

Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

August 20, 2020

To: *Wachusett Regional School District Committee*

Megan Weeks, Chair	Matthew Lavoie
Michael Dennis, Vice-chair	Linda Long-Bellil
Nicole Amos	Kenneth Mills
Melissa Ayala	Benjamin Mitchel
Krista Bennett	Karl Ottmar
Scott Brown	Deidre Shapiro
Maleah Gustafson	Asima Silva
Sherrie Haber	Christina Smith
Jeffrey Haynes	Kelly Williamson
Robert Imber	Linda Woodland
Laura Kirshenbaum	Adam Young

From: Darryll McCall, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Superintendent's Report

Posting and Subcommittee Assignments

Attached is the updated posting of School Committee and subcommittee meetings scheduled for the coming months (attachment 1). The seven subcommittees have been meeting or will be meeting, and those that have met have elected the Vice-chairs. Attached is an updated list of subcommittee assignments (attachment 2).

As has been the practice, Monday evening's regular School Committee meeting will be by remote participation via Google Meet. An invitation to the meeting has been sent/shared with members of the School Committee, the Student Representatives, Central Office executive staff, Senator Gobi and Representative Ferguson, and the president of the WREA. If you have not yet done so, please "accept" the invitation if you are intending to participate in the meeting. Using a laptop with the Meet connection is preferable, though calling in by cell phone is also an option, though not the preferred way to participate.

Monday's School Committee meeting will be streamed for the public through YouTube Live. A link to the stream will be posted on the WRSD homepage Monday afternoon. The meeting will also be broadcast live on HCTV.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to have their questions asked/comments made by emailing them to questions@wrsd.net, and these comments and/or questions will be read aloud for the record. The remainder of the agenda will proceed from there.

For planning and quorum purposes, please advise if you are unable to participate in Monday evening's meeting

Reopening of Schools

- Joint Memo Clarifying Key Health and Safety Requirements for Schools

Attached are documents shared by Commissioner Riley, outlining updates to previously released DESE guidance (attachment 3). This week, the state also announced a new immunization policy for all students attending Massachusetts schools. We are updating our protocols for reopening, a document that will be shared with all staff.

- Buildings Update

We continue to address HVAC system updates throughout the schools, are making modifications to learning and office spaces, and have distributed PPE to our buildings. Our Facilities Manager Jim Covello and Deputy Berlo have established a work plan that includes utilizing our own staff as well as hiring outside vendors to support the timely completion of air handling projects in schools. We will provide a more detailed update at our next Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting, scheduled for September 1st.

- Staffing

With the School Committee's recent decision to remain remote for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, District administration has begun to work on staffing and where, if any, staff will be reduced via layoff or furlough, for the indefinite future period. One such group is Food Service staff. As the Committee knows, Food Service staff (and all staff) were paid in full for the final quarter of FY20 at the request of the DESE. That is no longer the situation because there are so many options to be utilized by districts across the Commonwealth. It is highly likely that School Lunch revenues will be well below the benchmark for FY21. The USDA is unlikely to raise the threshold for reimbursement this year as they did last spring. That will have a significant negative impact on revenues. Staffing alone without any new hires, will cost approximately \$900,000. Any deficits in School Lunch must be backfilled by the General Fund. It is unlikely the financial resources will be available to correct those deficits before the end of FY21. As of this writing, the administration is looking to lay off (as opposed to furlough) 18 Food Service staff. The layoffs would be effective until such time as a hybrid learning model allows for the return of students into the buildings.

- Provision of Lunches

With the start of the student school year, September 16th, our Food Service/School Nutrition Department will be preparing and distributing breakfast and lunch to families who request these meals. It is planned that food preparation and distribution will take place at a centralized location in each of the five towns, on a two times a week schedule (food prepared on Mondays and Wednesdays, distributed on Tuesdays and Thursdays). Margaret Barton, Supervisor of School Nutrition, is working alongside District administration as the details of this program are coordinated and finalized, in time for implementation on September 16th. I will keep the Committee apprised as details unfold.

- Athletics

As you most likely already know, DESE has collaborated with MIAA to produce a document that outlines modified sport guidelines for schools (attachment 4). As a school district that will start in a remote model, the School Committee must vote to support our participation in athletics. Jennifer Lynch, our Athletic Director, is working to develop a plan to allow for athletics to occur that follow the new guidelines. Athletics are not allowed to begin until September 16th including practices, so a vote to support this could be taken at the regular School Committee meeting on September 14th.

Update on Negotiations

The Committee will adjourn to executive session at the conclusion of Monday's meeting, in order for members to be brought up-to-date on the status of negotiations with the three bargaining units with expired contracts (WAA, paraprofessionals, and ABA PAs), as well as being updated on the status of ongoing negotiations with the WREA in preparation for the 2020-2021 school year.

On Monday evening at 6:00 PM, I will be hosting a virtual meeting of representatives from the Member Towns in order for the next Municipal Representative for Negotiations to be elected. Following this election Monday evening, the newly elected Municipal Representative will have the opportunity to join the executive session, if he/she is able, to hear the status of our negotiations with the unions.

Annual Administrative Retreat

On Thursday, August 20th, we conducted our annual Administrative Retreat, in a different format due to COVID (attachment 5). The Retreat, "attended" by Principals, Assistant Principals, and Central Office administrative staff, was held virtually via Google Meet, and it was a good opportunity for all of our building leaders to come together as we plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Discussion included information on reopening, building preparedness, staffing, technology, and the budget. I have scheduled a follow-up meeting with this same group for September 3rd.

Paxton Annual Town Meeting

The final ATM in the Member Towns will be held in Paxton on Saturday, August 29th, at 10:00 AM (rain date Sunday, August 30th, at 12:00 noon) (attachment 6).

2020-2021 School Calendar

In light of the school year, for students, being reduced to 170 days and remote learning beginning on September 16th, the 2020-2021 school calendar needs to be amended to reflect these changes. Attached is the proposed amended calendar (attachment 7). You will note the half-days for professional development, which were on the previously approved calendar, have been eliminated. Approval of this amended school calendar is on Monday evening's agenda.

Audit Advisory Board

I am pleased to report that membership on the Audit Advisory Board is almost complete. Princeton resident Laurel Adams has volunteered to sit on the AAB, representing the town of Princeton (attachment 8).

Municipal Finance Oversight Board

On July 17, 2020, Chair Weeks, District Treasurer Dunbar, Financial Advisor Mary Carney and Director Deedy met with members of the Municipal Finance Oversight Board. The MFB includes representatives from the State Auditor's Office, the Department of Revenue, State Treasurer and Receiver General and the Attorney General's Office. The purpose of the meeting was in response to the District's request to refinance several bonds that could be used as a budget savings (attachment 9). These bonds originated in 2008, 2009, and 2011 relative to the High School Building Project and the Jefferson Oil Remediation Project. Financial Advisor Carney will go to the public market in either October or November. There will be a savings with this activity; however, it is unknown at this time what that savings will be. That information will not be available until October or November.

Conflict of Interest Training

Every two years School Committee members, as municipal representatives, are required to complete Conflict of Interest online training. Below is the link to the site to complete this training. When completed, please share a copy of the Certificate of Completion with Rebecca Petersen (rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net) and with the Town Clerk in your hometown.

Conflict of Interest

Subcommittee Minutes

- Minutes of the July 27, 2020 meeting of the Education Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 1)
- Minutes of the August 6, 2020 meeting of the Education Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 2)

- Minutes of the August 5, 2020 meeting of the Facilities and Security Subcommittee (Subcommittee Minutes 3)

Should you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

cc: Executive Staff
DM:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

Agenda

Regular Meeting #1350

Monday, August 24, 2020
7:00 PM

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

- I. Public Hearing
- II. Chair's Opening Remarks
- III. Student Representatives' Reports (K. Gomi, K. Mangus)
- IV. Superintendent's Report
 - A. Discussion of Report
 - B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee
 - To approve the amended 2020-2021 School Calendar
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. Secretary's Report
 - A. Approval of #1349 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on August 10, 2020 – enclosed
- VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements
- VIII. Committee Reports
 - A. Management Subcommittee (M. Weeks, Chair, M. Dennis, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Lavoie, A. Silva, C. Smith, A. Young)
 - B. Education Subcommittee (C. Smith, Chair, L. Long-Bellil, Vice-chair, N. Amos, K. Bennett, S. Haber, R. Imber, L. Kirshenbaum, D. Shapiro)
 1. Amended Policy 3813 *Policy Relating to Education Audio, Video and/or Stenographic Recordings of Parent Teacher Conference and Team Meetings Audio, Video and/or Stenographic Recording of Meetings* – first reading
 - C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, K. Mills, Vice-chair, M. Gustafson, B. Mitchel, K. Ottmar)
 - D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Brown, Chair, K. Ottmar, Vice-chair, R. Imber, M. Weeks)

- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, L. Kirshenbaum, K. Williamson, L. Woodland)
- F. Facilities and Security Subcommittee (A. Young, Chair, J. Haynes, Vice-chair, L. Woodland)
 - 1. Draft Policy 6612.3 *Policy Relating to Pupil Services Face Covering* – first reading
- G. Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Subcommittee (A. Silva, Chair, L. Woodland, Vice-chair, N. Amos, M. Ayala, K. Bennett, S. Brown, M. Gustafson, J. Haynes, L. Kirshenbaum, L. Long-Bellil)
- H. Audit Advisory Board (B. Mitchel, Chair, A. Young, Vice-chair)
- I. Ad Hoc Subcommittees
 - I. Building Committees
 - J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Lavoie), Chocksett Middle School (K. Williamson), Davis Hill Elementary School (K. Williamson), Dawson Elementary School (L. Kirshenbaum), Glenwood Elementary School (N. Amos), Houghton Elementary School (D. Shapiro), Mayo Elementary School (A. Young), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (S. Haber), Paxton Center School (K. Ottmar), Thomas Prince School (A. Silva), Wachusett Regional High School (K. Mills), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (M. Gustafson), Early Childhood Center (L. Woodland)
- IX. Public Hearing
- X. Open Meeting Law Complaint
- XI. New Business
- XII. Executive Session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with three bargaining units (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants; Teamsters Union Local 170 (paraprofessionals); Wachusett Administrators' Association), and to report on progress of negotiations with the Wachusett Regional Education Association, Inc. (WREA) on 2020-2021 school reopening, as the Chair deems a discussion in public session would have an adverse effect on the District's bargaining position, not to return to public session.
- XIII. Adjournment

Anonymous (attachment 1)

Anonymous (attachment 2)

Kim Bendemek (attachment 3)

Leslie Mason, Sterling (attachment 4)

Courtney McDonald, Sterling (attachment 5)

Emily Stolarski, Holden (attachment 6)

Kathleen McGovern (attachment 7)

Christine Tivnan (attachment 8)

Bridget Cocola (attachment 9)

Robert Remillard, Rutland (attachment 10)

Frank Ciccone, Holden (attachment 11)

Roxanne Gragen, Jefferson (attachment 12)

Anna Kusterski (attachment 13)

Amanda Taylor (attachment 14)

Kristi & Tim Carlson (attachment 15)

Michelle Greewall

Sophie Unfrix – 7th grader at CTMS

Chair Weeks explained to members of the public there will be a second opportunity to voice questions and comments.

II. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Weeks addressed the Committee, speaking about the reopening of schools. Chair Weeks also spoke about the requirements of the Open Meeting Law.

III. Student Representatives (K. Gomi, K. Mangus)

Student Representatives Mangus reported on students preparing for on-line learning, that SAT testing is scheduled for September 8th, and that the Director of School Counseling has reached out to WRHS seniors about the college application process. There is much concern about time-on-learning and how students will be ready for AP

tests in the spring, for an example. Student Representative Mangus also asked about the SEL plan for the high school to support students. Lastly Student Representative Mangus asked about MCAS and how missing the dates/tests will impact students. Student Representative Gomi had nothing additional to add.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Discussion of Report

Chair Weeks turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall.

Superintendent McCall projected the WRSD School Reopening Plan 2020-2021 (attachment 16). This document was shared with members in advance of the meeting. Superintendent McCall reviewed the information in the presentation, speaking in detail to all pages and the plans for reopening of schools. Supervisor of Information Services Barry Sclar spoke about software and what is available and what will likely be available in the near future. He also explained various features that are or likely will be available for programs that will be used during online teaching and learning. At the conclusion of Superintendent McCall's overview, Chair Weeks opened the floor to questions and comments from the Committee.

Member Haber asked if there will be some live instruction during the remote phase. Member Haber expressed concern, which she has also heard from other parents, about the afternoon blocks that are not dedicated to direct instruction. She had questions and concerns about shifting from remote to hybrid and how the afternoon sessions will be conducted. Member Haber asked for a listing of what sort of facility tasks need to be addressed in order to open schools. Hybrid phasing, she understands and agrees with, but she has questions about K – 1, grade 6, grade 9, grade 12 – what is the rationale for moving these grades to hybrid before going fully hybrid.

Member Haynes commended the Superintendent for his call in mid-March to close schools and he expressed his appreciation for Superintendent McCall continuing to watch out for the health and safety of students and staff.

Member Kirshenbaum requested greater clarity on some components of the plan, particularly the structuring and planning for the afternoon schedules. She had questions about making moving to hybrid work for students and staff who are not able to transition to hybrid. She had questions about time-on-learning.

Member Lavoie has questions about instructional hours. He mentioned the importance of teachers instructing from their classrooms. Member Lavoie asked about social-emotional learning and support, and how these needs will be addressed. The comments made about the shortage of ChromeBooks is disturbing to him. Member Lavoie feels the Superintendent has done a great disservice to the Committee by not responding to all comments from the public that do not support the remote plan.

Member Long-Bellil also has concerns about the afternoon schedules, especially at the high school level. She asked about Phase 3 and bringing back selected grades of students, but she asked when/if all elementary grades could be brought back to in-person, in some fashion. Lastly, she mentioned the importance of bringing high needs students back to in-person as soon as possible. Deputy Superintendent Berlo spoke about the afternoon schedules and the intent that support for students can be provided during that time. Deputy Superintendent Berlo spoke about bringing all elementary students back to school, explaining the plans for certain grades.

Member Mills mentioned curriculum that will be delivered differently, and that the Committee should be kept apprised in the event approval needs to be made. Member Mills share his opinion that “student office hours” will not be used effectively so there should be more structure during the school days. In regard to SEL, he asked to be sure activities and other extracurricular opportunities can be offered. Member Mills suggested another survey about transportation.

Member Mitchel would appreciate additional details about schedules, etc. Member Mitchel has questions about attendance and the importance of recording accurate attendance.

Member Ottmar is in support of the plan as presented. He mentioned the importance of professional development for staff, to prepare for remote learning.

Member Shapiro is looking for a plan to implement hybrid. She would also want to see plans for activities and clubs, since there are students for whom these offerings are very important.

Member Silva expressed concerns about instructional hours and would appreciate seeing more details. She also had concerns about breakout rooms and who will be monitoring these breakout rooms in the event of bullying situations. Member Silva had questions about when transitioning from remote to hybrid and how schedules and teaching staff will work/look. Superintendent McCall spoke about the monitoring of breakout rooms, as well as utilizing paraprofessional staff.

Member Smith expressed thanks to District administration for their work on the reopening plan. She voiced her opinion that not having real-time learning is problematic. She asked could instruction be offered at different times of the day, by teachers who might find an “off hours” shift might be a solution for some families/teachers. She also stated she would appreciate seeing the high school schedule be more like a regular in-person high school schedule, even if the length of the classes is reduced.

Member Williamson thanked administration for prioritizing safety in the reopening plan. Member Williamson also has questions and concerns about the afternoon schedules, especially at the high school level. Like-curriculum across the District/across same grades is very important. Member Williamson asked the

status of the MOA with the WREA in connection with the start of the school year. Superintendent McCall reported negotiations continue, with another meeting on Thursday of this week.

Member Woodland appreciated receiving draft models in advance of the meeting. She also spoke about the afternoon schedules, especially at the middle and high school levels. She voiced she has more concerns about the afternoon schedules for elementary school students, who need more direct instruction. She mentioned a block on the elementary schedule for a 90 minute lesson, which she is very concerned about for students of this age. At Member Woodland's inquiry about a COVID space, to be used if a case of the virus is suspected, Superintendent McCall acknowledged that a small space will be problematic.

Member Young stated the document shared is a reopening plan, which he appreciates. Member Young still have issues with the plans for services for special education students. Opening schools for special education students not until the beginning of October seems unreasonable, especially for the students who desperately need in-person education. Superintendent McCall acknowledged the need to address meeting the needs of the highest needs students. Administrator of Special Education Smith addressed Member Young's concerns about special education students only returning to school for one hour per day, which she clarified is the minimum and not the ceiling.

Member Amos has concerns about attendance requirements, particularly in light of parents who are working and some homes that may experience internet issues. She spoke about lessons being recorded and available when needed by families and students.

Member Ayala too had concerns about the afternoon schedule, but she also spoke about children who will lose attention with multiple virtual meetings. Member Ayala spoke about daily school schedules when students are in school, noting there is recess time, break times, lunch times, etc. Her opinion is that the 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM learning schedule might be difficult to adhere to.

Member Bennett extended her thanks to both District administration and members of the School Committee for their time and attention. Member Bennett spoke about students' screen time, and limiting it. Superintendent McCall is not in support of students sitting in front of a computer for six hours per day, and he and District administration are addressing this issue.

Member Brown encouraged all to read the reopening plan in detail. Member Brown is pleased to know that the students with the highest needs have a target date of October 5th to return to in-person school. Member Brown asked what roles building principals and assistant principals will play with the reopening plan. Superintendent McCall agreed that parents and residents having the ability to connect with building administrators and/or teachers is important as plans to reopen get underway.

Member Dennis asked about the use of “no sooner than” used in the reopening plan, and what is the criteria when moving from one phase to the next. Superintendent McCall explained that Commissioner Riley is working with Boards of Health about the metrics for reopening and transitioning from one phase to the next. Introducing kindergarten and grade one students to in-person schooling is about fourteen weeks out from this date, which seems excessive. Only achieving half-time on learning does not seem sufficient. A plan that only has two to three hours on a specific subject does not seem to be enough.

Member Gustafson is looking for consistency with 6 feet social distancing and she raised are questions about special education and what is still missing in the plan. She asked if a student is receiving counseling or SEL support, would that be in the morning, afternoon, evening. She had similar questions about OT and/or PT. She would like to know, in general, what will a schedule for the development classrooms look like. Administrator of Special Education Smith spoke about how individual special education students and their schedules and services will be provided, per their IEPs. Providers and parents will engage and connect, to be sure services are being met.

Student Representative Mangus asked about a mental health plan, which she did not see included in the reopening plan. She also encouraged breaks, especially at the high school level, be longer than five minutes. WRHS Principal Beando is planning to conduct virtual meetings with students at the four high school levels.

Student Representative Gomi agreed with the need to have breaks be longer than what is included in the reopening plan. He also spoke about what might be offered in the way of mental health services. Student Representative Gomi also asked about a timeline for letting students know about athletics and clubs.

