

Weymouth School Committee

ZOOM Meeting

August 6, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

(approved 8/20/20)

Members In Attendance: Lisa Belmarsh, Chair; Tracey Nardone (6:12), Vice-Chair; John Sullivan, Secretary; Kathy Curran; Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw; Carrie Palazzo,

Members Absent: Mayor Robert Hedlund (tardy-not sure what time 'arrived')

Also Present: Jennifer Curtis-Whipple, Superintendent; Brian Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Robert Wargo, Assistant Superintendent.
Allyson Bell, Teri Fleming, Terri Marculitis, Maura Perez, Elaine Lane

The Meeting Came to Order At 6:10pm.

The chair led in the Pledge of Allegiance. See members present and absent above.

Dr. Sullivan advised that the format is different from previous meetings as tonight's meeting is a webinar and explained for public comment, community members should add their name and address in the "Q&A" and that he will announce and invite speakers to unmute in order. Nothing typed into Q&A will be read into the record. It will be used only to determine who wishes to speak during public comment.

Motion by Mrs. Curran to move out of order the Return to School Plan. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll call vote. Passed unanimously.

Old Business

a. Return to School Plan (action requested)

The Superintendent gave a summary of the updated return to school plan and thanked Becky Paulhus and Dennis Jones and the multiple administrators for their hard work.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple reviewed the balance of risk and pointed out various building level precautions. She emphasized that every effort is being made to use beyond 3' of spacing and that lunches will be 6 ft apart with students facing forward. Interim Nurse Leader Elaine Lane has advised that all certification of DESE Health and Safety requirements have been met. The student calendar will be 170 days and staff will have 10 additional PD training days.

The Superintendent gave outlined the proposed models (Remote Learning, Hybrid, and In-Person) and the Hybrid Phases:

Hybrid Phases			
Students	Hybrid Phase 1	Hybrid Phase 2	Hybrid Phase 3
Grades 12 Career and Technical Education	No earlier than Sept. 21, 2020	No earlier than Oct. 13, 2020	NA
High needs Substantially Separate Programs: PK-12 Communication Enhancement Program (CEP) K-12 Intense Resource Center (IRC) K-5 Language Based Learning Disabilities (LBLD) K-5 Therapeutic Learning Center TLC PK-12 Life Skills Special Education Program Gr. 12+ Post Grad Special Education Program	No earlier than Sept. 21, 2020	No earlier than Oct. 13 2020	NA
Johnson Early Childcare Center:	No earlier than Nov. 16, 2020	N/A	NA
Primary Schools (K-5)	No earlier than Nov. 16, 2020	No earlier than Dec. 7, 2020	No earlier than Jan 4, 2021 Grades K-1 ONLY
Abigail Adams Middle School (6-7)	No earlier than Nov. 16, 2020	No earlier than Dec. 7, 2020	NA
Weymouth High School (8-12)	No earlier than Jan. 4, 2021	No earlier than Jan. 26, 2021	N A
Weymouth Evening High School	No earlier than Semester 2	TBD	NA

Further breakdown of hybrid models and phases by age was presented. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Hybrid Model Phase 3 will be for K-1 grades only.

Principal Perez advised that JECC has the potential to return to Full In-Person safely no earlier than January 4, 2021 stating that the number of students in the building changes each day of the week as there are so many programs. Mrs. Perez shared that this population needs the most support at home for remote learning.

The Superintendent outlined cohorting. Students will be assigned a number (1-4) so that classrooms will include proper ratios. Families may request cohort changes due to sibling and transportation issues.

The Remote Learning choice survey will be available until the end of September.

Allyson Bell, Special Education Director gave an overview of the DESE memo for providing special education services in other locations.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple expressed that she is not in support of staff going to students' homes to provide services. More conversations are to come.

Interim Health Leader, Elaine Lane gave an overview of answers to medical questions received concerning contact, isolation and quarantine and testing. Please see page 17 and 18 of the presentation. Ms. Lane advised that more contact information will be required on contact sheets so that students who are sick can be picked up in a timely manner.

Assistant Superintendent Smith gave an overview of transportation. The sub group was led by Robin Howard. Capacity on buses will be 22-24 students and 30 buses will be used. The emphasis will be on flexibility in routing and scheduling. The payrider program will be based upon availability.

Mr. Smith recognized Mel Curtin, Assistant Director for Curriculum and Instruction/ELL Support, and thanked her for all of her help, hard work, and collaboration with the plans in addition to all the work she did in closing Chapman.

