

**Leicester Public Schools
School Committee Workshop Minutes
April 5, 2021 @ 5:30 PM
Google Meet**

1. Call to Order

At 5:30 p.m., Mr. Hagglund called the meeting to order and stated that the meeting is being held virtually per the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators:

Marilyn Tencza, Superintendent of Schools

Cady Maynard, Director of Finance and Operations

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

2. Chairperson Report

- In-person Meeting

Mr. Hagglund stated that the goal is to begin holding hybrid meetings, at which School Committee members will be in the Town Hall meeting room and LCAC will be broadcasting live to the public. He stated that before that can happen, LCAC will need to do some equipment upgrades and they are aiming for next month to make this transition.

3. Policies

3.1 First Reading

- Section F: Facilities Development
- Section G: Personnel
- Section H: Negotiations

Motion to table Sections F – Facilities Development, G - Personnel and H – Negotiations until they can be reviewed by the attorneys; Seconded: Donna McCance; motion carries – unanimous. Member Scott Francis informed members that there are new laws pertaining to family medical leave that took effect this year and asked that we work with the attorneys and MASC to review the law and create new policy. Member Tom Lauder asked that we also work with the attorneys to make sure that these policies match what we have in our contracts. Member Nathan Hagglund asked that these items be moved to the next School Committee Workshop to give time for the attorneys to review them. The date for the next School Committee meeting has to be changed and will tentatively be scheduled for Monday, May 10th.

4. Middle School Graduation

Dr. Tencza reported that the middle school graduation will be held on June 9th with a rain date of June 10th and will be located outside on the football field at 6:00 p.m. The same guidelines will be followed as the high school graduation. Parents will register for the event, be allowed up to four guests and parking will be assigned. There will be no food or gatherings allowed before or after the event.

5. Reopening Report

Dr. Tencza reported that school opening went very smoothly today and she thanked everyone for working so hard to make that happen. Member Nathan Hagglund commented that he spoke with a parent from another district and they expressed that they were very impressed with how well thought out our reopening planning was. Member Tom Lauder asked how the livestreaming went and staff members responded that there were a few issues with links belonging to students who were quarantining but overall everything went well.

6. BinaxNow COVID Test

Dr. Tencza reported that the state will now pay for testing and explained that BinaxNow is a fifteen minute rapid COVID test that can be given to students without having to do pool testing. Once the application is completed, the nurses can be trained. This test will require parental permission and everything will be done online. Committee members gave Dr. Tencza approval to move forward with the BinaxNow COVID testing process.

7. ESSER III Grant

Cady Maynard informed Committee members that we will be receiving 1.9 million dollars in ESSER III funding and that the DESE has not given restrictions for the use of this funding as of yet.

Dr. Tencza reported that the MSBA Statement of Interest will be open on April 28th for the long-term and accelerated projects and discussion will need to take place. Member Nathan Hagglund stated that he has heard from people in town who are interested in the Becker College facilities for school use and that the town is looking into that possibility.

8. Public Comment

Jennifer Bokis commented that she loved the idea of the rapid testing in schools and asked if ESSER III funding could be used to hire additional nursing staff to help with the increased demand. Dr. Tencza answered that it will be discussed in an executive session.

9. Executive Session

A motion was made by Member Scott Francis to go into executive session per M.G.L. Chapter 30 (A) Section 21 (a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with unions EAL (Education Association of Leicester) and MNA (Massachusetts Nurses Association) and individual contracts and not to reconvene in open session. Seconded by Member Tom Lauder.

Roll Call

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

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Scott Francis; Seconded by Member Tom Lauder;
Motion carries - unanimous. The meeting adjourned at **6:14 P.M.**

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

- Section F: Facilities Development
- Section G: Personnel
- Section H: Negotiations