

**Leicester Public Schools
School Committee Minutes
February 9, 2021 @ 6:30 PM
Google Meet**

1. Call to Order

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Hagglund called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Donna McCance	Present
Tom Lauder	Present
Stella Richard	Present
Scott Francis	Present
Nathan Hagglund	Present

Administrators:

Marilyn Tencza, Superintendent of Schools

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations

Matthew Joseph, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Jeffrey Berthiaume, Director of Technology & Digital Learning

- Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Hagglund asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. Showcase

Erin Arsenault – Gold Project

- Erin Arsenault gave a presentation on the Musical Instrument Closet, a musical instrument lending library that she established at LHS to achieve the Girl Scout Gold Award. She explained that she collected instruments and accessories to establish a lending library for students who are in need of help obtaining instruments and music accessories. Donations are welcome and can be brought to the high school office.

Lindsey Wickson & Victoria Ditaranto – Wolverine Den

- Lindsey Wickson & Victoria Ditaranto gave a presentation on the Wolverine Den, an area at LHS they established where students and staff may go to obtain items ranging from articles of clothing to hygiene products free of charge. Donations of gift cards, homemade masks, travel size toiletries and hand sanitizer are welcome and can be brought to the high school office.

3. Data

3.1 Data Team Presentation - Dr. Joseph and members of the district data team presented winter district assessment measurements. Dr. Joseph informed the Committee that a data team has been formed comprised of a cross-section of educators and leadership, aligned professional development has been launched for data training and district-wide improvement has been made according to assessment data results. Educators are now seeing how data can be used to grow and shift practices to ensure that students are taught what they need to learn. All assessments will be complete by the end of February.

4. Public Comment

- Kristina Looney asked if the School Committee or the district in general can do anything to help assure that the middle school can have double blocks of ELA and math. She also asked if teachers will have a chance to give input on data. Dr. Tencza responded that these questions will be taken under advisement and discussed with the Leadership team.
- Michele Dominy commended the students that were showcased and asked for more information with regard to donations. Dr. Tencza stated that she would work with the students and send out a district announcement with more information after vacation.

5. Approval of Minutes

01/12/2021 Open Session Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Scott Francis; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

01/12/2021 Executive Session Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Scott Francis; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

02/01/2021 Workshop Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Scott Francis; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

6. Data

Addressed in item 3.

7. Reports

7.1 Student Liaisons Report

Student Liaisons Abigail Johnson and Morgan Merrell reported on recent and/or upcoming events in the schools.

7.2 School Committee Chairperson Report

a. School Committee Resolution

Nathan Hagglund presented: Leicester School Committee Resolution for Prioritization for the Class of 2021 for COVID-19 Vaccination. Motion to send this resolution to our representatives as presented - Member Stella Richard; Seconded Member Tom Lauder; Motion carries – (4) yea (1) nay (Mr. Francis)

7.3 Superintendent's Report

a. SWCEC – Accept Second Quarter Report*

Motion to accept SWCEC Second Quarter Report - Member Scott Francis; Seconded Member Tom Lauder; Motion carries – unanimous.

b. 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

Two versions of the School Year 2021-2022 District Calendar were presented to the Committee for consideration. V1.0 had a start date of August 23rd for teachers and August 25th for students and V2.0 a start date of August 26th for teachers and August 30th for students. After discussion, a motion was made by Member Scott Francis to accept V1.0 of the 2021-2022 District Calendar; Seconded Member Stella Richard; Motion carries – (4) yea (1) nay (Mr. Hagglund)

c. Cohort Updates

Jeffrey Berthiaume presented student cohort and failure rate data to the Committee. He concluded that there is really no statistical significance that students in Cohort D do any better or any worse than

students in Cohort ABC at the middle school. At the high school, the failure percentage for Cohort D is higher. If all student cohorts are combined across the district and the percentage of courses failed/off pace are compared for 2019-20 and 2020-21, the average rate of increase in 2020-21 for the middle and high schools are 8.0% and 12.1% respectively. The data will be pulled again at the end of the trimester to include data from the elementary school.

d. COVID Update

Dr. Tencza informed the Committee that the COVID numbers in the district are declining. She discussed Pool Testing and said the state will need a decision as to whether or not we will be participating by March 1st. The cost to participate would be approximately \$63,000 to continue the program from March 28th through the end of the year. Dr. Tencza explained that there is more research to be done before a final decision can be made.

e. Progress Towards Goals

Dr. Tencza informed the Committee about the progress that is being made toward goals that she has outlined for the district. She stated that data is being evaluated in the district and a data team has been formed, Professional Development is being offered and the District Improvement Plan is being developed.

f. Memorial School

Dr. Tencza explained that a Statement of Interest cannot be filed for the Memorial School and must instead be filed for the middle school. The next step will be to design a building and then select a location for it. Dr. Tencza will invite a representative from the MSBA to a School Committee meeting for discussion. It was suggested that the town Select Board be invited for a joint meeting before one of the upcoming School Committee meetings to discuss the use of the Memorial School building with regard to the Statement of Interest.

