

**Leicester Public Schools
School Committee Minutes
April 13, 2021 @ 6:30 PM
Google Meet**

1. Call to Order

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Hagglund reviewed the rules of law pertaining to the meeting, informed that School Committee meetings are recorded by LCAC and that this meeting is being held online per the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the open meeting laws. He then 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 & Assessment

Jeffrey Berthiaume, Director of Technology and Digital Learning

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

2. Showcase

Vivian Giles – Project 351

- Project 351 is a non-profit organization founded by Carolyn Casey and former Governor Deval Patrick. Every year an 8th grade student is selected from each of the 351 school districts in Massachusetts. Its vision is to build a rising generation of service leaders who will strengthen their community with vision, skill, kindness and compassion. Currently they are working on their spring service project collecting clothes that will be donated to Cradles to Crayons. Needed are gently used or new kids clothes and shoes for any season sized from infant to youth large. Items will be collected at the middle and high schools during the week of May 10th or 17th.

Abigail Johnson, Sarah Brouillard, Rian Fadden & Grace Guinee – Cleanup Day

- This year for their National Honor Society Independent Service Project these students will be hosting a school-wide cleanup for Earth Day on Sunday, May 2nd focusing on cleaning out school gardens and grounds, picking up garbage and otherwise beautifying the school grounds. Tri-M will be working with them planting flowers in the gardens. The Environmental Club and others will be focusing on cleaning up the common area as well. Anyone in the Leicester Community is able to volunteer, however, elementary students need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

3. Approval of Minutes

03/09/2021 Open Session Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Stella Richard; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

03/09/2021 Executive Session Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Stella Richard; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

04/05/2021 Workshop Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Stella Richard; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

04/05/2021 Executive Session Minutes

Motion to approve: Member Stella Richard; Seconded: Member Tom Lauder; motion carries – unanimous.

4. Data

4.1 Student Return Data – Jeffrey Berthiaume presented a comparison of student enrollment data prior to and after the return to full in-person learning. Data shows that significantly fewer students returned to full in-person learning at the middle and high schools with a very small group of students choosing to participate in the daily livestream option.

5. School Choice

Dr. Tencza informed the Committee that the number of seats allotted for School Choice per grade level in FY22 will be as follows:

- Grade 5 = 5
- Grade 6 = 5
- Grade 7 = 5
- Grade 8 = 3
- Grade 9 = 5
- Grade 10 = 5
- Grade 11 = 4

Motion to accept School Choice for the number of seats outlined by Dr. Tencza – Member Scott Francis; Seconded Member Tom Lauder; Motion carries – unanimous. Dr. Tencza informed the Committee that applications will be taken from April 26th to May 31st or June 1st. If there are more applications than the number of seats available there will be a lottery.

6. Reports

6.1 Student Liaisons Report

Student Liaisons Abigail Johnson and Morgan Merrell reported on recent and/or upcoming events happening in all the schools for the month of April.

6.2 School Committee Chairperson Report

a. Change of May School Committee Meeting Date to May 10, 2021

Mr. Hagglund informed the Committee that the date for the May School Committee meeting has been changed from May 11th to May 10th at the regular meeting time of 6:30 p.m. He also informed them that the meeting will most likely be held virtually as LCAC has not yet obtained what they need in order to livestream.

6.3 Superintendent's Report

a. COVID Update

Dr. Tencza informed the Committee that LPS has been approved to implement the BinaxNow rapid antigen test in the district. Kits are on the way and the nurses will receive training to administer the test. Project Beacon will be compiling test results. Parents will now need to be notified that permission will be required before a child can receive the test. A Google form permission slip will go out to parents. Testing should begin after spring vacation.

The nurses have made a request to hire an additional nurse for the remainder of the school year four hours per day, four days per week. Dr. Tencza is in favor of this request to help relieve some of their current burden. Motion to hire an additional nurse at four hours per day, four days per week for the rest of the current school year - Member Donna McCance; Seconded Member Stella Richard; Motion carries – unanimous.

b. Reopening Update

Covered in item 6.1 Student Liaisons Report

c. Bark Jr.

