

**Leicester Public Schools
School Committee Minutes
March 9, 2021 @ 6:30 PM
Google Meet**

1. Call to Order

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Hagglund called the meeting to order, reviewed the rules of law pertaining to the meeting, informed that School Committee meetings are recorded by LCAC and the School Committee and that this meeting will be held online.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators:

Marilyn Tencza, Superintendent of Schools

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations

Jeffrey Berthiaume, Director of Technology & Digital Learning

Matthew Joseph, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

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

2. Showcase

LMS NJHS

- Members of the Leicester Middle School National Junior Honor Society gave a presentation on current and upcoming events detailing how they are organizing events that help the community and the schools.

Jack Ledbetter

- Leicester Middle School student Jack Ledbetter was recommended by school administrators to speak at the national Tech and Learning summit and he spoke about his experiences while attending.

Jacki Gallant

- Dr. Tencza recognized Jacki Gallant, a Leicester Middle School student, who was featured in the March Wellness newsletter during Brain Injury Awareness Month for her strength and courage in overcoming the challenges she has faced since sustaining her injury. She stated that the district is supporting her, very proud of her and wishes her continued success and healing as she goes forward.

3. Approval of Minutes

02/09/2021 Open Session Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Scott Francis; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

02/09/2021 Executive Session Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Scott Francis; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

02/23/2021 Public Hearing Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Scott Francis; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

03/01/2021 Public Hearing/Workshop Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Scott Francis; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

03/01/2021 Executive Session Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Scott Francis; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

4. Data

4.1 Cohort D Star – Dr. Joseph gave a brief overview on the mid-year assessment of Cohort D students tested in February. He stated that this year, moving forward, the district will be data driven in making decisions with these data points and with the analysis through the comparison set. He pointed out that there is not much discrepancy between students learning in-person and virtual learning students but there is still plenty of room for overall improvement.

5. School Choice

Dr. Tencza stated that this month the vote for School Choice will be whether or not the district will choose to participate. Should the vote be yes, next month the vote will be for the number of School Choice seats available in each grade level and in early May applications will be accepted. Motion to participate in School Choice - Member Scott Francis; Seconded Member Tom Lauder; Motion carries – unanimous.

6. Reports

6.1 Student Liaisons Report

Student Liaisons Abigail Johnson and Morgan Merrell reported on recent and/or upcoming events in the schools.

6.2 School Committee Chair Report – None

6.3 Superintendent's Report

a. COVID Update

The Committee was informed that at 5:30 p.m. today Harrington Memorial Hospital released appointments for teachers to get the COVID-19 vaccine and Dr. Tencza sent a communication to staff members about the release. Appointments are scheduled for consecutive Saturdays starting on March 20th. Approximately 225 people have indicated that they would like to receive the vaccine.

b. Progress toward Goals

The district data team continues to do well and we are moving forward toward the fulfillment of goals.

c. Reopening Plan

Today written guidance came from the Commissioner with regard to the full return of students to school. Elementary students are to return to school on April 5th and middle school students on April 28th. No date has been given for the return of high school students. The hybrid model will no longer be counted as time on learning. After discussion, the Leadership team would like to see all students return on April 5th. Parents whose children are in hybrid or remote learning will have the choice to remain remote until the end of the year or return to full in-person learning. Districts are encouraged to use a livestream or simultaneous instructional model for remote students. Learning time must be at least five hours per day, five days per week. Six feet of distance must remain between students in the cafeteria and arrangements are being made for tents outside of each school to house students at lunch if necessary. Masks will now be required at all grade levels except for students who have a medical or behavioral exemption. Desks in classrooms will be set up at least three feet apart with desks facing the same direction. With regard to transportation, there are no restrictions with the number of students riding an elementary school bus but masks will be required. Middle and high school busses are allowed two students per seat. All mitigating strategies must remain in place. These regulations are legally binding and any district that does not comply with the regulatory requirements or receive a waiver by April 5th will be required to make up any missed structured learning time. Member Tom Lauder asked if students could enroll in the Florida Virtual School at this time. Dr. Tencza answered that it would not be possible for students to complete the requirements if they joined this late in the year and livestreaming will be the option for remote students not currently enrolled in the FLVS. Member Scott Francis asked if it is the district's intention to bring all students back on April 5th. Dr. Tencza answered yes. Committee members requested that an FAQ sheet be made available to the public.

d. District Improvement Plan

Motion to table the District Improvement Plan until a later date – Member Stella Richard; Seconded Member Scott Francis; Motion carries – unanimous.

e. Student Opportunity Act Approval

Approximately \$18,000 from the Student Opportunity Act has been earmarked to be used for English Language Learners curriculum. Motion to accept the Student Opportunity Act for approval – Member Tom Lauder; Seconded Member Scott Francis; Motion carries – unanimous.

