

**Leicester Public Schools
School Committee Workshop
April 6, 2020**

Location: Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A sec. 20, the meeting was held via online Meeting URL (SC Members, anyone who will talk): meet.google.com/pxu-tbma-mpo 1 347-345-1231 PIN: 292 364 566#

1. Call to Order: 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Stella Richard	Present
Nathan Hagglund	Present
Scott Francis	Absent
Tom Lauder	Present
Tammy Tebo	Present

Also, in attendance were Marilyn Tencza, Superintendent of Schools
Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations

2. FY21 Sub Rates

Stella Richard, School Committee chair opened the discussion regarding the FY21 sub rates. The Committee members are not recommending any rate changes. The rates will remain the same for FY21. They would like the memo updated with Superintendent Tencza's name, a revised date and on the Superintendent's letterhead. The School Committee will review the sub rates yearly.

3. School Choice Open Grades and Number of Slots

The Committee members discussed which grades will have openings for SY20-21 School Choice. The Superintendent informed the Committee member of the following openings:

- Leicester Elementary – no School Choice openings
- Leicester Middles School – Grd 5 (5 slots), Grd 6 (5 slots), Grd 7 (3 slots), Grd 8 (5 slots)
- Leicester High School – Grd 10 (10 slots), Grd 11 (2 slots)

This item will be moved to the April 14, 2020, open session agenda for a vote.

4. Vendor Contract Payment Issues

Cady Maynard, the Director of Finance informed the committee members that according to M.G.L. chapter (41), section (56) does not allow the School Department or the Town Accountant to make any payments to vendors for services that are not rendered. The issues with the federal stimulus requires a portion of our funds received to help pay for transportation vendors.

In Commissioner Riley's memorandum he stated that DESE is recommending negotiations of payments to vendors for regular transportation, special education transportation, homeless, foster and out-of-district placement for students. Based on conference calls with the School Finance and District Support Office for the MA DESE, Districts were placed into cohorts based on the appropriate vendors, and each cohort has appointed lead negotiators to work with their respective vendors on negotiating an addendum to the existing contract to form an agreement on a reduced payment amount to provide continuity of services once school resumes.

She wants the School Committee members to know what is currently happening. Once a percentage has been negotiated, then the School Department will have to work on an amendment because the current contract does not allow the School Department to make payments for services not rendered. Once terms have been agreed upon, the contract will be brought back to the committee for review and approval.

5. Designate One (1) Member to Sign Payroll/AP Warrants per MGL c. 41 s. 56 (vote)

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations is seeking the Committee members to vote for approval to have one member to be the designated signer to approve all bills, drafts, orders and payrolls during COVID-19. Members Nathan Hagglund made a motion to designate School Committee Chair, Stella Richard the designated signing members; Seconded Tammy Tebo – the vote was unanimous.

Member Nathan Hagglund also asked the Director of Finance to look into software that would allow all members to sign the warrants electronically.

6. Revised Student Name Change/Gender Designation Form

The Committee members reviewed and discussed the Student Name Change/Gender Designation Form that has been revised by the School Departments attorneys. This item has been moved to the April 14, 2020, open session meeting for approval.

7. Policies

Second Reading

- MASC Policies
 - JBB - Equal Education Opportunities
 - JFABD - Homeless Students: Enroll Rights and Services
 - JFABE - Educational Opportunities for Military Children
 - JFABF - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care

The Committee members reviewed the policies on the agenda for a second reading. These policies will be moved to the April 14, 2020, open session meeting for a vote.

8. Other Business

- April Vacation

The Superintendent informed the Committee members that she has had discussion with the unions, teachers, principals and surrounding area Superintendents about leaving April vacation as a vacation week. The Committee members were in agreement. The last day of school for Leicester Public Schools students will be June 19, 2020.

9. Public Comment

None

10. Executive Session

M.G.L. Chapter 30 (A) Section 21 (a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel (Education Association of Leicester)) and not to reconvene in open session.

A motion was made by Member Stella Richard to go into executive session and not to reconvene to open session at 5:55 p.m. Seconded by Member Tom Lauder.

11. Adjournment

Roll Call

Stella Richard	Present
Nathan Hagglund	Present
Tom Lauder	Present
Tammy Tebo	Present
Scott Francis	Absent

List of Documents and Material used during this meeting which are on file at the Leicester Public Schools Central Office.

- Sub Rate Memo
- Student Name Change/Gender Designation Form
- Policies
 - JBB - Equal Education Opportunities
 - JFABD - Homeless Students: Enroll Rights and Services
 - JFABE - Educational Opportunities for Military Children
 - JFABF - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care