



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

August 20, 2020

7pm

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://littletonma.zoom.us/j/99498938944?pwd=eGJCOGRDRUQyR1pHSzFsdFBjczZVUT09>

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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.

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

7:00 I. ORGANIZATION

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Consent Agenda**
 - Minutes – August 13, 2020**
 - Oath to Bills -**
 - and Payroll**

7:05 II. INTERESTED CITIZENS

7:10 III. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Remote Learning Registration:** *Director of Curriculum Elizabeth Steele will discuss the August 17th Letter sent to All families pertaining to the Remote Learning Registration.*
- 2. Board of Health:** *Chair, Mike Fontanella will discuss the proposed planning of joint meetings with the School Committee, Board of Health and the Community.*
- 3. Special Education School Based Parent Forums:** *Superintendent Kelly Clenchy and PPS Director, Lyn Snow will discuss the proposed planning of individual School based Parent Forums.*

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7:30 IV. PRESENTATION

- 1. Public Health Metrics:** *Chair, Mike Fontanella will give an update to the Public Health Metrics.*
- 2. Student experiences within the hybrid model:** *Superintendent Kelly Clenchy, Director of Curriculum, Elizabeth Steele and Principals will present an example of student experiences within the hybrid model.*

8:10 V. INTERESTED CITIZENS

8:30 VI. 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>

8:40 VII. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

**NEXT MEETING DATE
AUGUST 27, 2020
7:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING**

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES August 13, 2020 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Mike Fontanella
Matthew Hunt
Brad Austin
Timalyn Rassias
Justin McCarthy

ALSO PRESENT: Kelly Clenchy
Steve Mark
Bettina Corrow
Dorothy Mulone

NOT PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER

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

Mike Fontanella answered a question being raised, “Why does School Committee have meetings via Zoom when you are asking children to go back to school in person?” LCTV has held other meetings in person and is trying to incorporate zoom participants and it has not worked as well as they would like. Therefore, until the school year starts, school committee meetings will be held via zoom.

Mike Fontanella also wanted to let the community know that today, Thursday Aug. 13, 2020 it was reported by NBC that Littleton has chosen a “Hybrid plan”. Nothing has been decided at this point and no one has communicated to the media at this point.

He also addressed the most recent public message released by the Littleton Educators Association earlier today Thursday Aug. 13, 2020. In releasing it, the Executive Board let the public know that they had asked the School Committee if they could deliver that message at this meeting. They were told that SC were not in support of that but would instead like to meet with them in Executive session for an hour prior to this meeting. They declined the invitation. After their announcement, the SC board received an email from a community member objecting to the decision and asking why they did not

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agree to let LEA present at the School Committee meeting. As the chair, Mr. Fontanella explained that the

relationship between the union and the school committee is governed by a contract, negotiated between both parties. Any discussion regarding changes in working conditions, proposed by either side, is done in Executive session. This is done to allow a frank and candid exchange of views and proposals that might otherwise be constrained by doing so in public. In our discussions with the LEA about tonight, they mentioned that they felt it was important for all shareholders to be able to communicate their viewpoint and the SC let them know that they agree both with that point and that the LEA are valid and valued stakeholders in this process, which will be ongoing well past whatever initial decision the school committee reaches at tonight's meeting. Given that the LEA can always request to meet with the Administration and/or School Committee and that they will be entering negotiations on impact bargaining, we feel there has been and will continue to be ample opportunities for the LEA to convey their viewpoint. In terms of reaching out directly to the public, the School Committee feels that the LEA has demonstrated an admirable ability to effectively communicate with the public through other means than a school committee meeting. The SC are confident that in no way have they constrained the LEA from openly and effectively making their position known nor have the SC constrained then public's notification of their position. In fact, this is the third time they have made their position known in a matter of weeks. The School Committee has also received quite a bit of feedback from teachers, who live in Littleton, some members of the LEA and some members of other associations in other Districts. The feedback has come via email but also during the public input sections during our meetings which we always welcome and support. In fact, I believe that there might be one or more Littleton residents who are LEA members or who support the LEA by presenting their latest message. If that is the case, the School Committee would like to invite them at this point to do so.

Rosaria Cochis – She read the LEA letter out loud to the community. The letter is not included in the packet.

Mike Fontanella thanked Mrs. Cochis for her participation.

On a motion by Matthew Hunt, and seconded by Justin McCarthy, it was voted to approve the Aug. 6, 2020 consent agenda as presented. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

Shayna Garlisi – Checking back on the heat situation at Shaker Lane School. Will heat on 2nd floor be addressed? Mike Fontanella – Two AC units at Shaker Lane. Since part of our learning plan will be some sort of remote, we are hoping this should not be a larger issue.

Mike Colson – How will the voices of the teachers be heard? If LEA, School Committee and administration can not come to an agreement. How long does mediation usually take? Mike Fontanella – It is a rare occurrence and it is not an ideal situation. It can take up to 2 weeks but could go longer depending on the process. But it is not something we are counting on will happen.

Mike Colson – How is Teacher's voice being heard? All I hear is words like disappointing and regretful. It sounds their voices are being downplayed – How you value your teachers in Littleton is disappointing. I feel you owe the teachers an apology.

Mike Fontanella – He felt it was premature on how LEA proceeded with their first communication to the community. The School Committee was disappointed with their first communicating to community without consulting with school committee.

Eileen Wedegartner – If students go back to school. How rapidly will we be testing students if one becomes affected? Mike Fontanella – unfortunately, the state is not providing any testing kits to any school districts. Will parents be assured that students will be taught by Littleton educators. Mike Fontanella – any models will be taught by Littleton Educators.

Kerry Cusick – If families choose fully remote even if the plan going forward is hybrid. Is there a possibility to tweak these plans? All task forces are working hard.
Mike Fontanella – fluid situation. All models are fairly new. Regular update from schools on how instruction is going.

Gihanah Seb-Di Dio – Could you restate why you did not let the LEA speak at this meeting. LEA has done a wonderful job communicating to the community of their plans. Need to collaborate with both parties. Mike Fontanella read his earlier statement to the community. Mr. Fontanella explained that the relationship between the union and the school committee is governed by a contract, negotiated between both parties. Any discussion regarding changes in working conditions, proposed by either side, is done in Executive session.

Danielle Fryer – What will happen to students with IEP's. Will students with IEP's be given priorities? Kelly Clenchy – our intent is to provide services in person. But if we go fully remote, it would be difficult to provide those services. Lyn Snow – the district intent is to provide services in person if allowed.

Anne – Privacy concern. Live stream into classroom. Mike Fontanella – Legal will be involved with this. This could impact bargaining with LEA.

Anne - Having parents tracking temperature from home on students. Maybe on a google sheet. Hopes we value our educators, so they can keep 6-feet social distance with students. Mike Fontanella – We will adjust accordingly as we move forward. If we are not able to social distance as set forth by state guidelines, that would mean that the community could not support in-person learning to take place and we would adjust accordingly.

Katie Woodward – If we start hybrid and then have to go to remote, would we be mirroring how they are doing in the schools in California. Mike Fontanella – we are still looking at how the models will be run.

Andrea Michaud – LEA and executive session going forward. Is it only executive members allowed at that meeting? Mike Fontanella – Typically by agreement and it is a small negotiation team on either side. Somewhere about 6-8 members on either side. There has been talk about expanding that number.

Andrea Michaud – 6-foot barrier. Students with special needs, how will their needs be met? They might need to be closer. How will special educators be kept safe?

Lyn Snow – safety gear has been ordered and guidance from DESE has been provided, case by case basis, Physical therapies. Support teachers' needs as much as to support the students. Safety gear has been purchased for this.

Jo-Ann Dery – Thanked the Superintendent, Principals, and task force for all their hard work. The hybrid plan is not safe with all the moving parts. Any form of in-person learning can cause the virus to spread. Let us start all remote and see how other districts are doing with their hybrid plans and the transition into the hybrid model once we have more data. Only one plan is the safe plan to open with and that is the all remote learning.

