

Leicester Public Schools
School Committee Public Hearing
February 23, 2021 @ 6:30 P.M.
Google Meet

1. Call to Order

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Hagglund called the meeting to order, informed that the meeting is being recorded by the district and LCAC, explained that the basis for the meeting would be district reopening plans and explained the ground rules. He also communicated that today Governor Baker and Commissioner Riley discussed opening schools in a phased-in approach beginning in April and removing the hybrid model from counting as hours toward fulfilling requirements.

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
Jeffrey Berthiaume, Director of Technology & Digital Learning

2. Re-opening Plan

- Dr. Tencza gave a presentation on the benefits and challenges of returning to full in-person learning based on surveys sent to staff members and families.
- Mr. Hagglund invited building principals and union representatives to comment on the information presented. They were all in agreement that the best learning environment for students is in-person but only if it is safe to do so and they would like to see all staff members given the opportunity to receive COVID-19 vaccinations before a return to full in-person learning. Concern was expressed by nurses due to the additional burden that it would create for them and by paraprofessionals for being unable to assist in classrooms because they are being asked to substitute more frequently due to teacher absences.

3. Public Comment

Motion to open up a public hearing - Member Stella Richard; Seconded Member Tom Lauder, motion carries – unanimous.

Community and staff members were given the opportunity to voice their opinions about the impending return of students to full in-person learning. The overarching viewpoint expressed was that they feel the current format is working with mitigation strategies that have been put into place and that it would be disruptive to bring students back to a full in-person model with only a few weeks left of school. They acknowledge that some students are struggling and perhaps additional, more creative, solutions could be put into place to address their needs. They communicated that they feel it

would be wiser to use this time to plan for a full return in the fall. They also asked if they could be given the Commissioner's contact information so that they can voice their concerns directly to him.

Motion to close the public hearing – Member Tom Lauder; Seconded Member Stella Richard; Motion carries – (4) yea (1) Absent (Mr. Francis).

Roll Call:

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

4. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Tom Lauder; Seconded by Stella Richard; Motion carries – (4) yea (1) Absent (Mr. Francis). The meeting adjourned at **8:10 p.m.**

Roll Call:

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

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

- Presentation: Public Hearing on Reopening Schools – February 23, 2021