

**Leicester Public Schools**  
**School Committee Workshop-Public Hearing**  
**August 27, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.**

**Location:** Per Governor Baker’s order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A sec 20,  
the meeting was held online: Join with Google Meet: [meet.google.com/eqq-qfup-peb](https://meet.google.com/eqq-qfup-peb)  
Join by phone: **(US) +1 505-445-0205**  
*PIN: 456 312 627#*

Call to Order: 5:31p.m.

Roll Call:

Nathan Hagglund	Present
Scott Francis	Joined the meeting @ 5:35
Tom Lauder	Present
Stella Richard	Present
Donna McCance	Present

Also, in attendance were Dr. Marilyn Tencza, Superintendent of Schools  
Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations

Pledge of Allegiance

## **1. Reports**

### **1.1 School Committee Chairperson Report**

Mr. Hagglund read the School Committee Rules for Virtual Meetings and Public Comment Period

### **1.2 Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Tencza reported enrollment data regarding students attending school via hybrid or remote. 71% of students have chosen the Hybrid model of schools. Homeschool and School Choice data are not available at this time. Parents continue to email and the data may change.

### **1.2 School Committee Liaison Reports**

Ms. McCance stated that she has been in contact with Ms. Ledbetter about the Wellness Committee, they will start meeting in October. Ms. McCance also reached out to the Parks & Rec Committee, they will contact her if they need to.

All committee members had nothing to report.

## **2. Reading of Policies**

The Committee discussed policies, AC, ACA, ACAB, JB, and JICFB of the Leicester School Committee Policy book. After review of each policy, AC and ACA were reviewed last year and are not in need of any revision. The policies will be updated with “Reviewed” and the date of the review.

The Committee members move Policies ACAB Sexual Harassment, and JICFB Anti Bullying, as they need to be updated, to the September 8, 2020, School Committee open meeting for a second reading.

### **3. Data**

#### **3.1 Reopening**

Dr. Tencza stated that all school buildings are ready to open on the first day of school. All open staff positions hopefully have been filled. The town Board of Health agent, Chris Montervidi, was contacted to see if it is safe to open school. The answer from the BOH is yes, we have a low Covid19 positive and it is safe to open schools.

#### **3.2 School Calendar**

Dr. Tencza reported that the current school calendar is set for 182 days for staff and 170 days for students. The EAL contract states there will be 184 days and the LPA contract states there will be 183 days of work. A discussion was had to change the first day of school to be moved Thursday, September 10, 2020 (9/10 will be an in-school day for cohort A students and an asynchronous day for cohort B students). The EAL is in favor of the calendar change. Mr. Joseph spoke to what the asynchronous day would look like for students.

Motion to change the school calendar to start on Thursday, September 10, 2020, and for the school year to end on Thursday, June 10, 2021, was made by Ms. Richard. A second was made by Mr. Lauder.

*Roll Call vote- Mr. Hagglund-Yes, Mr. Francis-Yes, Mr. Lauder- Yes, Ms. Richard- Yes, Ms. McCance- Yes. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).*

#### **3.3 School Choice**

The town Board of Health agent was contacted to see if we can accept students from other towns for school choice. The answer is yes, the surrounding towns are at low Covid19 positive levels.

Ms. McCance asked if the district will follow DESE recommendations to provide care to a teacher's children that might be in different teaching models than the teacher. Dr. Tencza stated that it is a local decision, and it would be difficult to only allow teacher's children, (paraprofessional, nurse, etc).

### **4. Digital Portfolios**

Dr. Matthew Joseph presented using digital portfolios as a more efficient way to learn. Teachers were taught and then practiced to make a portfolio during a Professional Development training session today.

### **5. Summer Facilities Project Updates**

Ms. Maynard updated the committee on the projects completed at each school. All school's HVAC systems have been preventively maintained and repaired. Surplus furniture due to the Covid19 spacing requirements will be moved to the old Memorial School building for storage on September 1, 2020. Covid19 isolation rooms will soon be complete in each school. The School offices now have a pass-through window to limit the number of people in the office.

Plexiglass barriers have been installed in the cafeteria serving lines and cashiers stations. Touchless water bottle fill stations have been installed at all schools. All parking lots have been restriped and painted where necessary. PPEs are in stock and a monthly meeting will be held to monitor supply levels. Classroom repairs have been finished at each school. Barcode scanners will be installed at each school to provide a touchless system of payment. The bar codes will be integrated into a bus pass for those that will ride the bus. At the High School, the fire suppression system water pumps were replaced. The parking lot added to Elementary last fall will be paved in the next few weeks. At the Middle school window screens have been added to all windows.

Mr. Lauder asked about busing. Ms. Maynard stated that a survey was sent out to parents and that they have not heard from 600 students. An email was sent to the specific student families with a deadline so that bus rosters and routes can be created. DESE is requiring a bus rooster to be created and students not on the rooster will not be allowed to ride the bus. Ms. Maynard is working with the bus companies to make final routes.

Mr. Lauder asked if the Superintendent is confident that all DESE protocols are in place and ready. Dr. Tencza stated the nursing staff has reviewed all the DESE guidelines and she feels that we have a good plan. Ms. Ledbetter stated that staff has been properly trained. Ms. Maynard stated that all cleaning supplies and PPE are in stock. There will be monthly PPE meetings to monitor supplies.

Dr. Tencza stated that the Food Service will resume providing food pickups on Wednesdays for families that have chosen to learn remotely.

#### 6. Items for Next School Committee Meeting – September 8, 2020

- Policy ACAB - Harassment
- Superintendent's Goals
- Passing Grades for Summer School
- Community Service Hours
- Plan for Data Sharing

#### 7. **Other Business**

Mr. Hagglund thanked the staff and parents for their support and helping to pass along information.

#### 8. **Public Comment**

Elin Dolan and Tammy Tebo present the thoughts of the Remote Learning Facebook group. A letter was read and is attached to these minutes. Kelly Southwick, EAL union president, updated that negotiations are going well and a vote will be taken next Monday, August 31, 2020, to decide if the teachers will begin school on the first day (September 10, 2020).