

**Lenox Public Schools
School Committee
Via Remote Access
November 9, 2020 @ 6:30pm**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77871350953?pwd=WU5hQUJpM1B1dno2K2xtUFBUdk45dz09>

Meeting ID: 778 7135 0953 Passcode: mockpwd

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Vaughan, Robert Munch, Christine Mauro, David Rimmmler, Frances Sorrentino, David Rimmmler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anne Marie O'Brien, Molly Elliot

ALSO PRESENT: William Cameron

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. HEARING OF VISITORS

- Public comment. Mary Cherry: introduced herself (as a teacher, team leader and LEA President) and read a statement crafted in conjunction with the LEA Executive Board. Others who spoke include Lucie Stites, Patricia Symons, Oren Cass who referenced points of his letter and the background data sent to the School Committee, and Molly Rivest.

III. CORRESPONDENCE. RV: OC sent email letter and background. Also received from Jolene Bleser, encouraging full time. And an email from Melissa O'Dell who expressed the concern as a Choice parent with children at both schools that the amount of time she spent driving and picking up exceeded the amount of time the students were spending in in-person instruction.

IV. BOARD REPORT

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2020

MOTION by DR and seconded by CM to accept the School Committee meeting minutes of November 2, 2020.

DR: aye

FS: aye

RM: aye

CM: aye

RV: aye

Approved 5-0, two absent.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Update on planning for full day instruction/task force. At the most recent School Committee meeting, members indicated their desire for a task force to explore these options and details. Have confirmed 3 Morris parents, have 1 and need 2 more from LMMHS. 3 School Committee members will participate. Met with K-2 teacher groups separately.
RV: In addition to grade level meeting, there have been space visits, and request to open negotiations with LEA; survey at Elementary results came in.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Deliberation on the establishment of one or more task forces to make recommendations on the resumption of full day in school instruction. Vote required. Should there be two task forces for individual schools, one for both schools, or one focused on the efforts at the elementary level.

MOTION by RM and seconded by CM that we have a single task force with the purpose of getting our youngest kids back in school in person full time.

RV asked for comments:

DR: In establishing a task force for one school during the pandemic, it is important to keep an information flow between the two schools. CM: Agrees to start with Morris, take what is learned to LMMHS eventually. Appreciate all that has been done, behind the scenes. Requested WC's views.

WC: Aspects of current model that are there for safety should be looked at before discarding. Looking for additional space. All of these things would be best viewed by a group with different sets of eyes. Discuss in forum, why we would replace the hybrid and what the benefits would be. Strongly favor a task force with a clear mission. Focused on the lower grades at the elementary level. FS: Strongly believes the schools should stay with the hybrid as is, that the younger students are exhausted when they get home, that this is not the time to be thinking of adding more students to classes for longer days (perhaps in January after the holidays), and that teachers deserve a great deal of praise for all that they are doing to make this situation work. DR: In responding to letters from parents for whom the virus has presented economic hardships, is it possible for the task force to help the families for whom this is an enormous burden, and are really struggling? MC: Need to shake trees to find Morris staff to serve as task force members.

DR: aye*

FS: nay

RM: aye

CM: aye

RV: aye*

Approved 4-1, *with 2 indicating their aye vote is to keep the process and discussion going.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEES

- Human Resources
- Finance
- Teaching and Learning
- School Culture and Community Relations
- Governance and Leadership
- SBEF
- Strategic Planning

MOTION by FS and seconded by CM to adjourn.

DR: aye

FS: aye

RM: aye

CM: aye

RV: aye

Approved 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm.

DOCUMENTS IN PACKET:

- School Committee meeting minutes – November 2, 2020