

**EAST LONGMEADOW SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**



District Mission

"Our mission in the East Longmeadow Public Schools is to promote achievement and accountability in all endeavors as we educate today for the challenges of tomorrow"

DATE: September 3, 2020
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: Superintendent's Conference Room

Meeting called to Order by : Gregory Thompson, Chair
THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD REMOTELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS' MARCH 12, 2020 ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW MA G.L.c. 30A, SECTION 20.

PER THE GOVERNORS' ORDER THE PUBLIC WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PHYSICALLY ACCESS THIS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN ACCESS THE MEETING VIA LIVE STREAM AT:

<https://zoom.us/j/98803574707?pwd=dmVjRjZhc3VmalAwYm42RWRvSmlaZz09> (Passcode: 406250)

As a preliminary matter, this is Gregory Thompson, School Committee Chair. Permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me. Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative

Sarah Truoiolo - here
William Fonseca - here
Antonella Raschilla - here
Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher - here
Gregory Thompson - here
Gordon Smith, Superintendent - here
Pamela Blair, Asst. Supt for Business - here
Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary - here
Heather Brown, Dir. of Curriculum - here

Approval of Minutes-None

Opportunities for Visitors to Address the Committee:

Kerri Cuccovia - I know that this is a very tough decision for you guys, and there's a lot of weight on your shoulders, I can relate in my own job. I felt the need to join, I appreciate all that you are doing and I appreciate all your hard work. I am an advocate for sports, I have three children in the system two in the high school and one is a senior. One is the captain of the soccer team. I really hope that in addition to being able to let them play, that they are able to play amongst other towns. I think mentally and physically it's very important for them given the fact that they are going to be in homes remotely learning. I think it's a big outlet for them, and I hope you take that into consideration when you are making your decision.

Chair: Thank you Kerri for speaking up. I would like to mention that we have received a lot of communication via email, calls from the community and I know that I haven't gotten back to all those that have emailed me yet. I will certainly do my best to do so, but certainly I want to acknowledge all the input that we have received on this issue from the community and it's certainly important to receive that.

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Sarah: I would like to say that we have been working diligently alongside the paraprofessionals union to craft the three-year agreement and we are getting very close to being able to move forward with that, so I think Pam, Gordon and members of delegation who have been meeting with us to move forward with their contract negotiations on this in this different time.

Superintendent's Report:

4.1.1 Update on Staff PD and Opening of Schools was presented by Mr. Smith and Ms. Brown
There were 28 workshops and mini courses that we offered from July 15th - August 28th. We had 311 total enrollments in the workshops and mini courses, not including the 42 staff who took Universal Design for Learning Now.
August 21st we had an additional PD, 45 staff members attended, and on August 26th a final summer PD with 39 staff members in attendance. On August 31st we had our first Virtual Convocation. The meeting utilized the Live Stream feature that has recently been introduced by Google. This meeting was available to all staff.
September 1st began the 10 days of PD, building-level planning and in-person trainings to prepare for our students on September 16th. All buildings are open you have administrators, office staff and custodial staff in each building. Some of our trainings with staff are in-person taking place in the cafeteria or auditorium where people can participate safely. During this time 36 PD offerings have been scheduled for teacher planning and building planning. Workshops are being facilitated by staff, trainers from software companies and facilitators from consulting firms which ELPS works. September 1st - 8th workshops focus on building the skills of teachers and para's for use of different software and optional tools to support students in remote learning. From September 9th - 11th staff will focus on building our understanding of social and emotional education, equity pedagogy, and how to integrate this teaching into the different content areas.

4.1.2 Discussion of Fall Sports presented by Mr. Paige, Mr. Magee and Amy Petrosky

MIAA Modifications of Outdoor Fall Sports (Golf, Cross Country, Field Hockey and Soccer)

- Facial coverings will be worn during all athletic activity. Breaks will be planned by coaches with social distancing.
- All personal items will remain in the athlete's bag, athlete's will bring their own water and hand sanitizer
- Limited shared equipment and sanitizing breaks will occur based on each sports guideline.
- Practice pods will be created with the same 5-10 students consistently working out together
- Handshakes and huddles within six feet will not occur
- Athletes on the bench will remain at six feet apart

Major MIAA Modifications

- Golfers will not enter clubhouses (bathroom exception)
- Golfers will not exchange scorecards
- Tee times will be staggered at least 10 minutes per group
- Cross Country-competitions will only be dual meets
- Cross Country-course previews provided virtually via maps or video
- Cross Country-Staggered starts in waves of 8-10 athletes
- Cross Country-Starting and finishing areas will be widened to allow for social distancing