6.4 School Committee Liaisons Report

- The District Data Team has a meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 11th and will be reviewing mid-year star data, mid-year assessments and creating a district data meeting protocol.
- The District Improvement Committee met last week and tabled a review of the draft District Improvement Plan.
- Parks and Recreation has a virtual meeting scheduled for March 10th at 6:30.
- The Wellness Committee met today. The monthly Wellness newsletter views have increased on all platforms. They are currently working on a staff wellness step challenge starting at 10,000 steps and moving up to 15,000. Prizes will be awarded.

7. Reading of Policies

Motion to approve Section E: Support Services Policies as presented – Member Tom Lauder; Seconded Member Scott Francis; Motion carries – unanimous.

8. Finance Items

8.1 FY20 Expense Report

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations, gave a brief update on the FY21 Expense Report. Motion to approve the FY21 Expense Report of 03/02/2021 as presented – Member Stella Richard; Seconded Member Scott Francis; Motion carries – unanimous.

8.2 Warrant Signing 32A, 34A, 36A, 38A

Member Tom Lauder made a motion to approve the warrant signing of 32A, 34A, 36A, 38A - Seconded Member Scott Francis; Motion carries – unanimous.

9. New Business

9.1 Resolution to Delay MCAS 2021

Dr. Tencza informed the Committee that the Commissioner has pushed back MCAS into May for elementary schools and is TBD for middle schools. As a result, no vote will be taken to delay MCAS 2021 at this time.

9.2 Donation – Table Talk Pies

9.3 Donation – Prizes for Wellness Challenge

Motion to accept the Table Talk Pies and Prizes for Wellness Challenge donations as presented – Member Scott Francis; Seconded Member Stella Richard; Motion carries – unanimous.

9.4 In-person School Committee Meetings

School Committee Chair Nathan Hagglund proposed the idea of having the April School Committee meeting in-person. Discussion took place and it was determined that if guidelines can be met, the April meeting will be held in-person in the LHS Auditorium.

10. Public Comment

- Elizabeth Moorghen asked if there is a plan to do pool testing for COVID. Dr. Tencza responded that there is an upcoming webinar where more information will be presented.
- Michele Dominy asked how we are going to fit everybody if all students come back. Dr. Tencza responded that a plan is currently being worked on.
- Jennifer Bokis asked if in-person School Committee meetings can be livestreamed. Jeffrey Berthiaume responded that he is currently working with technology that can make that possible.
- Eileen Boisvert asked why we wouldn't wait until the elementary students are back for a while before middle school students are brought back. Dr. Tencza responded that she and the Leadership team have discussed it and they are prepared to bring all students back at the same time.
- Diane Moffat expressed concern over weatherproof tents for lunches.

11. Upcoming Meetings

April 5, 2021 – Workshop

April 13, 2021 – Open Session Meeting

12. Convene in Executive Session

A motion was made by Member Tom Lauder to go into executive session per M.G.L. Chapter 30 (A) Section 21 (a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union (Education Association of Leicester) and Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s 21(a)(4), to discuss deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto and not to reconvene in open session.

Seconded by Member Scott Francis.

13. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Tom Lauder; Seconded by Member Scott Francis; Motion carries – unanimous. The meeting adjourned at **8:05 p.m.**

Roll Call

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

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

- 02/09/2021 - Open Session Minutes
- 02/09/2021 - Executive Session Minutes
- 02/23/2021 - Public Hearing Minutes
- 03/01/2021 - Public Hearing Minutes/Workshop
- 03/01/2021 - Executive Session Minutes
- NJHS Spotlight Presentation
- FLVS Mid Year Data Presentation
- Student Liaison Report 3/9/21
- Student Opportunity Plan
- Policy Section E: Support Services
- FY21 Expense Report
- Donations
 - Table Talk Pies
 - Prizes for Wellness Challenge