noted the guidance was recently updated by the state and no longer would all students in a class be quarantined for 14 days but rather the new guidelines state contact tracing would only occur for individuals who were closer than 6 feet for 15 minutes or more would lead to the 14 quarantine requirement. Ms. Fox noted she felt the new requirements were very grey when children are moving through the classroom. Ms. Fox also noted that currently contact tracing was voluntary and asked if the schools could perform the contact tracing and notify individuals without the permission of the infected person or their guardian. Ms. McMahon replied that the board of health would be handling contact tracing as they have been but the school nurses would be working with them, Ms. McMahon did confirm a person could refuse to participate in contact tracing.

Richard Kelleher gave a food services update. Mr. Kelleher noted two kitchens would be opened and food would be delivered to the various buildings. Students and parents could pick up meals midday based on orders placed via a google form developed by the committee. Mr. Kelleher noted no cash transactions would be accepted.

Greg Ceglarski gave an update on the activities and athletics. Mr. Ceglarski stated new guidance was released the day prior for fall athletics. Mr. Ceglarski noted MIAA created a covid-19 task force and were releasing recommendations. Three major areas of concern: transportation, student safety and ways to prevent coaching from becoming police officers. Mr. Ceglarski noted a second fall season was introduced which will start in February. Mr. Ceglarski noted he would be meeting with other league AD to discuss how other schools in the league would be progressing. Ms. Fox commended Mr. Ceglarski for providing equity in the discussion between athletics and the arts.

Ms. Fox asked when or if Dr. Buckey would be releasing results of the survey as it pertains to hybrid versus remote. Dr. Buckey replied he would be releasing the information mid-week after the survey closes on Friday.

Ms. Gold asked for a motion to approve the first day of school being September 14, 2020, and the last day being June 14, 2020, with no snow days.

The motion was moved by Ms. Taylor

Sarah Fox seconded the motion.

Ms. Fox asked if the snow days had been deemed not necessary to make up. Dr. Buckey noted DESE had not released guidance on this yet, Ms. Taylor asked if parent conference days had been switched, Dr. Buckey noted there was no change.

Roll call vote was taken

Sarah Gold	Yes
Emily Barron	Yes
David Harris	Yes
Meaghan Taylor	Yes
Sarah Fox	Yes

The motion passed 5-0

Ms. Fox clarified this was simply a vote for the first and last day of school and did not take the place of a discussion regarding revising the school calendar.

III. Finance organization support

Schedule of Bills

Motion was made to approve the schedule of bills totaling

\$94,726.32

The motion was moved by Meaghan Taylor

Sarah Fox seconded the

motion.

Roll call vote was taken

Sarah Gold	Yes
Emily Barron	Yes
David Harris	Yes
Meaghan Taylor	Yes
Sarah Fox	Yes

The motion passed 5-0

III. School Committee communications and/or discussions

a. Operating protocols

Meaghan Taylor presented a revision of operating protocols and noted the three changes

made as result of discussion at the school committee retreat. Ms Taylor noted she removed a sentence from the “how we govern” section” Ms Taylor noted she made an

adjustment to the communications section regarding the social media section noting MASC social media guidelines would be used. Ms Taylor also noted the “how we communicate” section had been discussed at length. Ms Taylor stated she changed channeling requests for information from town officials through the superintendent and or the chair to just the superintendent.

Sarah Gold asked for a motion to adopt the standards of practice, norms and protocols.

The motion was moved by Meaghan Taylor.
David Harris seconded the motion.

Ms Fox asked what sentence had been removed. Ms Taylor answered it was a sentence pertaining to one person not monopolizing the discussion.