- Field Hockey-will be played 7 V 7
- Field Hockey-No penalty corners-fouls in circle would be 25 yard hits
- Field Hockey-officials will use electronic whistles or air horns.
- Soccer-Head balls will not be allowed
- Soccer-violation to intentionally make body contact with an opposing team member's body
- Soccer-"Throw-ins" will be replaced with "Kick-ins"
- Soccer-use of traditional defensive walls will be eliminated
- Soccer-indirect kicks must be played on the ground (not including goal kicks)

Proposal #1

- Interscholastic Proposal: allow Cross Country, Golf, Field Hockey and Soccer to participate in the interscholastic competition model this fall while following the MA EEA, DESE, DPH, and MIAA approved guidelines.

Football and Cheerleading

- MIAA has moved all Football and Cheerleading competitions to begin on February 22nd
- ELHS would still like to give football players and cheerleaders the opportunity to participate in Level 1 outdoor practices this fall. These activities would be social distanced individual and group activities (no-contact workouts, aerobic conditioning, skill work and drills)
- The football and cheerleading coaches believe that Level 1 outdoor practices would benefit their program

Elizabeth: Are you offering sports to all students? No cuts, every student plays. Mr. Magee stated Yes

Sarah: GPA requirements, is that still in effect or are there modifications? Mr. Paige stated Yes they are still in place.

Proposal #2

- Level 1 Proposal: Allow football and cheerleading to participate in Level 1 practices this fall while following all MA EEA, DESE, DPH, and MIAA guidelines.

Major Volleyball Modifications

- Volleyball-currently MASS DPH will only allow 25 participants inside the gymnasium
- Volleyball-teams will remain on the same side during the entire match
- Volleyball-will be replaced with a clean ball after every rally during interscholastic competitions

Proposal #3

- Indoor Interscholastic Competition Model: allow volleyball to practice and compete indoors this fall while following all MA EEA, DESE, DPH, and MIAA guidelines
- If full indoor volleyball is not approved: allow outdoor practices and only 5-6 home & away indoor competitions following the guidelines.

Considerations:

- Building Access: to keep athletes safe, we recommend that fall athletes (volleyball excluded) not have access to the indoor facility. However, athletes would be able to utilize the two restrooms near the weight room and the athletic trainer's room (one athlete at a time). All other areas of the school would be closed to athletes. Furthermore, a safety protocol would be developed to use the school building as a shelter in case of dangerous weather conditions.
- Transportation: there is a transportation shortage and restrictions on the number of athletes that would be able to ride on a bus. The athletic department will continue to monitor transportation availability. However, families should be prepared to provide their own transportation to athletic events.
- Spectators: the athletic schedules will not be finalized until September 28th and competitions will begin on October 1st. Currently, MASS DPH no more than 50 people may attend an outdoor sporting event, including participants, coaches, and officials. Therefore, spectators may be limited at athletic events. ELCAT ordered equipment to live stream athletic events and they hope to have that running for the fall season. We understand that it is important to parents to be able to watch their child participate and we will explore all options that are within the state guidelines.

Chair: How does the local Health Dept. feel about this?

Ms. Petrosky: I have been working with Mr. Smith and Mr. Paige on this. Really the MIAA has put out plans that it's still early for me, some guidelines not available yet. Smaller groups outside different than in classrooms.

Antonella: Volleyball, will they be wearing masks throughout competition? Mr. Magee stated yes everyone will have mask.

Elizabeth: What about fee reduction?

Chair: We haven't had that discussion yet. We won't have cost, but there are still costs for referees and uniforms. We are having discussions about potentially ordering some gators. So there are other costs that we still have to go through. It's on the table for discussion if we approve this.

Sarah: Will there be orientation for parents? Mr. Magee stated yes, a videotape of athletic protocols will be sent out to parents. William: Will there be a sign-off sheet to agree with the guidelines for students/parents? The Chair stated Yes there is going to be a waiver.

Mr. Magee: Input all waivers, ID, on families, digital signatures. Training online for coaches, meeting with new guidelines.

Sarah: Is the DPH coming out to monitor as well.

Ms. Petrosky: That's up to the school to monitor. COVID Coach, someone who is trained in this.

Mr. Magee: Add a COVID Coach in addition to Athletic Trainer.

Sarah: Administration should be monitoring the sports instead of staff.

Mr. Paige: The responsibility falls on me, Mr. Magee and Mr. Wright.