Superintendent McCall spoke about SEL services to be available and offered, and he briefly spoke to the other matters raised by the Student Representatives.

Member Haber spoke about the status of the Memorandum of Agreement with the WREA, noting time is running short and tight. Legal Affairs Chair Brown spoke about meetings with the WREA when discussions about ESY took place, and these Thursday meetings have continued, to discuss the reopening plan. Subcommittee Chair Brown is not aware of the WREA having a seven day waiting period before approving a MOA. Chair Weeks explained, for new members, that discussions about union negotiations are held in executive session, which will be on the agenda for the August 24, 2020 regular School Committee meeting.

Member Gustafson asked about building-level updates and when surveys are sent out, that the School Committee be kept apprised of such things.

Student Representative Gomi asked when extra help will be available to students. Superintendent McCall is talking with the WREA about this and how this might happen.

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

1. Motion: To approve the WRSD 2020-2021 School Reopening Plan, and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit said plan to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
(K. Mills)
(B. Mitchel)

Chair Weeks opened the floor to questions about the motion.

Member Woodland asked what will be submitted to the state, specifically asking will 3 feet or 6 feet be a part of the submission/plan. Superintendent McCall explained DESE has said the distance is 3 feet to 6 feet. Superintendent McCall explained 6 feet is the goal, but is not always doable.

Member Mills asked if DESE had been in touch about feedback on the preliminary plan. Superintendent McCall explained a representative from DESE called this date, and Superintendent McCall will return the call to discuss.

Member Haber asked if the reopening plan will be a working document, which Superintendent McCall confirmed.

Member Lavoie has concerns if the plan is approved before negotiations are worked out with the teachers' union. Superintendent McCall reported that many districts are or have submitted plans before finalizing MOAs with their teachers' union.

Member Long-Bellil also hopes the reopening plan is a working document, and she voiced her suggestion that additional time be built in the schedule between classes.

Member Young commented on Member Lavoie's remark, and he can support the plan, as it will be a working document.

Member Gustafson voiced her issue with the distance, 3 vs 6 feet

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Nicole Amos
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Jeffrey Haynes
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil

Kenneth Mills
Benjamin Mitchel
Karl Ottmar
Deidre Shapiro
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

Michael Dennis
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Matthew Lavoie

The motion passed 17-4.

Motion: To extend the meeting until 10:30 PM.

(K. Ottmar)
(S. Haber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Nicole Amos
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Jeffrey Haynes
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Benjamin Mitchel
Karl Ottmar
Deidre Shapiro
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the School Committee.

9:56 PM Member Ottmar left the table.

VI. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of #1348 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on July 27, 2020

(K. Mills)

(S. Haber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Nicole Amos
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherri Haber
Jeffrey Haynes
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Benjamin Mitchel
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Deidre Shapiro
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The minutes were unanimously approved.

9:58 PM Member Ottmar returned to the table.

B. Approval of #322 Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on July 29, 2020

(S. Brown)

(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Nicole Amos
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherri Haber
Jeffrey Haynes
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Deidre Shapiro
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

Benjamin Mitchel

The minutes were approved 20-0-1.

- C. Approval of #323 Special Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on August 5, 2020

(S. Brown)
(K. Mills)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Nicole Amos
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherri Haber
Jeffrey Haynes

Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Benjamin Mitchel
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Deidre Shapiro
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The minutes were unanimously approved.

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Chair Weeks reminded the Committee that if there were questions regarding the Director of Business and Finance's report that Members should contact the Superintendent; if there were questions regarding the Treasurer's Report, Members should contact the Business/Finance Subcommittee Chair.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Management Subcommittee (M. Weeks, Chair, M. Dennis, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Lavoie, C. Smith, A. Young)

Chair Weeks reported on the August 4, 2020 meeting of this subcommittee. Topics covered were the expectations of the Committee and subcommittee for the coming year, the school reopening plans, and policy review. The Management Subcommittee will meet monthly.

- B. Education Subcommittee (C. Smith, Chair, L. Long-Bellil, Vice-chair, N. Amos, K. Bennett, S. Haber, R. Imber, L. Kirshenbaum, D. Shapiro)

Subcommittee Chair Smith reported on two recent meetings, August 6, 2020 and August 10, 2020, immediately before this meeting.

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, K. Mills, Vice-chair, M. Gustafson, B. Mitchel, K. Ottmar)

Subcommittee Chair Dennis reported on the August 5, 2020 meeting of this subcommittee.

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Brown, Chair, R. Imber, K. Mills, K. Ottmar)

Subcommittee Chair Brown reported this subcommittee will meet on August 17, 2020.

- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (M. Lavoie, Chair, L. Kirshenbaum, K. Williamson, L. Woodland)

Subcommittee Chair Lavoie reported this subcommittee will meet, in-person, on August 27, 2020.

- F. Facilities and Security Subcommittee (A. Young, Chair, J. Haynes, Vice-chair, L. Woodland)

Subcommittee Chair Young reported on the August 5, 2020 meeting of this subcommittee, and that the subcommittee will meet next on August 18, 2020.

- G. Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Subcommittee (A. Silva, Chair, L. Woodland, Vice-chair, N. Amos, M. Ayala, K. Bennett, S. Brown, M. Gustafson, J. Haynes, L. Kirshenbaum, L. Long-Bellil)

Subcommittee Chair Silva reported on the first meeting of this subcommittee, when goals and the charge of the subcommittee were reviewed and discussed. This subcommittee will meet next on September 8, 2020.

- H. Audit Advisory Board (B. Mitchel, Chair, A. Young, Vice-chair)

AAB Chair Mitchel reported on the FY19 audit, which was reviewed at the meeting of the Board held July 28, 2020. The FY19 audit will next be forwarded to the Business/Finance Subcommittee for review, in advance of the audit going to the full School Committee for approval.

Chair Weeks reached out to residents of Princeton and Sterling, seeking volunteers to fill those vacant seats on the AAB.

- I. Ad Hoc Subcommittees
- J. Building Committees
- J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (M. Lavoie), Chocksett Middle School (K. Williamson), Davis Hill Elementary School (K. Williamson), Dawson Elementary School (L. Kirshenbaum), Glenwood Elementary School (N. Amos), Houghton Elementary School (D. Shapiro), Mayo Elementary School (A. Young), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (S. Haber), Paxton Center School (K. Ottmar), Thomas Prince School (A. Silva), Wachusett Regional High School (K. Mills), Early Childhood Center (L. Woodland), Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) (M. Gustafson)

Member Gustafson – SEPAC – August 13, 2020 forum

IX. Public Hearing

Maureen Young, Holden (attachment 17)

Andrew Sloca (attachment 18)

Keith Darrow (attachment 19)

Patty and LeeAnne Sinclair (attachment 20)

Susan Stowe (attachment 21)

Christine Penzone (attachment 22)

Kristine Turner (attachment 23)

Nancy Gunnard (attachment 24)

Andy Polumbo, Paxton (attachment 25)

Kristina Neiman (attachment 26)

Michelle Grewal (attachment 27)

Leslie Hartley (attachment 28)

Sean Wessell (attachment 29)

Keri Miknaitis (attachment 30)

10:28 PM Member Mitchel left the meeting

Motion : To extend the meeting until 11:00 PM

(M. Gustafson)
(L. Kirshenbaum)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Nicole Amos
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherri Haber

Jeffrey Haynes
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Deidre Shapiro
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

10:30 PM Member Lavoie left the meeting.

Anna Wiadrowski (attachment 31)

joewestminster@aol.com (attachment 32)

Hannah Palmi (attachment 34)

Emma Zimon, rising senior (attachment 35)

Robin Boucher (attachment 36)

Nicole Parker (attachment 37)

Caryn Sullivan (attachment 38)

Jennifer Scalise-Mullett (attachment 39)

Sophie Unfricht (attachment 40)

Jennifer Finnerty (attachment 41)

X. New Business

There was no new business brought before the School Committee.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(K. Mills)

(L. Kirshenbaum)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Megan Weeks
Michael Dennis
Nicole Amos
Melissa Ayala
Krista Bennett
Scott Brown
Maleah Gustafson
Sherri Haber
Jeffrey Haynes
Laura Kirshenbaum
Linda Long-Bellil
Kenneth Mills
Karl Ottmar
Deidre Shapiro
Asima Silva
Christina Smith
Kelly Williamson
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DM:rlp

POLICY RELATING TO EDUCATION**AUDIO, VIDEO, AND/OR STENOGRAPHIC RECORDINGS OF PARENT TEACHER
CONFERENCES AND TEAM MEETINGS****~~AUDIO, VIDEO AND/OR STENOGRAPHIC RECORDING OF MEETINGS~~**

The Wachusett Regional School Committee prohibits the audio, video and/or stenographic recording of parent/teacher conferences and/or Team meetings conducted in Wachusett Regional School District facilities. Exceptions to this policy will be made only where a parent/guardian or student is able to demonstrate that either the audio, video and/or stenographic recording of the meeting or conference is necessary to ensure the parent's/guardian's or student's full understanding of the proceedings or to otherwise accommodate a parent's/guardian's or student's documented disability.

Requests by a parent/guardian or student for authorization to audio, video and/or stenographic record a meeting or conference shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent of the Wachusett Regional School District no less than three (3) business days prior to said meeting/conference. The Superintendent's decision on any such request shall be final.

First Reading: 11/08/04

Second Reading: 11/22/04

Amendment First Reading:

Amendment Second Reading:

WRSDC Amended Policy 3813

POLICY RELATING TO PUPIL SERVICES

FACE COVERINGS

The Wachusett Regional School District is committed to providing a safe environment as schools reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks or face coverings. Therefore, in accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the following requirements are in place until the Superintendent has determined the policy is no longer required. The Superintendent will consult with the guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) when making this determination. The Superintendent may also decide to reengage this policy based on guidance from the aforementioned entities.