Heather Gearty – Teachers not being at the table. On one hand we value the teachers' work in the classroom. How can teachers teach in the classroom and stream the class at the same time. And how can the privacy be upheld?

Can parents opt in and or out of one model to another? Is a plan going through a full semester?

Mike Fontanella – Have not decided if a plan is for a full semester.

Kelly Clenchy – trying to replicate as much of teaching instruction in a classroom. Our goal is to meet as many needs for all students as possible.

Middle and High School students will be split between in-person and remote. We will do our very best to deliver the best education to our students and families.

Brad Austin – Will Elementary students who choose to do all remote potentially have a remote teacher.

John Harrington – High School faculty have discussed how we can handle this for students and their privacy.

Elizabeth Steele – During the spring we created a document that went over the guidance for privacy.

Heather Gearty – Baker has changed the guidelines with gathering. It seems like new data indicates that the virus can spread further than first indicated inside. Where are the mask breaks taking place?

Mike Fontanella – Continue to evaluate the data coming out. We have received no data that it would be unsafe to be inside our school buildings.

Ann Doyle – Busing. How will that happen? How do you determine who goes hybrid and who goes remote? Students on IEP's are having a hard time with remote learning. Mike Fontanella – We have guidance about busing. We might need to add more routes. But we need more information on the actual numbers of students coming to school. Students on IEP's will be looked at on a one-on-one basis.

Jen Stach – The plan tonight is to vote on the plan to start the school year? Mike Fontanella – yes that is the plan for tonight's meeting.

Patrick Kelley – Support the remote learning plan option. What kind of training are you giving the teachers for remote learning? Kelly Clenchy – we have offered in-house training to our educators.

Elizabeth Steele – we are in the middle of technology training this summer and this past spring, educators were seeking out opportunities to learn more about how to teach in a remote and blended environment.

Julie Milner – As we go through tonight, would you please consider having one person ask only one question at a time.

Karmen – Having a senior in high school. He needs to be in school to learn or he might fail his senior year. What would happen if doctors and nurses refused to treat patients other than remotely? She considered teachers as essential workers. Has empathy for the teachers but students need in-person learning.

Saurabh – Please move on to the presentations.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Town Administrator Search Committee: Chair, Mike Fontanella asked for a School Committee member to join the Town Administrator Search Committee.

On a motion by Matthew Hunt, and seconded by Timalyn Rassias, it was voted to approve Justin McCarthy for Town Administrator Search Committee. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE.

PRESENTATION:

1. Parent Survey: Superintendent Kelly Clenchy and Director of Curriculum Elizabeth Steele discussed the results of the Parent Survey

The purpose of this survey was to gather information from families about educational plans for their child/children for the upcoming school year. It was open from Friday, August 7 through Wednesday, August 12. It consists of 10 questions in total with 1,274 Responses.

If you are concerned, please check the areas that are of concern to you. (962 responses)

869 respondents - lack of adherence to safety requirements by others

761 respondents - physical health

743 respondents - physical distancing

700 respondents - mask-wearing

585 respondents - cleaning and sanitization protocols

581 respondents - social and emotional health

If you would like to add comments or considerations, please do so below:

● Wants:

○ Learning to still be fun

○ For special education and related services to be in-person

○ Open school for emotional and social health of students

○ Families with multiple children attending same days for hybrid (across school and buildings)

202 ○ Start remote then shift to a hybrid
 203 ○ Single modality/Focused plan to start ○ In-person for labs, physical education, arts, AP classes ○ Interactive
 204 conversation and activities with teachers and peers
 205 ● Concerns:
 206 ○ Mask-wearing for prolonged periods of time
 207 ■ Masks in the hybrid model
 208 ○ Overall health and safety of staff and students
 209 ○ Contact tracing
 210 ○ Being on a computer screen for too many hours a day
 211 ○ Structure and accountability of remote
 212 ○ Working parents - in or outside of the home
 213 ○ Shifting between models
 214 Availability and plan for Tigers' Den
 215 ● Uncertainty of the virus in children
 216 ● Mixing hybrid and remote for different grade levels
 217 ● Proper, focused professional development to aid educators in teaching in either hybrid or remote
 218 ● Long term impacts on our students
 219 ● If remote - hold outdoor in-person orientations, small group/class meetings
 220 ● Remote does not mean only online learning
 221 ● Helping students learn how to learn remotely
 222 ● Support parents/guardians if remote (technology and access to curriculum)
 223 ● Student anxiety - returning to the building and staying home full time
 224 ● Standard/Policy on mask wearing
 225 ● Weighing the cost and benefit of hybrid versus remote
 226
 227 Justin McCarthy – Extremely helpful. The numbers and data did not surprise him. I read all the comments.
 228
 229 Matthew Hunt – Looking at the numbers. 46% want a remote learning plan to start. Concerned about busing for
 230 Shaker Lane students.
 231 Must consider everyone when making a decision.
 232
 233 Timalyn Rassias – Waiting until later.
 234
 235 Brad Austin – Impressed with the data being presented by Elizabeth Steele and Julie Lord.
 236
 237 Mike Fontanella – Give administration a week to look at the busing situation. Both Regular Ed and Special Ed. How
 238 the response broke down from hybrid to remote learning.
 239 Brad Austin – 70% said they would participate if we go with hybrid.
 240
 241 Chase Gerbig – It seems as though you have an opportunity to service, especially, Shaker Lane and Russell Street
 242 students with both plans seeing as how families have responded.
 243
 244 Brad Austin – survey answers are not a commitment. Maybe one or two teachers could be servicing as fully remote
 245 teachers.
 246
 247 Erin – Inquiring about having classrooms outside? How often could it be outside? Michelle Kane – with a regular
 248 school year we usually have outside classroom time. Cheryl Temple – RSS has an outside classroom and it will be on
 249 a rotation schedule. Jason Everhart – at LMS it will be a little more limited, but we are having this discussion going
 250 already. John Harrington – actively encourage outdoor classroom time. Modified the schedule for longer instruction
 251 time and allow for moment.
 252 Steve Mark – have purchased 3 canopies thus far.
 253 Brad Austin – These are great recommendations but please remember that students with IEP's can have a hard time in
 254 new situations.
 255
 256 Matthew Ridge – It sounds like you are putting the horse before the cart. If you do not get all parties on board, this
 257 will fail. We are looking at a situation where we can end up in a 2-weeks to 3-months waiting period.

258 Mike Fontanella – If we are not able to come to some sort of agreement, we are looking at some type of in-person
259 learning for students who really need it. We are fully expected to start school on September 16, 2020.
260
261 Jamie Flint – Some families are worried if their child is missing out if they choose remote and other students
262 participate in hybrid.
263
264 Navi Miglani – Could hybrid learning change from week to week instead of group A/B and group C/D. Would you
265 consider one plan for one school and another for another school? Kelly Clenchy – we feel that every student should
266 be in school at least once or twice a week. Mike Fontanella – We will discuss this evening if we could have different
267 models at different schools.
268
269 Jon Kazanjian - Representative for Park & Rec. We have rented O’Neil for space for the school year, so children have
270 a place to gather and be together and socialize.
271 Summer Camp went well with masks on. It is wrapping up tomorrow and it worked well for all students with no
272 issues with COVID.
273
274 Katie Woodward – My child is out of district. When will we get a schedule from Littleton? Mike Fontanella – we are
275 hoping to get the voting in tonight and hopefully a schedule shortly.
276
277 Phil Juels – What number of infections will cause a shut down? How many teachers do we have as math teachers in
278 6th grade middle school? Mike Fontanella – Please wait for the presentation later this evening about metrics for being
279 open and not being open. If a teacher would have to leave because of illness or other issues we have substitutes.
280
281 Ann Doyle -With the learning and differences. Will there be more testing of students to see if they are up to grade
282 level? Kelly Clenchy – In district we are using the adaptive testing, MAP in grade 2 to 8. Could use it at grade 9 as
283 well. Mike Fontanella – This is a question for the entire commonwealth. Required guidance from the state on the
284 impact this is having on all students.
285
286 Christy Ellman – How many students are there in our districts? Mike Fontanella – Roughly 1,700 students in district.
287
288 **2. Staff Survey:** Superintendent Kelly Clenchy and Director of Curriculum Elizabeth Steele discussed
289 the results of the Staff Survey
290
291 Purpose: To seek input from staff on the reopening options. Open from Friday, August 7 through Wednesday,
292 August 12 with 8 questions and 167 Responses
293
294 If you are concerned, please check the areas that are of most concern to you.
295 125 respondents - physical health
296 121 respondents - lack of adherence to safety requirements by others
297 108 respondents - physical distancing
298 106 respondents - mask wearing 82 respondents - social and emotional health
299 78 respondents - cleaning and sanitization protocols
300
301 If we need to return to a full remote learning model, what is needed to make remote learning more successful?
302 ● Apps and technology that will assist instruction
303 ○ More resources and training
304 ● Document cameras
305 ● Requiring work and attendance
306 ● Schedule with structure
307 ● Grading/Assessing as done prior to March 13
308 ● Access to materials and classroom
309 ● Student access to materials/curriculum
310 ● A way to record
311 ● Teletherapy training
312 ● Clear expectations for teachers and students
313 ● Consistency among teachers with regard to grading, attendance, workload

