

MINUTES
Maynard School Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 2020, 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 7:11 pm. An attendance roll call was taken

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

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

Anticipated speaker: Brian Beaulieu, Athletic Director

Approval of Minutes - 8/20 and 8/24

It was noted that the 8/20 minutes was missing the "r" in "Brian", and pg 2, statement after roll call vote regarding PD needs strike "that" and state "meets teachers needs".

Ms. Clancy asked, without objection, to approve the minutes as written with 2 edits for 8/20 and 8/24.

Minutes approved.

Approval of Warrant

Ms. Rivera made a motion to accept the approved warrants for FY21, warrants #21-001 thru 21-012.

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

Citizens' Comments

Ms. Clancy read the Citizens' Comments that were emailed to the School Committee which will be attached to the minutes.

Superintendent's Report

Teachers' first day was last Monday.

*Green Meadow Roof update - Contractor is 98% complete, with a short punch list of items to complete. Should be entirely done within a couple of weeks. The wing is currently being cleaned.

*Director of Building Operations has been hired, Tim MacDuff, will start 9/8/20.

*Solar Project - a committee was established and is in the evaluation process, analyzing proposals. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2020

*Excel is not working at this time and the District is working with the Boys & Girls club to try and provide some child care for students.

*Specific items still being worked on: Health & safety protocols and Mask breaks. There will be no form to be exempt from masks, but will require a doctor's note.

*Indoor air quality testing is being done next week on all 3 buildings.

*PreK - looking at starting the beginning of October.

*Parent PD - next wed at 7pm via zoom around Google.

*Remote Schedules - Mr. Haas showed what the remote schedule looked like for each grade level. It was anticipated that these schedules would remain the same for the hybrid model. Once school starts, parents should contact the teacher with questions, then the Principal if they need to for the most direct way to get information.

*Several outdoor orientations and student drive by events were being worked on.

Chairperson's Report

*The Select Board met last night. Maynard is the recipient of a Green Community Competitive Grant, \$38,533. \$36,600.38 of that will go to upgrading Fowler School's transformer.

*Annalisa Campanile, new Director of the Boys and Girls Club was present to receive a Grant for \$75,000 which will help them open to support families and students during remote start.

*Select Board voted to accept and approve the Town Warrant with revised budget which included the budget cuts.

*SC Joint FinCom meeting was last week, FinCom requested additional information.

*DESE announced public awareness campaign to help remind that everyone has to do their part to keep safe, additional information can be found at www.doe.mass.edu/backtoschool/ Maynard is back in the yellow zone, encouraging everyone to wear masks and practice social distancing.

*Due to an increase in negativity and conflict on social media, the District will be removing the ability to comment. Any comments or concerns should go to building Principals or the Superintendent.

*School Committee will forward a statement and action plan to the Town Administrator that was signed by 19 Towns in MA, a pledge to actively work against systemic racism and practices.

*The School Committee thanked Justin Demarco for his collaboration and support for helping get the buildings ready for the start of school during this very difficult time.

Fall Sports

Brian Beaulieu, the new Athletic Director, said that sports have been assigned risk levels. High risk: football, basketball, wrestling. Moderate risk: soccer, field hockey. Low risk: golf, tennis, cross country track. In MA, no high risk sports can have competitions and moderate risk sports must alter game play heavily to have competitions.

4 sports seasons this year - Fall: 9/18-11/20; Winter: 11/30-2/21; Fall 2: 2/22-4/25; Spring: 4/26-7/3

Schools can choose to hold the high risk Fall or Winter sports during Fall 2 season. Maynard High School soccer, field hockey, golf and cross country will be held with modifications during the Fall season. Decisions for the winter sports will come later. Football will take place during Fall 2 season. Maynard would not have Middle School sports this fall (soccer for FS). MHS teams will play schools that are within 30 minutes of Maynard. Parents will have the option to drive kids themselves. There would be athlete health checks before each game. Only 50 spectators will be allowed during games. If a community goes red, that schools' season will be over. Specific safety protocols will be in place, masks, sanitation stations, social distance, etc. Teams will also have a safety captain who would watch the safety protocols, could be a parent or volunteer.

