

Minutes
Maynard School Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 19, 2021, 7:00 pm
Remote Meeting

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 was not allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. This meeting was held virtually (internet) using Zoom Technology. All members of the public were invited to join the meeting virtually online or by phone. In addition, a recording of the meeting is posted on the WAVM YouTube page under Maynard School Committee Meetings. (<https://www.youtube.com/user/WAVMproductions/playlists>)

Meeting Called to Order at 7:10 pm. An attendance roll call was taken.

Mary Brannelly - Present
Natasha Rivera - Present
Lydia Clancy - Present
Elizabeth Albota - Present
Hilary Griffiths - Present

Also present were Brian Haas, Superintendent; Wayne White, Business Manager; Jeff Ferranti, Director of Student Services; Colleen Andrade, Administrative Assistant.
Anticipated Speakers: Adam Steiner, IT Director;

Approval of Minutes

Without objection, I would like to approve the minutes from 5/20/21 as edited. There were no objections. Minutes were accepted.

Acceptance of Warrants

Ms. Rivera noted she would be abstaining from voting on warrant 22-002

Ms. Clancy asked the School Committee to accept Without objection, warrants 22-001 & -003. There were no objections. Warrants 22-001, & -003 accepted.

Ms. Clancy made a motion to accept warrants 22-002

Ms. Brannelly 2nd the motion.

Mary Brannelly - Present
Lydia Clancy - Present
Elizabeth Albota - Present
Hilary Griffiths - Present
Natasha Rivera - Abstained

Motion Passed - 4 Yae - 0 No - 1 Abstained

Urgent Business (If necessary) - none

Citizens' Comments - Ms. Clancy read the emails which were sent in for citizens comments

Superintendent's Report

Introduction of GM & Fowler Assistant Principals

Mr. Haas introduced new assistant principals, Carolyn Imperato at Fowler and Karen Lindquist at Green Meadow.

COVID Safety & School Re-opening Guidance

Mr. Haas reviewed the proposed protocols for school in the fall. The goal was to open school full-time, in person, in a safe manner. Recommended universal mask-wearing: Effective August 23, 2021, all students, staff, and visitors—regardless of vaccination status—must wear masks indoors while in any Maynard Public Schools facilities.

Face-masks will not be required: (1) when outside; or (2) when an individual works alone or in a segregated space. Mask breaks will occur outside. Will continue to assess the information and work with the Maynard Board of Health and DPH.

There was some concern on how lunch would be handled without masking.

Quarantine recommendations have changed from last year. There is in-school testing ("test and stay" program) possible that will greatly reduce quarantine. Maynard has applied for the testing, waiting for approval. Will have more info at the beginning of next week. DESE was not allowing any remote learning options at this time. Details about the various testing programs were still being developed by DESE so MPS did not have all the information yet.

There would be no attestation forms required this year. This was a challenge last year. Parents should follow the protocols and keep students home if they are not feeling well.

There would be mask options for students who needed to see staff lips or facial expressions. No parent concerns or issues have been brought to Mr. Ferranti's attention. Parents were encouraged to reach out to Mr. Ferranti, Mr. Haas, or building Principals with any concerns.

Mr. Haas said there had been no discussion with unions about mandating vaccination at this time.

There was a discussion about the past practice about stressing the importance of attendance, and not making students feel afraid to say they were not feeling well. Mr. Haas said they wanted to encourage students appropriately and would address it with building administration.

Water fountains would continue to be shut down and parents should provide students with water. Additional water would be available at the office.

GMBC Feasibility Study

MSBA update - a Designer Selection Subcommittee for the selection of the project designer has been created. There will be a walk thru at GM in early September by interested firms then interviews at the beginning of November.

Business office reorganization - After a review of job positions, Mr. Haas was recommending adding a position for support. The Business Office currently only had 2 support positions. The

additional position would also allow for some cross-training of certain duties. Some employees have been working very long hours to get work done. Workload has increased and an additional person is needed to get all the required work completed. Looked at part-time/ full time/ consultants/ grant-funded possibilities. Realized this additional permanent full-time position is needed and have found money in the operating budget to cover salary through attrition. This position meets the operational needs.

Ms. Rivera noted that the Town has a savings of approximately \$89,000 annually since they no longer provide insurance to excel employees.