314 • Collaboration time
 315 Streamlined and consistent communication
 316 • Parent meetings to enhance partnership
 317 • Access to books
 318 • Small group meetings
 319 • PD on technology apps and devices
 320 • Daily synchronous learning opportunities for students
 321 • Flexibility
 322 • Virtual advisory/flex to help students create schedule or work organization
 323 • Support in reaching out to at risk students
 324 • Review how we can meet the need of special education students
 325 • Teaching assistants to help reinforce concepts taught by teacher
 326 • Family outreach
 327 • Create tutorial videos for students and families
 328 • Common platform to make it easier for students to track coursework
 329
 330 Matthew Hunt – As an educator I can see a lot of concern that is being vented by Littleton teachers.
 331 For the staff I think the teachers should be in their classroom full time regardless of which plan we
 332 choose.
 333
 334 Timalyn Rassias – Even if you go remote, I think teachers should be in their classroom to teach.
 335
 336 Brad Austin – 66% teachers would prefer remote learning. Some of the teachers would prefer remote
 337 learning but would be comfortable doing hybrid if that is what school committee votes for.
 338
 339 Justin McCarthy – From the letter from the LEA it sounded like that if we choose any other plan than
 340 remote, we might not have any staff at all. But after seeing the survey results it shows that a lot of
 341 teachers would be comfortable getting back in the classroom.
 342
 343 Brad Austin – These statistics give us a good indication but we can’t compare “able to able” with this
 344 data.
 345
 346 Mike Fontanella – 2/3 of faculty participated in this survey
 347 167 responses – possible LEA membership could be up to 119 responses
 348 81 classroom educators
 349 24 special educators
 350 4 nurses and others that are LEA members as well
 351
 352 Care Bock – Great to have this data. Is there a point where we look at families and teachers that are
 353 willing to be back in school? It looks at though there are a lot of families that are willing to send their
 354 child/children back into the school buildings. Are we able to go school by school? Is that possible?
 355 Mike Fontanella – The goal tonight is to make an initial decision on how we start the school year but
 356 knowing full well that it could change later.
 357
 358 Lee Abe – Have you considered a hybrid for a hybrid model? Mike Fontanella – yes, we have
 359 considered to assign teachers to either hybrid vs. direct in-person learning.
 360
 361 Kerri LaVoie – Did teachers have to add their name to this survey? Elizabeth Steele – it was linked to
 362 their school email address.
 363 Kerri LaVoie – How many teachers are tenured vs non-tenured? Kelly Clenchy – 15-20%.
 364 Kerri LaVoie - I really do not think that the majority of teachers feel safe returning to work. But I
 365 don’t think that forcing the teachers back in the classroom if they do not feel safe.
 366
 367 Jo-Ann Dery – Everyone would really appreciate to be in their classroom even if we go with the remote
 368 learning.
 369

Mike G – Why do teachers need to be in the classroom if they are teaching remotely. If a teacher is fully teaching remotely, why should they be in the classroom.

Matthew Hunt – trying to teach from home is extremely difficult. Access to copy machines and administrators. Our big concern is special education students who need access to their services.

Susan Harvey – Teachers are essential workers. But we do not have any testing going on. How are we sanitizing? Is the custodian sanitizing or the teacher in between classes? Steve Mark – we will sanitize the entire school building every Wednesday. During the school days, the building will be wiped down several times.

Sherri Turner – 62% of staff who took the survey could be LEA members. Other districts who are doing all remote learning are offering the teachers to teach from home. I am hoping we can offer this to our teachers for health reasons or other reasons.

Meera Gill – How many teachers are requesting FMLA at this point? If a teacher says they would teach from home but not in their classroom, would you then use a sub instead? Mike Fontanella – We cannot publish that specific information. We have not discussed if a substitute would be preferred in the classroom over a teacher teaching remotely but I find that highly unlikely.

Eileen Wedegartner – Teachers saying they feel unsafe because they possibly know the students. How can we promise the PPE they need? How can we promise teachers we are following protocols? Without testing I feel we are dead in the water in two weeks. What about equity? Mike Fontanella – In regard to PPE we have

models we can follow so we'll have enough on hand. We can promise we will have protocol in place, what we can't promise is whether every student will follow the rules. Regarding equity we'll do the best we can for all students involved.

Kelly Ricard – Has worked in a hospital setting since the beginning of COVID. She does no longer get tested in her hospital/work settings. We answer a questionnaire daily. With teachers saying they are so scared; I am not sure where testing would be so helpful. If students and teachers wear a mask and have the right amount of social distance you can keep the virus at bay. Wash your hand and children are not spreading it as much – What happens if you can not come to an agreement.

Mike Fontanella – I cannot answer that question at this point. We have not sought out legal counseling at this point.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Chair Mike Fontanella went through the public health metrics for Covid-19. The goal is to review and consider which public health metrics should inform decision-making for how Littleton Public Schools will operate both at the beginning of the school year and as the year unfolds.

Potential Metrics

Number of Cases Per Capita

Percent Change in New Cases Per Capita

Rate of Positive Tests

Percent Change in Positive Tests

Hospitalizations Per Capita

Deaths Per Capita

Harvard University characterized regions with between 1 and 10 new cases per day per 100,000 people as "yellow zones" suitable for in-person classes at all grade levels as long as infection control and social distancing measures are in place.

DESE Guidance for Number of Cases Per Capita Per 14 Day Rolling Average

Fewer than 5 total cases over the past 14 days. Generally, this is for communities with small populations and very few cases. Average daily cases per 100,000 is less than 4. *Full-time in-person OR Hybrid (if extenuating circumstances)*.

Positivity Threshold: Accepted threshold of percent of positive tests Both the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization set a 5% positivity threshold as a safe standard for reopening schools. New York City is setting a threshold of 3%. Harvard's Global Health Institute recommended opening schools only when the daily infection rate is less than 3%.

Geography

- Littleton
- Non-resident Staff and Students
- Littleton Community Members travelling and encountering people outside of Littleton
- Wide variations in state-wide population in terms of urban, suburban, rural and other factors that can influence virus spread

Are these the metrics we think can best inform our decision making?

- Are the thresholds the ones we want to use to evaluate if our schools are safe enough to be open to students and staff?
- Timing and delivery of updated data
- Frequency of re-assessment on how our schools should be operating

Brad Austin – Thank you for the presentation. How helpful is this data when it often is a week old?

Mike Fontanella – This is the data we have available. If we have more frequent testing we might be able to get more updated data.

Matthew Hunt – If we are starting school today, I would have no trouble sending my children off to school based on the current data. But I am not sure what Sept. 16 will look like.

Justin McCarthy – You can get daily information from Middlesex hospitals. As a school committee we will need to look at the data on a weekly basis. I think that's frequent data that should be valid.

Timalyn Rassias – I think the data presented tonight; I would send my children back to school today, but I do not know what September will bring. I have a hard time making a decision at this point.

