

**Lenox Public Schools
School Committee
Via Remote Access
October 5, 2020 @ 6:30pm**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77537067230?pwd=WVVOZnBMNHdRQkU5a0ZEUE1DTThLUT09>

Meeting ID: 775 3706 7230 Passcode: 5NcHuV

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Vaughan, Christine Mauro, Frances Sorrentino, Anne Marie O'Brien, Molly Elliot, David Rimmner, Robert Munch

ALSO PRESENT: William Cameron

I. CALL TO ORDER: RV, Chair; 6:30 pm

II. HEARING OF VISITORS

- Public comment. Oren Cass would like to see SC planning for return to full-time in-person instruction. He knows that many parents would like to see this and are willing to help to make it happen. Shifting to additional spaces. What is the plan, metrics, time line, etc. for this to happen?

III. CORRESPONDENCE

IV. BOARD REPORT

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – September 21, 2020

MOTION by CM and seconded by DR to approve the SC minutes of September 21, 2020.

CM proposes to omit the portion of section V. in parentheses.

FS: aye

AO: aye

ME: aye

CM: aye

DR: aye

RM: aye

RV: aye

Approved as amended 7-o.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Resumption of In School Instruction. WC: First day of the hybrid schedule at Morris today, tomorrow at Lenox Memorial Middle and High School. Many staff members expressed the sentiment that it was wonderful to have students back in the building. An upbeat feeling. Optimistic.
- October 1 Enrollment – comparison to prior year. October 1 is the date used by DESE to determine district enrollment for the school year. Comparing this year to last, enrollment is down by only 20 to last year. A number of students attending private schools, which began the year with in person learning.
- Revised School Year Calendar. Changes October 21 from a half-day PD day to a full day of instruction.

MOTION by RM and seconded by to accept the change in the school calendar to make October 21 a full day of school.

CM: aye
FS: aye
ME: aye
AO: aye
DR: aye
RM: aye
RV: aye
Approved 7-o.

WC: As of tomorrow, 14 teachers have requested and been granted permission to work remotely. Creates stress on the schools to cover these teachers' classrooms while they have students present in their classroom while they are teaching remotely. At this point, the administration has the situation under control. If there were to be more, we may need approval from the School Committee to accommodate.

CM: Would you please explain the process by which this accommodation is requested. WC referenced the request and approval process using the form created by RM.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Superintendent Search. RV: Received quotes from both MASC and NESDEC, but need a third. MF: Will submit an RFP to J.A. Roy Associates, and another RFP is going out tomorrow. RV: HR meeting scheduled for October 27 to select a vendor to assist in the process. DR suggests, and RV and MF agree, to ask for proposals ASAP to allow HR to move the process more quickly.
- Mask Policy – Second Reading and Vote.

MOTION by RM and seconded by DR to adopt the Mask Policy as presented. WC: I have received some negative reactions from the first reading regarding the language that does not require all (PreK-Gr 1) students to wear masks.

MOTION by CM and seconded by ME to amend the policy, specifically in paragraph two: Strike the second sentence that exempts Pre-K, K and Grade 1 students from the mandatory wearing of masks.

Vote on Amendment:

CM: aye
FS: aye
AO: aye
ME: aye
DR: aye
RV: aye
RM: aye
Approved 7-o.

Vote on original motion:

CM: aye
FS: aye
AO: aye

ME: aye
DR: aye
RM: aye
RV: aye
Approved 7-o.

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEES

- Human Resources. RV: Committee has been very busy. An agreement has been reached with the LEA regarding a MOU for the school year. Thanks to all of the parties involved for all of their time and efforts.
- Finance
- Teaching and Learning
- School Culture and Community relations
- Governance and Leadership
- SBEF
- Strategic Planning

RM: Pleased today went so well as the start of hybrid at Morris and hope tomorrow is equally as successful.

DR: Some of the points Mr. Cass brought up have been mentioned by a number of people over the past few months. Helpful to consider why some of these ideas have not come to fruition.

OC: Some of the problem may just be lack of awareness. Not looking for reasons why suggestions don't work, looking for something that will work.

ME: How do we create a task force to plan for full opening? Consist of parents, faculty and SC members. Admin and SC could use some help in planning the next steps. Every one worked very hard to create the agreement we have now. RV: WC and I will facilitate getting this task force started.

MOTION by ME and seconded by CM to adjourn the meeting.

CM: aye
FS: aye
AO: aye
ME: aye
DR: aye
RM: aye
RV: aye
Approved 7-o.

Meeting adjourned 7:42 pm.

DOCUMENTS IN PACKET:

- School Committee meeting minutes – September 21, 2020
- Enrollment numbers
- School year calendar
- Mask Policy

Submitted by *Amy Noble Novitsky*.