



Town of Littleton School Committee

33 Shattuck St. * P.O. Box 1486 * Littleton, MA 01460-4486 *
Phone: (978) 540-2500 * Fax: (978) 486-9581 * Website: www.littletonps.org

MATTHEW HUNT, Vice Chair
BRAD AUSTIN, Member

MIKE FONTANELLA, Chair

TIMALYN RASSIAS, Secretary
JUSTIN MCCARTHY, Member

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 7, 2021

7:00 p.m.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Jan 7, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: School Committee meeting of Jan 7th, 7pm

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://littletonma.zoom.us/j/94692266770?pwd=NDA5cDU2bXpOb01QeEoyQlBxekJWQT09>

Passcode: 559342

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +19292056099,,94692266770# or +13017158592,,94692266770#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 946 9226 6770

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**** * A G E N D A * * ***

Our mission is to foster a community of learners who strive for excellence and prepare each student to be a successful, contributing citizen in a global society.

7:00 I. ORGANIZATION

1. Consent Agenda

-Minutes – December 17, 2020

**-Oath to Bills -
and Payroll**

7:05 II. INTERESTED CITIZENS

7:10 III. RECOGNITION

It is the policy of the Littleton Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual orientation, gender identity age or disability in its educational programs, services, activities or employment practices. Further information may be obtained by contacting Lyn Snow,, District Equity Coordinator at 978-540-2500, lsnow@littletonps.org or 33 Shattuck Street, P.O. Box 1486, Littleton, MA 01460.

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7:15 IV. PRESENTATION

- 1. Financial Report:** *Business Manager, Steve Mark will give an updated Financial Report.*
- 2. State/Local/ Public Health Metrics:** *Chair, Mike Fontanella and Katrina Wilcox Hagberg will give an update to the State/Local/Public Health Metrics.*
- 3. School District Health Metrics:** *Chair Mike Fontanella and Superintendent Kelly Clenchy will give an overview of current Health Metrics in the district.*

7:30 V. INTERESTED CITIZENS

8:00 VI. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Returning to Hybrid Mode:** *Superintendent Kelly Clenchy and the School Committee will have a discussion on returning to Hybrid Mode.*

8:10 VII. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. PMBC**
- 2. Budget Subcommittee**
- 3. Policy Subcommittee: (see LPS website to view all policies)**
<http://www.littletonps.org/school-committee/school-committee-polices>

8:15 VIII. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations with no intention to return to Open Session.

**NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
January 14, 2021**

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Dec. 17, 2020

7:00PM

PRESENT: Mike Fontanella

Matthew Hunt
Timalyn Rassias
Brad Austin
Justin McCarthy

ALSO PRESENT: Kelly Clenchy

Steve Mark
Dorothy Mulone
Bettina Corrow

NOT PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER

Mike Fontanella called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

On a motion by Timalyn Rassias, and seconded by Matthew Hunt, it was voted to return to Open Session. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE.

On a motion by Matthew Hunt, and seconded by Timalyn Rassias, it was voted to approve the Dec. 3, 2020 consent agenda as presented. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

None

RECOGNITION

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1. Superintendent Clenchy is really pleased that we can offer Winter Sports this season. Nice to see the students being able to participate in athletics.
He also thanked DESE for donating cloth masks to our district. They will be distributed next week.

PRESENTATION

1. Littleton High School Assistant Principal, Keith Comeau presented an overview of the AP Exams taken this past May 2020.

AP Courses at LHS

1. AP Psychology
2. AP English Literature & Composition
3. AP United States History
4. AP Calculus AB
5. AP Statistics
6. AP Biology
7. AP Physics C: Mechanics
8. AP Computer Science Principles
9. AP French
10. AP Spanish (Not running this year)
11. AP Art History (Not running this year)

Subjects where students took 2020 AP Exams

1. Computer Science A 12. Biology
2. Studio Art: Drawing 13. Calculus AB
3. Studio Art: 2D Art Design 14. Calculus BC
4. English Language & Composition 15. Statistics
5. English Literature & Composition 16. Computer Science Principles
6. United States History 17. Physics C: Mechanics
7. Spanish Language and Culture 18. Art History
8. Psychology 19. Chemistry
9. French Language and Culture 20. Environmental Science
10. Latin 21. Macroeconomics
11. Physics C: Electricity and Magnet.

The Number of students taking AP exams was 98 students, who took 185 exams in total.

