

RECEIVED

By Town Clerk at 1:06 pm, Nov 17, 2021

**REVISED AGENDA
Maynard School Committee
Thursday, November 18, 2021, 7:00 pm
Remote Meeting**

(The School Committee may vote on all items listed on this agenda)

Pursuant to Gov. Baker's Executive Order dated March 12, 2020, suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the School Committee has modified meeting procedures to ensure the safety of all participants. The public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting; video and audio will be turned off for the public. This meeting will be held via a virtual meeting (internet) using Zoom Technology.

All members of the public are invited to join the meeting virtually either by computer (internet) or phone at:

Computer Option: Join Zoom Meeting (video) <https://zoom.us/j/91572875882> Password: SC2122

Choose to use Computer Audio, or join by phone at the number below:

Phone Option: 1-646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 915 7287 5882 Password: 448260

View further instructions here: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

Meeting materials will be found on the website under School Committee - Agenda or <https://bit.ly/37KasFh>

MGL 30A, Sec.20:(f) After notifying the chair of the public body, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement, and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall inform other attendees of any recordings.

- I. Call to order - roll call of members
- II. Citizens' Comments (15 min)
- III. Urgent Business
- IV. Student Representative Report - Annie Konieczka and Kate Carlisle (10 min; IO)
- V. MHS NEASC Presentation, High School Principals (20 min; IO/D)
- VI. Review of Mask Policy EBCFA (10 min; IO/D/V)
- VII. Superintendent's Report (15 min; IO)
 - A. COVID Update
 - B. Budget Status
- VIII. Chair's Report (10 min; IO)
- IX. Subcommittee Reports & Members' Comments (12 min; IO)
 - A. Lydia Clancy
 - B. Mary Brannelly
 - C. Natasha Rivera
 - D. Elizabeth Albota
- X. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Minutes
 - B. Acceptance of Warrant(s)
- XI. Adjournment

***IO [Info Only], P [Presentation], D [Discussion], PV [Possible Vote], VR [Vote Required]**

Chairperson: Hilary Griffiths
Posted by: Colleen Andrade
Date: 11/15/21
Revised: 11/17/21

Maynard School Committee Virtual Meeting Public Comment Guidelines

Here are the general rules for the Committee's public comment period:

1. Any citizen wishing to make a comment during a virtual meeting may do so by:
 - a. Emailing comments in advance and up until the Citizens' Comments agenda item to **comments4SCmeeting@maynard.k12.ma.us**. **You must state in the subject line "Public Comment" and include your first and last name and home address to ensure your comment can be read.**
 - b. Please be sure to read the guidelines below in #3.
2. Any citizen wishing to comment for a virtual public meeting shall follow these guidelines:
 - a. All public comments are limited to 3 minutes, to ensure that everyone who wishes to comment has the opportunity to be heard.
 - i. Comments read by the Chair will only be read for 3 minutes. If the submitted comments are longer, they will be cut off at the 3-minute mark.
 - ii. To ensure that all the comments are read in their entirety, it is suggested that you keep them to approximately 350 words. Submitted messages longer than 350 words will be submitted for public record regardless.
 - b. No citizen may comment more than once without permission of the Chair. As time allows, the Chair could consider allowing citizens to comment a second time, especially if it is related to a topic that has not yet been brought up.
 - i. Note that citizens can submit any additional comment(s) for the public record, by providing a copy to the Chair via email up until the end of the meeting, specifically stating their desire to have these additional comments included.
3. Please be aware that the Citizens' Comments agenda item is a devoted time for the school committee to hear from the citizenry. As such, its structure primarily supports unidirectional public recording of citizen's comments, rather than a bidirectional conversation.

Maynard High School and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC): An Overview

Presented by : Kevin Caruso and Charles Caragianes
Purpose: To update the members of the Maynard School
Committee on the progress of the accreditation process

Accreditation with its Five Standards Connects to All Three Blocks of the District's Strategic Plan