Dr. Joseph informed the Committee that LPS will be sending information to families about Bark, a company that can provide monitoring of cell phone use for younger students. This service will be provided 100% free of charge to families with children up to 18 years of age. There will be no obligation for families to partake in this service and there will be no financial gain to the district. Once a family member has signed up there will be no other district involvement.

d. Progress Toward Goals

Dr. Tencza informed the Committee that the Student Learning SMART goal is well on its way. The district data team has met and developed a meeting protocol that will be shared across the district so that when all data teams in the district meet they will use the same format. Under the Professional Practice SMART goal, Dr. Tencza has contacted Bill Ribas and Associates to deliver Professional Development this August and fall to the Leadership team and to union members on the evaluation process and after which there will be coaching. Curriculum is also being aligned. Under the District Improvement SMART goal, Lori Likis from DESE Planning for Success has been contacted and has agreed to work with the district to facilitate a multi-year plan. There will be retreats with the Leadership and Community Planning teams and the work will begin in September.

6.3 School Committee Liaisons Report

Member Donna McCance reported that the district data team met to continue developing steps for meeting protocol. She asked that a presentation of the protocol be put on the May 3rd Workshop agenda so that the Committee can see what is involved. The Wellness Committee has put out their fourth Wellness newsletter for April and there will be one more newsletter for May. She informed the Committee that all newsletters are now posted on the School Committee website and that they are planning a surprise for staff appreciation during the week of May 3rd to the 7th.

7. Finance Items

7.1 FY20 Expense Report

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations, gave a brief update on the FY20 Expense Report. Motion to approve the FY20 Expense Report of 04/08/2021 as presented – Member Tom Lauder; Seconded Member Scott Francis; Motion carries – unanimous.

7.2 Warrant Signing 28A, 30A

Member Stella Richard made a motion to approve the warrant signing of 40A, 42A, - Seconded Member Donna McCance; Motion carries – unanimous.

7.3 OMNIBUS Approval

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations, discussed the OMNIBUS approval process. This is the process by which the Director of Finance makes budget transfers for the final quarter of the fiscal year without School Committee approval. All transfers are included in subsequent School Committee packets to keep the Committee apprised of the activity. Motion to approve the

OMNIBUS approval – Member Tom Lauder; Seconded Member Donna McCance; Motion carries – unanimous.

8. New Business

8.1 Donation LHS Class of 2021

8.2 Donation Nature’s Classroom Reverse Field Trip

Motion to accept LHS Class of 2021 and Nature’s Classroom reverse field trip donations as presented – Member Stella Richard; Seconded Member Scott Francis; Motion carries – unanimous.

8.3 Special Olympics Donation Discussion

Dr. Tencza informed the Committee that the Special Olympics organization has offered to provide funding for repair of the track. Motion to begin discussion on repair of the track as presented by the Special Olympics organization – Member Donna McCance; Seconded Member Stella Richard; Motion carries – unanimous.

9. Public Comment

Bill Goddard thanked members of the School Committee and Administration for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the football parents.

10. Upcoming Meeting(s)

05-03-21 @ 5:30 – Workshop

- Member Stella Richard asked that evaluations and goals be added to the agenda.

05-10-21 @ 6:30 – Open Meeting

11. Convene in Executive Session – None

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Stella Richard; Seconded by Member Scott Francis; Motion carries - unanimous. The meeting adjourned at **7:41 P.M.**

Roll Call

Stella Richard	Present
Donna McCance	Present
Tom Lauder	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.

- 03/09/2021 - Open Session Minutes
- 03/09/2021 - Executive Session Minutes
- 04/05/2021 - Workshop Minutes
- 04/05/2021 - Executive Session Minutes
- Leicester Public Schools ELE Student Placement Data
- Student Liaison Report 4/13/21
- Expense Report 04/08/2021
- OMNIBUS Approval Motion
- Donation - Nature’s Classroom Reverse Field Trip
- Donation – LHS Class of 2021