AP Scholars

- AP Scholar - Granted to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.
- AP Scholar with Honor - Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
- AP Scholar with Distinction - Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
- National AP Scholar - Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Special Notes

- Abbreviated test in 2020
- 45 minutes as compared to 3 ½ hours
- Content standards on tests modified to include only content covered before school closure
- Students and staff were notified of changes to test format and content to be covered on April 3, 2020
- Remote learning made test preparation more difficult

- College Board published instructions for test administration protocols
- Guidance condensed to a more student friendly version
- LHS students experienced comparatively few technical problems during test

Summary

- 89/98 (91%) Students scored at least a 3 on one AP Exam
- 47.9% of Graduating class scored a 3 or higher on an exam at least once
- AP Statistics has two sections this year
- AP Psychology has two sections this year
- Current students have expressed interest in taking AP Economics, Chemistry, and Computer Science A in the future

Statewide, students scoring a 3 or better is 71%, where Littleton students are at 85%.

Brad Austin – Really happy to hear that students had a great experience. Thanked the Guidance department for their work on the testing requirements.

How does the AP classes relate to the dual enrollment?

Keith Comeau – We are offering dual enrollment courses in the courses that we do not offer AP classes.

Mike Fontanella – I am happy to see the consistency on the scores and teachers' consistently able to offer the level of instruction. It shows how much effort the teachers are putting into the AP courses. Is AP Courses still the best way to offer this type of courses for our students.

Keith Comeau – The AP program is still the most rigorous program that colleges are looking for. But dual enrollment courses do offer a year-round instruction and not just showing the results of one exam. The AP curriculum is very standardized across the country.

Kelly Clenchy – AP Courses are still part of the program of studies in most high schools and a great way for our students to earn college credits prior to getting into college. With that said, I still would like to see more dual enrollment offerings as we move forward. I want to thank the High School administration for their hard work this past spring on the AP exams and preparations.

Public Health Metrics: Katrina Wilcox Hagberg gave an update on the Public Health Metrics as of Dec. 17, 2020. Littleton is in red with 58 positive cases in the last two-week period. To date, Littleton has had 258 positive cases in total. Littleton falls at 42.5% with the average daily case.

The week after Thanksgiving, the state showed these trends below:

96% increase in number of new cases per day

93% increase of people being admitted to the hospital

Everyone knows what to do to bend the curve of this virus, we all just need to do it. If you choose to gather for the holiday, the safest thing to do is to quarantine prior and get testing before or after.

Mike Fontanella – Thank you for the information.

Matthew Hunt – Thank you Katrina. We did have a rise in the numbers of cases in the schools after the Thanksgiving holiday. Would it be necessary to have a two-week remote learning after the upcoming holiday break?

Brad Austin – Are we seeing much spread in the schools?

Kelly Clenchy – We have not had much in-school spread. Some other districts are seeing this but not in our schools currently.

Public input:

John Krzewich – I am looking at cases around the world, I think we should be a little cautious that all the rising cases are due to the Thanksgiving break. Cases are rising in every country. Can you expand upon the positive rate? Are we flattening the test positive rate at this point?

Katrina Hagberg – I believe too that not all the positive cases are related to Thanksgiving. You cannot compare the test positive rate from the spring to the test positive rate at this time. In the spring we did not have the capability to test like we can now. We do need to layer up to try and stop the spread. Most people are receptive to the Covid virus.

2. School Learning Plan Updates: Principals provided a brief overview of how teaching and learning is going within the hybrid and remote learning models.

Littleton High School Principal, John Harrington. What is working well? Easier to distance from students with the hybrid model. Technology has worked well. Students have been overwhelmingly accommodating.

What does not work well? Excessive screen time. Students less engaged when remote. Some concern about academic integrity. Some concern with the mask break and some students getting too comfortable with one another and not social distancing amongst each other.

Are faculty comfortable in the building? Most faculty is comfortable and feeling safe.

Several staff would like to go fully remote for two weeks after the Christmas break. They would like some time to work with their peers and have some more time for PD work.

Matthew Hunt – Did you mention if there was an uptick in staff members being absent.

John Harrington – we are seeing some staff members staying home out of abundance of caution.

Littleton Middle School Principal, Jason Everhart – Most faculty members like the hybrid model and able to see their students in the classroom. A lot of people are coming together to help each other out. Google has come out with many great features to help the teachers, such as raising hand function. Seeing how long students are logged into the google classroom.

Teachers are really struggling with time. We are not seeing the substitutes as much as we would like. Both principal and assistant principal had to assist in classrooms this past week. We are figuring it out, but it has not been easy.

Students are being distracted when they are at home. Watching Netflix during the school day.