Mike Fontanella – The level of metric from health agencies we could support a hybrid model. I think we should be able to support a hybrid plan so students and teachers can form relationships and we will monitor the health metrics. Based on the presentation I am leaning to support a hybrid plan.

Kelly Clenchy – Thank you for the presentation. We definitely have staff members who want remote and some who want hybrid. The health metrics look good at this time. It is important that we provide services for our students on IEPs. Our administrative team took a vote and out of 12 administrators, 9 administrators voted to start with a hybrid plan.

Matthew Hunt – I do not have confidence that a hybrid model will be as effective as a remote learning plan would be.

Michelle Kane – We surveyed our incoming Kindergarten families. 64% of families would prefer to participate in the hybrid model.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

Kevin Baker – Why has Littleton Board of Health not been consulted on this? Will you as a school committee accept the liability if someone dies from Covid? Mike Fontanella – We have been in contact

with that board. Their roles are to support us if we have an issue in the buildings. Once we decide on which plan, we are going with, we will work with Board of Health.

On a motion by Matthew Hunt, and seconded by Brad Austin it was asked to delay the vote of opening plans until we can have a discussion with Board of Health. After discussion the MOTION was Withdrawn by Matthew Hunt.

Justin McCarthy – Need to vote tonight so families can start making plans for school start. Waiting longer with a vote will not serve our community or school administrators any good.

Brad Austin – I support Justin’s comments but I think we can vote tonight with consistency from approval from Board of Health.

Timalyn Rassias – We should have a meeting with the Board of Health. But I think we owe to the community and administration for them to start making plans.

Mike Fontanella – Board of Health is not charged on how to open or not open the schools.

Kevin Davis – Contract tracing. Mike Fontanella – It will be directed by the Board of Health through them to DESE.

Kevin Davis – School Committee will have to provide the information to the Board of Health. A High School teacher mentioned that she might see 75 students a day. Mike Fontanella – we estimate to have about 200 students in the high school daily.

Katrina Wilcox Hagberg – Appreciate that you are looking at Littleton rates and areas surrounding us. Only way to look at it on a weekly basis. Please use your soft data / metric when looking at student attendance and any possible outbreak.

Kristen Kehrer – Two concerns with data – call out anonymity or confidentiality on your surveys. That is a big issue. You may want to assume that there is bias in your results due to the lack of confidentiality in the staff survey. As you predict data out you have to create a ban and the further you fan out, the larger the ban needs to become.

Rebecca Lewis – No matter what option is chosen; it would be nice to see a concrete plan for remote learning. I think the community would like to see the school plans. Mike Fontanella – At the next meeting he asked the principals and administration to present their plans.

Kelly Clenchy – Would like to emphasize that these are remote models with some potential for in-person learning.

Timalyn Rassias – Do we have teachers in the middle school that we know who can not come into school to teach? Mike Fontanella – I would ask that we do not answer this question as we are such a small district. We do not want to give away teacher’s anonymity

Justin McCarthy – We are working with data as of today. I feel as a school committee member that I could place my vote tonight.

Brad Austin – I think we need to vote tonight. But I am concerned about the cohort in the upper grades.

Matthew Hunt – I can support a hybrid plan for K-5 but not for secondary grades.

Mike Fontanella – Remote learning across the board, we can go hybrid across the board. Or a combination of hybrid for K thru 6 and remote only from grade 7 thru grade 12.

I personally will be disappointed if we do not have to attend a motion to vote on a hybrid model across the board. I think the combination of a hybrid and remote model is worth a try for all grades.

Timalyn Rassias – I think some of the teachers will find it unfair if some of teachers only teach remotely and others are in person. I think it is important that students are back with their peers and having social interactions.

Brad Austin – Would like to hear from the principals.

John Harrington – We have talked about a lot of metrics. We want to have the students back in school. But we must be mindful of safety. Managing the screen time and how this will all be managed. No teacher at the high school will see more than in-person 30-35 students a day. We do have about 85% of families who would like to have some sort of plan in place where students are back in the school in-person.

Jason Everhart – Safety guidelines and survey results speaks for themselves. This is not going to be what a regular school day used to look like. No lunch in the cafeteria, no recess. Everything must run right for the hybrid plan to work.

Cheryl Temple – We have a few loose ends in the hybrid plan that need to be finalized. Please remember the school will not look as it did in February. Students and teachers will be in masks for most of the day. The remote plan will not look as it did in the spring.

Michelle Kane – Camp T went successful this summer. I am worried about the staff.

Elizabeth Steele – Curriculum – A new way to teach. Professional development will be provided those ten days before school starts. If we must switch between plans it should be an easy pivot. We are hoping for a transition to in-person learning later.

Lyn Snow – We are prioritizing in-person services and instructions for special education students to ensure a smooth transition back into the classroom.

Kelly Clenchy – We want to do what is best for our students. We are committed no matter what decision is being made.

On a motion by Justin McCarthy, and seconded by Timalyn Rassias, it was voted to approve a hybrid plan to start the school year. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, NO; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; Brad Austin, NO; Justin McCarthy, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

Sol Marini – Some other guidance has been delivered and some to pay attention to in the future.

Julie Milner – I think the hybrid model is good. I also understand that some families will choose to keep their child home. I would really like to see everyone spend their time on seeing plans on how your remote plans are going to work and get teachers ready.

Lexie Yang – I work for a Global company. I feel there is so much at risk. I would prefer to go remote and see how things are going. How will this work if you choose to go hybrid and everyone is going remote, would you stay with your teacher. At Shaker Lane and at Russell Street your child may have a different teacher for all remote learning.

Jillian Anderson – What will happen if you do not have enough staff for a hybrid plan? Would parents have a chance to change from hybrid to remote if they want? Mike Fontanella – I do not think this will happen, but

we would have to go to a remote learning. I do not think we can refuse any family to change from one plan to another.

Jamie Flint – I think it is interesting that we are going with a plan that has not been finalized. Parents need to know what this plan looks like. Start getting the students used to the wearing a mask.

Brad Austin – This past spring was a cluster, but I am confident that this fall semester will look much better. Educators will step up. It will not be like this past spring.

James Hopkins – On a national level, everyone who has tried to jump forward, it has not been proven to be a great approach.

Kerry Cusick – Timeline for families to choose remote or hybrid. Mike Fontanella – Will give the administration some time to work this out.

Matthew Ridge – Testing results is usually a 7-days turn around. If we are worried about money, I am not sure we are ready? Mike Fontanella – The state is still working – if we are funded at the same level as last year, we should be fine. We are concerned that we may not be funded at that level, but the impact may have not happened until the next fiscal school year.

Eileen Wedegartner – Really saddened that we choose a hybrid model because I think students and staff will be better off if we start off completely remote and then change to hybrid later.

Kerri LaVoie – Really concerned about how the teachers will feel. Why can teachers not have the same children as they had last year. I was disappointed with the teaching last spring.

Brad Austin – The goal is to teach the curriculum that the grade level requires for all students.

Jon Kazanjian – We were testing students and parents and got results back within 1-3 days.

Kristen Lelievre – If a teacher is out because of quarantines, who will teach? Mike Fontanella – We plan on using subs if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Matthew Hunt, and seconded by Brad Austin it was voted to adjourn at 12:44 PM. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE.

