

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



JUSTIN MCCARTHY, Vice Chair
BRAD AUSTIN, Member

MATTHEW HUNT, Chair

TIMALYN RASSIAS, Secretary
JEN GOLD, Member

School Committee Meeting Littleton Police Station Community Room 500 Great Road In-person and Hybrid January 27, 2022 7:00 PM

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Jan 27, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: School Committee meeting of Jan 27, 2022, 7pm

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://littletonma.zoom.us/j/82485711818?pwd=a21Fb3YwNWg0Z25VSVM2ZVZlU2Nkdz09>

Webinar ID: 824 8571 1818

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AGENDA

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. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consent Agenda
 - Minutes – January 13, 2022
 - Oath to Bills and Payroll

7:05 II. INTERESTED CITIZENS

7:10 III. RECOGNITION

1. Student Representative(s) Report: Student Representative(s), will give a report of events for each school.
2. Recognitions by School- Principals will give a brief update on some of the key events that are happening in their schools.

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. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Public Health Metrics:** *Katrina WilcoxHagberg will give an update on the COVID-19 Public Health Metrics.*
- 2. District COVID-19 Update- changes in COVID-19 individual testing:** *Superintendent Clenchy and Ms. Lyn, Snow, Director of Student Services will give an update on the upcoming changes to our COVID-19 testing program.*
- 3. Status of the LMS Attestation form:** *Superintendent Clenchy will discuss the status of the LMS attestation form that was submitted on December 17, 2021.*
- 4. Continued discussion on Conditions for Mask Flexibility at LHS:** *Superintendent Clenchy and the School Committee will continue discussions regarding conditions that will guide the implementation of mask flexibility at LHS- date to be determined. (Potential motion)*

8:30 V. PRESENTATIONS

- 1. School-Based Wellness Update:** *School Principals Dr. John Harrington, Mr. Jason Everhart, Mrs. Cheryl Temple, and Mrs. Michelle Kane will provide a brief overview of student and staff wellness supports.*
- 2. Upcoming presentation for our February 10, 2022 Meeting:** *Financial Update and Un-coding in Grade 1 Presentation.*

8:45 VI. INTERESTED CITIZENS

8:55 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-policies>

9:00 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
February 10, 2022
7:00 PM**

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES January 13, 2022 7:00PM

PRESENT: Matthew Hunt
Brad Austin
Justin McCarthy (7:02PM)
Timalyn Rassias
Jen Gold

ALSO PRESENT: Kelly Clenchy
Steve Mark
Dorothy Mulone

NOT PRESENT: Bettina Corrow

CALL TO ORDER

Matthew Hunt called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

On a motion by Brad Austin and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to approve the December 16th, 2021, consent agenda as presented with edits to line 82, 95, 96, 105 and 194. (AYE: Unanimous).
Motion carried.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

None

RECOGNITION

- 1. Student Representative(s) Update:** Student representative, Stella Austin gave an update on upcoming school activities and events taking place at all four schools. Brad Austin asked Stella what the vibe is at school? Any impact? Stella being at the HS does not see any impact.
- 2. HS Civics Class:** Chairman Hunt welcomed the members of the HS civics class that was observing a portion of our SC meeting.
- 3. Vaccination Clinic:** It took place on January 10, 2022. Superintendent Clenchy gave a brief update on the vaccination clinic.
- 4. School Start-up after Holiday Break:** Superintendent Clenchy gave a brief update on the first two weeks of school after the Holiday break. The school department was able to pick up the testing kits and masks for

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staff on New Year's Day and they were distributed on Jan. 2nd, 2022. We had 7 positive cases amongst staff.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **State/Local/Public Health Metrics:** Katrina Wilcox Hagberg provided a presentation on the State/Local/Public Health Metrics. The data presented was through January 12, 2022. Test positivity rate is now at 18.5% in Littleton. Littleton's rate is 214.5 per 100K. 85.5% of all Littleton residents are fully vaccinated at this point. Littleton Public Schools reported 85 cases this past week 1/8-1/14, 2022. Mrs. Hagberg reminded the community that they are now able to download the Mass Notify app on a smartphone, which will provide an alert should you be in close contact/exposed to a positive person(s) in your surroundings.
2. **District COVID-19 Update:** Ms. Lyn Snow, Director of Pupil Personnel Services gave an update on our school and district metrics. The changes to the protocols were included and highlighted in the packet. Ms. Snow also gave an update on the Safety Check Program participation. As of today's date:
Shaker Lane – 405 participants
Russell Street – 381 participants
LMS – 323 participants
LHS – 336 participants
District overall = 1,445 participants.

