

Lenox Public Schools

School Committee

Via Remote Access

April 26, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

To access webinar:

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

ALSO PRESENT: William J. Cameron, Melissa Falkowski, Brian Cogswell

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. HEARING OF VISITORS

- Public Comment

III. CORRESPONDENCE

IV. BOARD REPORT

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2021

MOTION by ME and seconded by FS to approve the minutes of April 5, 2021

FS: aye

ME: aye

RM: abstain

AO: aye

RV: aye

Approved 4-0.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Updates on LMMHS. WC: Opened today for staff, and students will return tomorrow. Air testing completed Sunday morning gave us the all clear. Still a number of students who will be, by choice, learning remotely. Pace was not what we expected it to be. Involvement of the MA Dept. of Labor Standards required a great deal more work than anticipated. Would like to acknowledge GEM Environmental and EcoGenesis in getting us back a day ahead of the state mandate for middle schools to return. Outstanding performance by our custodial staff to accomplish this as well. Lenox Community owes the custodians a great deal of thanks. RV: Echo the thank you to the custodians for their work in the process, as well as the IT department. WC thanked the IT department as well. BC: Wanted to make sure to thank the custodians all by name: Jeff Ano, Nick Saldarini, Peydon Twing, Mike Bohin, Dom Boschetti, and Peydon Twing. BV also noted and thanked Mike Jackson and Tim Lufkin for their work in removing and ultimately reinstalling technology in each of the affected spaces.
- Approval of 2021-2022 school year calendar. WC: Details of the calendar still a work in progress. Would like the School Committee to approve as it is now, as it indicates the start and end date of the school year, and vacation weeks. This is the information which is most helpful to staff and families.

MOTION by FS and seconded by to approve the start date of September 2, 2021, with the 180th day of the 2021-2022 school year being June 15, 2022.

FS: aye

ME: aye

RM: aye

AO: aye

CM: aye

DR: aye

RV: aye

Approved 7-0.

- Update on summer school programming. WC: Looking to help students to catch up in preparing for moving to the next grade. Surveys will be going out in the next week. At LMMHS, primarily looking at ELA and Math, both for remediation, as well as to prepare students wanting to take accelerated classes next year to be ready for that endeavor.
- WC: Kindergarten screening that remains to take place will occur on June 16, 17, and 18. June 15 will be the last day for all current Kindergarten students.
- WC thanked the School Committee as a whole for their support, and especially the three departing members of the School Committee: Molly Elliot, Anne Marie O'Brien and Francie Sorrentino. A lot of work has been done by these members behind the scenes.
- RV: Also wanted to thank Molly, Anne Marie and Francie. AO for three years, she jumped right in and served on so many committees. ME: For five years, served on original Strategic Plan Committee, and the Finance Committee. FS: 10 years of service, under several Superintendents, there has been no greater advocate for the students of Lenox.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- End-of-year ceremonies. BC: As close to possible normal senior week—finalizing plans now. Monday--Dinner, yearbook, hangout evening, music. Wednesday—Combine class day and scholarship night in to one evening. Graduation on Sunday. Also an Eighth Grade ceremony. Spaced out in Duffin as class day will be. All of these events will be live streamed. BK: Move up ceremony will be at LMMHS outside under tent or in the Duffin, on June 17. Walking field trip, picnic and other fun activities planned for Fifth Graders.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Approval of 2021-2026 Strategic Plan. Virtual presentation of the SP this Thursday evening, presented by some of the 14 members of the SP committee. Would like this group of School Committee members to approve the Strategic Plan.

MOTION by DR and seconded by CM to accept the Strategic Plan of 2021-26 as written. ME: I was on the subcommittee, a lot of good effort and teamwork put in. Feel good about the plan, and that we worked through the pandemic to have it completed. It will be a living document. RV: Plan is 50 pages, the last 20 are survey results. DR: Would like to comment on all of the effort put in by the committee to create this plan. Could we compare/contrast this document to the prior plan? RV: 5 areas, academic, student experience and culture, finance, government, and leadership. This document references results from the last years as well as outlining how to go forward in these areas.

FS: aye

ME: aye

RM: nay

AO: aye

DR: aye

CM: aye

RV: aye

Approved 6-1.

- RM: Reminder—There is a forum on May 4 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm for School Committee candidates to be held via Zoom. Link is on District, LMMHS and Morris websites.

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEES

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

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

FS: aye

ME: aye

RM: aye

DR: aye

AO: aye

CM: aye

RV: aye

Approved 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 7:15 pm.

DOCUMENTS IN PACKET:

Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2021

2021-2022 School Year Calendar

Submitted by *Amy Noble Novitsky*.