Ms. Brannelly made a motion to approve the operation of fall sports on the recommendation of MIAA

Ms. Rivera 2nd the motion.

Discussion - Members felt this was important to offer and appreciated everyone involved willing to do what it took to make it work.

Mr. Beaulieu noted that with only 1 bus per team, no FS sports, and playing schools only 30 minutes away, could have a cost savings. An administrator would be at games to back up the safety captain. Parents would be required to follow safety measures.

Roll Call Vote:

Mary Brannelly - Yae

Jessica Clark - Yae

Bethlyn Houlihan - Yae

Natasha Rivera - Yae

Lydia Clancy - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Clancy asked that without objection to take the agenda out of order. There was no objection.

Budget Subcommittee - meeting was canceled this week, still waiting on transportation and food service contract information.

Negotiation Subcommittee - ongoing discussions. Next meeting will discuss the MOU with the Town and the Unions.

Sepac Collaboration committee met with Jeff Ferranti, another meeting on October 10th.

Ad Hoc Safety committee had their final meeting today.

Policy Subcommittee

BEDB-E - Agenda Format - 3rd reading - There was discussion and interest in including an agenda item for members comments. The alternative suggestion was to have members email the Chair to have comments under the Chair's report to consolidate time and messages during the meeting. School Committee agenda formats differed across districts, some also included the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Brannelly made a motion to accept BEDB-E Agenda Format, with the change of item #8 being reworded as Members' Reports/Comments.

Ms. Clark 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

EBC - Emergency Plans - 2nd reading - Policy Committee made the changes requested at last meeting. adding all the various people

Ms. Rivera made a motion to accept and approve EBC - Emergency Plans.

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

EEAEC - Student Conduct on School Buses

SC felt that Principals and Mr. Ferranti should take a look at this policy to provide feedback.

EEAE - School Bus Safety Programs - adopted from MASC

Ms. Rivera asked about "inspected periodically for conformance with state and federal safety requirements." It will go back to the Policy Subcommittee for further review.

EEAG - Student Transportation in Private Vehicles;

The District currently has a permission form for this but has no policy. It was suggested to add "students other than immediate family members" for clarification.

There was discussion about if this was meant for parents, staff or both.

Will go back to the Policy Subcommittee for further review.

JLCC - Communicable Diseases

It was noted that the terminology "handicaped child" was outdated and should be changed to "student or person with a disability" or eligible for disability services.

Would also need to determine what "and accompanied administrative procedures" would be.

EEAEA and EEAEA-1 did not apply since Maynard did not own their own busses or hired the drivers.

JCA - Assignment of Student to Schools did not apply since Maynard only had one school for each grade to attend.

Ms. Houlihan made a motion to discontinue the 3 policies, EEAEA and EEAEA-1 and JCA because they were moot and not relevant

Ms. Rivera 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

MS. Clancy stated that the School Committee would enter Executive Session under MGL; CH30A; § 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with unions for reopening the school year remotely, since an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining of the public body and the chair so declares. The committee will not reconvene in open session.

Roll Call Vote:

Mary Brannelly - Yae

Jessica Clark - Yae

Bethlyn Houlihan - Yae

Natasha Rivera - Yae

Lydia Clancy - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

The open meeting adjourned at 9:31pm

Respectfully Submitted

Colleen Andrade

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools

Approved 10/1/20

Citizens' Comments for 9/3/20 SC Meeting

Stacey Briggs – 14 Roosevelt Street

Dear Superintendent Hass and Maynard School Committee:

I am writing to request that you allow our students to play soccer and other sports this fall as recommended by the MIAA. The mental and physical health of our students are closely tied together, and we know that playing organized sports promotes healthy living and improves both mental and physical health. Here are a few reasons why I think they should be allowed to play:

1. They are asked to start the school year remotely and attend classes by sitting in front of a screen at home. Increasing their screen time will be detrimental without organized physical activity such as school sports.
2. Sports are an extracurricular activity and no one is therefore required to play. I am asking that you please give the parents the option of letting their child/athlete participate if they wish.
3. The lessons learned in team and individual competition representing their school cannot be taught, it can only be experienced. These lessons and experiences are carried with them for the rest of their lives.

