

**Lenox Public Schools**  
**School Committee**  
**Selectman's Room AND Via Remote Access**  
**August 30, 2021 @ 6:30pm**

To access meeting remotely:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85832033777?pwd=RWNVZlAxYjM5Z3V4aTdWc2M0N01ydz09>

Passcode: 631818

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Marc Gosselin, Michael Knybel, Brenda Kelley, David Pugh

**I. CALL TO ORDER. RV, Chair; 6:36 pm**

**II. HEARING OF VISITORS**

- Public comment. Mary Jane Mattina—Shared information re: the MIT AgeLab. It is the intersection of Technology and aging; elderly and the economy. Omega project -- intergenerational project including high school students. Would like Lenox to be involved, and for Committee members to provide feedback and ask questions. MG: We will look to see how to incorporate this project with others.

**III. CORRESPONDENCE. RV:** We have received a number of letters supporting the Boys' Lacrosse program.

**IV. BOARD REPORT**

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2021

**MOTION by VF and seconded by RM to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2021 School Committee meeting.**

**OC: aye, RM: aye, DR: aye, VF: aye, MK: aye, CM: aye, RV: aye. Approved 7-0.**

**V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- School Reopening COVID plans. MG: We shared our plans with school community via School Messenger, plans have been/are constantly changing due to DESE's information. Created a portal on our website to house all district COVID information for parents' use. RV: re: lunch at Morris; students at desks spaced 5' on center in Cafeteria, students will be allowed to talk during lunch. Zoom format is great for the new student orientation. Discussion ensued regarding maintaining 3 feet distancing whenever possible, and the protocol in the cafeteria at Morris, specifically whether students all need to be facing the same direction. What is the basis for requiring students to face in one direction in the cafeteria at Morris. How can students enjoy lunch? Administration reported this was the best way to keep the most kids safest while eating lunch. MG then asked principals to share info re: other plans for the start of school. MK: Thank you to custodians for all the work done over the summer. 54 students participated in the summer programs, both remediation and prep programs. Two members of Step program are working in the community. BK: A teacher participated in an externship at BHS over the summer, focusing on the importance of making students college and job ready. It was noted an LMMHS teacher also participated in an externship at BHS. LMMHS seeking to be an Innovative Pathway school. BK: Many teachers participated in PD over the summer, and 10 staff members worked with 60 students in the summer program. Echo MK comments re: remarkable job done by the custodians. Nice to have LCC kids in the building over the summer. Cherilyn Zaretsky is working to present Second Step update to staff members. Small

group instruction worked well last year, reading on level. Met K kids today, and look forward to meeting others on Thursday.

- Transition Planning. Kindergarten event took place this afternoon at Morris, Zoom Q & A will be held this evening with the Morris principal for new students starting this year. New students at LMMHS will have a similar session tomorrow, and all students on Wednesday.
- Fall Sports Season. MG: Season is underway; Girls' soccer had a scrimmage today.
- Asbestos Update. MG: Small amount of debris was detected in one windowsill after recent storm. About 1/16 or 1/32 teaspoon. Followed recently adopted plan of action out of an abundance of caution. Eco Genesis and GEM responded to evaluate. Noticed a gap in the window framing needing to be recaulked. Air monitoring showed air quality well above required level.
- Enrollment. MG: 735 total students. 297 (includes preschool) at Morris and 438 at LMMHS. Just under 40% Choice. RV: How do these numbers compare to this time last year?

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- Universal Routine COVID Safety Check Policy. RV: MG has drafted a policy regarding mandated COVID Safety Check, which was included in the packet for Committee members.

**MOTION by CM and seconded by MK to approve the Universal COVID Testing of Lenox Public Schools employees policy. Members asked questions regarding the details of the testing program.**

**OC: aye, RM: aye, DR: aye, RV aye, VF: aye, MK: aye, CM: aye. Approved 7-0.**

- Lacrosse Program – Report from Athletic Director. AD invited Matt Lenehan to share details of the proposal for the program with the Committee. ML did so and asked the Committee to approve hosting a co-op Boys' Lacrosse team this school year. DP outlined the needs to get the team formed, and the costs associated. MIAA will need to approve the co-op change. VF: Suggests the viewing of a You Tube video titled 'Roots: Exploring the History of Lacrosse'. Details the history of the sport, and its Native People's source.