Ms Fox noted she was uncomfortable with the need to channel information from town officials through the superintendent. Ms Fox noted, as town citizens and elected officials she wanted to be able to speak with Town officials when needed. Ms Fox also noted that a lot of work had been done in the last year to improve school and town relations and she felt this was creating silos and separating school and town officials. Ms Taylor replied she felt our current situation with a solid administration was the correct time to put proper protocols in place and the superintendent should be aware of all discussions with the town. Ms Gold agreed with Mr Taylor and noted the new protocols were a way to put trust back in place. Ms Fox noted concern that through adding extra lessons we were becoming less efficient and suggested the protocol be to loop the superintendent in on information requested and obtained rather than using them as an intermediary and thus adding multiple steps to what often is a simple question and answer. Ms Fox noted the education reform act and how the budget is the responsibility of the School Committee and therefore we should be performing our own due diligence when necessary. Ms Fox noted this one section was a sticking point for her. Ms Gold noted she could understand Ms Fox’s point and that if things did not proceed well we could revisit at a later date. Ms Gold noted we need to return to the statewide protocols suggested by MASC. Ms Fox noted MS Gold made a great point about MASC and noted our former protocols were sources directly from MASC and what is being proposed has doubled them which she found concerning. Mr Harris noted he was not concerned about the new protocols impeding relationships with town officials. Mr Harris noted if a member found themselves on a subcommittee they may find they have more direct access to necessary town officials. Ms Gold noted it is important as questions are asked that all School Committee knows the question and answer. Ms Barron noted she helped Ms Taylor put together the proposed protocols and as she is new to the committee she did some research, finding many other districts have a similar protocol.

Ms Gold called for a roll call vote.

Sarah Gold	Yes
Emily Barron	Yes
David Harris	Yes
Meaghan Taylor	Yes
Sarah Fox	No

The motion passed 4-1

Ms Fox noted it was the language asking all communication with town officials to pass through the superintendent that was the sticking point.

b. Website update

Sarah Gold presented the proposed new School Committee website. Ms Gold noted Kate Thomson had originally reached out to the School Committee with her ideas for communication and stated Ms Taylor and Ms Gold had taken Ms Thomson up on her offer to develop a website mock up specifically for the School Committee. Ms Gold noted there would be a calendar where all meetings are listed including sub committees.

Ms Gold noted she had asked Ms Thomson about potential for push notifications and stated Ms Thomson cautioned this could inundate people's mailboxes with small changes. Ms Gold noted the proposed School Committee website could be a direct link from the School District's website.

Ms Fox asked if there would be a way for people to sign up for specific notifications, for example finance meetings. Ms Gold stated she was unsure but agreed it would be a good idea and she would look into it.

Meaghan Taylor thanks Ms Thompson for facilitating the website development. Ms Taylor asked for a target live date for the site. Ms Gold stated she hoped to roll out the site this fall and noted if we are not controlling the information than someone else would. Ms Taylor offered to work with Ms Thompson to have a more solid plan for the next meeting. Ms Gold noted the site may want to become another superintendent's advisory committee.

Ms Fox noted the calendar would be an opportunity to hold office hours and be more accessible to the community. Ms Fx offered, as secretary to work with Ms Thomson to facilitate getting the site setup. Ms Gold noted she wanted to have Ms Taylor work on the website development as it had been Ms Taylor's campaign slogan but noted after it was up and running it should be discussed again who would be in charge. Ms Gold suggested at that point duties of updating the site be assigned to a position rather than individual so as committees change nothing gets lost in translation.

c. Subcommittee & Liaison Discussion

Ms Gold noted she was making some changes and had suggestions for subcommittees based on conversations members had with Ms Gold offline.

Ms Gold noted collective bargaining was added as a subcommittee. Ms Gold also noted she took health and wellness out as a subcommittee and made it a Superintendent's advisory as she had last year with Mr McCaulduff.

Ms Gold made the following recommendations including recommending who the chair of each subcommittee should be.

Budget

Meaghan Taylor (chairman) and David Harris

Collective bargaining	Sarah Gold (chairman) and Meaghan Taylor
Facilities	Sarah Fox (chairman) and Emily Barron
Policy	Sarah Gold (chairman) and Emily Barron