Chair's Report

Sesquicentennial Celebration Fireworks - Jen Picorelli, Committee Co-Chair

Mr. Haas noted that the October fireworks have been moved to the field behind Green Meadow due to concerns about doing it at Fowler. The location has been approved by the fire and police.

Ms. Picorelli stated that the fireworks should be in conjunction with Maynard Fest. Best viewing would be the Fowler field and Crow Park

Human Relations Committee - Kathleen Fitzgerald, HRC Chair

Ms. Fitzgerald said their stated purpose was to promote human rights, personal dignity, and positive relations between all residents and visitors to the Town of Maynard.

She pointed out parts of their mission statement - To promote community policies and practices that encourage equal opportunity and equal responsibility for all people, and publicly challenge any practices in our community that represent prejudice, intolerance, harassment, or discrimination.

Ms. Fitzgerald encouraged all, including students, to join their meetings. Information can be found on the Town's website. The next meeting will discuss how to fill out the fuel assistance application.

Master Plan Implementation Committee - Mary Brannelly, member

Ms. Clancy noted that the Master Plan Committee was coming to the School Committee portion of the Master Plan, Goal PFS6, and asked all SC Members to read through that portion of the Master Plan.

Special Town Meeting

Ms. Clancy stated that the Special Town meeting has been changed from Oct. 18 to Oct 16 to allow for an outdoor meeting that Saturday in the Mill and Main parking lot.

Other Business

AVLL Softball/Keenan Field presentation - Jay Raschi was unable to attend the meeting and this matter was tabled to a later date.

ASPEN SIS - Presentation by Adam Steiner

A committee was formed last year to consider different student information systems. Aspen was selected in October 2020. The system went live in July. Aspen will be easier for parents and teachers to use, and will help with reporting state data more accurately.

Adam demonstrated what the program will look like for parents and students.

Parents were provided their usernames and passwords last week. Students and teachers can log in with their school email. There will also be a parent forum in the near future.

Aspen has the ability to make IEP's and 504's visible, still looking into how that may work. There is a teacher trainer in each building, teachers will have training the first few days of school as well as during key points during the year.

All historical data from iPass has been imported into Aspen. Technical questions should be emailed to helpdesk@maynard.k12.ma.us.

New student registration will also move online in the near future.

Mr. Steiner noted that year 1 of Aspen was paid through a capital request granted by the Town.

2021-22 Masking Policy - EBFCA Update from MASC (20 mins; I/D/VR)

EBFCA was updated from last year's mask-wearing protocol.

Ms. Rivera felt it was an issue for students with some disabilities to not see the face of their instructors and peers. She suggested adding examples of alternative options stated in the policy.

Ms. Clancy suggested the policy be voted on due to the timing, then it can be revisited as needed for amendments.

There was a discussion about how to best approach the policy for students with disabilities. Facial communication was important for teachers to make student connections, peer engagement, as well as ensuring all students were able to access their education.

Ms. Brannelly made a motion to accept the mask-wearing protocol EBFCA as written.

Ms. Albota 2nd the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Mary Brannelly - Yae

Jessica Clark - Yae

Bethlyn Houlihan - Yae

Natasha Rivera - Yae

Lydia Clancy - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

Subcommittee Members' Reports (12 mins; IO)

Ms. Brannelly noted that she and another member of the Town's Master Plan Committee would be sitting down with Mr. Haas before presenting to the School Committee.

Ms. Griffiths noted that many parents had reached out to her saying that they wanted to be able to make the safety decision for their child about mask-wearing. Her reason for supporting the mask mandate was that it wouldn't be each student's parents making the safety decision for their child, but the decision would essentially be made by the parents of each child's classmates.

Ms. Rivera said the SEPAC was looking to reconvene. The Charter Review Committee is recommending a change to the Town Charter so when someone is elected, they fill the seat as soon as it is empty. There is an ongoing discussion about who is responsible for paying for field maintenance. She pointed out that the School's budget was for educational purposes. The 5 on 5 meeting was tentatively scheduled for 8/31. Ms. Rivera noted that the SC had not been receiving any building email communications lately, and asked that to be looked into.

Ms. Albota noted the first Strategic Planning meeting was on Friday.

Ms. Rivera made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Ms. Albotta 2nd the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Mary Brannelly - Yae
Jessica Clark - Yae
Bethlyn Houlihan - Yae
Natasha Rivera - Yae
Lydia Clancy - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:02

Respectfully Submitted

Colleen Andrade

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools

Approved 11/18/21