

EASTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
50 Payson Avenue, 2nd Floor
Easthampton, MA 01027

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 84355305793
Password: 628403

January 11, 2022
6:00 p.m.

- Present** Chair Cynthia Kwiecinski, Megan Harvey, Marin Goldstein, Laurie Garcia, Benjamin Hersey, Mayor Nicole LaChapelle, Superintendent Allison LeClairn
- Excused** Shannon Dunham, Student Representative Cacla Scanlo
- Call to Order** Chair Kwiecinski called the meeting to order with a roll call 6-0 (Megan Harvey, Marin Goldstein, Laurie Garcia, Ben Hersey, Mayor LaChapelle, Cynthia Kwiecinski,) and announced this meeting is being held by Zoom and Easthampton Media is recording the meeting. Chair Kwiecinski welcomed the new members and announced the committee will go into executive session at the end of this meeting and will adjourn from executive session.
- Agenda Adjustments** The committee discussed making changes to the agenda and the order of items on the agenda.
- Motion by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Ms Garcia, roll call vote 6-0 (Megan Harvey, Marin Goldstein, Laurie Garcia, Ben Hersey, Mayor LaChapelle, Cynthia Kwiecinski) to shift items on the agenda to announcements, correspondence, public comment, other, school committee action items as a guiding outline.
- Public Speak** Chair Kwiecinski opened public speaktime: 6:11 pm. Shawn Sheehan referenced his January 4, 2022 letter to the committee.
- Scott expressed his concerns with new protocols, updates to families, test and stay, quarantine, KN95 masks and biohazardous issues.
- Public speak closed, time 6:19 pm.
- Presentation** Dr. LeClair updated the committee on COVID issues in the schools in Easthampton, such as case counts, pooled testing, spectator hold at athletic events, DESE guidance adjustments made regarding isolation and quarantine, awaiting DESE guidance on contact tracing, what the end of test and stay (target date 3/1/2022) will look like, extension of mask mandate thru the end of February, and no in-person gatherings. The committee discussed how to proceed on these topics. Dr. LeClair reviewed the COVID committee group was receptive of these recommendations. The committee discussed concerns about state mandates versus our local decisions and discussed writing a letter to the state expressing concerns. Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Hersey will collaborate on forming a letter. Dr. Harvey explained the science of rapid and PCR testing, contact tracing, and test and stay. Mayor LaChapelle expressed her concerns with testing questions, masks, rapid tests, ESSR 3 money and state contracts. The city order through health and emergency services, schools are different.
- Supt. Update** Dr. LeClair announced that Mountain View School has opened for students in grades 5-8 last week. Everyone is very excited and appreciative of the residents of Easthampton for making this happen.
- Policy** Ms Garcia expressed there have been no MASC policy updates at this time. The school committee policy manual is now available online and Ms Garcia thanked Ms Colby for her hard work making this happen.
- Finance** Mr. Goldstein updated the committee on the subcommittee meeting yesterday – minutes submitted – the budget will be submitted at the last meeting in March.
- CES** Mr. Hersey will attend the next meeting. Ms Colby will contact CES to update Mr. Hersey's information.
- COVID** Dr. Harvey updated the committee that the testing is experiencing delays but it is not a district or state

