

**Leicester Public Schools
School Committee Minutes
May 4, 2020 @ 6:00 PM**

Location: Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A sec. 20, the meeting was held via online:

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1. Call to Order

At 5:33 p.m., Mrs. Richard called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Stella Richard	Present
Nathan Hagglund	Present
Tom Lauder	Present
Tammy Tebo	Present
Scott Francis	Present

Administrators:

Marilyn Tencza, Superintendent of Schools
Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations

2. Senator Michael Moore

The Senator informed that Committee members that hopefully, the house will have a budget by July 2, 2020. The house budget for this fiscal year at this time is in a deficit of at least 500 million. He has not heard anything on 9C cuts at this time.

He reported how much is in the rainy day fund, what next year's deficit is currently looking like. He also stated that at this time he does not know if there will be any federal assistance similar to what was received back in 2009. It looks as though they will be moving forward with a 1/12th budget for the months of July and August.

3. Student Opportunity Act Plan

Superintendent Tencza informed the Committee members the district has to submit a plan to the Commissioner on how the district plans to use the additional funds allocated through the SOA. The Commissioner indicated that although the submittal deadline is May 7, 2020, he is encouraging districts not to submit as he believes that the deadline will be extended.

4. SY20-21 Calendar Revision

Superintendent Tencza informed the Committee members that state has declared September 14, 2020, as the date for the Boston Marathon. That will be a state holiday so the school calendar will need to be adjusted to reflect Monday, September 14, 2020, as a holiday and extend the school by one day to June 11, 2020, for the 180 days and June 18, 2020, for the 185 day count. This item has been moved to the May 12, 2020, open session meeting for a motion.

5. Surveys to Parents, Teachers and Students

Superintendent Tencza and the administrators put together a survey to be sent out to parents, teachers and students regarding remote learning. The school district is looking for input and thoughts on how the remote learning process is going.

6. Middle School Grading

Superintendent Tencza informed the Committee members that on a Commissioner's call the district received some guidance on seniors regarding competency determination. The district does have a few seniors at this time that have not received information on their MCAS retakes. There is a process to help them so they can graduate. She will keep the members informed.

Christopher Fontaine, Middle School Principal provided a brief update and filled the Committee members in on how the Middle School is handling grading at this time with remote learning.

7. Discuss Superintendent Evaluation

Superintendent Tencza informed the Committee members that she will update and share her evaluation and goals with the member for further discussion at the June workshop. The members will then vote on the Superintendent's evaluation at the June 8, 2020, meeting.

8. Discuss School Committee Evaluation and Goals

The School Committee members will update their goals and complete their evaluation for further discussion at the June workshop.

9. Policies

The Committee members reviewed the (4) policies on the workshop agenda and moved them to the May 14, 2020, open session meeting for a motion.

- IMG - Animals in School
- IJNDB - AUP for Technology: Students
- IJNDD – AUP for Technology: All Users, Staff Responsible Use
- JQ – Student Fees, Fines and Charges

10. Other Business

The Committee members revisited and took another look at the information provided regarding Preschool tuition reimbursement as some more questions and concerns have been brought to their attention. After discussion the Committee members will move this item to the May 12, 2020, open session meeting for further discussion and a motion.

Member Scott Francis provided the Committee and the community with a brief update in regards to the Mass Taxpayer Foundation. The foundation just released their FY21 tax revenue forecast. The tax revenues are projected to fall by \$4.4 billion or 14.1 percent from the January 2020 benchmark. Massive layoffs push the unemployment rate to nearly 18 percent in Q4 FY 2020, causing withholding taxes to decline by \$1.2 billion in FY 2021. Shutting down economic activities and the loss of personal income will cost the state \$1.5 billion in sales tax revenues largely from plummeting meals and motor vehicle sales. Non-withholding income taxes and corporate payments are expected to fall by \$780 million and \$760 million, respectively

Superintendent Tencza took this time to address and apologize to some of the seniors regarding the lawn signs that were put up for the senior class for some of the seniors, not all of the seniors. Dr. Tencza informed the community and the Committee that this was something that the School Department was not involved in. This was done by parents, it was done for a certain number of students and not all.

Ms. Kenny took this opportunity to let the seniors know that the administration is working to make a face to face graduation a reality for the seniors. As long as the district is able to do so following the guidelines as outlined by Commissioner and Governor. The administration is looking at the first weekend in August to do an outdoor ceremony.

11. Public Comment

Ms. Soucie talked briefly about the Preschool tuition reimbursements and her concerns about receiving some type of credit for the three months that school was not in session. She expressed that the Preschool teachers are doing a great job with remote learning.

12. Executive Session

A motion was made by Member Nathan Hagglund to go into executive session under M.G.L. Chapter 30 (A) Section 21 (a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel (Education Association of Leicester) and not reconvene in open session. at 7:00 p.m., Seconded by Member Scott Francis.

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Nathan Hagglund; Seconded by Member Scott Francis; The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Stella Richard	Present
Nathan Hagglund	Present
Tammy Tebo	Present
Scott Francis	Present
Tom Lauder	Present

List of Documents and Material used during this meeting which are on file at the Leicester Public Schools Central Office.

- SY20-21 Calendar
- School Committee Goals
- School Committee Evaluation
- School Committee Policies
 - IMG - Animals in School
 - IJNDB - AUP for Technology: Students
 - IJNDD – AUP for Technology: All Users, Staff Responsible Use
 - JQ – Student Fees, Fines and Charges