A face covering that covers the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals in school buildings, on school grounds, and on school transportation, even when social distancing is observed. Exempted from this policy are students in Grade 1 and below. Nonetheless, the District encourages students in Grade 1 and below to wear masks, if possible.

Individuals may be excused from the requirement for the following list of reasons, per CDC guidance:

The individual:

- has trouble breathing;
- is unconscious;
- is incapacitated;
- cannot remove the mask or face covering without assistance.

Additionally, face masks or face coverings will not be required when DESE guidelines for social distancing for the specific scenario is enforced:

- during mask breaks;
- while eating or drinking;
- during physical education classes;
- while outside.

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members are responsible for donning their own face coverings. However, the district will supply disposable face covering for individuals who arrive at a building, or board school transportation, without one.

POLICY RELATING TO PUPIL SERVICES

FACE COVERINGS (continued)

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal will consult with the parent/guardians to determine whether an exception is appropriate, or the student may be removed from the school building for in-person learning until such time as they can comply with the requirement or the requirement is lifted.

Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility.

Exceptions to this policy for students with medical, behavioral or other challenges who are unable to wear masks, must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Exceptions to this policy for staff with medical issues, who are unable to wear masks, must be approved by the Director of Human Resources for the district in consultation with building administration and/or nursing staff. In cases where exceptions are granted, alternative measures or protocols may be required and agreed upon by relevant stakeholders.

LEGAL REF.: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, COVID-19 Order No. 31 -
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>

REFS.: Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Considerations for Wearing Masks -
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Reopening Guidelines -
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>
Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Mask Up MA! –
<https://www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma>

SOURCE: MASC – August 2020

First Reading:

Second Reading:

WRSDC Draft Policy 6612.3

Education Subcommittee

Monday, August 24, 2020
6:00 p.m.

MEETING CANCELLED

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Monday, August 24, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

AGENDA:

Public Hearing

Chair's Opening Remarks

Student Representatives' Reports

Superintendent's Report

- Discussion of Report
- Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee
 - To approve the WRSD 2020-2021 amended school calendar

Unfinished Business

Secretary's Report

- Approval of the #1349th Regular Meeting Minutes of the WRSDC held on 8/10/2020

Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Committee Reports

- Management Subcommittee
- Education Subcommittee
 1. Amended Policy 3813 Policy Relating to Education Audio, Video and/or Stenographic Recordings of Parent Teacher Conference and Team Meetings Audio, Video and/or Stenographic Recording of Meetings – first reading
- Business/Finance Subcommittee
- Legal Affairs Subcommittee
- Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee
- Facilities and Security Subcommittee
 1. Draft Policy 6612.3 Policy Relating to Pupil Services Face Covering – first reading
- Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Subcommittee
- Audit Advisory Board
- Ad-Hoc Subcommittee
- Building Committees

School Council Reports

Public Hearing

New Business

Executive Session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with three bargaining units (SEIU Local 888 – ABA Program Assistants; Teamsters Union Local 170 (paraprofessionals); Wachusett Administrators' Association), and to report on progress of negotiations with the Wachusett Regional Education Association, Inc. (WREA) on 2020-2021 school reopening, as the Chair deems a discussion in public session would have an adverse effect on the District's bargaining position, not to return to public session.

Adjournment

The above agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law

Facilities and Security Subcommittee

Tuesday, September 1, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Subcommittee

Tuesday, September 8, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

AGENDA:

- I Call to Order
- II Approval of Minutes
- III Comments Submitted by Members of the Student Body
- IV Prioritize Next Steps for the Subcommittee
- V Next Meeting
- VI Adjournment

The above agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law

Education Subcommittee

Monday, September 14, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Monday, September 14, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Management Subcommittee

Monday, September 21, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Meeting location and format TBD

Education Subcommittee

Tuesday, September 29, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Tuesday, September 29, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be conducted remotely, using Google Meet

Education Subcommittee

Tuesday, October 13, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Meeting location and format TBD

Education Subcommittee

Monday, November 9, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Meeting location and format TBD

Education Subcommittee

Monday, December 7, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Meeting location and format TBD

Wachusett Regional School District Committee Subcommittee Assignments 2020-2021

<u>Business/Finance</u> Michael Dennis, Chair Kenneth Mills, Vice-chair Maleah Gustafson Benjamin Mitchel Karl Ottmar	<u>Education</u> Christina Smith, Chair Linda Long-Bellil, Vice-chair Nicole Amos Krista Bennett Sherrie Haber Robert Imber Laura Kirshenbaum Deidre Shapiro	<u>Legal Affairs</u> Scott Brown, Chair Karl Ottmar, Vice-chair Robert Imber Megan Weeks	<u>Management</u> Megan Weeks, Chair Michael Dennis, Vice-chair Scott Brown Kenneth Mills Asima Silva Christina Smith Adam Young
<u>Superintendent Goals and Evaluation</u> Kenneth Mills, Chair Laura Kirshenbaum Kelly Williamson Linda Woodland	<u>Facilities and Security</u> Adam Young, Chair Jeffrey Haynes, Vice-chair Linda Woodland	<u>Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism Subcommittee</u> Asima Silva, Chair Linda Woodland, Vice-chair Nicole Amos Melissa Ayala Krista Bennett Scott Brown Maleah Gustafson Jeffrey Haynes Laura Kirshenbaum Linda Long-Bellil	

WRSD By-Laws specify the Chair of the School Committee is an ex-officio member of all standing subcommittees.

<u>Audit Advisory Board</u> Benjamin Mitchel, Chair	Adam Young, Vice-chair
<u>School Council Liaisons</u> Central Tree Middle School – Matthew Lavoie Chocksett Middle School – Kelly Williamson Davis Hill Elementary School – Kelly Williamson Dawson Elementary School – Laura Kirshenbaum Glenwood Elementary School – Nicole Amos Houghton Elementary School – Deidre Shapiro Mayo Elementary School – Adam Young	Mountview Middle School – Scott Brown Naquag Elementary School – Sherrie Haber Paxton Center School – Karl Ottmar Thomas Prince School – Asima Silva WRHS – Kenneth Mills Special Ed. Parent Advisory Council – Maleah Gustafson ECC – Linda Woodland



*News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the
MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

On the Desktop - August 19, 2020

Joint Memo Clarifying Key Health and Safety Requirements for Schools

Dear Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Assistant Superintendents, Collaborative Leaders, and Leaders of Approved Special Education Schools,

We are issuing the attached joint memo with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide refinements and updates to previously released DESE guidance, with a particular focus on protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings. These refinements and updates are a result of questions that have come from the practical implementation of both DESE and DPH guidance, as well as from evolving medical and scientific findings related to COVID-19. We have also included highlights in the attached PowerPoint document. Please note that DESE and DPH intend to collaborate throughout the school year to conduct periodic reviews of guidance for schools and issue additional updates as necessary.

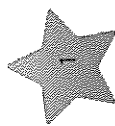
Also attached to this email is guidance on selected school health regulations from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The guidance includes information on physical examinations, school-based screenings, and immunization, including the new requirement for flu vaccination.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

Clarifying key health and safety requirements for schools

- Issuing joint memo between DESE and DPH.
- Updates and refinements are a result of questions that have come up from the practical implementation of both DESE and DPH guidance, as well as evolving medical and scientific findings related to COVID-19.
- DESE and DPH intend to collaborate throughout the school year to conduct periodic reviews of guidance.



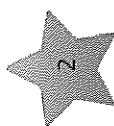
Definition of a close contact

Previous guidance

- All students in an elementary classroom would be defined as close contacts.

Updated guidance

- A close contact will be defined as only those who have been within 6 feet of distance of the COVID-19 positive individual for at least fifteen minutes, while the person was infectious.



Policy of when a close contact may return to school

Previous guidance

- A close contact may return to school if they test negative for COVID-19, are asymptomatic and are wearing a mask.

Updated guidance

- All close contacts should be tested but must self-quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, regardless of test result.



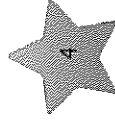
Policy of when a student/staff person may return to school after COVID-19 symptoms

Previous guidance

- A symptomatic individual should self-isolate for 14 days and until asymptomatic.

Updated guidance

- A symptomatic individual may return to school 10 days from the start of symptoms, as long as their symptoms have improved and they have been without fever for at least 24 hours prior to their return to school.



Medical waiting room

Previous guidance

- There is no specific capacity limit for medical waiting room, but all students in the medical waiting room must be as far apart as possible, and no less than 6 feet.

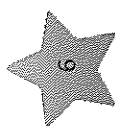
Updated guidance

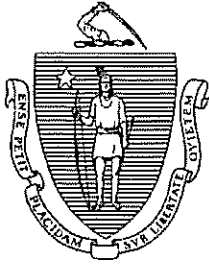
- If feasible, schools are encouraged to provide individual students with their own waiting room. If more than one student is in the same waiting room at a time, each student must be 6 feet apart and wearing a surgical mask.



Additional updates found in joint DESE/DPH memo

- Definition of a COVID-19 related fever
- Immunizations required in all models of learning
- Students wearing masks
- Physical distancing guidelines
- Supporting the safe application of hand sanitizer





Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Assistant Superintendents, Collaborative Leaders, Leaders of Approved Special Education Schools, School Nurses, and Local Public Health Colleagues
From: Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
Dr. Monica Bharel, Commissioner, Department of Public Health
Date: August 18, 2020
Subject: Joint Memo Clarifying Key Health and Safety Requirements for Schools

We are issuing this joint memo to provide refinements and updates to previously released Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidance, with a particular focus on protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings. These refinements and updates are a result of questions that have come from the practical implementation of both DESE and Department of Public Health (DPH) guidance, as well as from evolving medical and scientific findings related to COVID-19. Please note that DESE and DPH intend to collaborate throughout the school year to conduct periodic reviews of guidance for schools and issue additional updates as necessary. DESE will also update its relevant guidance documents so that they include the clarified guidelines described below.

