

Lenox Public Schools
School Committee
Selectman's Room, Town Hall 2nd Floor
August 9, 2021 @ 6:30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Vaughan, Veronica Fenton, Meghan Kirby, Robert Munch, Christine Mauro, David Rimpler, Oren Cass

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Marc J. Gosselin Jr.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. HEARING OF VISITORS

- Public comment. Mary Cherry: Advocating for Zoom access to SC meetings in future. Also, would like to be recognized later in the meeting re: COVID memo. RV: Looking into the possibilities of providing remote access to meetings as well as the live meeting. Not enough time to do so for this meeting. VF: Suggested holding meetings in person in the auditorium in addition to providing remote access. It was noted that the acoustics in the auditorium might not be conducive. RV: Introduced new Superintendent, Marc Gosselin.

III. CORRESPONDENCE. RV: Correspondence from Matt Lenehan requesting that LMMHS host the Boys' Lacrosse co-op. Lee has done so in the past, but is not planning to do so this year.

IV. BOARD REPORT

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2021

MOTION by VF and seconded by DR to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2021 School Committee meeting. Approved 6-0, 1 abstain.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Summer Program update. MG updated members on the number of students participating in the summer programming, and the subjects being covered.
- Revised 2021-22 School Year Calendar - Vote required. November 2 added as a PD day, which extends the school year by one day, to June 17.

MOTION by VF and seconded by CM to amend the calendar to designate November 2 as a PD day. Approved 7-0.

- New hire updates. MG provided the names and positions of the new staff members for 2021-22.
- Data Manager job description. Includes Registrar position duties, plus state reporting and other data export functions.

MOTION by VF and seconded by RM to approve the job description for Data Manager. Approved 7-0.

- Appointment of Records Access Officer. Need to formally appoint a Records Access Officer, would like to appoint Kerry Sullivan as the Lenox Public Schools Records Access Officer. Discussion ensued regarding this process, and who the correct person would be for this position.

MOTION by CM and seconded by MK to appoint Kerry Sullivan, Lenox Town Clerk, as Records Access Officer. Approved 7-0.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- JF School Admissions Policy revision – Second read and vote. DR: Possibly some wording is missing. RV: We will table this until August 30 to compare this version and the previous version of the policy.
- Annual review of JLG Wellness Policy. RV: We are required to approve this each year. Dates in the policy still reflect the date the policy was originally implemented. RV: Should remove any date

references, note at bottom the date policy was reapproved. It was noted by members that some data doesn't match, discrepancies in the length of the lunch period, concern regarding using physical activity opportunities as a punishment for academic purposes. MG suggested getting a wellness committee back together to work on this. Policy tabled for the time being.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- School Building Needs Committee. Need to address issues at LMMHS, particularly the science rooms. Time to reconstitute a Building Needs Committee. Need to vote to establish this committee, and then to populate it. There are specific requirements about some of those serving on the committee we will need to follow.

MOTION by DR and seconded by OC to establish a School Building Committee. Approved 7-0.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- Fall 2021 COVID Memo. RV: In addition to email from Oren, we also have extensive information from attorney Long sent via email by Dr. Gosselin. Members shared thoughts regarding policies for returning to school, current trends, etc. No general consensus was reached regarding what the plan should be. There is a meeting with Medical Advisory group tomorrow at 2:00. A suggestion was made to hold a SC meeting/parent forum next Monday. MG agreed that parents need to know soon what to expect for return, and school administrators/staff need to be able to plan what aspects of the school day will look like. VF: DESE has indicated that all students riding school busses will wear masks, as well as those in the Health Office. OC: Will be disappointed if we don't make a determination tonight as this meeting was specifically intended for that purpose. What are we looking for in data as the standard to make certain decisions. We should offer as normal of a school experience as possible, while complying with any mandates. RV suggested a MOTION one way or the other. VF: Should schedule a meeting for next week, with the results from tomorrow's health expert meeting. Public meeting for next week might be best via Zoom, in order to include as many parents and members of the public. OC suggested creating the policy tonight as if school were starting tomorrow.

MOTION by OC and seconded by MK that subject to changing conditions, and to be revisited by the School Committee at each meeting, to provide as normal a school environment as possible while complying with all local, state and federal mandates, and the Superintendent will issue written guidance.

CM: The motion is too narrowly worded and I cannot support it.

MOTION by VF and seconded by RM to amend the original MOTION to use the word 'recommendations' in the place of 'mandates'.

RV: It is not likely we are going to get a mandate at any level. MG: Goal is to open the schools and keep students/staff in school. Worried about absenteeism and the possibility of school closures due to lack of staff. Invited LEA to share teachers' thoughts. MC: 70% of total staff in favor of universal masking. 30% not in favor of masking—but some of those commented wanting mandatory vaccines, or masking only for unvaccinated. RM: SC should not be making the policy alone. Administration should have the ability to make adjustments, submit recommendations.

VF withdraws amendment. Makes new motion.

MOTION by VF and seconded by RV to follow DESE recommendations as well as federal, state and local mandates and revisit at appropriate times. RM: I move the question, VF seconded. Motion carries 4-3.

Vote for original motion; motion fails 4-3.

RV: We'll schedule an additional meeting for Monday, August 16 at 6:30 pm. OC not available, but could meet via Zoom. Only agenda item will be continuing this discussion. Requested Clarence Fanto to publicize meeting being held to gather public opinion. VF: Suggests an email from Superintendent to school community listing the topics for the agenda (suggested: masking, pooled testing, vaccinations, and quarantine). RM requests knowing administration's intentions for plans for opening school before next meeting.

RV: Meeting here, August 16, at 6:30, and also via Zoom. Public will be allowed to attend in public, but encouraged to attend via Zoom.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEES

Strategic Plan	Subcommittee	Subcommittee	Subcommittee
Leadership	Governance & Leadership	Human Resources	Teaching & Learning
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	School Culture/Comm Rel	Teaching & Learning	Human Resources
Curriculum & Instruction	Teaching & Learning		
Professional Development	Teaching & Learning	Human Resources	
Social Emotional Learning	Teaching & Learning	School Culture/Comm Rel	
Technology	Teaching & Learning	Finance	
Finance	Finance		
Facilities	Finance	Teaching & Learning	

MOTION by RM and seconded by CM to adjourn. Approved 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 9:35 pm.

IX. DOCUMENTS IN PACKET

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2021
- 2021-22 School Year Calendar
- Data Manager Job Description
- JF School Admissions Policy
- Wellness Policy
- School Building Committee document
- Fall 2021 COVID memo

Submitted by *Amy Noble Novitsky*.