

Lenox Public Schools
School Committee
Via Remote Access
November 2, 2020 @ 6:30pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72210406095?pwd=WGJOV0IRM3NmRUw5OWloVmVRUFJJQT09>

Meeting ID: 722 1040 6095 Passcode: mockpwd

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Vaughan, Robert Munch, Frances Sorrentino, Christine Mauro, Anne Marie O'Brien, David Rimmler (arrived 7:15 pm)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Molly Elliot

ALSO PRESENT: William Cameron

I. CALL TO ORDER: RV, Chair; 6:32 pm

II. HEARING OF VISITORS

- Public comment. A number of parents spoke, indicating their support for, or opposition to, returning students to school full time. Molly Rivest, Oren Cass, Kim Davis, William Welch, Christine Cass, Maxim Bitunov, Jennifer Krause, David Neubert, Christina Lenfest, Ben Rivest.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

IV. BOARD REPORT

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2020

MOTION by CM and seconded by RM to approve the Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2020.

DM: Aye

AO: aye

FS: aye

RM: aye

RV: aye

Approved 5-0, two absent.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- FY 22 Budget Timeline – Draft for approval. For informational purposes only.
- John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Award Recipients. WC described the scholarship and listed the names of the recipients.
- Winter Sports. WC: LMMHS is not participating in fall sports, and SC indicated it would consider winter sports prior to November 30. Brian Cogswell provided an update regarding current strategy for winter sports: January 4 first practice date, competition through February 22, no post season. LMMHS only considering Alpine and Nordic skiing. There are a number of social distancing issues to overcome. Will discuss further at December 7 meeting.
- Changes to DuFour Contract. WC: Manner in which students are transported has changed from the Contract which was agreed to at the start of the school year. MF: Reduction in daily rate for PD days and remote days at beginning of the school year. October 5 hybrid schedule began paying full daily rate. The number of bus runs has doubled, with some increased costs. The reductions help us stay close to our previously budgeted bus costs. RV: Good compromise to keep our costs in line and keep DuFour in business.

MOTION by RM and seconded by CM to approve the contract with DuFour as amended and explained by MF.

CM: aye

AO: aye

FS: aye

RM: aye

RV: aye

Approved 5-0, two absent.

- Updates to two COVID-19 Protocols. Two minor changes to existing protocols.
- Revised hybrid schedule for abbreviated instructional weeks. WC introduced the revised schedule for partial weeks later this month.
- Combined Curriculum and IT position. Discussion of topic postponed.
- Permanent Substitutes. Discussion of topic postponed.
- Update on planning for full day instruction. WC outlined the steps taken so far in attempt to accommodate this endeavor, as well as next steps. RV provided info gleaned from other districts. RM: Would like task force engaged and moving forward. RV: There has been a request to add an additional School Committee meeting to discuss. RM: Please know that full time in person will not be the same as before, and asked attendees to trust the professionalism of teachers. CM is in favor of working toward full time instruction. Appreciate what has happened behind the scenes. Will volunteer to join the task force. RV mentioned the letter sent by OC to each member of the School Committee which (at OC's request) will be included in the record of tonight's meeting. School Committee members discussed OC's request for an additional meeting. Will meet again November 9.
- Update on opening of school in hybrid model. WC provided the update for these last 20 days during which schools have been operating under the hybrid model. Lenox Public Schools will utilize snow days this winter due to the difficulty of teachers being prepared with/having access to the materials they would need at home in order to hold school remotely in lieu of snow days.
- RV mentioned the upcoming retirement of Brian Cogswell and thanked him for all of his support. Other School Committee members expressed their appreciation as well.
- DR inquired about whether the email from Mr. Tullock had been included in the Correspondence portion of the meeting. RV: No, that is typically reserved for correspondence sent to the Chairman. OC: Request that the list of obstacles and to dos be finalized and indicate the name of who will be responsible for the completion of each of those tasks.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Superintendent Search. Received two RFPs, looked at the presentations and selected MASC. Applications are due by November 30, interviews to be held in December, with final interviews and (hopefully) a recommendation in January.

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEES

- Human Resources
- Finance
- Teaching and Learning
- School Culture and Community Relations
- Governance and Leadership
- SBEF
- Strategic Planning. Has been meeting. Close to a draft of a plan, meeting next on November 12.

RM thanked everyone for their participation tonight and encouraged them to continue to show up for future meetings, and to be involved and volunteer.

MOTION by RM and seconded by FS to adjourn.

CM: aye

AO: aye

FS: aye

RM: aye

DR: aye

RV: aye

Approved 6-0, one absent.

Meeting adjourned 8:44 pm.

DOCUMENTS IN PACKET:

- School Committee meeting minutes – October 5, 2020
- FY 22 Budget Timeline
- Scholarship Award Recipients
- MOU with DuFour
- COVID-19 Protocols
- Revised hybrid schedule--LMMHS
- Letter from B. Cogswell

DOCUMENTS REFERENCED AT MEETING:

- Email letter from Oren Cass
- Morris Capacity Assessment

Submitted by *Amy Noble Novitsky*.