Definition of a close contact

- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, their close contacts will be defined as only those who have been within 6 feet of distance of the individual for at least fifteen minutes, while the person was infectious. The infectious period begins 2 days prior to symptom onset. If someone is asymptomatic, the infectious period is considered to begin 2 days prior to the collection of their positive test. While previous guidance stated that all students in an elementary classroom would be defined as close contacts, this new guidance provides a narrower definition of a close contact which mirrors DPH guidance.

Policy of when a close contact may return to school

- All close contacts should be tested but must self-quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, regardless of test result. After further consultation with the medical community, we are updating this guidance as the virus can cause illness from 2-14 days after exposure and even asymptomatic individuals can transmit the virus. Going forward, even if an individual identified as a close contact

receives a negative test result, they must continue to self-quarantine for the full 14 days as the virus may take up to 14 days to cause illness.

Policy of when a student/staff person may return to school after COVID-19 symptoms

- If a student or staff member has COVID-19-like symptoms, they may return to school after they have tested negative for COVID-19, have improvement in symptoms, and have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. If a provider makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may return to school based on the recommendations for that alternative diagnosis (e.g., influenza or strep pharyngitis).
- If a student or staff member presents COVID-19-like symptoms and chooses not to be tested, they may return to school 10 days from start of symptoms, as long as their symptoms have improved and they have been without fever for at least 24 hours prior to their return to school without the use of fever reducing medication.

Definition of COVID-19 related fever

- Over the summer, the threshold for a COVID-19 related fever by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been updated from greater than 100.4°F to greater than 100.0°F. As a result, going forward, a fever as a COVID-19 symptom will be defined as 100.0°F or higher.

Students wearing masks

- Masks or face coverings are among the most critical components to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Students in grade 2 and above are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth at all times, with the exception of meals and mask breaks. Whenever possible, students in pre-kindergarten through grade 1 who can safely and appropriately wear, remove, and handle masks should do so. Even if students are spaced six feet apart in classrooms, the use of masks is still required unless students are eating lunch or taking a mask break.

Physical distancing guidelines

- Physical distancing is a critical tool in preventing the spread of COVID-19. The CDC¹ and DPH² recommend 6 feet of distance between individuals. The World Health Organization³ and the American Academy of Pediatrics⁴ recommend a minimum of 3 feet of distance. DESE recommends that districts aim for 6 feet of distance where feasible. When 6 feet is not feasible, 3 feet is an acceptable minimum as long as staff and students wear masks covering the nose and mouth at all times. If the 3 feet minimum is applied on the bus, all staff and students regardless of age must wear masks at all times. Please note that decisions to apply a 3-feet minimum will likely increase the number of close contacts associated with the occurrence of a case.

Immunizations required in all models of learning

- Previously released guidance emphasized the importance of maintaining school immunization requirements and obtaining the flu vaccine as students return to in-person

school. This is equally important for students who are enrolled in remote or hybrid schooling models. Immunization requirements must be met in all models of learning.

Medical waiting room

- As noted in previous DESE guidance, schools must establish a separate room for students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or who may have learned about a positive test result while at school, while waiting to be picked up by a family member. This space must be supervised. If feasible given space and staffing constraints, schools are encouraged to provide individual students with their own waiting room. If more than one student is in the same waiting room at a time, each student must be at least 6 feet apart (and should be spaced as far apart as possible) and wearing a surgical mask (non-N95 and non-cloth) while in the medical waiting room.⁵ If a student does not already have a surgical mask, the school should provide one. Schools must also be equipped with the PPE for the staff involved with supervision of the waiting room.

Supporting the safe application of hand sanitizer

- Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the best practice. However, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be substituted when handwashing is not available. Hand sanitizer stations should be set up where school staff are typically present, such as common areas, hallways, and classrooms. While the application of hand sanitizer may be necessary throughout the school day (especially if hand washing is less accessible) and does not require specialized instructions for use, districts and schools should avoid placing sanitizer stations in areas that are not typically supervised through the regular presence of staff.

Supporting the safety of our students, teachers, staff, and community is our most important mutual priority. We will continue to work in collaboration to update and refine our guidance for schools as the science evolves. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of our students and to provide a safe environment for everyone in our schools.

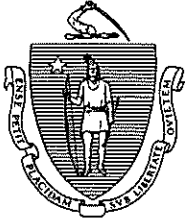
¹ CDC, Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation. (2020, May 6). Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

² DPH, COVID-19 Prevention and Treatment (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-prevention-and-treatment#social-distancing->

³ WHO, Considerations for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19. (2020, May 10). Available at <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/considerations-for-school-related-public-health-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19>

⁴ American Academy of Pediatrics (2020). COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry Retrieved from <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

⁵ FDA, N95 Respirators, Surgical Masks, and Face Masks (2020, July 6). Retrieved from: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-surgical-masks-and-face-masks#s2>



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYNE E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

To: Massachusetts School Districts
Massachusetts Educational Collaboratives
Massachusetts Local Boards of Health
Massachusetts School Nurses
Massachusetts Non-Public Schools

From: Karen Robitaille, MBA, MSN, RN, NCSN, Director of School Health Services

Date: August 19, 2020

Re: Guidance on selected school health regulations during the COVID-19 Public Health
Emergency

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance to all elementary and secondary schools in Massachusetts on school health regulations pertaining to physical examinations, school-based screenings, and immunization.

This guidance will be updated as needed and as additional information is available. Please regularly check mass.gov/covid19 for updated guidance.

105 CMR 200.100: Physical Examinations Required by Primary Care Provider or School Physician

The requirements for physical examination of students pursuant to 105 CMR 200.100 (B) should continue to be followed. An in-person physical exam is required for the following groups of students:

- For students entering school for the first time (typically pre-kindergarten or kindergarten), an in-person physical exam should be conducted one year before or within 90 days of school start. Excluding students from school for lack of documentation of an in-person physical exam during the 90-day grace period is discouraged.
- A student transferring from another school system shall be examined following the school entry recommendation for students entering school for the first time, listed above.
- For students seeking to participate in athletics, an in-person physical exam should be conducted annually prior to a student's participation in competitive athletics. Students who have not had this in-person exam should not be excluded from school, but may not participate in competitive athletics.

The Department encourages in-person physical examination of all students, when possible, to help detect physical and developmental abnormalities. However, given that the current public health emergency has created delays at many medical offices and increased the use of telemedicine, the Department recommends the following flexibility in timing and modality of physical examinations for all other students during the public health emergency:

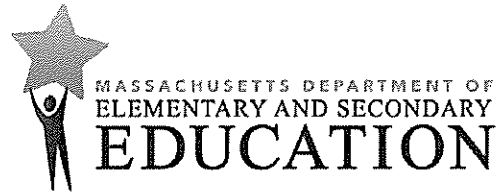
- A telemedicine well-child visit may be substituted for an in-person physical exam for the purposes of school attendance (with exceptions noted above). Video telemedicine visits are preferred over phone-only visits. However, a telemedicine well-child visit may not substitute for an in-person physical exam if the physical exam on file is older than four years.
- For students submitting documentation of a recent in-person physical exam:
 - For elementary and high school students (typically, 4th and 10th grade), the exam may be conducted up to two years before or within 120 days of school start.
 - For middle school students (typically, 7th grade), the exam should be conducted one year before or within 120 days of school start.
- For all students, exclusion from school for lack of documentation of a well-child visit during the 120-day grace period is discouraged.

105 CMR 200.400: Vision and Hearing Screenings and 105 CMR 200.500: Height and Weight Measurements

At this time, requirements for health screenings pursuant to 105 CMR 200.400 and 105 CMR 200.500 remain suspended, per the Order of The Commissioner of Public Health Exempting School Committees or Boards of Health from Conducting Health Screenings issued on April 28, 2020. The Commissioner reserves the right to rescind this suspension of screening requirements during the 2020-2021 school year; once the waiver is lifted, screening should resume as soon as possible. The Department will provide guidance for resuming screenings.

105 CMR 220.500: Immunization Requirements for Preschool, Elementary, and Secondary School Students

Immunization requirements should continue to be followed, including the new requirement for flu vaccination for all K-12 students starting with the 2020-2021 school year. Documentation of immunization status should be submitted to schools within 60 days of school start; however, excluding students from school based on immunization status during the 60-day grace period is discouraged except in the case of a documented school-based outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease.



Joint Guidance on Modified Sports Seasons for School Year 2020-21

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

August 18, 2020

As the Commonwealth of Massachusetts begins the process of opening schools, we must also look at the possibility of providing athletic experiences for our students. Sports can be an important part of a well-rounded educational experience, even during the current public health crisis. Notwithstanding the risks associated with COVID-19, organized physical activity should be encouraged, within clear health and safety parameters. Most sports can be played in ways that minimize those risks. In many cases, that will mean that inter-scholastic competitions may not look the same and may need to be played under fairly stringent restrictions with modified rules. Unfortunately, in some cases, competitive play may need to be cancelled or postponed. While difficult for all involved, it is essential that we keep health and safety paramount, both for everyone directly involved and the wider community.

