

Posted at Town Hall
7/23/20 at 2:19 pm

AGENDA
Maynard School Committee Special Meeting
Monday, June 27, 2020, 6:00 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: SC2020

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: 768250

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

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. Meeting Called to Order via Roll Call
- II. Preliminary Opening Plan Summary to be submitted to the State by 7/31/20
(30 min; IO/D/VR)
- III. 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Reconsiderations (30 min; IO/ D/VR)
- IV. Adjournment via Roll Call

***IO [Info Only], D [Discussion], or VR [Vote Required]**

Chairperson: Lydia Clancy
Posted by: Colleen Andrade
Date: 7/23/20

TO: School Committee
FROM: Brian Haas, Superintendent
RE: Superintendent Report
DATE: July 27, 2020

REVISED

- I. School Reopening Plan (required)
 - A. Plan to be submitted to DESE by July 31, 2020 (Folder)
 1. Full remote
 2. Hybrid
 - a) Hybrid - 3 feet physical distance allows for at least 20 people per classroom
 - b) Hybrid - 6 feet physical distance allows for at least 12 people (50% capacity) per classroom
 3. Full time in person
 4. This Plan is an overview of what each option and implications look like in Maynard and is limited by DESE as to what can be included
 - B. There is a more detailed plan due by August 10, 2020 to DESE.
 - C. This Plan will take the most recent guidance from the state as several additional aspects of Remote Learning Guidance have been released in the past week. All of that will be used to inform the decision on how to reopen schools.
- II. A more detailed Plan, Maynard Public Schools Re-Entry Plan 2020 will be disseminated later this week. It takes into account:
 - A. Most recent guidance from DESE
 - B. Health and safety protocols
 - C. Lunch
 - D. Recess
 - E. Classrooms
 - F. Mask breaks
 - G. Transitions
 - H. Transportation
 - I. Our recent COVID19 exposure issue
- III. Calendar change consideration - we need and may be provided with additional days per DESE.
 - A. Option A:
 1. Teacher start date: August 31, 2020.
 2. Professional development August 31, September 1, 2, & 3
 - a) Hybrid Learning
 - b) Remote Learning
 - c) Safety protocols
 3. Student Start date: September 8, 2020
 - a) Staggered start
 - B. Option B:
 1. Teacher start date: August 31, 2020.
 2. Professional development August 31 - September 11
 - a) Hybrid Learning
 - b) Remote Learning
 - c) Safety protocols
 3. Student Start date: September 14, 2020
 - a) Staggered start

Preliminary Opening Plan Summary

Introduction-

The district is required to provide the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with a summary of three learning models that may be implemented for reopening school in fall of 2020. The district has developed working groups made up of faculty, staff and administration to develop complete plans for reopening schools. Incorporated into the District Reopening Committee are working groups that are responsible for establishing protocols related to instruction & pedagogy, health & safety, and Special Education, English Learners, and other at risk students, as well as protocols for each building.

The following document outlines current thinking around implementation of a full return to school, hybrid, and fully remote model of education in Maynard. In creating these models, the district has taken into consideration the current health and safety guidelines provided by the state and CDC. It is important to note that this is very much an introductory document, as the district working groups are still finalizing procedures and protocols for each model. The district will continue to use data to determine which model provides the most benefit for the Maynard School Community and will release a comprehensive plan, which is due to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by August 10.

What are the key findings from your in-person learning feasibility study, and what does this imply for the student learning model you may use this fall?

Measurements of building spaces illustrated that Maynard Public Schools has the capacity to reopen schools with three feet of physical distancing and return all students who are able to in person instruction. Given the enrollment of Maynard Public Schools, section sizes would be similar to the normal class section sizes during a traditional year. This would make any staffing or student enrollment changes challenging to absorb. As this would be possible without increasing numbers of sections, the district would not need to invest in additional FTE. To determine the feasibility of such a return the district surveyed families to determine their comfort level with return to school in this way. Of the respondents, approximately 60 percent of families preferred the full return with three feet of distancing. The remaining 40 percent preferred a return to school that would incorporate six feet of distancing between students. To determine the level of support a full return at three feet of distancing would have amongst the staff, The Maynard Teachers Association surveyed its membership and the results mirrored the community results. Approximately 60 percent of teachers feel comfortable returning to school with the DESE safety requirements and 40 percent not feeling comfortable returning to school. The district hosted listening sessions with the community, faculty and staff. Concerns voiced during those sessions further raised questions regarding the feasibility of a three foot return to school at full capacity. At this time, the district is strongly leaning toward a hybrid model of instruction, which will allow us to prioritize in-person learning for our more at risk groups.

