

MINUTES
Maynard Special School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 27, 2020, 6:00 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 6:10 pm. An attendance roll call was taken
Mary Brannelly - Present
Jessica Clark - Present
Bethlyn Houlihan - Present
Natasha Rivera - Present
Lydia Clancy - Present

Other's present were Brian Haas, Superintendent; Jennifer Gaudet, Assistant Superintendent; Wayne White, Interim Business Manager; Colleen Andrade, Administrative Assistant; Jeff Ferranti, incoming Director of Student Services.

Preliminary Opening Plan Summary to be submitted to the State by 7/31/20

The Commissioner asked each district to explain what remote, hybrid and full in-person classes would look like for their schools. Mr. Haas reviewed the plan that was presented at the 7/22 school committee meeting, which can be found on the website under School Reopening Information. This plan has not changed from last week. This is the preliminary summary required to submit by July 31st, this is not our plan. DESE had asked districts to answer questions, limiting their responses to 400 words.

This week families will be sent a substantially more detailed plan which is still being developed.

MASC guidance stated that if School Committee voted on the draft plan to State that it was not binding.

Ms. Rivera made a motion to approve the draft preliminary reopening plan that is not binding.
Ms. Brannelly 2nd the motion.

Discussion - This preliminary plan is the States way of having Districts prove they did their homework. Typo found last week, the plan left out grade 2 which had been fixed to include as grades 2-5. Nothing else in the plan had changed since last week. Transportation guidance was not included in this document.

The more detailed plan that is due to the State by August 10th will be sent out later this week, ahead of the next SC meeting.

Roll Call Vote:
Mary Brannelly - Yae
Jessica Clark - Yae

Bethlyn Houlihan - Yae
Natasha Rivera - Yae
Lydia Clancy - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

2020-2021 School Year Calendar Reconsiderations

The District was originally thinking of having 4 Professional Development days starting with August 31st then have students start on September 8th. Late tonight the Commissioner approved that the school year will be 170 days for students, leaving 10 PD days for staff. The new recommendation is for students to start school on September 14th, and provide 8 PD days for staff prior to that.

The District is looking at 2 possible changes to the school calendar. Both keep the teachers' 1st day on August 31st.

1. 4 professional development from 8/31 to 9/3 and the 1st day of school for students would be September 8th with a staggered start.
2. 8 professional days for staff, from 8/31 to 9/11, and the 1st day of school for students would be September 14th with a staggered start.

There had been discussion with staff around the need for PD, it is yet to be decided if PD would be in person or remote, it may be both. The possibility of bringing some students in prior to the 14th will be looked at.

Ms. Haas gave an overview of the hybrid model they were working on. They had been given medical advice and guidance from DESE. Will work on identifying who can do remote and who can not. This hybrid plan was being further developed. They will be working to provide all families what they need for remote learning. Part of the plan is how this would move into remote if needed.

Student group A would be in school Monday and Tuesday mornings and will have remote work in the afternoons at home, they will be remote on Wednesday thru Friday.

Student group B would be remote Monday thru Wednesday and in school Thursday and Friday mornings and will have remote work on those afternoons at home.

Students will be given a bag lunch on the half days they are in school as they are dismissed, full lunch details are still being worked out. All students would be remote on Wednesdays.

This plan limits the amount of time they are in school and will keep a 6' physical distancing, focusing on the core academics during the in-person component. If the medical data and metrics allow, this plan can move to two full days of in-person class as time moves on. Other districts are also using this model.

Maynard has discussed the use of tents for outdoor classroom space, but with New England weather, and ALICE safety protocols the district has in place, they decided that tents would not be a good fit. Teachers would still be permitted to use outside spaces with their classes if they wished to.

All students have been through some significant trauma, and they were looking at providing a staggered start approach for all students.

It was noted that a hybrid model needed a school/parent partnership, support from the community for a successful program.

Mr. Haas stated that a very thorough plan would be going out later this week to families. Parents will have the option to be fully remote, PreK thru Grade K will be onsite 4 days a week. Grade 1 - 12 will be hybrid. They would be asking for family feedback the fall to see how it's working and what might need to be changed. The more detailed plan needs to be submitted by August 10th. Parents will be asked to select their school option around that same time.

Ms. Haas thanked everyone for their patience, parents, teachers, etc. it's been a long summer, this year no one knows what school will look like and it has constantly changed.

There will be further open sessions where people can ask questions.

Ms. Houlihan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Brannelly 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 6:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Colleen Andrade

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools

Approved 8/6/20