Working in close consultation with a variety of stakeholders and our medical advisors and based on the Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Guidance recently provided by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) have collaborated to provide the following modified sports schedule for school year 2020-21 and guidance for sports participation for students who are learning remotely. Please note that this guidance is pending ratification by the MIAA board and is subject to change throughout the school year.

The MIAA, in consultation with their medical advisers and EEA, will develop sport-specific modifications to meet the guidance from EEA for issuance prior to the start of each season. At this time, based on current statewide health data, sports that the EEA guidance lists as lower and moderate risk may be held during their normal seasons, provided that MIAA's recommended modifications specific to those sports meet the standards outlined in the EEA guidance. For the fall season, higher risk sports, including football, cheer, and unified basketball, will be practice only, using the cohort method described in the EEA guidance. Schools/districts choosing to engage in practice for these sports must complete the Sport Attestation Compliance form and keep it on file.

Higher risk sports in later seasons will continue to be evaluated in light of health metrics and the EEA guidance, and MIAA will make final decisions in consultation with their medical advisers closer to the start of each season. The sports that MIAA ultimately does not approve to be played

in their normal season will be moved or considered for later in the year during the floating season.

The health and safety of our school communities must remain the top priority, and we recognize that any plans for athletic opportunities must adapt to evolving public health metrics.

2020-21 Modified Sports Seasons

All sports must adhere to the minimum modifications outlined in the EEA guidance to achieve Level 3 play (inter-team competition). If those modifications cannot be met, the sport may consider moving to a later season or adopting a “practice only” model using the EEA cohort method and in alignment with other EEA guidelines. Guidance from EEA will be re-issued prior to the start of each season, based on public health data, testing availability, and any new information, and MIAA will make final decisions for each season following that updated guidance.

Season	Dates	Sports
Fall	Starting Sept. 18	Golf, XC running, field hockey, soccer, gymnastics, girls volleyball, fall swimming/diving, football practice,* cheer practice,* unified basketball practice* *Practice only using <u>EEA cohort modifications</u> : Football, cheer, unified basketball
Winter	TBA by MIAA	Winter gymnastics, boys and girls indoor track, ski, dance, winter swimming/diving, cheer, hockey, basketball, wrestling
Floating season	TBA by MIAA	Sports unable to play in earlier seasons may engage in Level 3 play (competitions) if permitted by updated EEA guidelines. Schools that offered only remote learning in early fall may use this season for play that was missed during their remote schedule.
Spring	TBA by MIAA	Girls golf, baseball, softball, tennis, boys volleyball, girls and boys lacrosse, track and field, rugby

At this time, the sports listed above have been conditionally approved for the fall season, provided they are able to meet the minimum modifications outlined in the EEA guidance. For the fall season football, cheer, and unified basketball will be practice only, using the cohort method described in the EEA guidance. Schools/districts choosing to engage in practice for these sports must complete the Sport Attestation Compliance form and keep it on file.

Higher risk sports in later seasons (including hockey, basketball, wrestling, boys lacrosse, and rugby) will continue to be evaluated in light of health metrics and the EEA guidance and final decisions will be made closer to the start of each season. Those that are ultimately not approved by MIAA to be played in a season will be moved or considered for later in the year during the floating season, as reflected above. All sports, regardless of risk level, must follow the EEA guidelines, and moderate and higher risk sports must adopt the required minimum modifications for achieving different levels of play. To be able to engage in competitive play, modifications should include eliminating deliberate contact, modifying or eliminating intermittent contact, and increasing distancing. If these modifications are not possible, the sport may achieve a modified Level 2 play (competitive practice) using the cohort method outlined in the EEA guidance. Again, schools/districts choosing to engage in practice for these sports must complete the Sport Attestation Compliance form and keep it on file. The EEA guidance also outlines best practices for all sports, including the use of protective equipment and masks. The sport specific modifications and plan for implementation will be developed by MIAA in consultation with their medical advisors.

Based on the schedule above, school districts should work with MIAA to develop their schedules for the year and be ready to modify those schedules as needed. More detailed information on the guidelines for practices and the start of competitions will be outlined in the guidance that MIAA will release.

Sports participation for remote learners

Districts designated as “red” based on the Department of Public Health (DPH)’s metric of average daily cases per 100,000 residents and which therefore have their high school students learning remotely at the start of a season, *must postpone their entire season, including practices*, until the floating season later in the year.

Districts designated as yellow, green, or unshaded based on the DPH metric that nonetheless have their high school students learning remotely at the start of a season *may similarly delay their season to the floating season*. If a yellow, green, or unshaded district that is only offering remote learning to its high school students wishes to participate in the regularly scheduled sports season, this must be approved by the local school committee.

The MIAA will develop a timeline for looking at data prior to the start of each season to determine which color-coded designation a district should fall into for the purposes of engaging in sports. For example, the MIAA could determine a school’s color-coded designation/eligibility on September 1 to determine initial eligibility and check again on October 1 to determine if the school remains eligible to participate in the fall season.



*News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the
MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

On the Desktop - August 18, 2020

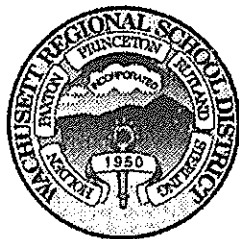
Joint Guidance on Modified Sports Seasons for School Year 2020-21

Dear Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Assistant Superintendents, Collaborative Leaders, and Leaders of Approved Special Education Schools,

Sports can be an important part of a well-rounded educational experience, even during the current public health crisis. Working in close consultation with a variety of stakeholders and our medical advisors, and based on the [Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Guidance](#) recently provided by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and DESE have collaborated to provide the attached modified sports guidance for school year 2020-21.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

To: District Administrators

From: Darryll McCall 
Superintendent of Schools

Date: August 12, 2020

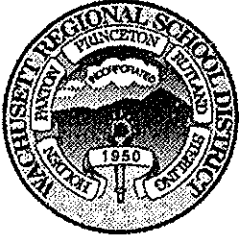
Subject: Annual Administrative Retreat

May I begin by expressing my sincere thanks and gratitude for what you have done and continue to do as we all – you and your families, the schools, the District at large – cope and manage during these unprecedented and extraordinary times.

In the past, mid-August would mean gathering together for our annual Administrative Retreat. This year our Retreat will be in a different format, but I believe it can be inspiring and motivating as we look ahead to the coming school year. This year's Retreat will be virtual (via Google Meet), scheduled for **Thursday, August 20th**, beginning at 9:00 AM and concluding by the early afternoon. The agenda for the Retreat will be shared with you in advance of next Thursday's meeting.

I apologize for this short notice, but I look forward to getting together, even in a virtual way, with the leaders of our district as we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

DM/rlp



Wachusett Regional School District
Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

August 17, 2020

Mr. Roger Brunelle, Moderator
Town of Paxton
697 Pleasant Street
Paxton, MA 01612

Dear Mr. Brunelle:

RE: Paxton Annual Town Meeting

Due to a scheduling conflict, I wish to inform you that Director of Human Resources Jeff Carlson will be attending Paxton's August 29, 2020 Annual Town Meeting to represent the Wachusett Regional School District. I understand this meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM and will be held at Tivnan Field at Paxton Center School. I also understand that a rain date has been posted for Sunday, August 30th, at 12:00 noon.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Carol Riches, Paxton Town Administrator
Laurie Becker, Paxton Town Clerk
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources

DM:rlp



Wachusett Regional School District

School Calendar 2020-2021

Attachment 7
August 20, 2020

First and Last Days of School

First Day of School	Sep 16
First Day of Kindergarten	Sep 16
Last Day of Kindergarten*	June 11
170th Day of school (Gr 1-12)**	June 17
175th Day of School (Gr 1-12)**	June 24

*Pending snow days

** The district is required to provide a school calendar with 175 days of school scheduled. The last day of school will be a half-day whenever it occurs.

Holidays and Vacations

Labor Day	Sep 7
Columbus Day	Oct 12
Veterans' Day	Nov 11
Thanksgiving Recess	Nov 25 - 27
Winter Recess	Dec 24 - Jan 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan 18
February Recess	Feb 15 - 19
April Recess	Apr 19 - 23
Memorial Day	May 31

Staff Development Days / Meetings

Full Day	TBD
Full Day	Nov 3
Full Day	May 10
Half-Day	Every Wednesday*
Half-Day	Last Day of School

*See Wednesday Exceptions

Wednesday Exceptions

Due to scheduled holidays or Staff Development days in the same week, full school days will be held on:

Oct 14, Nov 4, Jan 20, May 12, June 2

DRAFT - Amended 8/18/2020

JULY				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

OCTOBER				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

DECEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

JANUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

FEBRUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

MARCH				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

APRIL				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

MAY				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

JUNE				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

Attachment 8
August 20, 2020

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Megan Weeks, Chair
1745 Main Street
Jefferson, MA 01522

August 11, 2020

Ms. Laurel Adams
62 Bullard Road
Princeton, MA 01541

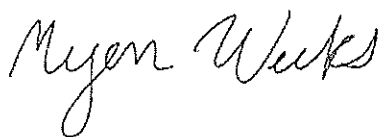
Dear Ms. Adams:

Thank you for volunteering to represent your town on the WRSDC Audit Advisory Board. I thank you very much for your willingness to serve on this important board, and I am pleased to appoint you to the AAB, representing the town of Princeton, for a three year term, which will expire June 30, 2023.

School Committee Member Ben Mitchel, from the town of Paxton, serves as Chair of the AAB. We will be in touch with you when the next meeting of the Board is scheduled.

Again, I thank you very much for your willingness to serve on the AAB.