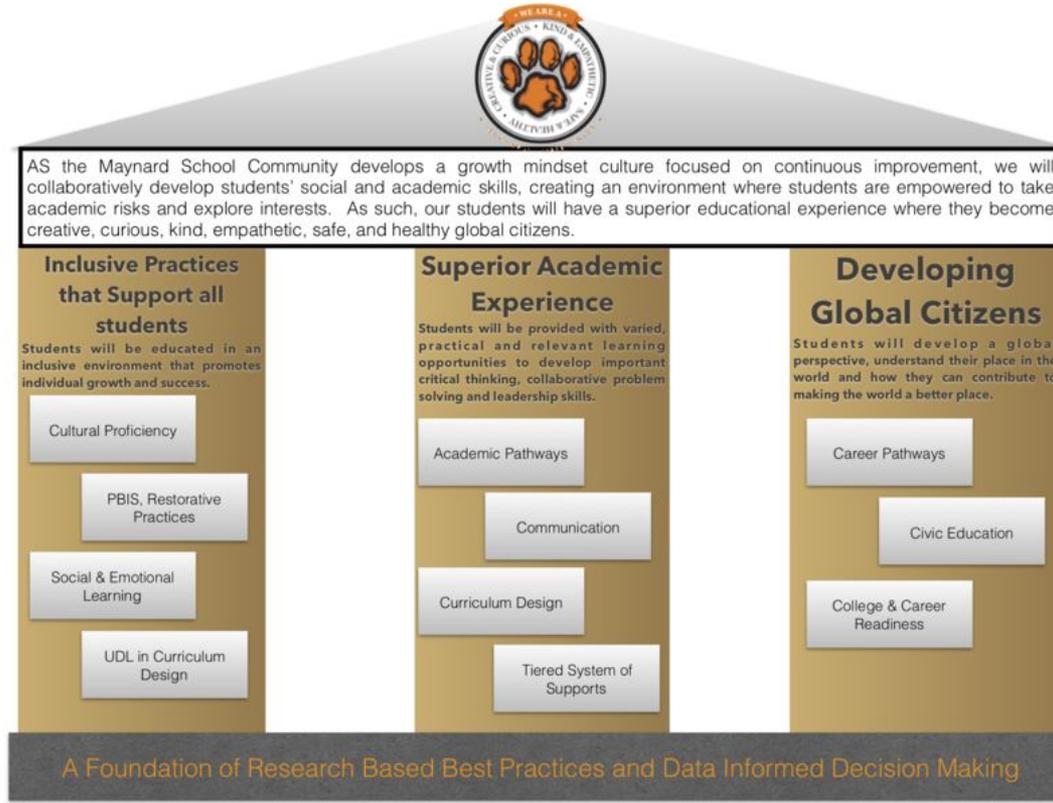
Learning Culture

Professional Practices

Student Learning

Learning Support

Resources



What is the Purpose of NEASC Accreditation?

NEASC Accreditation is designed to serve as a guide as Maynard High School continues to meet goals for student learning based on alignment with research-based standards. **NEASC Website:** <https://cpemhs.neasc.org/standards>

NEASC Accreditation is an important exercise for assessing the systems in place for self-reflection on an on-going basis as Maynard High School continues to be an effective learning organization.

NEASC Accreditation is growth oriented, inquiry-based, with an emphasis on capacity building, creativity, differentiation and student learning outcomes.

Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?

We are in the early stages of a comprehensive self-reflection process that involves faculty, administrators, staff, students, community members and, of course, Maynard school committee members.

A visiting team, consisting of 5 professionals from various educational institutions throughout New England, will spend two days with us in the Spring of 2022 for a *Collaborative Conference*. The team will review our self-study, assess our strengths, and make recommendations for growth areas which will be reviewed at our full decennial visit when a larger and more comprehensive NEASC team of 8 members arrives for 4 days in the Spring of 2024. In short, the *Collaborative Conference* acts as a formative assessment to promote future growth and improvement at each school visited.

As part of our NEASC process, the 2022-2023 school year will then be used to implement recommendations that come out of the report issued after our *Collaborative Conference* is completed. The visit in the Spring of 2024 by the full NEASC team will, among other things, assess our progress in implementing the recommendations given as a result of our earlier *Collaborative Conference*.

Role of the Maynard School Committee

As part of the NEASC process, visiting teams meet with key community stakeholders including the School Committee governing the school under review.

Through the NEASC process each member of the Maynard School Committee will gain a more comprehensive knowledge of Maynard High School including our many strengths as well as knowledge of the rich experience we offer our students.

Part of our strength at Maynard High School is the practice of assessing where we are and how we can improve the experience for every individual student.

We know we will have the support of the Maynard School Committee as we go through this important process and we would like to give brief, periodic updates at School Committee meetings over the next 18 months.

Budget Implications

The costs involved in the self-assessment work and other preparation for accreditation will be covered in existing line items in the FY23 budget. There will not be a significant budget implication for FY23

In FY 24 it will be necessary to set aside approximately \$15,000 for the cost of the lodging and meals for the members of the NEASC visiting team.

In FY25 and beyond, there may be budget implications as we implement recommendations made as a result of the accreditation process.

Statement of Impact

A comprehensive review of the five standards with areas of commendation, suggestions for improvement, and an on-going plan for sustained reflection on best practices will benefit the students at Maynard High School for many years to come.

It is in the best interest of all members of the Maynard community to support a high school that constantly seeks to examine its learning culture, to reflect on the quality of student learning, to embrace research-based professional practices, and to prioritize the necessary resources for effective student learning.

Potential Policy Implications

At the present time, we do not foresee any potential policy implications as a result of the accreditation process, but we would like to keep an open mind in case recommendations do arise.

Members of the Maynard School Committee are ultimately responsible for the quality of education at Maynard High School and have worked hard to ensure that sound educational policies are in place.

NEASC Self-Study Basics

There are 5 Standards that all schools are assessed on: Learning Culture, Student Learning, Professional Practices, Learning Support and Learning Resources.

Within each standard there are descriptors of effective practice.