Ms Fox noted she wanted to be on the Budget subcommittee and felt she had been a bug asset the previous year on that subcommittee. Ms Fox noted she had been responsible for several ideas that were utilized to reduce our budget ask from the town in lieu of using the FY20 budget surplus therefore saving the town money while not cutting anything from the School budget. Ms Fox stated she had a tremendous understanding of our budget and noted she had tutored and explained the budget to great depth to Ms Taylor and Ms Gold during the FY19 budget crisis. Ms Fox noted she felt very strongly she wanted to be on the budget subcommittee. Ms Gold agreed with Ms Fox and noted the decision was not a reflection of Ms Fox's capabilities but that Ms Harris and Ms Taylor had expressed an interest. Ms Fox stated she was unaware that Committee members were supposed to send Ms Gold their interests in subcommittees and apologized for that. Ms Taylor noted Ms Fox was a key player in the previous year but that going into FY21 and planning for a potential override Ms Taylor felt she and Mr Harris had a financial background and Mr Harris had Fincom experience and supported switching up the seats. Ms Fox reiterated she had a very strong grasp of the finances of the school and town. Ms Fox noted she had been the one to inform the superintendent and finance director of an additional \$680,000 by staying current with the latest revenue sources. Ms Fox noted she saw no logical reason for her removal from the finance subcommittee and felt the decision was personal. Ms Gold noted she was sorry if it felt politically motivated. Mr Harris stated it is common to rotate members on various subcommittees and he welcomed the opportunity to participate in the budget this year and his 11 years on the finance committee and welcomed the opportunity to get the funding needed for our schools. Ms Fox asked Ms Taylor if she would consider yielding her seat as Mr Harris made a good point regarding his time on FINCOM. Ms Taylor stated she appreciated the request but this was the one committee she was most interested in and noted she had a significant background in economics, finance and budgeting.

Ms Gold stated the other appointment requiring a vote would be the joint school committee and town representation under the MOU. Ms Gold noted the building committee had always been a subcommittee of the school committee but felt it was not appropriate as building committees usually sit at the board of selectmen level. The following was Ms Gold's recommendation:

MOU representative	Sarah Gold and Meaghan Taylor
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Sarah Gold asked for a motion to accept the recommendations for the subcommittee representatives on budget, collective bargaining, facilities, policy and the joint school town committees of building committee and Selectmen MOU committee.

Ms Fox asked who was appointed to policy. Ms Gold answered herself and Ms Barron.

Meaghan Taylor moved the motion.

Mr Harris seconded the motion.

Ms Fox noted she had been taken off all but one of the committees she previously sat on.

Ms Fox asked to please reconsider her seat on the budget subcommittee and all the multitude of savings she has identified in the previous year. Ms Fox noted she had been the only member to voice concern at the budget hearing that Kindergarten tuition would be lost and the need to plan accordingly. Ms Gold stated she did not know how many other ways to state these were simply the delinations for this year and that the decision was not a reflection of Ms Fox's lack of knowledge and noted everyone brings many assets to the table.

Ms Gold took a roll call vote.

Sarah Gold	Yes
Emily Barron	Yes
David Harris	Yes
Meghan Taylor	Yes
Sarah Fox	No

The motion carried 4-1.

Ms Gold noted the superintendent's advisories did not require a vote as did neither the liaison positions. Ms Gold made the following recommendations.

Safety	Sarah Fox
Health and Wellness	Sarah Gold
Reopening Committee	Sarah Gold
Communications	Meghan Taylor

Sarah Fox asked to confirm if she was also pulled off the joint town and school MOU committee. Ms Gold confirmed and stated she thought it best for the chair of the school committee and budget subcommittee to be on that. Ms Gold asked Ms Fox if she was comfortable being on the safety committee and Ms Fox responded the committee had never met the previous year so was unsure what it entailed. Ms Gold noted it had not met the 2018-2019 school year either but that it was a standing advisory. Dr Buckey noted in current times he foresaw the safety committee being pivotal.

Ms Gold stated in the past School Committee members had always been represented on the School Advisory Councils. Ms Gold asked Dr Buckey to speak of his experience with SACs. Dr Buckey noted that he has never seen school committee members assigned to SACs. Ms Taylor said she enjoyed the SAC more than any other meeting but felt it was a window in to see what is going on in the school. Nan Murphy stated she had not been in a district that had school committee members on SAC's either. Ms Fox noted we often hear "Things are not done this way outside Marblehead" and also stated she has continuously served on a SAC for 6 years, the majority of which was as a community member. Ms Fox noted she felt as a community member it was very beneficial to have a school committee member on the SAC as it showed our school committee members were very vested in each individual school. Ms Fox noted she

always felt School Committee reps on these committees were also respectful of not over influencing the SAC but rather felt very collaborative. Ms Fox noted it rare to see School Committee members, administrators, teachers and parents working collaboratively on a single committee towards a common goal and is a model that has served us well. Ms Gold noted Dr Buckey had spoken to her previously about this so she had some more time to form her thoughts and yet did not currently have strong feelings in one direction.

