

Lenox Public Schools

School Committee

Via Remote Access

January 25, 2021 @ 6:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89120213318?pwd=WHYyaU5ydXFjOVF2L3JpOTVhSGNiZz09>

Webinar Passcode: 945837

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Rimmler

ALSO PRESENT: William Cameron, Melissa Falkowski

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

II. HEARING OF VISITORS

- Public comment

III. CORRESPONDENCE: RV: Received two letters from Karen Romeo-Leger re: Ski Team. Thankful that we approved the season, but in reflecting about the season, coaches determined they could not run the rental program, and the team would not compete in races. Hoping SC would waive the athletic fee given the circumstances of COVID and shortened season.

IV. BOARD REPORT

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2021

MOTION by FS and seconded by RM to approve the minutes of January 4, 2021.

FS: aye

ME: aye

RM: aye

AO: abstain

CM: aye

RM: aye

Approved 5-0, 1 abstain, 1 absent.

- Superintendent Search Update. Eight candidates interviewed earlier in January, two brought forward for final interviews tomorrow, January 26. RV thanked all members of the committee for participating; School Committee members, staff, parents and members of the community.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- FY22 Preliminary Budget Presentation. Will be presented by MF. Represents level service funding. Budget is still a work in progress. Bottom line still slightly exceeds the target number provided by the Town Administrator. MF: Town Administrator requested a maximum of 3% increase. MF outlined all the

aspects of the District Budget as an overview and highlighted areas of significance, and significant variances from last year. RV inquired as to how the presentation and review process would work starting next week. MF suggested a summary sheet of the changes to note could be provided.

- Professional Development Day on January 15. WC detailed the Professional Development that was provided to faculty and staff in both schools, as well as Special Education staff members.
- Update on Student Opportunity Act Funding and Planning. WC: Every district must submit an SOA plan to address those students who fall in to one of the special needs sub-category. The budget provides for no additional funding, but DESE required all districts to provide the report regardless. LPS focused on those children with iep's in grades K-5.
- Reopening of Schools for In Person Instruction. WC: Resumed hybrid model on January 19. Return has gone well, except for the low number of students returning for in person instruction at LMMHS. Hopeful that parents will recognize that the COVID virus is not being transmitted in schools and more students will begin returning to the building for in person instruction in the near future. CM inquired re: the number of students remaining remote at LMMHS and the possible reason(s) for that. WC: Greater apprehension by parents/students at LMMHS grades. Overall participation is still high (% is high mid to high 90s) when combining remote and in person. LMMHS has a larger number of teachers working remotely, which may discourage students from coming to school to watch the teacher on a computer screen.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Presentation on Strategic Plan Draft Overview. RV presented a power point overview of a draft of the Strategic Plan. There are 8 Strategic Sections: Professional Development, Finance, Leadership, Technology, Facilities, Curriculum and Instruction, Inclusivity, and Mental Health. Each Strategy contains a Theory of Action, Action Steps, and Measures of Success. School Committee members asked questions regarding, and made suggestions for additions to, the plan. RV: Plan is still in progress, will incorporate suggestions and present again at the March 1 School Committee Meeting.
- RM, after a quick reading, noted that the Strategic Plan seems to be lacking in any strategies relative to returning to full instruction post-COVID. He recognized that much of the work was done prior to COVID but felt that this would likely be the most critical issue facing the schools in the next year or so.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEES

- Human Resources
- Finance
- Teaching and Learning
- School Culture and Community Relations
- Governance and Leadership
- Strategic Planning
- K-1 Reopening Task Force. No additional options to explore at this time to facilitate reopening of K-1 full time. Will meet again in March.

IX. MOTION by RM and seconded by ME move to EXECUTIVE SESSION for the purpose of: MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2)

Conducting strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel,

without the intent to return to Open Session.

FS: aye

RM: aye

ME: aye

AO: aye

CM: aye

RV: aye

Approved 6-o.

Open session of meeting adjourned 7:53 pm.

X. DOCUMENTS IN PACKET

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2021
- Budget Documents
- Strategic Plan Draft Overview PowerPoint

Submitted by *Amy Noble Novitsky*.