



Marblehead Public Schools
9 Widger Road, Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
781.639.3140 fax: 781.639.3149

Dr. Maryann Perry
Superintendent
of Schools

Dr. Bradford Smith
Asst. Superintendent of
Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Robert Bellucci, Esq.
Director of Student Services
& Program Accountability

Amanda Maniaci
Director of
Business & Finance

Kenneth Lord
Executive Director of
Technology & Operations

Rachel Bowen
Director of
Human Resources

January 29, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

When I started my career in education over 35 years ago in a special education preschool setting, I knew I had found my passion. Positive impacts on students, from classroom teacher to district level leadership roles, ignited my dedication to this career path.

Coming to Marblehead seven years ago as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment was exciting, and personally and professionally fulfilling. Though I had been warned by statewide educational leadership circles that Marblehead is an unpredictable and extremely challenging community for administrators, I was immediately energized by the work, the staff and of course, the students. The task of updating a decades-old K-8 math program, among other lagging needs in our curriculum and assessment practices was demanding, but the rally and support of my peers, administrators, and teachers were uplifting. The committees I formed for curriculum alignment, transition, and materials adoption filled immediately with volunteers. The teachers were ready to work. It was an exciting time.

The Marblehead School district had much work to do when I accepted the role as superintendent due to the unexpected departure of the former superintendent at the end of the school year. From a struggling High School with a NEASC accreditation warning rating, mandated Educator Evaluation protocol and state frameworks to implement, the work towards compliance and success, at times, seemed insurmountable. However, with a solid team in place and the support of dedicated teaching staff, we rose to the occasion, sharing and implementing district mission and vision statements, a district strategic plan, a long term curriculum and assessment blueprint, and a building and facilities master plan. Through it all, Marblehead Public Schools has remained in the top 30 of statewide districts and High Schools in overall media rankings for quality of education.

With urgent educational and state compliance issues stabilized, my team went to work on the second tier of community feedback and requests. Additional reporting mechanisms were put in place. Website content and communications were strengthened, Superintendent forums were announced, Twitter was launched, Administration submissions to School Committee were published online, and data dashboard transparency tools were implemented, allowing the community instant access to real-time metrics on student demographics, financial snapshots and history, assessment scores and more. A technology plan was laid out and implemented by priority, and building maintenance, including long overdue projects, were planned and executed as funding allowed. The list of accomplishments spans seven years of hard work and hard decisions. The creation of a central registration, the opening day performance by our music teachers, professional learning opportunities for teachers, enhanced safety protocols, a curriculum revision cycle, are just a few of the accomplishments during my tenure as superintendent. Often, there were hard decisions that had to be made for the best interest of students. At times these decisions brought the "angry mob" mentality to life but in the words of Steve Jobs "If you want to make everyone happy, don't be a leader. Sell ice cream." The principals, assistant principals, and central administration met weekly to strengthen and improve all facets of the school district. The monthly emails from staff members sending positive vibes brought a smile to my face. Community, staff and parent response was positive, and my team and I were buoyed by the feedback and the work.



Marblehead Public Schools
9 Widger Road, Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
781.639.3140 fax: 781.639.3149

Dr. Maryann Perry
Superintendent
of Schools

Dr. Bradford Smith
Asst. Superintendent of
Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Robert Bellucci, Esq.
Director of Student Services
& Program Accountability

Amanda Maniaci
Director of
Business & Finance

Kenneth Lord
Executive Director of
Technology & Operations

Rachel Bowen
Director of
Human Resources

I will forever be proud of accomplishments of the Marblehead Public Schools during the tenure of myself and my team. I hope they will have a lasting positive impact on the teachers, staff, and students. From large-scale curriculum overhauls and facilities master planning to smaller but equally as important student programming such as service learning curriculum and social and emotional wellness initiatives, I hope the strong foundation in place will be carried on and expanded upon. I will look at my time in Marblehead with mixed emotions. My professional peer groups were correct, Marblehead can be tough. The last month has pulled at my core values putting into question the motives of mean-spirited individuals. At no time during this stressful period did I behave unprofessionally. I am not a bully, criminal, or liar. I was truthful with the series of events and continue to stand by my word. As a friend said to me in an email "Public perception is rarely the reality of the situation."

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your superintendent. I am announcing my retirement effective June 30, 2019.

Sincerely,
Dr. Maryann Perry
Superintendent