Cancelling high school sports will come at a significant cost, the social and emotional well being of our student athletes. We need to return to sports this fall. Our children have given up a lot already this year, let's try to give them something they can look forward to.

Thank you,

Stacey Briggs

Julie Quatromini
44 Boeske Ave

When will GM kids get their teacher assignments? Also, when will we get a schedule of our kids days?

We are less than 2 weeks away from start of school with no information.

Thanks,
Julie

Brian Sanders

172 summer street

My question is Do we have a time frame when the kids in Green Meadow will know who there teachers will be? School Starts in 13 days. Second question is about the remote cohorts in Fowler. Why does one have 13 kids and the other has 4. I though Spanish immersion was mixed back in with General population starting in 6th grade especially since there is no French they all are taking Spanish. So I feel that the kids in the bigger cohort are at a disadvantage. I know I will probably get blow back for asking that.

Brian Sanders

Dear school committee,

As a senior and captain of the girl soccer team this coming year the possibility of not having a season breaks my heart. Over the past four year I have made the most amazing memories and friendships that I will never forget. My teammates are some of my closets friends and I'm so thankful for the wonderfull seasons that I have had. Leading up to senior year I was so excited to be a leader for my team and to experience our beloved traditions one last time. Our pregame dance circle, our long bus rides home singing The Climb by Miley Cyrus, doing rain dances to cancel practice when it was cloudy out, having team dinners with mr Jones famous bean dip, the list goes on and on. Obviously COVID 19 will get one the way of these activities but I am hoping it won't get in the way of practices and games. Clearly my love for soccer(specifically this team) is enormous and I can confidently say that my teammates can say the same.

There are many fall athletes who desire to play college sports. With the absence of a season coaches will not have the opportunity to recruit players which could ruin lifelong dreams and scholarship opportunities.

If we are allowed to play we will follow all of the guidelines to ensure that we get our season. The safety of this team, our community and surrounding towns is extremely important to us. Thank you for your consideration.

Carolyn Norris, Girls Soccer captain, class of 21'

11 Tobin Drive, Maynard MA 01754

Re: Fall Sports discussion

Hello I am a parent of a fall soccer player, I am asking the school committee to give their approval to allow fall sports. I believe players, parents and coaches should all be allowed to make the personal decision as to whether they are ok to play or coach this coming season. I am confident and hopeful that the players will take the precautions seriously and will not take for granted this gift of being able to do something normal in such abnormal times for these teenagers. I also believe in the creativity and resourcefulness of the Maynard community should there be needs beyond the school in terms of transportation, expenses, etc that will allow the sports to go on as planned with the modified guidelines and precautions. Thank you for all you do and your consideration!

Jim Hines

Susan Dunton
21 Douglas ave
Maynard ma 01754

Hello,

I am writing this email today to plead for approving varsity fall sports. I know we are in a challenging time.

My son Samuel Dunton will be a Senior. This is supposed to be the best year of his student life. Maynard has chosen to go remote. Everything is being taken away from these kids.

Samuel is on the Varsity Soccer team. There are currently 11 Seniors on this team. They have worked hard since Tiger Cubs to get where they are. These kids are responsible, leaders, honor roll students and athletes. The Maynard Varsity team made it to the semi finals last year. This is the farthest they came with this coach. All the surrounding teams in there league are going forth and competing. Please don't take this away too. These kids have all been in the same bubble all summer long. They will wear masks and follow the rules. Just let them play!

Please vote YES for Fall Sports!

Sincerely,

Susan Dunton
Senior Mom of Samuel Dunton - Varsity Soccer