Public Input:

Kevin Davis – With a small number of increases you can get a larger number for contact tracing. By participating in the notification alert, you can be proactive instead of reactive. You can potentially notify your school nurse of any exposure before the school nurse would get notified.

3. **Postponement of LHS Mask Flexibility Trial:** Superintendent Clenchy led a discussion around postponing the LHS mask flexibility trial due to the number of positive COVID-19 cases in our schools, district, community, and the State.
4. **Summary of discussion at the January 12, 2022 BOH Meeting:** Chairman Hunt and Superintendent Clenchy led a discussion regarding data points that should be considered in a future mask flexibility trial and any other discussions that focused on COVID-19 specific to our schools and district.

Jen Gold asked if it would be necessary to resubmit the waiver to the State which has already been submitted in 2021.

Kelly Clenchy does not believe that any modification will be needed for the waiver at this point.

Justin McCarthy suggested that the school board discuss the possibility of having them present another motion to the BOH at the Feb 9th meeting to see if they will agree to start the Mask Flexibility trial at some point after that meeting if metrics are acceptable at that time. He asked Dr. Clenchy if there would be any conditions he would like to omit.

Kelly Clenchy – At this point I feel the conditions stated should remain.

Jen Gold – Just to clarify, we are not asking for the mask flexibility to start now.

Brad Austin – I agree we can take a motion, but I feel we should wait until the January 27th meeting and see where the numbers are by that date. Be a little cautious at this point.

Justin McCarthy – I feel it is worth discussion as the wording has changed from DESE as well.

Matt Hunt – I feel we can wait until our next school committee meeting on Jan. 27th for the vote.

5. Circuit Breaker Update: Business Manager Steve Mark gave a brief update on Circuit breaker funding for our district.

The Special Education Circuit Breaker account was put into effect in 2004 so that the Commonwealth of MA can help defray the expense to local school districts for providing mandated special education support and services to children with severe disabilities... (before 2004, there were different programs ie. the 50/50 program) Circuit Breaker reimburses local school districts for high costs support programs and services that exceed a certain dollar amount.

Justin stated that this money is spent on out of district and in district for special education if it goes over the threshold.

How does Circuit Breaker Work?

Circuit Breaker reimburses local school districts for a portion of eligible costs that exceed a certain threshold. That threshold for FY 2022 = \$44,202. The Reimbursement rate is written in the law at 75%, historically, that rate has fluctuated based on funding available... “funding is subject to appropriation” For FY 2022 - that rate is 75%. Recently, as defined by the Student Opportunities Act, the Cost of SPED Transportation is now calculated into that Circuit Breaker Reimbursement Formula. We are receiving reimbursement for transportation costs for the first time in FY 2022.

Littleton Circuit Breaker

Total received in FY 2021 (for fy20 expenses) \$922,022

These funds are used in FY 2022

Littleton receives funding during the year, and ‘saves’ those funds for the following operating year. By Law, districts are required to expend these funds within one year. Year to date (FY 22) we have used \$632,952 (approx. 68%) of the \$922,022 available for FY 2022

PRESENTATION

1. MCAS Spring 2021 Results: Director of Teaching and Learning Elizabeth Steele along with the principals of the High School, Middle School and Russell Street Elementary School presented the MCAS Spring 2021 results.

Tonight’s presentation included:

- New/Different for MCAS 2021
- Russell Street School
- 2021 MCAS Results and Next Steps
- Littleton Middle School
- 2021 MCAS Results and Next Steps
- Littleton High School
- 2021 MCAS Results and Next Steps

What was new/different for 2021?

- Purpose: Diagnostic to support students
- Postponed assessments to later in spring 2021
- Assessments were shortened in grades 3 through 8
- Next Generation MCAS for all grades 3-10 except biology (legacy)
- Computer-based testing for all except biology
 - Remote testing for grades 3-8
- ELA - 170 remote: 550 in-person
- Math - 172 remote: 550 in-person

- Science - 39 remote: 170 in-person
- No accountability reports
- Comparison is from 2019

RSS Impressions

- Our participation rates were excellent (359 students)
- We were encouraged by our results
- Our students were very strong in ELA. 348 met, partially met or exceeded expectations
- In math, 318 met, partially met or exceeded expectations

RSS Next Steps

MCAS scores are one data point for our students. This data point from the spring was compared with the fall MAP and Acadience scores for each student.

Teachers have determined specific skills that need to be addressed

Third grade students take MCAS for the first time. Teachers incorporate MCAS practice type questions in their lessons throughout the year.

