

Leicester Public Schools
School Committee Workshop – Public Hearing
March 1, 2021 @ 5:30 P.M.
Google Meet

1. Call to Order

At 5:30 p.m., Mr. Hagglund called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Donna McCance	Present
Stella Richard	Present
Scott Francis	Present
Nathan Hagglund	Present
Tom Lauder	Present

Administrators:

Marilyn Tencza, Superintendent of Schools

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations

Jeffrey Berthiume, Director of Technology & Digital Learning

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

2. Fall II Sports

An update on Fall II Sports was given by Ted Zawada and discussion took place about the practice field that is being utilized for football and frustration parents were feeling over communication with regard to its use. He also informed the Committee that Tantasqua Regional School district has given LPS use of their turf site for varsity games and other sites are also being investigated.

3. FY22 Budget Presentation – Public Hearing

Motion to open up a public hearing for the FY22 Budget Presentation – Member Stella Richard; Seconded Member Scott Francis, motion carries - unanimous.

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations, presented a breakdown of funding for the FY22 budget year, outlined next steps and entertained questions during which she informed that there is no definitive answer for additional COVID funding at this time and revenue for School Choice has decreased.

4. Public Discussion

None

5. Close FY21 Budget Public Hearing

Motion to close the FY22 Budget discussion – Member Stella Richard; Seconded Member Scott Francis, a roll call vote by each member was performed for the record.

Roll Call:

Donna McCance	Present
Tom Lauder	Present
Stella Richard	Present
Scott Francis	Present
Nathan Hagglund	Present

6. District Improvement Plan

Dr. Tencza informed the Committee that the district is in the process of creating a District Improvement Plan and it will be brought before the Committee for approval at the March meeting. She stated that once that plan is approved, work on School Improvement Plans will begin and should be finalized in June. She thanked Jeff Berthiaume for his efforts in facilitating the District Improvement Planning process.

7. Request to Change Cover Page on School Committee Handbook

Discussion took place about removing the names of School Committee members listed on the front cover of the LPS School Committee Handbook. Motion to update the Leicester School Committee Member Handbook cover page to delete the section that has School Committee members listed – Member Donna McCance; Seconded Member Scott Francis, motion carries – unanimous.

8. MCAS

Member Donna McCance informed the Committee that the resolution to suspend MCAS was proposed and did not pass. MCAS will be moving forward as a federal requirement this year but there is also a resolution to delay that we are currently waiting to hear the status on. She reported that the Commissioner stated that he would not recommend any additional districts or schools be labeled underperforming or chronically underperforming this school year. The intention is not to put too much weight on the results but to use it to identify the allocation of resources to students who need it most. ELL students will be taking a federally mandated standardized test but they are getting until May 20th to complete the exams.

9. Re-opening Plans

Dr. Tencza gave an update on re-opening plans and stated that the Commissioner's plan is to bring all elementary students back by April 5th. There has been no clear guidance on this as of yet but he plans to go before the Board of Education and ask that hybrid learning become an unacceptable method for time on learning and any time spent in that modality would have to be made up. Students who are currently remote would be able to stay remote until the end of the year.

• Public Comment

The question was asked as to whether students who want to remain hybrid can livestream with teachers rather than coming to school in person. Dr. Tencza responded that more guidance will be coming from the Commissioner in the near future.

10. Executive Session

M.G.L. Chapter 30 (A) Section 21 (a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with unions (Education Association of Leicester), Government Employees' Union, IUPE, Local 4 (Food Services Unit) and not to reconvene in open session.

A motion was made by Member Scott Francis to go into executive session and not to reconvene to open session at **6:47 p.m.**, seconded by Member Stella Richard.

11. Adjournment

Roll Call

Donna McCance	Present
Stella Richard	Present
Scott Francis	Present
Tom Lauder	Present
Nathan Hagglund	Present

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

- FY22 Budget Presentation