NEXT MEETING DATE

August 20, 2020

7:00PM

Zoom Meeting

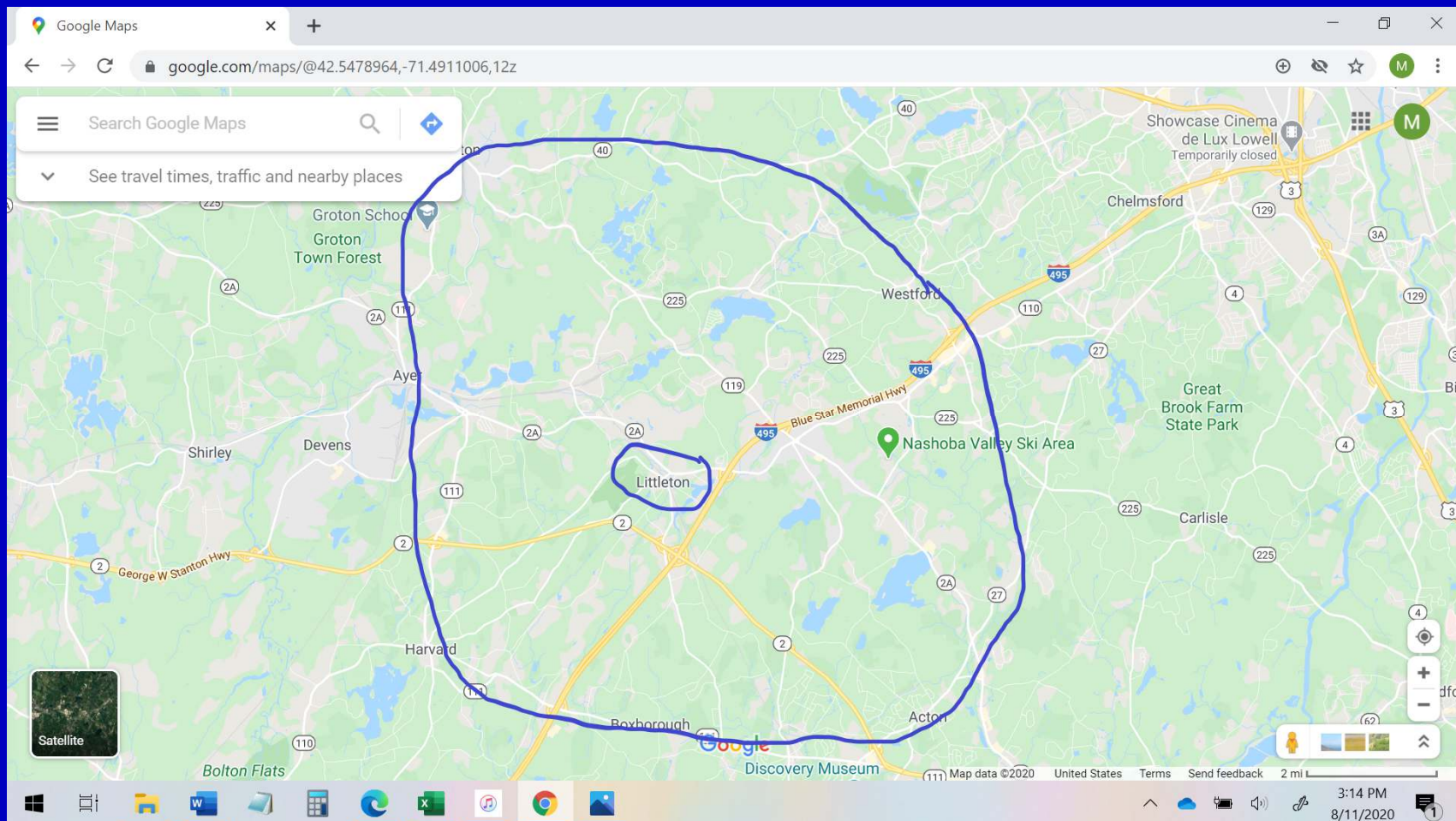
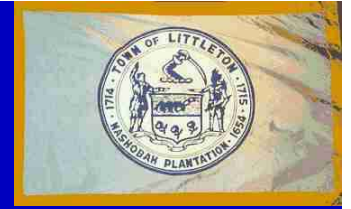
DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING

Family and Staff Survey Results

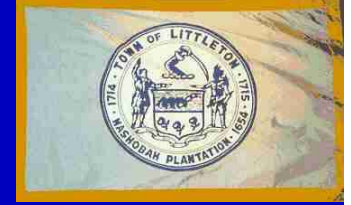
Staff Survey – Each School results

Public Health Metrics for Covid-19

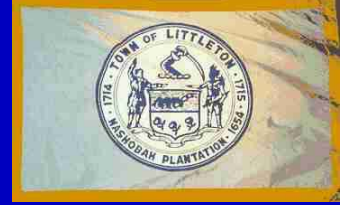
Littleton and Contiguous Communities



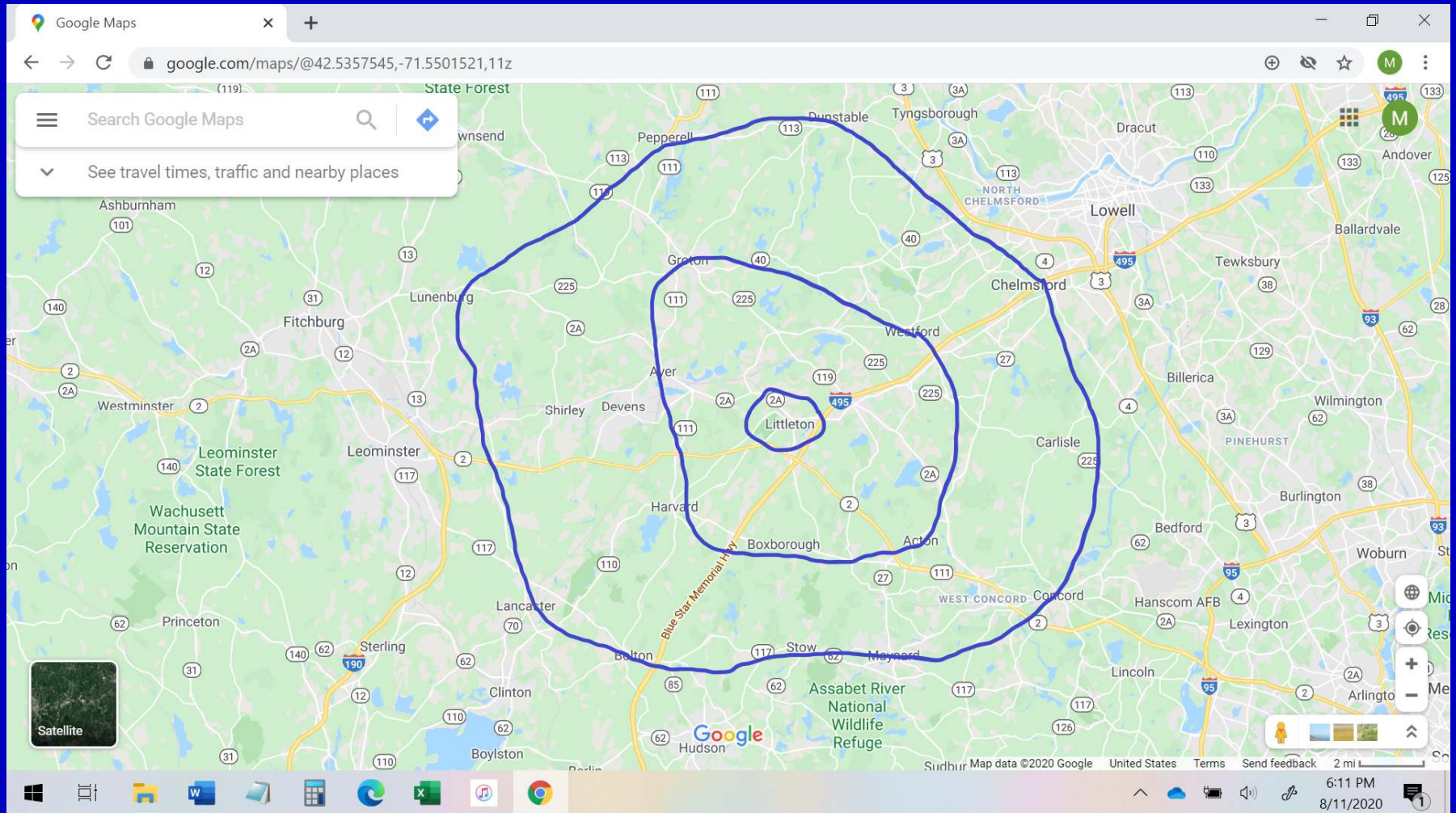
Littleton and Contiguous Communities

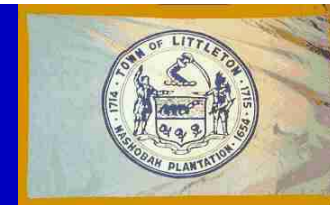


City/Town	Population	5 Cases per 100,000 Residents (Weighted Per Capita)	Average Positive Tests per Day (Last 14 Days)	Pct Under/Over	Total Tested (Last 14 days)	Total Positive Tests (Last 14 days)	Percent Positivity (Last 14 Days)
Littleton	10,227	0.51	0.14	-72.06%	454	2	0.44%
Acton	23,662	1.18	0.43	-63.78%	1,088	6	0.55%
Ayer	8,196	0.41	0.14	-65.14%	394	2	0.51%
Boxborough	5,793	0.29	0.00	-100.00%	234	0	0.00%
Groton	11,325	0.57	0.00	-100.00%	486	0	0.00%
Harvard	6,620	0.33	0.00	-100.00%	259	0	0.00%
Westford	24,817	1.24	0.64	-48.19%	1,029	9	0.87%
Contiguous Communities Total	90,640	4.53	1.36	-70.05%	3,944	19	0.48%