Descriptors are rated by: Not yet evident, Thinking about it, Working on it, Living it, Shifting the paradigm.

The school is then rated on the 6 foundational elements located within the five standards.

Standard 1 - Learning Culture

Learning Culture promotes shared values and responsibility for achieving the school's vision.

1.1a Foundational Element - The school community provides a safe environment.

1.2a Foundational Element - The school has a written document describing its core values, beliefs about learning, and vision of the graduate.

Standard 2 - Student Learning

Student Learning practices maximize the impact of learning for each student.

2.2a Foundational Element - There is a written curriculum in a consistent format for all courses in all departments.

Standard 3 - Professional Practices

Professional Practices ensure that practices and structures are in place to support and improve student learning.

3.1a Foundational Element - The school has a current school improvement/growth plan.

Standard 4 - Learning Support

Learning Support ensures that the school has appropriate systems to support student learning and well-being.

4.1a Foundational Element - The school has intervention strategies designed to support students.

Standard 5 - Learning Resources

Learning Resources ensure that the school has the resources necessary to meet the learning needs of all students.

5.1a Foundational Element - The community and district provide school buildings and facilities that support the delivery of curriculum, programs, and services.

Conclusion

Since its founding in 1885, The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) has become the premier organization for overall secondary school assessment in our region.

Every student transcript issued by Maynard High School includes the important statement that we are accredited by NEASC. The ability to proudly print this on every transcript allows colleges, post secondary programs and employers to know that the candidate before them has attended a rigorous, up to date, and high performing high school.

To maintain NEASC accreditation, Maynard High School has begun the periodic, decennial process of a school wide evaluation as required of all member schools.

With the support of the Maynard School Committee, and the greater Maynard community, we are confident that this evaluative process will help to make our school stronger for all of our students moving forward and that we will be fully re-accredited for the coming decade.



Maynard Public Schools
3R Tiger Drive, Maynard MA 01754

File: EBCFA

MASK-WEARING PROTOCOL

Maynard Public Schools is committed to providing a safe environment in schools during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Maintaining a safe environment is critical to the District's ability to retain students in a full-time classroom learning experience.

According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks or face coverings. Therefore, using the guidance and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the District has established the following requirements, which will remain in place until further notice.

All individuals in school buildings and on school transportation must wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth. Face coverings must also be worn outside when social distancing cannot be observed. Masks must fit securely against the face without gaps, must be secured with ties or ear loops (no gaiters or bandanas), and must not have valves or vents.

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members are responsible for providing their own face coverings. However, the district will supply disposable face covering for individuals who arrive at a building or board school transportation without one. If a mask becomes wet or soiled during the day and the individual does not have a second mask available.

Per CDC guidance, individuals may be excused from the mask-wearing requirement if the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, is incapacitated, or cannot remove the mask or face covering without assistance. Face masks or face coverings will not be required when appropriate social distancing is enforced while eating or drinking or while outside. Masks may also be removed indoors when necessary to participate in elective classes, such as the use of wind instruments in the band. If feasible, breaks should occur when the windows are open, or students are outdoors. As a reminder, meals and outdoor recess provide built-in mask breaks for students and staff.

Masks or face coverings will not be required for anyone who has a medical, behavioral, or other challenge making them unable to wear a face mask or face covering. Students and staff who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, and students who cannot wear a mask for behavioral reasons, are exempted from the requirement. Face shields may be an option for

students with medical or behavioral needs who are unable to wear masks or face coverings. Transparent masks may be the best option for both teachers and students in classes for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

A written note from a physician is required for a requested exemption, and a release to allow the school nurse to discuss the need with the child's pediatrician may be needed. Exceptions may be granted if it is determined by the Principal to be appropriate after consulting with the student's parents, Director of Student Services, School Nurses, and/or the local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances if approved. **Parents may not excuse their child from the face mask requirement by signing a waiver.**

It is recognized that masks can increase anxiety and difficulty with social interactions, particularly for our most vulnerable students. School staff will work to support students through discussions, modeling, social stories, behavior plans, and coaching. If a student continues to remove or fail to wear their mask without permission, and an exemption is not appropriate, a Principal or designee will discuss the behavior with the student, teacher, and parents. If students remain in violation of this policy, the student may be removed from the school building for in-person learning until such time as they can comply with the requirement or the requirement is lifted.

Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of School Committee policy. Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.

Guidance Statements

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/updated-advisory-regarding-masks-and-face-coverings-july-30-2021-0/download>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools Updated August 5, 2021 -

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Center for Disease Controls – Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention on Public Transportation

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Fall 2021 Covid-19 Guidance

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2021-0730fall-2021-covid19-guidance.pdf>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Mask Requirements Implemented August 25, 2021

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2021-0825mask-requirement.pdf>

CROSS REF: EBC-S, Emergency Plan: COVID Supplemental; EBCFA-P, Mask Wearing Specifications; JICA, Dress Code

SOURCE: MASC – August 10, 2021

ADOPTED: 10/1/20

REVISED: 3/18/21, 8/19/21, 9/9/21