

**Leicester Public Schools  
School Committee Minutes  
May 12, 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 6:00 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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Richard asked everyone to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**2. Approval of Minutes**

04-06-2020 Workshop Minutes  
04-06-2020 Workshop Executive Minutes  
04-14-2020 Open Session Minutes  
04-28-2020 Open Session Minutes  
04-28-2020 Executive Session Minutes  
05-04-2020 Workshop Minutes  
05-04-2020 Workshop Executive Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Nathan Hagglund; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; Roll call: 5:0:0 the motion passed.

**3. Reports**

**3.1 Student Liaisons Report**

Superintendent Tencza took this time to thank both Brenda Nguyen and Hannah Gallant for their time as Leicester School Committee Student Liaisons. She also congratulated them on their graduation and wished them good luck next year at college.

**3.2 School Committee Chairperson Report**

Stella Richard, School Committee Chair, took this time to introduce Paul McCarthy who presented the Committee members and the community with an update on the MSBA school building project.

Paul McCarthy provided a brief update on where the project is at this time and how things are progressing during COVID-19. The town vote for the new school will be held on September 26, 2020, at Leicester High School.

### **3.3 Superintendent's Report**

#### **a. Update on the Director of Facilities**

Superintendent Tencza informed the Committee members that the district hired Brian Cooper as the new Director of Facilities and Transportation, who will start his new position on June 1, 2020.

#### **b. Final Exams for other Grades**

Superintendent Tencza discussed canceling final exams for other grades. Her recommendation to the Committee is to suspend final exams for all other grades (9, 10, 11 and Middle Schools students).

#### **c. Graduation**

Superintendent Tencza informed the Committee members that there will be an in person graduation ceremony on the Leicester Commons August 1, 2020, with a rain date of August 2, 2020.

There was a brief discussion about some requests received from seniors that would like to decorate their graduation caps. Stella Richard, School Committee Chair gave some of the seniors that were participating in the virtual meeting an opportunity to weigh in on this matter. After discussion the Committee will move the cap decorating issue to the June open session meeting. Ms. Kenny will survey the senior class to ask them what they would like to do.

### **3.4 School Committee Liaisons Report**

Committee Member, Scott Francis reported on his conversation with State Representative Peter Durant about revenues being down. He informed Scott that they are not allowed to debate in the house at this. Mr. Durant did say that they are going to try to work on maintaining local aid at the levels they were previously discussed in the first budget.

## **4. Policies**

### **First Reading**

Motion to table the First Reading of policies: IJNDB - AUP for Technology: Students, IJNDD – AUP for Technology: All Users, JQ – Student Fees, Fines and Charges as presented – Member Nathan Hagglund; Seconded Member Tom Lauder; Roll call: 5:0:0 the motion passed.

### **Second Reading**

Motion to approve the Second Reading of policy IMG – Animals in School as presented – Member Nathan Hagglund; Seconded Member Tom Lauder; Roll call: 5:0:0 the motion passed.

## **5. Finance Items**

### **5.1 FY20 Expense Report**

Motion to approve the FY20 Expense Report of 05-06-2020 as presented – Member Nathan Hagglund; Seconded Member Scott Francis; Roll call: 5:0:0 the motion passed.

### **5.2 FY20 Omnibus Approval for Budget Transfers**

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations discussed the OMNIBUS approval process. This is the process by which the Director of Finance makes budget transfers for the final quarter of the fiscal year without School Committee approval. All transfers are included in subsequent School Committee packets to keep the Committee apprised of the activity. Motion to approve the Omnibus budget transfers through June 2020 as presented - Member Nathan Hagglund; Seconded Member Tom Lauder; Roll call: 5:0:0 the motion passed.

### **5.3 Warrant Signing 42A, 44A**

Member Nathan Hagglund made a motion to approve the warrant signing of 42A, 44A, Seconded Member Tom Lauder; Roll call: 5:0:0 the motion passed.

## **6. Business Items**

### **6.1 Preschool Tuition Refunds**

School Committee Chair, Stella Richard opened the discussion of the preschool tuition refunds to the group. Member Tom Lauder started the discussion by making a motion to revoke the previous motion made on 4/28/20: to provide parents of Preschool students, refunds to tuition paid for the rate of one month for the period of March 13 - June 16, 2020, for the FY20 school year.: Seconded: Member Scott Francis; Roll call: 4:1:0 the motion passed. Member Tom Lauder; Seconded Member Tammy Tebo; Roll call vote 5:0:0 – motion passed.

After further discussion member Scott Francis made a motion to provide parents of Preschool students, full refunds for tuition paid for the duration of the closure, for the period of March 13 to June 16, 2020, for the FY20 school year. Second Member Tom Lauder; Roll call vote 5:0:0 – motion passed.

### **6.2 SY20-21 Calendar Revision**

After a brief discussion about the SY20-21 calendar revisions the Committee members decided to wait and discuss further at a future School Committee meeting (August Retreat).

## **7. Upcoming Meetings**

June 1, 2020 Workshop

June 8, 2020 Open Session

## **8. Public Comment**

Superintendent Tencza informed the Committee members that she and Jeffrey Berthiaume, Director of Technology and Digital Learning have received several emails pertaining to seniors keeping their assigned Chromebooks.

Mr. Berthiaume informed the Committee that when the 1:1 Chromebook initiative started for the class of 2020 it was the School Department hopes that the students would be able to keep their assigned devices. Unfortunately, after information received from google that the expected life span of the Chromebooks was six years and not four, there was never any official notification to parents.

Several parents, students, and staff members participated in the discussion and what they remembered at the time the initiative was started. The Committee members requested more information on this matter so they can review and make an informed decision on the Chromebooks. This item will be moved to the June 1, 2020, workshop meeting.

## **9. Executive Session**

A motion was made by Member Nathan Hagglund to go into Executive Session and not to reconvene in open sessions per M.G.L. Chapter 30 (A) Section 21 (a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with the (Education Association of Leicester) union as well as non-union (Superintendent's) contract. Seconded by Member Tom Lauder;

## **10. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Nathan Hagglund; Seconded by Member Tom Lauder; Motion carries - unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 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.**

- 04-06-2020 Workshop Minutes
- 04-06-2020 Workshop Executive Minutes
- 04-14-2020 Open Session Minutes
- 04-28-2020 Open Session Minutes
- 04-28-2020 Executive Session Minutes
- 05-04-2020 Workshop Minutes
- 05-04-2020 Workshop Executive Minutes
- IMG – Animals in School
- IJNDB - AUP for Technology: Students
- IJNDD – AUP for Technology: All Users, Staff Responsible Use
- JQ – Student Fees, Fines and Charges
- FY20 Expense Report
- School Calendar