Littleton and Contiguous Communities +

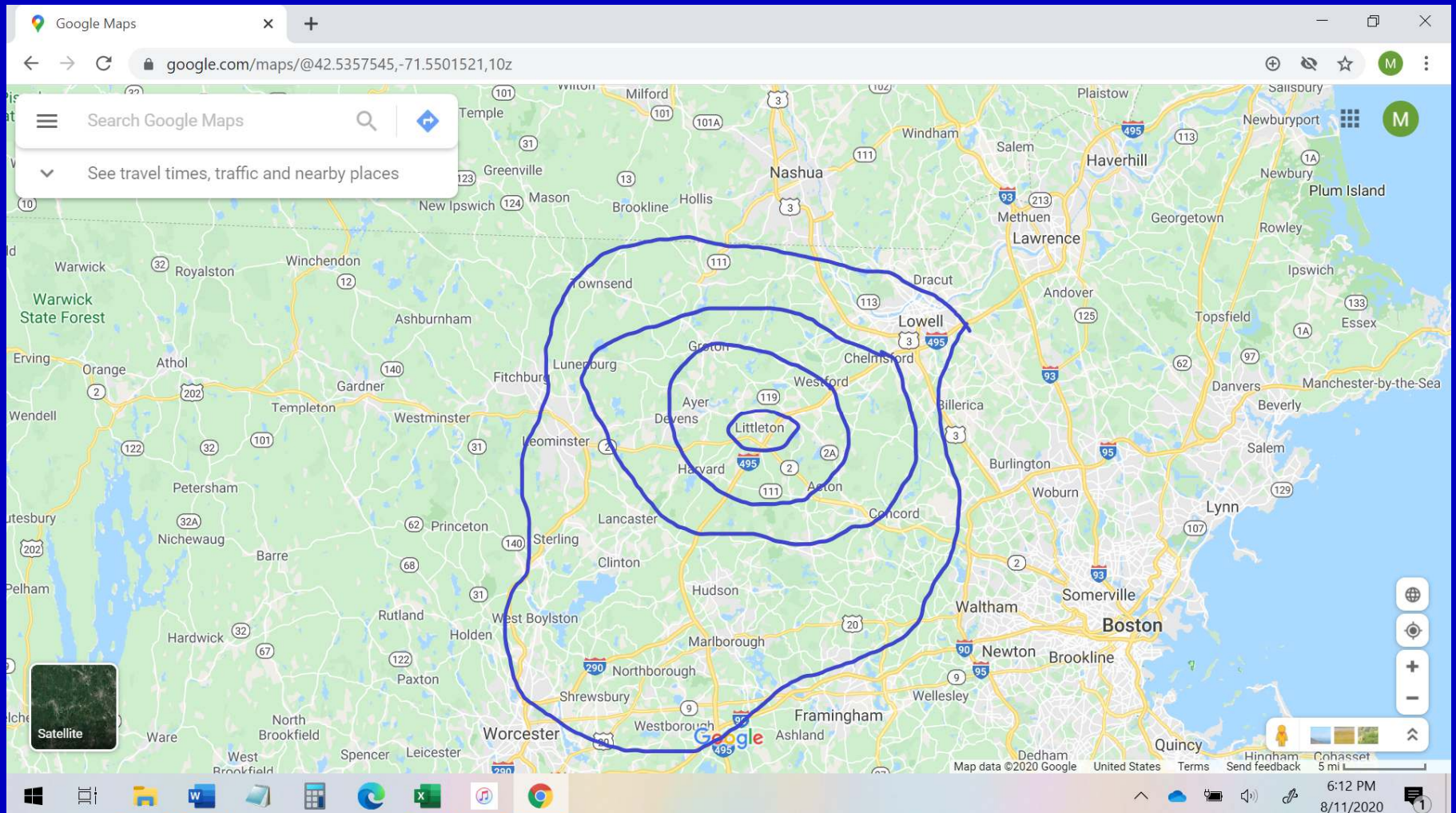
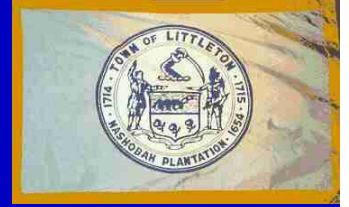




Littleton and Contiguous Communities +

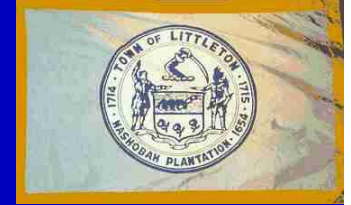
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Bolton	5,426	0.27	0.00	-100.00%	252	0	0.00%
Carlisle	5,252	0.26	0.07	-72.80%	224	1	0.45%
Chelmsford	35,391	1.77	0.79	-55.60%	1,449	11	0.76%
Concord	18,918	0.95	0.64	-32.04%	1,187	9	0.76%
Dunstable	3,403	0.17	0.00	-100.00%	110	0	0.00%
Lancaster	8,082	0.40	0.14	-64.65%	344	2	0.58%
Lunenburg	11,736	0.59	0.21	-63.48%	402	3	0.75%
Maynard	11,336	0.57	0.14	-74.80%	458	2	0.44%
Pepperrell	12,114	0.61	0.21	-64.62%	409	3	0.73%
Shirley	7,636	0.38	0.07	-81.29%	228	1	0.44%
Stow	7,234	0.36	0.00	-100.00%	345	0	0.00%
Contiguous Communities+ Total	217,168	10.86	2.29	-78.95%	9,352	32	0.34%

Littleton and 495 Belt Communities



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Contiguous Communities+ Total	217,168	10.86	2.29	-78.95%	9,352	32	0.34%
Ashby	3,219	0.16	0.07	-55.62%	97	1	1.03%
Bedford	14,123	0.71	0.50	-29.19%	973	7	0.72%
Berlin	3,240	0.16	0.07	-55.91%	159	1	0.63%
Boylston	4,712	0.24	0.07	-69.68%	206	1	0.49%
Clinton	14,000	0.70	0.43	-38.78%	574	6	1.05%
Hudson	19,864	0.99	0.86	-13.70%	861	12	1.39%
Leominster	41,716	2.09	1.07	-48.63%	1,588	15	0.94%
Lincoln	7,052	0.35	0.43	21.55%	308	6	1.95%
Lowell	110,997	5.55	4.57	-17.63%	4,785	64	1.34%
Marlborough	39,597	1.98	3.21	62.35%	2,035	45	2.21%
Northborough	15,109	0.76	0.14	-81.09%	648	2	0.31%
Shrewsbury	38,526	1.93	0.86	-55.50%	1,663	12	0.72%
Southborough	10,208	0.51	0.00	-100.00%	434	0	0.00%
Sterling	8,174	0.41	0.21	-47.57%	473	3	0.63%
Sudbury	19,655	0.98	0.36	-63.66%	911	5	0.55%
Townsend	9,506	0.48	0.21	-54.92%	320	3	0.94%
Tyngsboro	12,527	0.63	0.14	-77.19%	415	2	0.48%
Wayland	13,835	0.69	0.21	-69.02%	667	3	0.45%
West Boylston	8,077	0.40	0.36	-11.57%	323	5	1.55%
Westborough	19,144	0.96	0.86	-10.45%	738	12	1.63%
Weston	12,124	0.61	0.29	-52.87%	640	4	0.63%
Route 495 Belt Totals	642,573	32.13	17.21	-46.42%	28,170	241	0.86%
Middlesex County	1,634,150	81.71	56.00	-31.46%	74,520	784	1.05%
Commonwealth of MA Totals	6,894,522	344.73	334.14	-3.07%	311,595	4,678	1.50%