The uptick in numbers of infection is making faculty nervous. We will continue to be dedicated and finish out this week and next strong.

Russell Street School Principal, Cheryl Temple – breakout rooms are working really-well. Students are gaining technology skills. Majority of students are logging in on time in the morning and later in the day. We are having network issues. Time and effort to prepare is extensive. We do have students who have moved from hybrid to fully remote.

We continue to remind the students of social distance, they are 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. We continue to struggle getting subs in the school as well. Certainly, the increase in cases in the community is making the faculty nervous.

Brad Austin – DESE is again pushing to have more “live teaching”.

Kelly Clenchy – The Commissioner of Education asked for an increase in live instruction. We are bound to do it. It is required for Grades 1-12. We are meeting those requirements already. We do entertain some flexibility within our schools for instruction.

Mike Fontanella – This is another example of DESE thinking they can come down hard on districts. As far as I am concerned, I have enough confidence that our administration and teachers are doing the best they can for our students.

Michelle Kane, Principal of Shaker Lane, Some of the positives in our buildings. So many staff members are working together. The students are happy to be in the school. Our fully remote students are really coming together. Remote Wednesdays are going well.

Things not going well. Time to clean. Students, who go from hybrid to remote is hard. Keeping the distance is really tough for the younger students. Teaching a kindergarten to write a letter and not being close is really hard. The technology is a daily struggle in the building. It is a struggle for the younger students to switch from hybrid to remote for three days. They need the in-person instruction.

Getting the playground open would be helpful. Faculty is very concerned with the increase in cases.

Timalyn Rassias – How are the fully remote learning classes going?

Michelle Kane – They fully remote are going great. They have a structure. It is the hybrid classroom where students are in school for two days but then home for three days that struggle.

Justin McCarthy – Should we keep the Wednesdays the way they are, or should we add in Wednesdays as an in-person learning days. Very pleased with everyone's report. We need to be more diligent with the safety protocol. The students on the bus need to get off the bus once they arrive at the school and not be sitting on the bus for longer than necessary.

Cheryl Temple – to speak for Russell Street. Faculty find that Wednesday as very valuable. It is a day where teachers can teach without masks and able to teach the whole class together.

John Harrington – Later, we would like to be looking at that day to transition in the students into the building again.

Jason Everhart – It is the one day a week that a teacher has all students in the classroom, and it looks more like a “normal” school day in the midst of a pandemic.

Brad Austin – if unstructured time is good for the students it is also good for the faculty. I am hearing the faculty is feeling stressed. Is that the same for the nurses? How are IEP and 504 taking place?

Kelly Clenchy – Our nurses are directly in contact with contact tracing. The credit goes to the nurses as they ensure they get in contact with families that could be affected.

Lyn Snow – The nurses are working really hard. Regarding students on IEPs and 504, the teachers are going above and beyond. The stress and the impact are really happening. The tracking and paperwork are a lot for everyone involved.

Cheryl Temple – I know that the nurse at Russell Street is working above and beyond. I know that staff are reaching out to her early mornings, late evenings and on weekends with questions.

Pam Abate – Respond to the question on time online. Sometimes we have our screens off since I am teaching junior and/or seniors. But we are meeting the guidelines in Littleton. I want to say kudos to the special ed department as well.

Matthew Ridge – I appreciate what all the teachers are doing. I am almost wondering if we are missing one part and that is the parents. Not every parent has the skills to teach their child. I am sure it is great for the teachers to have Wednesday to teach the entire class. I think some parents would love to see their child in the school on Wednesday. I do not think it is feasible to continue like this much longer. Are there resources that parents can use?

Mike Fontanella – we appreciate the point that you are making and the points that the principals made. We definitely get all the points. In terms of resources, please reach out to the building principal and your child's teacher.

David Caouette – The concerns about students cheating on their tests when they are at home. Maybe have the Cohort A/B take a test at school and as well as taking a test at home and compare the results.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Surveys: General discussion regarding return after winter break: Superintendent Clenchy and School Committee had a general discussion regarding the return after winter break.

Matthew Hunt – I do not think we need anything longer than two weeks. I rather shut down for two weeks instead of having to shut it down longer. I would feel better if we at least could get one week remotely.

Justin McCarthy – We have 14 cases after Thanksgiving. We would have had those cases no matter what. If we are in school, we might have some cases, but we will have positive cases if we go remote as well. If we can continue with our safety protocol, we should continue in-person.

Timalyn Rassias – I worry about the younger students being at home for 2 weeks, and I am also concerned about older students who need the in-person instruction.