g. Pool Testing

Discussed in item 7.3d.

h. Fall 2 Sports

Ted Zawada presented changes that were newly put forth by MIAA with regard to fall II sports. Discussion took place about the many hurdles that will have to be overcome to participate including building usage, COVID cleanup, transportation and liabilities. Motion to conduct fall II sports - Member Tom Lauder; Seconded Member Scott Francis; Motion carries – unanimous

7.4 School Committee Liaisons Report

Committee Member Donna McCance reported that the Wellness Committee held their February meeting and stated that the mission of this Committee is that they are committed to the health and wellness of Leicester Public Schools staff, students and community. She stated that they have continued with a monthly newsletter instead of a wellness fair to inform families about health and wellness updates and activities and updated Committee members on current and upcoming events. She also informed Committee members on progress made by the district data team and stated that the next meeting will be held on February 11th. She commended the data team on the great work that they are doing. Lastly, an update was given by Members Donna McCance and Tom Lauder on the Parks and Recreation Committee and discussion on future use of the Rochdale baseball field as Becker College will not be renewing their lease. Attention will need to be paid to whomever leases the field to make sure a condition is added in the RFP that will allow the high school to use the field.

8. Reading of Policies

8.1 First Reading – Section E

Motion to table Section E as presented for a first reading - Member Scott Francis; Seconded Member Tom Lauder; Motion carries – unanimous.

8.2 – Revised Wellness Policy

Motion to approve the revised Wellness Policy as presented - Member Stella Richards; Seconded Tom Lauder; Motion carries – unanimous.

9. Finance Items

9.1 FY21 Budget Expense Report

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations gave a brief update on the FY21 Budget Expense Report. Motion to approve the FY21 Budget Expense Report of 02/04/2021 as presented – Member Scott Francis; Seconded Member Tom Lauder; Motion carries – unanimous

9.2 FY21 Budget Transfers

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations gave a brief update on FY21 Budget Transfers. Motion to approve the FY21 Budget Transfers of 02/08/2021 as presented – Member Scott Francis; Seconded Member Tom Lauder; Motion carries – unanimous.

9.3 FY22 Budget

Dr. Tencza informed the Committee that the Town Manager, David Genereux, has increased the FY22 Budget by \$408,151. She then recommended a vote on the FY22 Budget at \$17,882,550. Motion to set the FY22 Budget at \$17,882,550 – Member Nathan Hagglund; Seconded Scott Francis; Motion carries – unanimous.

9.4 FY21 Food Services Revolving Account

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations gave a brief update on the Food Services Revolving Account stating that there is projected to be a \$93,000 deficit due to the fact that we are serving half of what has been served in prior years, most notably at the high school.

10. New Business

10.1 Donation – Wellness Committee

10.2 Donation – Walmart Supercenter Leicester

10.3 Donation – Books

Motion to accept the Wellness Committee, Walmart Supercenter Leicester and Books donations as presented – Member Tom Lauder; Seconded Stella Richard; Motion carries – unanimous.

10.3 Student Activity Request for Recognition – GSA

Motion to approve the creation of a Student Activity Account for GSA at LMS – Member Tom Lauder; Seconded Stella Richard; Motion carries – unanimous.

10.4 LMS Field Trip Request – Nature’s Classroom

Motion to approve a request for Nature’s Classroom to come to LMS and do activities with the students – Member Scott Francis; Seconded Tom Lauder; Motion carries – unanimous.

11. Public Comment

A question was asked as to what grades will be included when Nature’s Classroom visits LMS, to which the answer was all grades.

12. Upcoming Meetings

03-01-21 @ 5:30 Public Hearing/Workshop

03-09-21 @ 6:30 Open Session Meeting

13. Convene in Executive Session

A motion was made by Member Scott Francis to go into Executive Session and not to reconvene in open session per M.G.L. Chapter 30 (A) Section 21 (a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with (Education Association of Leicester) union as well as non-union (Superintendent's). Seconded by Member Tom Lauder.

14. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Scott Francis; Seconded by Tom Lauder; Motion carries – unanimous. The meeting adjourned at **9:07 p.m.**

Roll Call

Donna McCance	Present
Tom Lauder	Present
Stella Richard	Present
Scott Francis	Present
Nathan Hagglund	Present

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

- LPS Winter Data Presentation December 2020
- 01/12/2021 - Open Session Minutes
- 01/12/2021 - Executive Session Minutes
- 02/01/2021 - Workshop Minutes
- Student Liaison Report 02/09/21
- Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative 2nd Quarter Report October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020
- Leicester Public Schools V1.0 Draft 2021-22 School Calendar
- Leicester Public Schools V2.0 Draft 2021-22 School Calendar
- Course Failure Statistics
- Fall Season II Updated 2/9/2021
- Policy Section E: Support Services
- School District Wellness Program
- FY21 Expense Report 02/4/21
- FY21 Budget Transfers 02/08/21
- Memo RE: FY21 Food Services Revolving Account Update
- Student Activity Account Request for Recognition of a Student Organization 12/21/2020 GSA LMS