Littleton and 495 Belt Communities



Number of Cases Per Day: 5 per 100,000
Positivity Threshold: 3%

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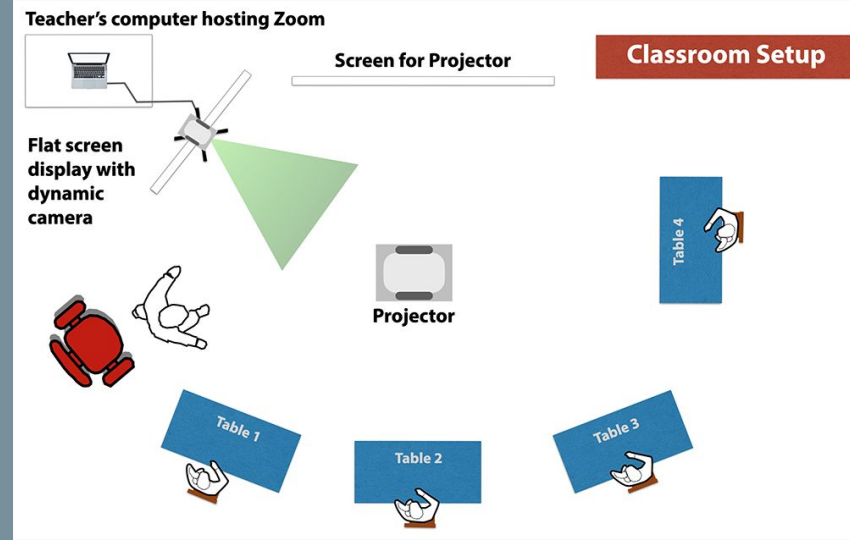
Hybrid Teaching and Learning

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The Student Experience

“Shifting to Online Learning—in the Classroom” *ASCD* - August 13, 2020

- Author - Mike Flynn
- Dynamic Hybrid Learning
 - Model that blends online and in-person students for live, interactive learning
 - Full integration of online students to make them feel like part of the class with their teacher and peers
 - Allows students to follow the flow of the lesson
- Teacher creates one lesson plan because able to work with online and in-person students at the same time
- Technology
 - A way to connect the online students to see and hear