Brad Austin – Can our system sustain this. One nurse gets sick, can we keep going? I hesitate to see a logic with two weeks. I think maybe one week would be ok.

Mike Fontanella – I can see all sides. Going out for even a week has an impact. But we have all been preparing for this. While it is unfortunate that we must do this, we are asking everyone to hang in. If we decide to go fully remote for one week, we can always add in more weeks if needed.

Kelly Clenchy – I would like to say that our families, students, and staff have done a great job. But I am concerned. When we have staff out because they have been in close contact, it is tough. Part of the issue is the close contact. Therefore, teachers can continue to teach from home, but we still need someone in the classroom. People are stressed and this mitigation strategy is to keep everyone safe.

My recommendation is being fully remote for one full week which would mean we would be back in-person by Monday, Jan. 11, 2021.

Brad Austin – We heard from families prior to the Thanksgiving break, who asked us to look at the data. Dr. Clenchy just used the data and using mitigation data for his recommendation.

John Krzewick – I see some points about the cases after Thanksgiving. I am not going to weigh in on the one week fully remote after the Christmas break. I think there needs to be a sub-committee formed to figure out how we can keep the students in the school safe. Dr. Fauci is recommending that students are in school.

Private schools are having their students in school five days a week.

Christal Dionne – Please remember that some private schools are not always giving us the full picture/disclosure due to their financial gain.

Kerry Cusick – I am just here to support the one week of fully remote after the break.

On a motion by Matthew Hunt, and seconded by Brad Austin, it was voted to go fully remote from Jan. 4 through Jan. 8, 2021. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE.

Mike Fontanella – We will make sure to get a message out to the community that we will continue to monitor any positive cases in the community.

2. Reminder regarding snow days and remote days for the 2020/2021 school year: Superintendent Clenchy discussed snow days and remote days for 2020-2021 school year. A letter when out to families prior to our first snow day today, Dec. 17, 2020. Decision will be made the night before instead of the morning of, whether it will be a snow day or a fully remote learning day.

3. Update on LEA Collective Bargaining Agreement: Chair Mike Fontanella gave an update on the LEA Collective Bargaining Agreement. The overview of the agreement was included in the packet.

Timalyn Rassias – Thanking everyone for coming to an agreement.

On a motion by Brad Austin, and seconded by Matthew Hunt, it was voted to accept the MOA as presented. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

John Krzewick – What is the method to return to a five-day in-person learning. What metric does the committee have in mind? Is it not death, is it 1% positive rate?

Mike Fontanella – there is no certain metric, but I would argue that we need the numbers to decrease significantly. I do not see a significant change until that happens. We are going to take another look after the holiday break. It will also require more guidance from the State.

SUB-COMMITTEE

- 1. PMBC** – No update
- 2. Budget** – No update.
- 3. Policy** – No update.
- 4. SEPAC** – Had a meeting last night. Website underway and many other great activities coming along.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Matthew Hunt, and seconded by Justin McCarthy, it was voted to adjourn at 9:49PM. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE

NEXT MEETING DATE

School Committee

Jan. 7, 2021

7:00PM

Zoom Meeting

DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING

AP Exam overview

Public Health Metrics for Covid-19

Confirmed Covid cases

MOA Summary agreement



LITTLETON Massachusetts

01/04/2021 12:50
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Town of Littleton
YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT FY 2021
YEAR TO DATE THROUGH DECEMBER - 2020

P 1
glytdbud

FOR 2021 06

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
310 Regular Education	8,630,064	0	8,630,064	2,701,687.83	39,412.78	5,888,963.39	31.8%
311 Special Education	6,284,615	0	6,284,615	1,399,394.30	326.85	4,884,893.85	22.3%
312 Student & Support Staff	1,310,321	0	1,310,321	435,852.62	16,634.91	857,833.47	34.5%
313 Other Instruction	295,425	0	295,425	89,849.01	1,398.00	204,177.99	30.9%
314 System Administration	1,371,194	0	1,371,194	613,302.87	26,832.09	731,059.04	46.7%
315 School Administration	1,172,640	0	1,172,640	554,108.61	2,058.72	616,472.67	47.4%
316 Transportation and Busing	1,215,260	0	1,215,260	385,785.04	.00	829,474.96	31.7%
317 Facility & Maintenance	1,690,243	0	1,690,243	606,549.54	115,517.29	968,176.17	42.7%
GRAND TOTAL	21,969,762	0	21,969,762	6,786,529.82	202,180.64	14,981,051.54	31.8%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Steven Mark **