**MOTION by VF and seconded by RM that Lenox Public Schools will host a Lacrosse program for boys in grades 7 through 12 (as eligible and appropriate under current MIAA rules and regulations) and will invite students to participate from other districts in accordance with existing policies for cooperative sports programming. Lenox Public Schools will consider similar programming for girls if they are no longer able to play in the cooperative program currently hosted by Lee Public Schools. As part of the training for lacrosse, students will participate in education about the origins and meaning of the game of lacrosse as it originated within the culture of Native Peoples in North America. The curriculum for educating all students about the origins and traditions of the game of Lacrosse will be reviewed and approved by the Superintendent of Schools or his designee and said curriculum will also be shared with the Physical Education Department for review an possible incorporation into the curriculum.**

OC concerned about the incorporation of curriculum suggestions in the motion.

**MOTION by OC and seconded by MK to amend the original motion to strike the passage: *As part of the training for lacrosse, students will participate in education about the origins and meaning of the game of lacrosse as it originated within the culture of Native Peoples in North America. The curriculum for educating all students about the origins and traditions of the game of Lacrosse will be reviewed and approved by the Superintendent of Schools or his designee and said curriculum will also be shared with the Physical Education Department for review an possible incorporation into the curriculum.***

Members discussed the merits and drawbacks of incorporating the curriculum aspect of the motion.

**OC: aye, RM: aye, DR: aye, CM: nay, MK: aye, VF: nay. Amendment approved 4-2.**

**MOTION by RV and seconded by VF to amend the original motion to strike the passage: *Lenox Public Schools will consider similar programming for girls if they are no longer able to play in the cooperative program currently hosted by Lee Public Schools.***

**OC: aye, RM: aye, DR: aye, RV: aye, VF: aye, MK: aye, CM: aye. Amendment approved 7-0.**

Further discussion ensued regarding field use, etc.

**RM called the question.**

**OC: aye, RM: aye, DR: aye, CM: aye, MK: aye, VF: aye, RV: aye. Motion approved 7-0.**

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Second Reading of JF School Admissions Policy. MG:

**MOTION by DR and seconded by VF to approve JF School Admissions Policy.**

**OC: aye, RM: aye, DR: aye, VF: aye, MK: aye, CM: aye, RV: aye. Approved 7-0.**

- Second Retreat? RV: Need to finish the retreat discussions. Would an evening, 5:00 – 8:00 pm work, rather than a Saturday. Consensus was yes. RV will suggest dates via email.

## **VIII. SUBCOMMITTEES**

<b>Subcommittee</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Section</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Section</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Section</b>
Governance & Leadership	Leadership		
Human Resources	Leadership	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Professional Development
Teaching & Learning	Curriculum & Instruction	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Professional Development
Teaching & Learning (cont'd)	Technology	Social Emotional Learning	Leadership
Teaching & Learning (cont'd)	Facilities		
School Culture and Community Relations	Social Emotional Learning	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Facilities
Finance	Finance	Technology	Facilities

RV: Time to start subcommittee meetings. Look at possibility of grouping meetings together, back to back. Start in two weeks, Doodle will be issued to find mutually available dates.

**MOTION by CM and seconded by DR to adjourn the meeting.**

**OC: aye, RM: aye, DR: aye, RV: aye, VF: aye, MK: aye, CM: aye. Approved 7-0.**

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm.

## **IX. DOCUMENTS IN PACKET:**

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2021
- Universal Routine COVID Safety Check Policy
- Lacrosse Program
- JF School Admissions Policy

## **X. DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT MEETING:**

- Feasibility of Lenox Hosting Boys' Lacrosse
- MIT Agelab Omega Project

Submitted by *Amy Noble Novitsky*.