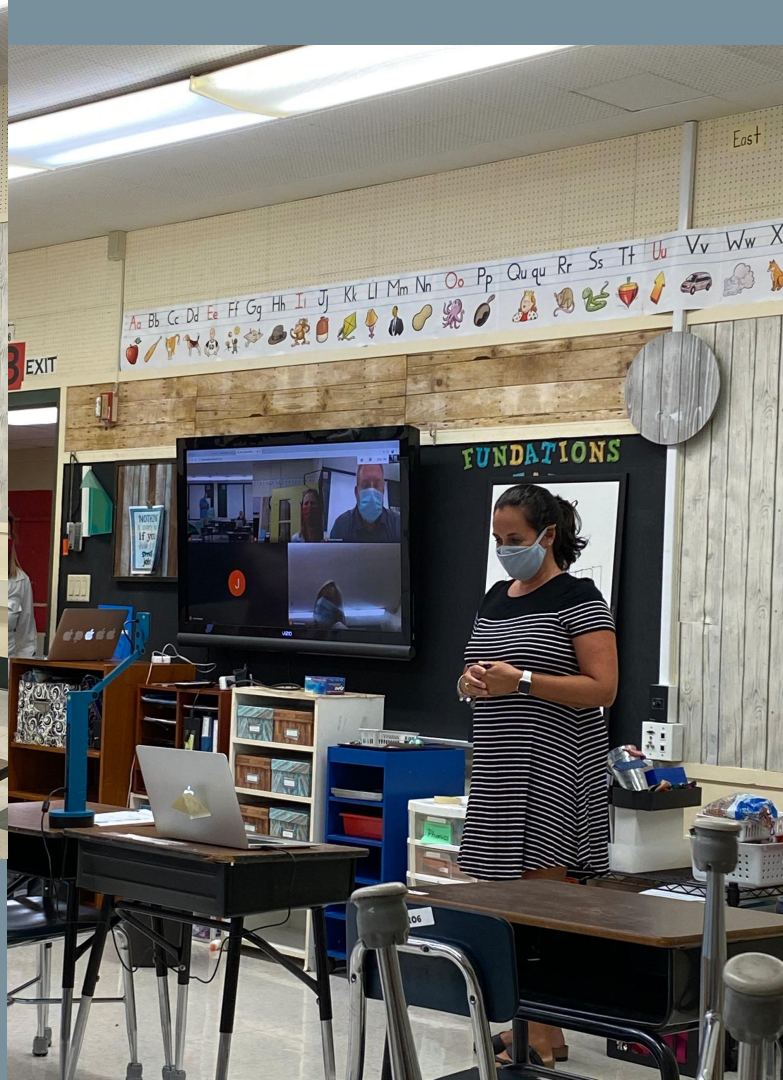


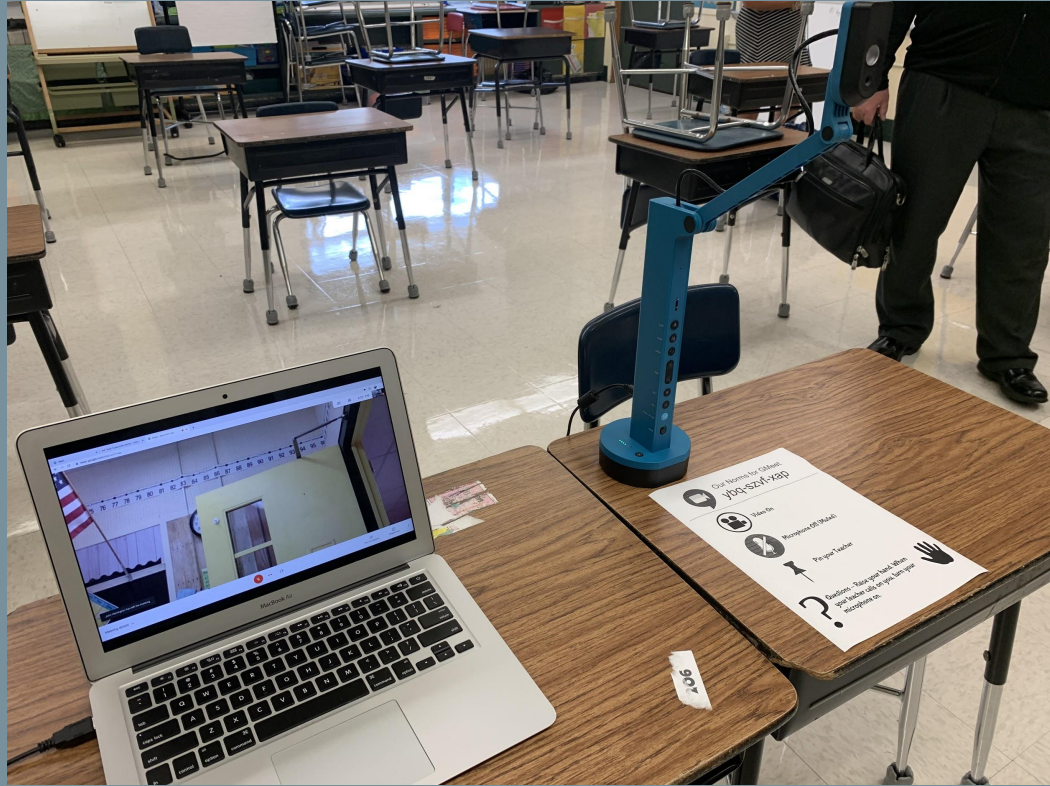
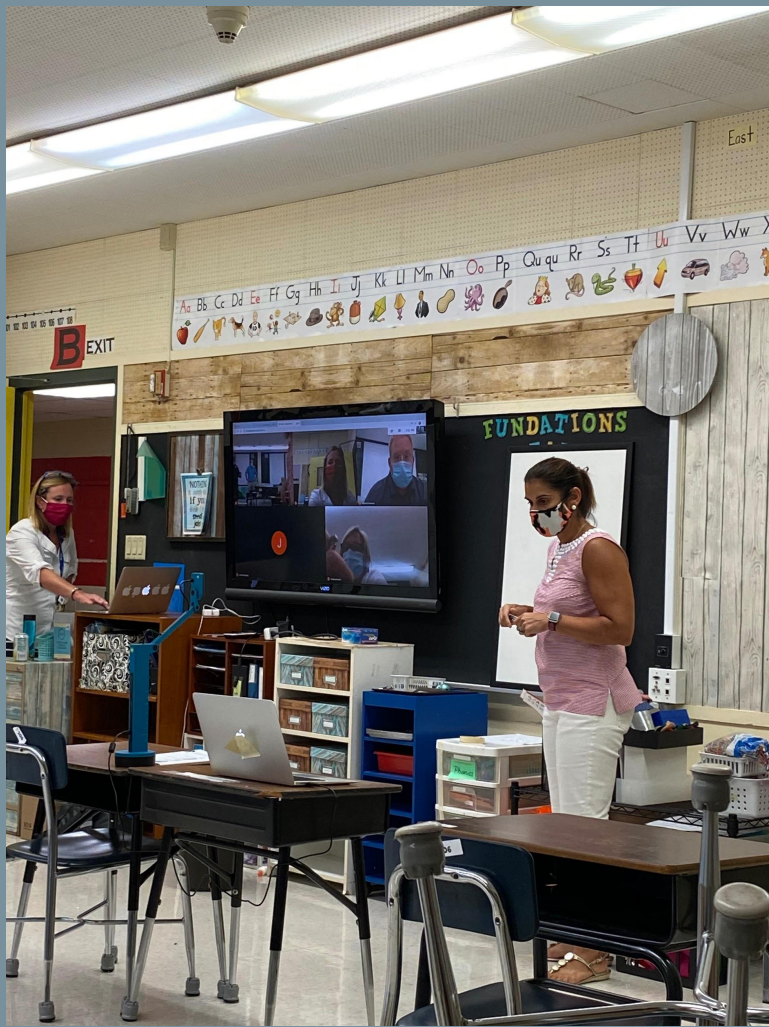
The Student Experience





Shaker Lane School







Russell Street School





Littleton Middle School

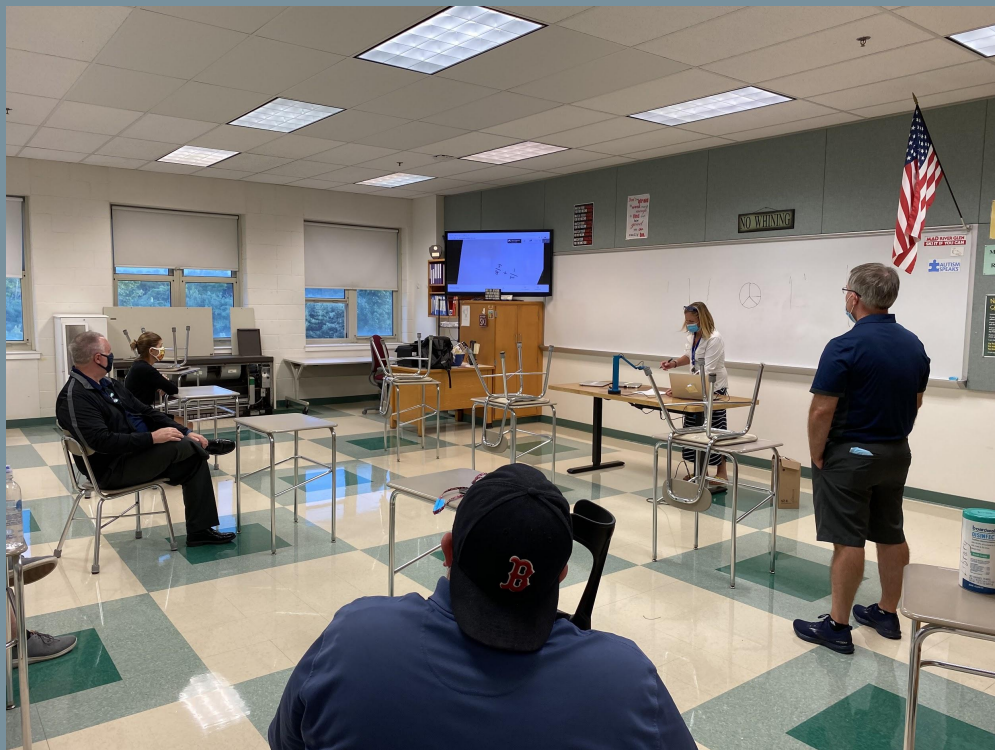


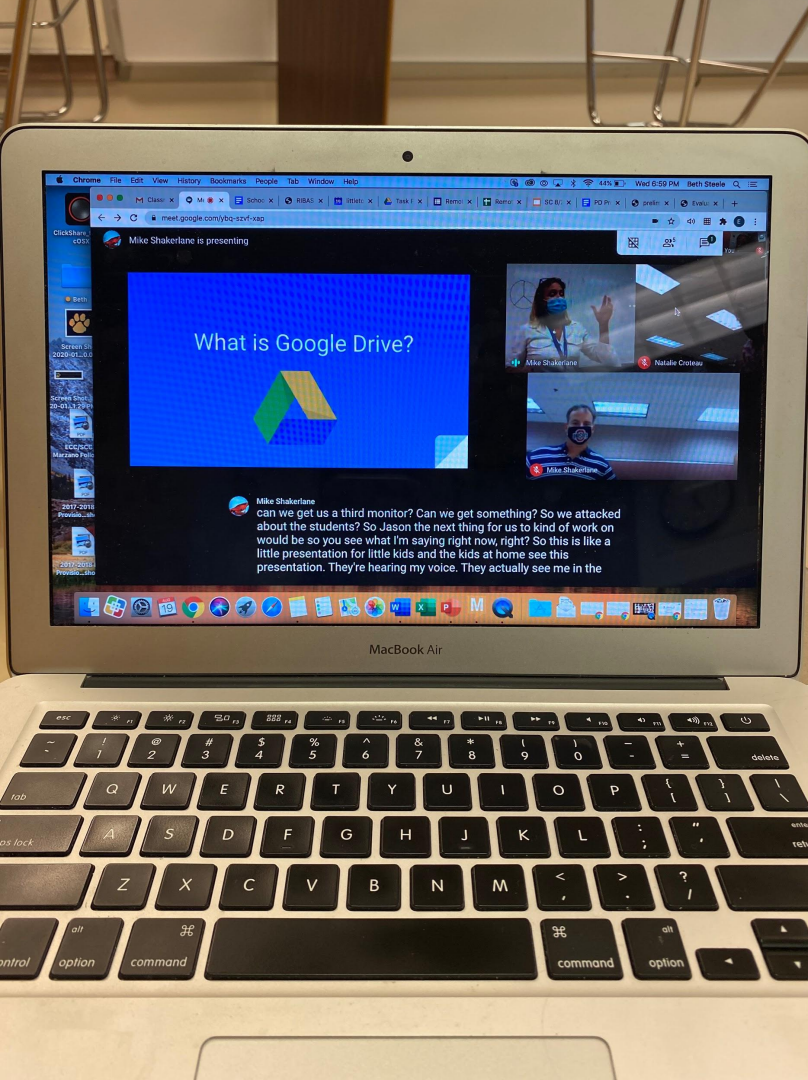


Littleton High School









Thank you!