- Advisory** issue and we should continue to expect delays in testing. Dr. Harvey expressed the district is hoping to do a vaccine clinic and make as easy as possible for families to get vaccinated and do research on vaccinated vs nonvaccinated students who are contracting COVID.
- Safety** no update
- Wellness** Ms Garcia updated the committee on the upcoming safe routes to school Walk and Ride winter event on February 2 for Mountain View School students only. Dr. LeClair urged the public to remember Mountain View School is a construction zone. Mayor LaChapelle expressed her concerns regarding the winter weather and safety and letting the public know it will be weather permitting.
- Corresp.** Dr. Harvey expressed she is still having difficulty with epsd email account and should be fixed soon. Email was received by Dave Murrett expressing concern with no spectator order, Shawn Sheehan requesting bargaining begin with respect to bargaining strategies related to salary, benefits, sick days for long term building substitutes, and Pilar Goldstein-Dea regarding concerns with issues of high absences.
- Gifts** Motion by Dr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Hersey, roll call vote 6-0 (Megan Harvey, Mayor LaChapelle, Marin Goldstein, Ben Hersey, Laurie Garcia, Cynthia Kwiecinski) to accept with gratitude and appreciation an anonymous monetary donation to Maple School.
- Minutes** Motion by Dr. Harvey, seconded by Ms Garcia, roll call vote 6-0 (Megan Harvey, Mayor LaChapelle, Marin Goldstein, Ben Hersey, Laurie Garcia, Cynthia Kwiecinski) to approve minutes of January 3, 2022 special session meeting.
- Motion by Dr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Goldstein, roll call vote 6-0 (Megan Harvey, Mayor LaChapelle, Marin Goldstein, Ben Hersey, Laurie Garcia, Cynthia Kwiecinski) to approve minutes of January 3, 2022 executive session meeting.
- Motion by Dr. Harvey, seconded by Ms Garcia, roll call vote 4-0-2 (Megan Harvey - abstain, Mayor LaChapelle, Marin Goldstein, Ben Hersey - abstain, Laurie Garcia, Cynthia Kwiecinski) to approve minutes of December 14, 2021 regular meeting.
- Motion by Dr. Harvey, seconded by Ms Garcia, roll call vote 4-0-2 (Megan Harvey - abstain, Mayor LaChapelle, Marin Goldstein, Ben Hersey - abstain, Laurie Garcia, Cynthia Kwiecinski) to approve minutes of January 3, 2022 special session meeting.
- Warrant** Motion by Dr. Harvey, seconded by Ms Garcia, roll call vote 6-0 (Megan Harvey, Mayor LaChapelle, Marin Goldstein, Ben Hersey, Laurie Garcia, Cynthia Kwiecinski) to approve accounts payable authorization for payment dated 12/30/2021 in the amount of \$297,226.58.
- Payroll** Motion by Dr. Harvey, seconded by Ms Garcia, roll call vote 6-0 (Megan Harvey, Mayor LaChapelle, Marin Goldstein, Ben Hersey, Laurie Garcia, Cynthia Kwiecinski) to approve School Payroll dated 12/30/2021 in the amount of \$575,978.76.
- Other** Mayor LaChapelle expressed her concern with DESE direction on absences with both students and staff, the affect on time on learning and the typical policy versus how we are going to deal with it and is hopeful DESE will give us a wide birth of latitude to deal with it.
- Mr. Goldstein asked for a report back on change of school time review. Dr. LeClair asked to postpone it until February. Healthy Youth Data will be on the next agenda.
- Mr. Hersey expressed his concerns regarding absences and threatening truancy and clarification during COVID and if all absences are excused. If families are going to receive a letter, the tone/wording may be adjusted. Dr. LeClair will work with her team to possibly adjust some of the wording.
- Mr. Goldstein expressed he and Mr. Hersey will work together on a letter to DESE and bring to the next meeting for review/approval. The committee discussed sending it to the Governor, Commissioner Riley, and the Chair of the Board of Education and Secretary Peyser regarding testing, masks, and things like that.
- Next Meetings** Chair Kwiecinski announced the next meetings will be held 1/25, 2/8, 3/8, 3/22 with the Public Hearing on the Budget, 4/12, 4/26, 5/10, 5/24, and 6/14/2022.

Adjourn

Chairperson Kwiecinski asked for a roll call vote to move to executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Easthampton Education Association. roll call 6-0 (Megan Harvey, Laurie Garcia, Mayor LaChapelle, Marin Goldstein, Ben Hersey, Cynthia Kwiecinski) Time: 8:07 pm.

DocuSigned by:

Megan W Harvey

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Secretary