Which reopening model within your plan are you leaning towards for the start of the school year?

Grade span			
	In person	Hybrid	Remote
Elementary	Pk-1	3-5	
Middle School		6-8	
High School		9-12	

If you would like to provide additional explanation of the initial reopening model in question, 2 above or if there are additional factors or challenges that you would like to write those here.

Given the concern with returning at three feet of distancing among a large minority of our community and staff, the district feels compelled to create a model that allows for more flexibility for families and staff. The return at a hybrid will allow the district to have space to prioritize in person learning for a variety of high need groups. The district is attempting to allow for full return of students in Preschool through grade one for in person instruction at a distancing of six feet. That decision will be dependent on the number of students who will be hybrid only, thus decreasing the section size of those needing in person instruction. At this time it does not appear that the district would need additional staffing in order to bring these three grades back for full instruction.

The district is also creating lists of students who will be prioritized for full in person instruction in grades two through 12. These are students who receive significant amounts of special education, English Learner, or other services that would benefit from complete in person instruction. The district intends to review staffing and spaces to determine if this is a feasible option.

Part II - Summary of Three reopening learning models

Please provide a summary of your plan for how students would return to full-time in person learning.

This option would allow for all students who are able to return to school with three feet physical distancing in classrooms. Sample classroom layouts were designed for each building. Given the enrollment of Maynard Public Schools and the expected 15 percent of students selecting all remote instruction, section sizes would be similar to the normal class section sizes during a traditional year. In order to prevent the spread of the virus, students would be scheduled into a

cohort group and would progress through their learning day with that group. Current thinking allows for this model in preschool through grade 8. High school reopening groups are examining ways of creating cohorts that both maintain academic programming and ensure safety. In general the district will seek to prevent large groups of people moving in the hallways at any given time. Given this, the district is considering how specials programs like art and technology would be run safely and are awaiting guidance on specials programs like music and physical education from the Department. Specific arrival, dismissal and movement procedures are being developed at the building level.

The district will seek to limit the number of adults that come in contact with each other throughout the day. For this reason, Special Education and other services will be provided to students as indicated through their individual needs. The district procedures will seek to prevent different adults from moving in and out of the cohorts in order to prevent the spread of the virus. This may require the individual or small group of students move to the classroom or office to receive the services by the provider.

As we are not able to maintain a six foot of distance in classrooms, lunch will need to be held in the cafeteria or other open spaces. Given the need for increased lunch sections and increased time between lunches, lunches would likely occur throughout the day, rather than at the preferred mid day time frame.

The district will also be developing protocols to follow the state safety requirements. Among these would be the development of cohorts of students that will remain together for the day,

- Screening of staff and students
 - The district will ensure that all staff are familiar with the state provided checklist of symptoms.
 - Each school will have an isolation space separate from the nurse's office predesignated for isolation where a student or staff member showing symptoms can be isolated until they are able to drive home (staff) or picked up by a family member
- Masks/face coverings
 - All students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through grade 1 will be encouraged to wear masks.
 - All students in grades 2 and above will be required to wear masks.
 - All faculty and staff will be required to wear masks
 - Accommodations will be made for students and staff who are unable to wear masks due to medical conditions, disability impact, or other health and safety factors.
 - Each school schedule will provide an opportunity for "mask breaks" throughout the day. These will occur with students six feet apart, and ideally when students are outdoors.
- Hand hygiene