Dr Bucky noted the School Advisory Council issue was not a significant one to hi but felt there may be better ways for School Committee members to be part of what is happening in the buildings. Mr Harris stated he appreciated Dr Buckey's point and felt removed currently as his son had graduated. Mr Harris stated as it has been a past practice for school committee participation if we could table the discussion rather than doing away with the role right now. Ms Taylor questioned if it would be an easier conversation is we had a better idea how School Committee building level engagement would look moving forward. Mr Gold stated she felt herself or someone else should meet with Dr Buckey to discuss possibilities or other options and present those options at time schools are opening. Ms Taylor asked for thoughts from building leadership. Ms Barron stated this information would be helpful as she had never attended a School advisory council meeting. Ms Gold asked who would like to work with Dr Buckey. Ms Taylor nominated Ms Barron to work on this. Mr Harris also asked for a check in with Dorothy Presser for guidance. Ms Gold stated she would bring this back to the second regularly scheduled School Committee meeting in September. Ms Fox asked for clarification on what Ms Barrons would be presenting. Ms Gold stated Ms Barron would be presenting alternative options for School Committee involvement in the community and the Committee would then decide if we wanted to adopt a new option or continue with the current role on the School Advisory Councils.

Ms Gold stated Ms Taylor was interested in being the SEPAC representative and MS Barron was interested in being the METCO representative.

Ms Fox asked if she had missed when everyone was self nominating for roles as she thought the intention was to discuss everyone's interests in an open meeting. Ms Taylor noted any member could call the chair at any point. Ms Gold asks if everyone was ok with the roles as suggested. Ms Taylor noted she was very excited to be part of SEPAC again and Ms Barron responded she was happy to take on METCO. Ms Taylor told Ms Barron she could introduce Ms Barron to the METCO leadership.

d. Policy EBCFA Face Coverings

Ms Gold noted that typically a policy is required to be read through several times but in this circumstance it was not necessary. Ms Gold noted she sought guidance from legal council who suggested changing "face coverings" to "face masks" and noted she would make that change. Ms Gold read Policy EBCFA aloud.

Ms Barron asked if gators would be allowed. Ms Gold responded gators did not meet the policy as written. Ms Barron noted this should be communicated specifically with families.

Ms Gold called for a motion to approved policy EBCFA.

Mr Taylor moved the motion.

Ms Barron seconded the motion.

Mr Harris asked why 10' was listed as the distancing requirement. Mr Harris asked if the policy applies to staff and everyone. Ms Taylor replied it applies to everyone. Mr Harris asked is a single person with a private office was required to wear a mask while alone. Dr Buckey noted the 10' was revised guidance from DESE regarding specialty courses. Ms Gold noted the Marblehead Board of HHealth gave guidance regarding distancing during mask breaks. Dr Buckey noted that the private office was challenging but as the policy is written now that would be required. Ms Gold stated in a school building people come in and out of offices frequently and to ensure safety it is best to have everyone masked at all times. Dr Buckey agreed with Ms Gold. Ms Gold noted Deanna McMahon and the Marblehead BOH also reviewed the policy.

Ms Gold took a roll call vote.

Sarah Gold	Yes
Emily Barron	Yes
David Harris	Yes
Meaghan Taylor	Yes
Sarah Fox	Yes

The motion carried 5-0.

e. Building project update

Mr Harris shared images of the current new school building site. Mr Harris noted the utilities were installed in July and concrete is being poured. Mr Harris estimated concrete pouring would be complete within a week. Mr Harris noted steel erection had begun. Mr Harris spoke about the topping off ceremony and having students and committee members sign a steel beam. Ms Taylor thanked Mr Harris for an excellent update. Ms Barron encouraged the public to drive past the site and watch what is happening on site.

V. Closing Business

Sarah Fox made a commendation to the staff who is going above and beyond to work this summer on the reopening committees. Ms Fox noted many are working out of contract, volunteering their time and are doing it out of love for our schools and students. Ms Fox said she was very appreciative of all of the staff. Ms Taylor agreed.

Sarah Gold adjourned the meeting at 9:55 pm.

Approved 11/5/2020