This is also true for students with disabilities and our EL learners.

Additional data points are taken in winter and spring and considered for specific skill development.

LMS Impressions

- Excellent participation rates in grades 6 and 7.
- Outpaced state averages in almost every category.
- Staffing shortages make exploratory analysis difficult.
- Technology program, staff dedication allowed us to make the best of a seemingly impossible situation.

LMS Next Steps

- We will focus on supporting individual students as we prepare for the next test.
- We rely on MAP testing to adjust practices and goals throughout the year: MCAS results provide cumulative trends.
- We will work with our newer teachers to provide additional support in content delivery and test preparation as the year continues.
- We expect that changes to our support delivery systems will produce additional benefits.

LHS Impressions

- 84% Meeting or Exceeding expectations in ELA
- 81% Meeting or Exceeding expectations in Math
 - SGP also above State average in Math
- 91% Advanced or Proficient in Science
- Achieved similar results as pre-pandemic
 - Exceeded in some areas

LHS Next Steps

- Instructional Adjustments as needed
 - ELA - use more pointed instruction around multiple and complex texts, particularly in non-fiction, that would prepare students to handle intricate writing tasks.
- Continued Early Intervention in 9th and 10th grades
 - MAP testing in ELA
 - ALEKS in Mathematics

- Continued preparation for Next Generation and computer-based testing in English and Math and also in Science Technology and Engineering
- Follow up with students in Class of 2023 who need Educational Proficiency Plans (EPPs) for Math & ELA

Justin McCarthy – These results are impressive, especially from our 10th graders.

John Harrington – This a collaborative effort from all the schools. All the work done prior at Russell Street, and in the Middle School before the students even get to the High School. The final results are shown at the high school level.

Brad Austin – Do we have any data on any subgroups that might not have done so well?

Lyn Snow & John Harrington – We do have data on all groups of students, and we analyze all the data from all groups, who is taken the MCAS test(s).

2. Upcoming presentation for our January 27, 2022 Meeting: School-based wellness update.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PMBC: None

2. Budget Subcommittee: Public budget meeting scheduled in February.

3. Reading of Policy: Meeting scheduled for next Wednesday.

4. SEPAC: Upcoming workshops soon.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Justin McCarthy and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to adjourn at 9:39PM. Roll Call

Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

NEXT MEETING DATE

January 27, 2022

7:00PM

ZOOM

DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING

Covid Health update

CHANGES TO DESE/DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios

Circuit Breaker

MCAS 2021 Spring Results

The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a classroom. Several young students are seated at their desks, all wearing white face masks. They appear to be focused on their work. The classroom environment is visible with shelves and educational materials in the background.

COVID-19 Testing Program Update

January 27th, 2022

Littleton Public Schools

Review of Statewide Testing Program Data in Schools

With over 2,000 schools in the state participating in some form of DESE's current testing program this school year (i.e., symptomatic testing, routine pooled testing, and Test and Stay), there is robust data on the prevalence of COVID-19 in schools.

- Those data are overwhelmingly strong and support that schools are safe environments for teaching and learning.
- Students and staff throughout the state individually identified as asymptomatic close contacts and repeatedly tested in school through the Test and Stay program test negative over 90% of the time. As of January 9, 2022, 503,312 Test and Stay tests had been conducted; 496,440 of them were negative (98.6%).
- Test positivity rates in Test and Stay indicate that individuals identified as close contacts in school are very unlikely to contract or spread COVID-19.



Updated K-12 Testing Program

On January 18, 2022, DESE, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Public Health **announced an update** to the COVID-19 Testing Program for districts and schools.

- Specifically, districts and schools participating in symptomatic and/or pooled testing may choose to continue those testing strategies and discontinue contact tracing and Test and Stay.
- As an additional resource, districts and schools that elect to make this change will be provided with rapid antigen at-home tests for all participating staff and students that may be used on a weekly basis.
- Tests will be provided to any individual who opts in.

Updated K-12 Testing Program

Districts and schools may elect to switch to the updated testing program beginning January 21, 2022.

Districts and schools that respond affirmatively by January 21 will be prioritized to start the updated program.

- The at-home antigen tests will be provided on a staggered basis with delivery of tests for staff and students occurring on alternate weeks.
- Districts that respond by January 21 will begin receiving tests for staff during the week of January 24 and tests for students during the week of January 31.
- At-home tests for staff members and students will be provided in alternating weeks.