- Students and staff will be required to wash or sanitize their hands upon arrival to the school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and prior to dismissal
- Handwashing and sanitizing visuals will be placed throughout the schools to remind students and staff of proper handwashing and hand sanitizing procedures.
- Given the number of bathrooms in the school buildings, it is challenging to indicate that students will have ample opportunities to wash their hands using soap and water for the suggested time, which then requires students to be using hand sanitizer on a consistent basis throughout the day.
- Personal Protective Equipment
 - All staff will be provided with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment appropriate to their job function.
 - Students are asked to bring masks from home on a daily basis
 - Masks will be available in each school should a student need a mask provided to them
 - Nurses and other staff members that may be more likely exposed to airborne particles will be provided with additional safety equipment such as gowns, face shields, etc.
- Cleaning and sanitizing
 - In order to prevent cross contamination, students will not share supplies or resources
 - The District Ad Hoc Safety Reopening Committee will develop protocols for cleaning and sanitizing school spaces, including high touch spaces throughout the day using CDC guidelines

Will any of your students be learning fully remotely? Yes
 Anticipated percent of students learning remotely? 15 %

Hybrid: Please provide a summary of your plan for how students would return to school through a hybrid learning model.

The hybrid model would allow the district to return approximately 50 percent of students to in school instruction with six feet of physical distancing. This would require that the district engage in a Hybrid model of education where all students participate in some in person instruction and some remote learning. Maynard is currently envisioning a two day in-person/three day remote schedule for students in this model. Details regarding instruction and services are still being developed by the district team in conjunction with the Maynard Education Association. For in person instruction, students will likely be scheduled in cohorts to limit the interaction between different groups of children. Schedules for in-person learning will likely mimic traditional school day schedules with modifications to prevent interactions between cohorts and reduce the amount of contact between adults. All students will participate in independent remote learning

on Wednesday. Faculty and staff will use this time for collaborative planning, pandemic related training and professional development on distance learning. During the remote learning time, students will deepen their skill level and understanding by practicing skills taught during in person instruction, conduct inquiry and experiential learning experiences, and have small group check-ins with faculty and staff. The same health and safety requirements that will be implemented for in-person learning will be implemented for hybrid learning.

Two day In-School Learning /Three Day Remote Learning

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A	In-School Learning		Independent Remote Learning	Remote Learning with both synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences	
Group B	Remote Learning with both synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences			In-School Learning	

- Students will be enrolled in either group A or B. Students in the same family will be enrolled in the same group
- Students in group A will attend in person instruction on Monday and Tuesday. Thursday and Friday Group A will participate in remote learning
- Students in group B will participate in remote learning Monday and Tuesday. Thursday and Friday Group B will attend in person instruction.
- All Students will participate in independent remote learning on Wednesday

Remote: Please provide a summary of your plan for remote learning as the default model of instruction for all students.

The district will create a remote learning option that mimics the in-person option being used by the district. This option will be open to students who are unable to return to school due to underlying health risks or concerns. Additionally, students will be placed in this option should they need to be quarantined or removed from school for health concerns throughout the year. Given the fluidity with which students may move between the in-person and remote option, teacher teams will work collaboratively to ensure that the two programs echo each other in regards to content, assessment and instructional strategies. It is important to note that this remote learning will look very different from the program provided in the spring. This program will provide opportunities for synchronous and asynchronous learning directed by a certified teacher. Students requiring special education or other services will be provided with those

services remotely or through safe in person sessions. This Pathway will be the basis for whole district remote learning should we be required to close one or more schools based on health data during the academic year.

In order to ensure appropriate physical distancing for in-person instruction, students who select the remote for the start of the school year will be asked to remain in that program until such times as the COVID-19 safety requirements are removed from the district. The district is committed to meeting the needs of our community. Should an individual student or family situation change, we ask that the family contact the principal of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment to discuss program changes.

High needs students: Please provide a summary of how students with disabilities, English learners (ELs), former EL students, and Economically Disadvantaged students will be supported within each of the three reopening models.

Regardless of the learning model implemented, the district will continue to use student monitoring strategies implemented during the spring closure to support at risk students. Building principals and guidance staff will work with teacher teams to identify students who are not being successful, whether it be for in-person or remote instruction. The district will use the student study team model to design interventions or supports for these students and make adjustments to their programming as necessary. The district will review current staffing levels and make adjustments to assignments as needed to provide additional support for our at risk students.

As the district anticipates starting the year with the hybrid model, the district will work to provide in person instruction for our most at risk students. The district is reviewing current case loads and developing lists of students in grades two through 12. These are students who receive significant amounts of special education, English Learner, or other services that would benefit from complete in person instruction. The district intends to review staffing and spaces to determine if this is a feasible option.