

Lenox Public Schools

School Committee

Via Remote Access

March 1, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84749800911?pwd=eHhBZ1piaEI4TGNIbHF4emNTRFI5UT09>

Passcode: 415296

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

ALSO PRESENT: William Cameron, Melissa Falkowski

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

II. HEARING OF VISITORS

- Public comment

III. CORRESPONDENCE.

RV: Would like to mention two obituaries of long time teachers in Lenox: Lois Brown Morris and Cameron School, Special Education teacher; and Frieda Pierce, 6th grade Reading and English teacher.

IV. BOARD REPORT

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2021

MOTION by ME and seconded by FS to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021 School Committee meeting.

FS: aye

RM: aye

ME: aye

DR: aye

CM: aye

AO: aye

RV: aye

Approved 7-0.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Pooled Novel Coronavirus testing. Informational meeting for staff tomorrow and for parents on Wednesday at 5:30 and Thursday at 7:00 pm. Meetings are voluntary.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- School Committee Deliberation of the FY22 Budget. RV: any questions? This will not be the last opportunity to discuss, which will be at the

March 22 meeting. ME: Any changes since we last saw? MF: A few salary changes due to retirement adjustments of \$70K

- Reopening of school PK-5. RV: Task Force met last week, working toward the DESE goal of April. Somewhat hinges on the vaccination of teachers. Addition of third vaccine, and one dose vaccine would improve the situation. BK working on the schedule for full return to school. A lot of protocols and procedures will also need to be configured. Emily Wood has stepped forward to be the co-chair of the reopening task force, working as a liaison with the faculty at Morris. WC: Commissioner has sought authority to designate that all K-5 students return to school full time April 5. (He would deny recognition for fully remote learning counting toward required learning time, except for students who have been remote from the onset.) This presents conflicts with MCAS, recently structured pooled testing, needing time to transform school(s) back to larger number of students, teaching full class in person and a # of remote at same is time difficult, may be that fully remote students would be taught by a separate teacher dedicated just to those remote students.
- Reopening of school 6-12. RV: any separate issues for LMMHS? WC: mainly the 6' spacing issue. If it is reduced to 3' may be able to return all students to LMMHS some point this spring. Depends on the number of students who remain remote (which DESE seems willing to accept). The doctor who is the new head of CDC, which still recommends 6' spacing, was the one who advised DESE 3' was acceptable. Discussion ensued regarding prioritizing vaccination of teachers. ME: Suggested drafting communication requesting making this a priority. WC: SC should work through MASC, and admins work through DESE. CM: Would be in favor drafting a letter or resolution regarding teacher vaccination. RV: Should draft a short document to governor. ME suggested creating 1-2 days in 3 locations per county to address vaccinating teachers. This would go a long way in making their goal happen. WC and MF: Also include other educational staff within the school, bus drivers. DR and ME: include parents and other districts in this effort.
- Fall2 and Spring Sports. RV: Question re: Fall2—soccer, football, volleyball, cross-country running. Winter ending this Friday, basketball continues through March 19, Fall2 starts March 22 (football will start a week earlier, but athletes can finish basketball season first) and spring starts mid-April 26, through June. DP: As soon as it is safe to do so outdoors.

MOTION by ME and seconded by that LPS and its administration to authorize and implement Fall2 and Spring sports seasons.

FS: aye

RM: aye

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution on statewide MCAS testing for 2021. We have all received an email with a petition to suspend MCAS this year as it would affect the amount of learning time for our students who have already missed out on learning time this year. RV screen shared a draft of a resolution.

MOTION by ME and seconded by CM that we approve the resolution as outlined.

ME: How often do we use MCAS to identify students who need extra assistance, or is it at the teacher or school level, and school benchmark testing identifies those students. WC: MCAS created an overall accountability system for schools, not substantial as individual student evaluation, as results are received at/near the end of the year. DR: Also need to look at what next year will look like as well. CM: Address wording, it doesn't seem DESE will be issuing waivers, ask for alternative? WC: DESE has not requested a waiver to the US DOE, perhaps include our representatives in Congress.

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

Three vacancies on the School Committee for the upcoming election. Mentioned at last School Committee meeting, to date, 6 candidates have taken out nomination papers. Arranging for Morris PTO to host a candidate night.

MOTION by FS and seconded by RM to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm.

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEES

- Human Resources
- Finance
- Teaching and Learning
- School Culture and Community Relations
- Governance and Leadership
- Lee/Lenox Shared
- Southern Berkshire Educational Future
- Strategic Planning

IX. DOCUMENTS IN PACKET

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2021
- MCAS Resolution

Submitted by *Amy Noble Novitsky*.