Implementation Details

	Updated K-12 Testing Options (effective 1/31) Discontinue contact tracing and Test and Stay <strongly recommended>	Original K-12 Testing Options Maintain contact tracing and Test and Stay
Symptomatic testing and/or Routine pooled testing	Yes	Yes
Test and Stay	No	Yes
Individualized contact tracing for in-school exposures	Not required	Yes
Weekly at-home antigen testing (students and staff)	Yes, with initial shipment for participating staff during the week of January 24; initial shipment of at-home tests for participating students during the week of January 31	No

Updated K-12 Testing Program

At-home Rapid Antigen Testing:

- *At-Home Rapid Testing* (to be distributed to participating staff and students, regardless of vaccination status): Shallow nasal swab samples are collected at home on a weekly basis using the iHealth rapid at-home test distributed by DESE.



Updated K-12 Testing Program

Diagnostic Testing:

- *Symptomatic Testing:* (for when individuals present symptoms while at school; individuals should not go to school if experiencing symptoms while at home): Shallow nasal swab samples are collected at school using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test or another approved diagnostic test.



Updated K-12 Testing Program

Routine COVID Pooled Testing:

- *Routine COVID Pooled Testing and Lab-Based Follow-Up Testing:* Shallow nasal or saliva samples are collected and kept separate before being grouped at the lab. If a group tests positive, individual Follow-Up testing occurs at the lab, without a second sample collection. Individual test results are reported to the school.



Update to Quarantine Guidelines

Districts and schools that select the new testing program will discontinue individualized contact tracing.

- There is no longer the expectation that close contacts will be identified, and therefore, any potential contacts do not need to quarantine.
- Instead, schools should shift their focus to monitoring symptomatic individuals.
- DESE and DPH will soon update the “Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios” guidance to reflect these changes.



Contact Tracing

- **Contact tracing will be discontinued except under rare circumstances at the discretion of building administration in collaboration with the school nurse.**
 - severely immunocompromised student/staff (currently receiving related treatments)
 - impact to school safety



Updated K-12 Testing Program

It is recommended that districts and schools should maximize the use of the at-home tests by determining which day of the week they recommend participating staff and students take the tests.

- For example, a school that conducts weekly routine pooled testing on Mondays would likely recommend students and staff to undertake at-home tests on Thursdays.
- When an individual tests positive on an at-home antigen test, they will be asked to inform their school of the positive result and will be able to do so by filling out a google form (or contacting the school nurse if unable to access the google form).
- At this time, the school will not be required to report the results of at-home tests to DPH, but districts and schools will continue to include positive at-home tests in their weekly testing reports to DESE.



Summary of Next Steps

Districts and schools may elect to switch to the updated testing program between January 21 and April 1, 2022

Recommended timeline (for districts and schools that wish to begin the new program on its 1/31 start date):

- By January 21, interested districts and schools submit brief survey to DESE.
 - Between January 18-21, districts and schools determine how many staff will participate in the at-home antigen test option. The district or school will send this information to DESE in the survey.
- During the week of January 24, districts that respond affirmatively to the survey will begin to receive tests for participating staff.
- By January 28, districts will collect opt-in forms from interested families.
 - By January 28, districts will report to DESE the number of participating students by ordering the requisite number of tests through the CIC ordering portal.
- During the week of January 31, districts will begin to receive tests for participating students. Once the district or school distributes these tests, it will discontinue contact tracing and Test and Stay.
- After January 31, districts will order additional at-home tests on an as needed basis using the CIC ordering portal.



References

- <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2022-0118new-testing-program.pdf>
- <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/>
- <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/original.html>
- <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/#updated>



Conditions for Trial Mask Exemption- Recommended Changes for Consideration



- Mask exemption will be for a three-week trial period
- Proof of vaccination required
- Parental consent required for students under the age of 18
- 100% Active pooled testing participation for those that choose mask flexibility. *Participation in district supplied at home rapid antigen tests on a weekly basis.* Vaccinated students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days will be exempt from the pooled testing requirement, and allowed to participate in the mask flexibility trial, provided they have met the required DESE protocols for re-entry into school.
- All students and staff choosing mask flexibility shall take part in the pooled testing program prior to the start of the three-week trial period to establish a baseline case count
- Should the weekly case count (minimum case count of three positive cases) double for two consecutive weeks, masks will be required. If the case count for any given week reaches 11 or more positive cases, mask wearing will be required until the weekly case rate is less than or equal to 10 cases.
- The Littleton Board of Health may at any time rescind the exemption should it determine there is a substantial public health risk
- All other mitigation measures remain in operation