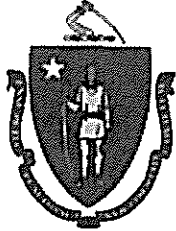
Sincerely yours,



Megan Weeks, Chair
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

cc: Wachusett Regional School District Committee
Benjamin Mitchel, Chair, Audit Advisory Board
Sherry Patch, Princeton Town Administrator
Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance

MW:rlp



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Municipal Finance Oversight Board

July 27, 2020

By First-Class Mail and email

Daniel Deedy, Director of Business & Finance
James Dunbar, Treasurer
Wachusett Regional School District
1745 Main Street
Jefferson, MA 01522

Dear Mr. Deedy and Mr. Dunbar:

I hereby certify that the attached is a true copy of the votes/resolutions adopted at the meeting indicated below, appearing in the minutes thereof; that the meeting was open to the public in accordance with Governor Charlie Baker's March 12, 2020 "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20" and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office's March 12, 2020 Guidance relative to meetings of Massachusetts public bodies; that notice stating the time, date, and alternative means of participation via conference call, of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth and a copy was posted on the website of the Office of the State Auditor at least forty-eight hours, including Saturdays and Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the time; that no deliberations or decisions in connection with the vote were taken in executive sessions; and the official records of the meeting were made available promptly and will remain available to the public, all in accordance with Chapter 30A, Section 11B of the General Laws, as amended.

Municipal Finance Oversight Board

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hilary W. Hershman".

Hilary Weinert Hershman, Esq.
Executive Assistant

City, Town or District:
Wachusett Regional School District

Authorization:
Chapter 44A

Date of Board vote:
July 17, 2020

cc: Megan Weeks, School Committee Chair (by email)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MUNICIPAL FINANCE OVERSIGHT BOARD

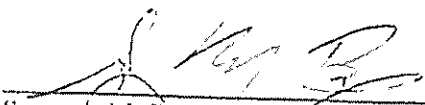
July 17, 2020

At a meeting of the Municipal Finance Oversight Board of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the "Board"), held on the 17th day of July, 2020, a majority of the Board present, the following vote was passed:

VOTED: That in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44A of the General Laws, after due investigation, it is hereby determined that the WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT be entitled to issue qualified bonds and/or notes from time to time in the amount of FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$5,000,000) voted for the following purpose:

<u>Date Authorized</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Statute</u>	<u>Term</u>
10/14/2014	\$5,000,000	Refunding	Ch. 44 §21A	10 years

MUNICIPAL FINANCE OVERSIGHT BOARD by:



Suzanne M. Bump, Chairperson

For the Department of Revenue

For the State Treasurer and Receiver-General

Margaret J. Hurley, for the Attorney General

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MUNICIPAL FINANCE OVERSIGHT BOARD

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10/14/2014	\$5,000,000	Refunding	Ch. 44 §21A	10 years

MUNICIPAL FINANCE OVERSIGHT BOARD by:

Suzanne M. Bump, Chairperson

Maia Jane Hardy
For the Department of Revenue

For the State Treasurer and Receiver-General

Margaret J. Hurley, for the Attorney General

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MUNICIPAL FINANCE OVERSIGHT BOARD

July 17, 2020

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10/14/2014	\$5,000,000	Refunding	Ch. 44 §21A	10 years

MUNICIPAL FINANCE OVERSIGHT BOARD by:

Suzanne M. Bump, Chairperson

For the Department of Revenue

Erin Stejno 7/17/2020

For the State Treasurer and Receiver-General

Margaret J. Hurley, for the Attorney General

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MUNICIPAL FINANCE OVERSIGHT BOARD

July 17, 2020

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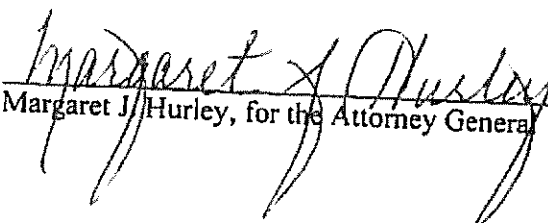
<u>Date Authorized</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Statute</u>	<u>Term</u>
10/14/2014	\$5,000,000	Refunding	Ch. 44 §21A	10 years

MUNICIPAL FINANCE OVERSIGHT BOARD by:

Suzanne M. Bump, Chairperson

For the Department of Revenue

For the State Treasurer and Receiver-General



Margaret J. Hurley, for the Attorney General

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday, July 27, 2020

6:00 PM

Minutes

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

In Attendance: Christina Smith, Chair, Nicole Amos, Krista Bennett, Robert Imber (6:40 PM), Sherrie Haber (6:44 PM), Laura Kirshenbaum (6:40 PM), Linda Long-Bellil, Deidre Shapiro

Administration: Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Brendan Keenan, Director of Social Emotional Learning

Others: Megan Keller, WREA

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Subcommittee Chair Smith announced the meeting was being broadcast live, and the recording of the meeting will be available on the District website.

II. Election of Vice-chair

Motion: To nominate Linda Long-Bellil to serve as Vice-chair of the Education Subcommittee.

(L. Long-Bellil)
(D. Shapiro)

Christina Smith – Member Long-Bellil
Nicole Amos – Member Long-Bellil
Nicole Bennett – Member Long-Bellil
Linda Long-Bellil – Member Long-Bellil
Deidre Shapiro – Member Long-Bellil

By roll call vote, Linda Long-Bellil was elected Vice-chair of the Education Subcommittee.

III Minutes of June 8, 2020

Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 8, 2020 meeting of the Education Subcommittee.

(L. Long-Bellil)

(N. Amos)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Nicole Amos
Krista Bennett
Linda Long-Bellil

Opposed:

Abstained:

Deidre Shapiro

The minutes were approved 4-0-1.

- IV Review of MASC Guide in Reopening of Schools
- V Policies to review related to the COVID-19 closure and District Reopening Plans

Subcommittee Chair Smith spoke about the policies the subcommittee should review in light of the current circumstances the District is facing regarding school closures and the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. In advance of the meeting, members had been provided with links to the following policies:

Deputy Superintendent Robert Berlo reviewed the MASC Guide to Member Roles in Reopening of Schools document with members of the subcommittee. No questions were asked.

- P3130 Time on Learning

Deputy Superintendent Robert Berlo read policy aloud. Discussion ensued, including a Deputy Superintendent Berlo answering questions about what qualifies time on learning by the DESE in a typical school year. Deputy Superintendent Berlo shared the reality of socially distancing when disembarking from the busses in the morning and entering the building and the implications to the school day when this, as well as going to and from the cafeteria all require more time. Following discussion, it was recommended by Deputy Superintendent Berlo to suspend Policy 3130 for the 2020-2021 school year

6:40 PM Member Imber joined the meeting.

6:40 PM Member Kirshenbaum joined the meeting.

Motion: To suspend Policy 3130 *Time on Learning* through the duration of the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(L. Long-Bellil)

(K. Bennett)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Linda Long-Bellil
Nicole Amos
Krista Bennett
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Deidre Shapiro

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

6:44 PM Member Haber joined the meeting.

- P3311.31 Online Education Policy

Deputy Superintendent Berlo read the policy aloud. A recommendation made by Deputy Superintendent Berlo to suspend policy for the upcoming school year. Discussion ensued

Motion: To suspend Policy 3311.31 *Online Education Policy* during the COVID-19 health emergency.

(L. Kirshenbaum)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Discussion ensued.

Member Imber recommended an amendment to the motion to add the words “to review this policy at the end of the pandemic.”

Motion: To amend the motion on the floor by adding “to review this policy at the end of the pandemic.”

(R. Imber)

(L. Kirshenbaum)

Roll call vote on amendment:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Linda Long-Bellil
Nicole Amos
Krista Bennett
Sherri Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Deidre Shapiro

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: To suspend Policy 3311.31 *Online Education Policy* during the COVID-19 health emergency and to review this policy at the end of the pandemic.

Roll call vote on motion as amended:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Linda Long-Bellil
Nicole Amos
Krista Bennett
Sherri Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Deidre Shapiro

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

- P3321.2 Travel and Study Abroad

Deferred

- P3510 Class Size

Deferred

- P3813 Audio, Video and/or Stenographic Recording of Meetings

Deferred

- P3820 Observation of Education Programs for Special Needs Students

Deferred

- P3840 Extracurricular Activities

Deferred

- P6170 Foreign Students

Deferred

- P6210 Districting of Schools and Programs

Deferred

- P6260 Assignment of Students to Classes

Deferred

- P6921.2 Parent-Teacher Conference

Deferred

VI Old Business

There was no old business brought before the subcommittee.

VII New Business

There was no new business brought before the subcommittee.

VIII Next Meeting

TBD

IX Resources

- MASC Guide to members roles in re-opening of schools
- P3130 Time on Learning
- P3311.31 Online Education Policy
- P3321.2 Travel and Study Abroad
- P3510 Policy Relating To Education Class Size
- P3813 Audio, Video and/or Stenographic Recording of Meetings
- P3820 Observation of Education Programs for Special Needs Students
- P3840 Extracurricular Activities
- P6170 Foreign Students
- P6210 Districting of Schools and Programs
- P6260 Assignment of Students to Classes
- P6921.2 Parent-Teacher Conference

X Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Imber)
(L. Long-Bellil)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Linda Long-Bellil
Nicole Amos
Kirsta Bennett
Sherrie Haber

Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Deidre Shapiro

Opposed:
None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendan Keenan
Director of Social Emotional Learning

BK:rlp

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, August 6, 2020
6:30 PM

Minutes

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

In Attendance: Christina Smith, Chair, Linda Long-Bellil, Vice-chair, Sherrie Haber (7:38 PM), Robert Imber, Laura Kirshenbaum, Deidre Shapiro

Absent: Nicole Amos, Krista Bennett

Administration: Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Brendan Keenan, Director of Social Emotional Learning

Others: Megan Keller, WREA

I Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

II Minutes of July 27, 2020

Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 27, 2020 meeting of the Education Subcommittee.

