

Meeting ID **Leicester Public Schools**
School Committee Minutes
November 2, 2020 @ 5:30 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:

Call to order-

Roll Call:

Nathan Hagglund	Present
Scott Francis	Present
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

Mr. Hagglund asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order- 6:30

Roll Call:

Nathan Hagglund	Present
Scott Francis	Present
Tom Lauder	Present
Stella Richard	Present
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Policies

- Review- JQ- Student Fees, Fines, and Charges

The Committee, along with Jeff Berthiaume discussed the DESE findings on the LPS Policy regarding charging a fee for use of the district owned Chromebook. DESE states the district cannot charge a fee for use of materials used to access the daily curriculum. Mr. Berthiaume says we do not charge for the use of the Chromebooks but do ask families to pay for insurance on the device. The discussion was tabled until more information can be gathered.

- Policies D review

The LPS Section D policies were moved to a second reading at the next School Committee meeting.

Principal Reports

Dr. Tencza asked the building principals to give an update on how this school year is going.

The building Principals report that systems and protocols are in place for everyone's health and safety, staff and students adjusted well to new systems and routines, and small class sizes are offering more individual attention to students.

Areas of concern are student have limited personal interactions with peers, staff is overwhelmed with planning for synchronous, asynchronous, and in-person learning, and tracking attendance for asynchronous students is difficult.

The pressure put on families during synchronous and asynchronous days; the level of support needed for the Elementary and early Middle School students is great.

The Principals stated the lack of substitute teachers has been a problem. Administrators, paraprofessionals and other support staff have been key in covering staff absences.

Mrs. Boss, Principal of the Elementary School, thanked the staff and families for their hard work and perseverance.

Mr. Fontaine, Principal of the Middle School thanked staff for their flexibility due to the lack of substitute teachers.

Ms. Tracey Kenney stated the NFS, the cleaning crew, is doing a good job keeping the building through the day.

State Guidelines for In-person School Committee meetings

The Committee discussed the possibility to have in person meetings. The Governor released new guidelines regarding limit of 10 people for indoor gatherings. The Committee asked for more information.

Flu Vaccination Requirements

Governor Baker ordered all public school students (in-person and hybrid) receive a Flu Shot before December 1, 2020. Diane Moffat and Melissa Ledbetter are waiting for guidance from DESE.

Travel Requirements for Students/Staff who Travel during Holidays

A notice was sent to all families and staff regarding travel during the upcoming holidays. If traveling outside the state, student/staff will need to quarantine or be tested before returning to school. DESE is not recommending a school closure after Thanksgiving.

COVID Update (School & Town)

Currently there have been 3 cases of COVID in the schools. There has not been any in school transmission of the virus. The committee asked would define a "cluster" that might cause a school closure. Diane Moffat said it would depend on how the virus is being transmitted. Melissa Ledbetter stated that if 3% of the school were to become positive in short amount of time, this could be considered a cluster.

Remote Learning Update

Dr. Tencza stated that 4 facilitators have been hired for Cohort D. Dr. Joseph is currently meeting and training the facilitators. The facilitators will begin working with the students next week.

Central office staff have printed FVLS lessons for families that have requested them.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Upcoming Meeting(s)

School Committee Meeting November 10, 2020 at 6:30

Items for Discussion at Next Meeting

Second Reading of policies-Section D and JQ

Discuss Athletic Fees Policy

COVID and Remote Learning Update

Executive Session

M.G.L. Chapter 30 (A) Section 21 (a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with unions (EAL and Paraprofessional Assoc.) and Food Service Personnel and not to reconvene in open session.

Adjournment

ALL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS MAY BE RECORDED VIA AUDIO AND VIDEO BY LCAC.

List of Documents

MASC Policies D

LPS Section D

Section D-revisions

JQ- LPS Student Fees, Fines, and Charges

JQ- Redlined SC Policy

Mandatory Flu Vaccine