



Lunenburg Public Schools

Dr. Kate Burnham, Superintendent of Schools

MEETING NOTICE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 8, 2020
Remote Participation Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

Heather Sroka, Chair
Wendy Bertrand, Vice Chair
Brian Lehtinen, Secretary
Carol Archambault
Jim LaVeck

Student Representative

Claire Delaney- Absent

Superintendent

Dr. Kate Burnham

Business Manager/ HR Director

Michael Cassidy

Recording Secretary

Susan Somers

Guests:

In accordance with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, please be advised that this meeting is being recorded and broadcast over the Lunenburg Public Access channel.

The Town of Lunenburg, in response to the COVID-19 (CoronaVirus) is currently following the guidance from the Lunenburg Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC regarding the virus and steps communities can take to prevent the spread and all town facilities are currently closed to the public. In accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, all public meetings are being conducted remotely. **This meeting will be broadcast live through local access cable, on FacebookLive on the Public Access Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Lunenburg-Public-Access-Cable-157427270975305/>) and will be able to be found on the LunenburgAccess YouTube channel within 24 hours after the meeting.**

The following information is also provided for members of the public that would like to participate in the meeting remotely: To Participate Remotely: From a computer, please use the link below to join the public meeting webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/7663167607> **From a telephone, dial the toll free number (888) 475-4499 or (877) 853-5257 and enter Meeting ID: 766 316 7607** If you have not registered with Zoom you will be asked for your name and an e-mail address. **Note: No participant ID is needed, just press # when asked. Telephone users may dial *9 to request to speak after joining the meeting. Computer and app users may use the "raise hand" feature to request to speak.**

The agenda lists all the topics which may be discussed at the meeting and are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Votes may be taken as a result of these discussions. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by Open Meeting Law.

1. **Call to Order** - 7:00 pm by Ms. Sroka
2. **Chair's Report** - moved directly to public comment.
3. **Public Comment-Agenda Items** - Mr. LaVeck noted that in general social media response to the last meeting has been positive. People seemed to find it helpful and we appreciate everyone's hard work.
4. **Review and approve minutes** - Two sets of minutes are on the table for approval. Minutes from 3/25 are approved as is. It is noted that some changes are on the table for minutes of 4/4. Ms. Bertrand made a motion to approve minutes, with noted changes to 4/4. Mr. Lehtinen seconded. All approved by roll call vote.

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5. **Superintendent's Report** - Dr. Burnham noted that the rollout of remote learning seemed to go pretty well. Each school made a welcome video for their students. The primary school especially needed some remote access support and instruction. Admins visited dozens of classrooms and all seemed excited to get to see the work that teachers and students are doing in google classroom and behind the scenes. Administrators have transitioned to video recording their morning messages. This has been a lot of work. Dr. Burnham thanked them all and is grateful for everyone's hard work. Ms. Sroka noted that it seemed to be a good and smooth experience. Feedback has been good. We are heartened that more people are watching.

6. **New Business**

7. **Old Business**

Action

a. *2019-20 School Calendar-April Vacation* - All districts are wrestling with the decision as to what to do about April vacation. There are good points on both sides. From the Commissioner: If a district chooses to work through vacation week (except Patriot's Day) then classes will be in session through day 181 vs. being in session through day 185. If asked, any educator would prefer face-to-face instruction. We need to consider that social distancing may last longer than expected. It is also suspected that lifting of social distancing will happen in layers and not all at once. After some polling of staff, paraprofessionals, food service workers, etc. the general consensus has been to teach through vacation week. Based on the logic presented, we would recommend cancelling April vacation and ending the school year at day 181. Discussion followed as to the substance of assignments that week. While it was initially considered that that week would be "enhancement" assignments, concerns were expressed. Ms. Bertrand voiced the concern that this would turn that week into another "lost week" for the students. Mr. LaVeck concurred. By taking away a week of potential face-to-face instruction at the end of the year, we would seem to be sending a contradictory message. Ms. Sroka voiced a concern as to why are we not making up days? All students are going into the next year having lost months of work. Mr. Lehtinen reminded the committee that we have to consider the days worked for the teachers. Ms. Archambault agreed with Ms. Bertrand's statement. There are always going to be kids missing days. She would rather see us do real curriculum during that week. Students are just not going to get as far in the curriculum this year, and we need to move forward as best we can. Ms. Bertrand agreed that we need to look at the maximum we can deliver to our students. Dr. Burnham added that the teachers won't have a problem with moving the curriculum forward. The question came about if the students were to feel they needed the break. MS. Sroka noted that the conclusion seemed to be that we are heading toward taking away the April break, as long as the curriculum is the regular workload. Mr. Lehtinen questioned: Do we need agreement with the LEA? Was it considered to poll the parents? Dr. Burnham added that we did not poll the parents. (When it has happened in the past, results are nearly split down the middle.) The goal was to see if the staff did/didn't need or want the break. Based on feedback, everyone seems to want to continue. Mr. Lehtinen made a motion to approve the cancellation of April Vacation, with the continuation of remote learning. Seconded by Ms. Bertrand. Approved by roll call vote.

b. *Third Reading Policies #5218, 5218.01*- Ms. Archambault made a motion to approve the third reading of these policies. Seconded by Mr. LaVeck. Approved by roll call vote.

c. *FY20 Budget Update* - Mr. Cassidy discussed issues regarding the Dee Busing contract. Thirteen districts form a collaboration to engage Dee busing on payment of the remaining contract. Figures at \$216,000 for the remainder of the school year. Negotiated amount to be worked out. It is unclear when the closure will end. As we get more information this value will be defined. Mr. Cassidy noted that these are observations, and not really commitments at this time. There are questions as to the legality of paying for services not rendered. These questions apply to special education transportation as well. Worst case scenarios could include not having transportation when we return to school. Further updates to come. Hiring freeze and purchasing freeze are still in place. HR: Nashoba Valley asked about using school nurses to do data analysing of virus test results. This would be desk work, not responding to emergency rooms. The nurses seem amenable to this, and the town could get money back. Regarding the FY21 budget, they are basically starting over. Level service budgets in all departments. Dr. Burnham and Mr. Cassidy are preparing a proposed budget for you by the end of April. Possibly April 27th or April 29th open for meeting?

8. **Public Comment-Open** - Mr. Lehtinen just reiterated that this is a whole new world, and we ask that everybody be patient. Google classrooms looked awesome. It is noted that on April 15th the meeting will include discussion about the Spring Field Trip and a principals update.

9. **Adjournment** - Ms. Bertrand made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lehtinen. All in agreement by roll call vote. Adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Somers, Recording Secretary