(L. Long-Bellil)
(R. Imber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Linda Long-Bellil
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Deidre Shapiro

Opposed:

None

The minutes were unanimously approved.

III Policies to review related to the COVID-19 Closure and District Reopening Plans

- P3321.2 Travel and Study Abroad

Deferred

- P3510 Class Size

Deferred

7:38 PM Member Haber joined the meeting.

- P3813 Audio, Video and/or Stenographic Recording of Meetings

Policy 3813 was projected and discussion ensued about the impact of this policy on remote learning.

Motion: To amend the title of Policy 3813 to read “Audio, Video, and/or Stenographic Recordings of Parent-Teacher Conferences and Team Meetings”

(R. Imber)

(L. Long-Bellil)

Additional discussion took place.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith

Linda Long-Bellil

Sherrie Haber

Robert Imber

Laura Kirshenbaum

Deidre Shapiro

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

- P3820 Observation of Education Programs for Special Needs Students

Deferred

- P3840 Extracurricular Activities

Deferred

- P6170 Foreign Students

Deferred

- P6210 Districting of Schools and Programs

Deferred

- P6260 Assignment of Students to Classes

Discussion of Policy 6260 ensued, as this policy will have an impact on remote learning for the fall of 2020. Member Imber recommended suspending this policy. Additional discussion took place.

Motion: To suspend Policy 6260.

(L. Long-Bellil)
(L. Kirshenbaum)

Additional discussion took place, including the amending of the motion on the floor.

Motion: To affirm Policy 6260.

(S. Haber)
(L. Long-Bellil)

Roll call vote on amendment to motion:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Linda Long-Bellil
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Deidre Shapiro

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

Roll call vote on amended motion:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Linda Long-Bellil
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Deidre Shapiro

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

- P6921.2 Parent-Teacher Conference

Deferred

IV Old Business

- Agenda item taken out of order (after approval of prior minutes)
- Reviewed update on plans for COVID-19 and potential school reopening.
- Deputy Superintendent Berlo reviewed details of each drafted plan.
- Union negotiations still need to occur, so these are working drafts only
- Discussion ensued
 - Ideas about proposed high school schedule, possibly limiting screen time, transitions between periods
 - Discussion about strategies for limiting screen time for students.
- Subcommittee members invited to give feedback on the Google documents shared with them.
- Discussion about recording classes, and if there is concern about recording students
 - Teachers will likely be recording themselves delivering a lesson, not necessarily with students in the room.
- Grading: suggestion by L. Kirshenbaum to move away from pass/fail to actual grades
- Members' comments are being put into the comments of the documents
- Discussions about potential benefits and drawbacks of having teachers conducting remote learning from a school building
- Family engagement discussed as a very important consideration for the district to make teaching and learning successful, especially in a remote model
 - Suggestion that teachers brainstorm ways to successfully engage families in a remote model
- Suggestion that open houses and orientations should still be held, but now in a virtual/online format
- Kindergarten orientation is important to do, and finding ways to do this virtually is a goal of the administration

V New Business

- District Indicators: benchmarks for positive growth in the district
- Question about post-graduate outcomes for students

VI Next Meeting

Monday, August 10, 2020, 6:00 PM, via Google Meet.

IX Resources

- P3321.2 Travel and Study Abroad
- P3510 Policy Relating To Education Class Size
- P3813 Audio, Video and/or Stenographic Recording of Meetings

- P3820 Observation of Education Programs for Special Needs Students
- P3840 Extracurricular Activities
- P6170 Foreign Students
- P6210 Districting of Schools and Programs
- P6260 Assignment of Students to Classes
- P6921.2 Parent-Teacher Conference

VIII Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(R. Imber)

(L. Haber)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Christina Smith
Linda Long-Bellil
Sherrie Haber
Robert Imber
Laura Kirshenbaum
Deidre Shapiro

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendan Keenan
Director of Social Emotional Learning

BK:rlp

Links:

1. Elementary plan (DRAFT)
2. Middle School plan (DRAFT)
3. High School plan (DRAFT)

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING
FACILITIES AND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 5, 2020
6:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE MEET

Minutes

In Attendance: Adam Young, Chair, Jeffrey Haynes, Linda Woodland

Administration: Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools

Others: Carolyn Beaumier, WREA

I. Call to Order

Chair Young called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

II. Election of Vice-chair

Motion: To nominate Jeffrey Haynes to serve as Vice-chair of the Facilities and Security Subcommittee.

(L. Woodland)
(A. Young)

Adam Young – Member Jeffrey Haynes
Jeffrey Haynes – Member Jeffrey Haynes
Linda Woodland – Member Jeffrey Haynes

By roll call vote, Member Haynes was elected Vice-chair of the Facilities and Security Subcommittee.

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 15, 2020 meeting of the Facilities and Security Subcommittee.

(L. Woodland)
(A. Young)

Roll call vote:
In favor:

Adam Young
Linda Woodland

Opposed:
None

Abstained:
Jeffrey Haynes

The minutes were approved 2-0-1.

With member approval, agenda item V. (Facilities and Infrastructure Requirements for Reopening and Security Impacts) was taken out of order and discussion began.

IV. Current Facility Status after Closure/In Preparation for Reopening

Deferred

V. Facility and Infrastructure Requirements for Reopening and Security Impacts
(physical and virtual)

Superintendent McCall provided an overview of reopening in terms of facilities. He explained that additional time is needed to look at buildings more closely, and so administration is recommending to begin the year in a full remote model. HVAC systems continue to need regular maintenance, as is part of the routine schedule. With the hope to move to hybrid at some point, several safety measures are still in process: preparation of nurses and isolation rooms, signage, bathrooms (need more access and more dividers). Subcommittee Chair Young asked if no students are allowed in. Superintendent McCall recognized that there are five weeks before school starts, and stated the goal is to have the highest needs students be the priority for in-person as long as it is safe. Subcommittee Chair Young asked which hurdles remain to accomplish in-person school for the high needs populations. Superintendent McCall listed mask compliance, PPE for staff, specific protocols for moving from space to space. Superintendent McCall will be working together with the Administrator of Special Education to determine on an individual basis which students might be brought into the buildings. Superintendent McCall explained that cubbies and other soft materials or fabrics need to be switched to or covered with acrylic or wood. Vice-chair Haynes asked for the current status of air handlers and systems, since we cannot lean on open windows in all seasons. Air purifiers are looked to fill gaps in classrooms, concurrently conducting an audit of problems in systems per building (Paxton, Central Tree, etc). To completely repair a building's system could be \$30,000-50,000. Member Woodland asked about town agreements, and Dr. McCall commented on the ongoing positive relationships with the towns working together on routine maintenance and replacements. Paxton was receptive to the idea of using municipal Covid resources. Since WRHS and ECC are district owned, the request would need to go to the towns in a town meeting

which could happen in the spring, and use air purifiers in the meantime. Private HVAC repairs are usually unnecessary, but considering what is needed now internal and outside vendors are being considered while quantifying exactly what needs to be done. Member Woodland asked about PPE calculations on quantities for purchasing under different in-person vs. hybrid models. Vice-chair Haynes asked if all rooms can accommodate 6 feet of space with 50% of students at a time, and Dr. McCall said no. Vice-chair Haynes asked if students could be divided into cohorts of thirds instead of halves, going off of the state's recommendation of buses running at about 30%. Dr. McCall reported that some districts might try quarters, but he has not seen thirds. The concern is on consistency for students with being in school less than 2 days/week. Vice-chair Haynes reiterated that we lose any benefit of hybrid if we cannot achieve 6 feet of physical distancing. Chair Young asked for who will be in the buildings from today through the end of the first quarter, and are we prepared to account for them. Dr. McCall reported that administrators, custodians, and cafeteria staff in at least 4 of the towns. Chair Young asked for a list of what is needed for facilities to be ready: HVAC and air quality, bathrooms, lunches, storage. Buildings will also need a clear definition for what will not be learning spaces. Member Woodland asked about Fire and other safety drills as well as internet and bandwidth for teachers streaming from the schools. Dr. McCall is talking with Chief Hall since fire drills will still need to be conducted if staff is in the building, and what can be expected when hybrid is possible. Barry Sclar will be asked about bandwidth. Vice-Chair Haynes asked about internet access for those who need it. Dr. McCall reported that 50 hotspots were purchased for families who may need it. Carolyn Beaumier asked about getting sinks into rooms, in particular at the ECC. Jim Cavello is looking at the feasibility given the plumbing and age of the building.

VI. Review of Capital Improvement Plan

Deferred

VII. Subcommittee Ownership of WRSDC Policies

Subcommittee Chair Young distributed the Face Coverings policy developed by MASCC, and asked if the subcommittee would like to take up discussion on this policy to potentially present to the full School Committee for discussion. Subcommittee Chair Young began discussion with some questions about ADA compliance, other issues of accountability, and asked if the subcommittee would like to see a "face covering/mask policy" developed for the District. Member Woodland agreed there are problems with it as written, but is an important piece for reopening during Covid. Superintendent McCall added that we can have legal counsel review the policy, and concerns including that the policy contradicts Commissioner Riley's statements to superintendents on face coverings in school.

VIII. Discussion of Superintendent's Update on ALICE Implementation

Deferred

IX. Next Meeting

TBD

X. New Business

There was no new business brought before the subcommittee.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(J. Haynes)
(L. Woodland)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Adam Young
Jeffrey Haynes
Linda Woodland

Opposed:

None

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Woodland
Facilities and Security Subcommittee
LHW:rlp