Ms. Smith: The trainer will be helping the coaches in the best possible situation as possible. Be prepared, families should monitor symptoms on daily basis.

Mr. Magee: Prior to practice or games families should monitor and take temperature of players.

Chair: Very important message to get out to parents.

William moved to accept the fall sports as presented this evening with the caveat that it could change at any time given the circumstances,

Elizabeth: And those families may have to provide transportation.

William: I think all of those are understood because it's outlined.

Chair: We will work towards getting more details on logistics on how it's really going to look if we do approve this tonight.

Elizabeth seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion?

Antonella: I just want to be clear about the girls' volleyball; the practice will be outside and competitions inside.

Chair: We are going to do our best, I can foresee there will be practices inside at times based on the weather or other situations. I think we are all in agreement so we would like to provide at least an opportunity to have some of the practices outside.

Mr. Paige: If the expectation from the committee is to hold those practices outside as much as possible then we will adhere to that.

Sarah: I would also like to say, I think what we receive from the MIAA in terms of the comprehensiveness and guidelines, and the level of detail is striking

in comparison to what we received as a school committee from the state regarding academics. So I appreciate it, I think it gives local decision makers a much more comprehensive package by which to base their decision on in a timely fashion. Much of the guidance that came out regarding academics came out after decisions were due to the state and that this package was way more comprehensive and way timelier and has afforded local decision makers the capacity to make those decisions in a meaningful fashion.

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), that motion carries (5-0) we will be participating in fall sports. Amy, Frank and Kevin, thank you so much for all of your time. This issue is certainly leading up to this in the many meetings that we have all attended together. Thank you for your time and efforts on this.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Report- None

Old Business - None

New Business

6.1 Policy EBCFA - Face Coverings was presented by Mr. Smith

It outlines when and how we are using face coverings within the building and outside the building. Also when there might be some exemptions due to medical situations. One change, we are asking all individuals to wear a mask unless there is a medical exemption. I believe MASC's policy allows for Prek - 1st grade not to wear a mask.

Elizabeth moved to approve Policy EBC FA - Face Coverings , Antonella seconded the motion

Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)

6.2 Policy EBC-S-COVID Related Issues was presented by Mr. Smith

William: I think that this policy memorializes what we have been doing all along.

Chair: Is this like a temporary policy?

Mr. Smith: Basically it's an extension and a pretty detailed extension. Sort of the crisis or emergency situation policy were it breaks down what rolls people would play and how they go about dealing with a crisis or emergency.

Elizabeth: Maybe we should have a pandemic policy.

Chair: Let's revisit this specific policy in a year.

William moved to approve Policy EBC-S as presented, Elizabeth seconded the motion

Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)

6.3 Town Flu Vaccine Clinic - ELHS Parking Lot was presented by Mr. Smith. The propose dates will be Wednesday, September 30th, Thursday, October 1st and Friday, October 2nd. The hours will be from 7-10AM and 2-6PM. One week prior, the residents can sign up for time slots. Residents can fill out forms ahead of time online, if you don't have access to a computer you will be sent to a store to get the forms ahead of time or fill out the questionnaire as they wait in line. You will drive into the HS parking lot, fill out the required paperwork while they wait in their cars, staff will check paperwork. When it's a car's turn, they will pull up, get out of their car, get their vaccine and get back into the care once finished and head out of the parking lot.

William moved to approve the 2020 Vaccine Flu clinic as proposed this evening , Elizabeth seconded the motion

Chair: Any further discussion ? Again that is Wednesday, September 30th through Friday, October 2nd. Look for more detail on the EL website for those interested in the clinic.

Mr. Smith: It's an important one because the commissioner, DESE is requiring flu vaccines for all students.

Chair: Will this meet the deadline? What is the deadline

Mr. Smith: December

Chair: So potentially families can sign up for this and bring the whole car full with kids.

Sarah: Will they receive documentation so that it can be delivered to the school to certify that they've had the vaccination.

Mr. Smith: I believe so, but will check into that.

Chair: Any further discussion? hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)

6.4 MOU with Unit A (Teachers) and Unit E (Para's) was presented in executive session.

William moved to approve the MOU with Unit A (teachers) and Unit E (para 's) as presented, Elizabeth seconded the motion

Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)

Chair: Thank you everyone for all your hard work and efforts, also a reminder that school starts on September 16th. The chair also thanked ELCAT volunteer Jamie.

William moved to adjourn at 7:17P.M., Elizabeth seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), motion carries (5-0)

Minutes Recorded by: Kathy Celetti

Respectfully submitted by: Superintendent Smith

Signature