Assistant Superintendent Wargo outlined how differently remote learning will look this fall and emphasized that the students will come first and that plans are mindful that at home doesn't match in person learning. Thoughtful plans were not made in isolation but with consultation with many stakeholders to provide successful educational experience. Mr. Wargo thanked Teri Fleming, Director of STEM and Terri Marcultis, Director of Humanities for their diligent work. Director Fleming gave an overview of teaching components for remote and hybrid instruction that will promote engagement. Concentration will be compassion, connections and communication in understanding remote learning. Focus will be to ensure that educators are supported and reiterated that the first 10 PD training days will help with this.

The Superintendent thanked Becky Paulhus and Dennis Jones for all of their help with the FAQs.

Assistant Superintendent Smith thanked Assistant Superintendent Wargo for all of his hard work and dedication since he began in January 2020.

Chair Belmarsh expressed her appreciation for School Committee minute secretary, Amy Mohr.

Chair Belmarsh thanked Dr. Curtis-Whipple, Assistant Superintendents and staff for the countless hours of work and for modifying the presentation which clearly showed how she listened to all comments and expressed her appreciation.

Dr. Sullivan asked how manipulatives will get out to families. He supports dates being framed as 'no earlier' however he is not eager to delay returning for so long. He likes having a schedule which helps with structure while students are at home and also likes the process of stages as it's cautious. He hopes that health metrics will be used to decide when to change phases. He expressed his thanks to the Superintendent and her staff for the presentation and modifications under pressure and also for listening. Dr. Sullivan shared his disappointment in scant state support and guidance.

Mrs. Nardone advised that she has received many emails and still has 78 to respond to. She thanked the Superintendent and team for the plan and for listening to staff, community and school committee members and expressed her appreciation for the revised plan. Vice Chair Nardone suggested that cohorts be grouped by neighborhood to help with support and transportation and emphasized appropriate ratios in the classroom. She looks forward to when more information will be available on health and safety for each level.

Mayor Hedlund arrived some time during this discussion.

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw thanked the Superintendent and her team. Although the plan is voted by the School Committee it has town wide impact. She is comfortable with the dates as it allows time for preparation and expressed her hopes that the school department can partner with as many people as possible to help support families. Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw inquired if there will be health metrics used to determine the move in and out of a phase and if those metrics will be made public.

The Superintendent confirmed that metrics would be public and expressed her hopes for transparency and that the state and commissioner publish metrics for districts to use so each district would be using the same input. Especially when competing in athletics against other towns.

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw reiterated that this is a fluid process and that things change daily and expressed her hopes that everyone will work together and stay positive.

Mrs. Curran shared her thanks to Dr. Curtis-Whipple for being flexible and for listening to community input. She expressed her worry for the CTE students who would need hours at the early childcare center at the high school. She mentioned her concern for contact tracing, and suggested partnering with the town for testing.

Elaine Lane advised that the testing results could take 4-5 days and raised the point of false negative results.

Mrs. Curran inquired about the DESE learning management system and other tools to enhance google classroom.

The Superintendent confirmed that the daycare at the highschool will be open however at a lesser capacity and advised that the DESE LMS (learning management system) is expensive, not robust and doesn't provide for the best student education experience. Dr. Curtis-Whipple said she thought Weymouth teachers teaching Weymouth students was the optimal situation, and mentioned that there will be parent google training, sharing between staff and support/guidance for remote learning.

Mrs. Curran shared here appreciated for the balance of risk and requested data on students leaving to go to parochial or private schools.

Mrs. Palazzo expressed her thanks to the Superintendent and team for collaborating and listening to the community and school committee and for making changes. She emphasized Dr. Sherlock-Shangraws thoughts on supporting families that have full time working parents. A suggestion was made to provide families class syllabus. She appreciates the benefits of the phase dates to enable parents to plan for childcare options and echoes Assistant Superintendent Wargo's positive mind set.

The Superintendent advised that there have been discussions with Steve Reilly to be proactive on ways to support families before and after school. It was reiterated that it's not ideal that the situation is not ideal. With students not in the building there isn't a plan to offer Weycare at the moment.

Mayor Hedlund experienced some technical difficulty and had to make his comments over the phone though the Chair. He expressed his frustration in lack of state guidelines for the schools. He ensured that the cooperation will continue interdepartmentally. The Mayor shared his belief that remote learning is not the most optimum way to learn and that it can't take the place of in class learning. The Mayor inquired about the sentiment of the surveys and community input.

The Chair advised that the overwhelming response was to delay opening longer than what was presented on August 4 and cited personal emails received.

Dr. Curtis Whipple advised that 6 surveys went to families, staff and students and safety was of great concern and gave a quick overview of the responses which were presented to School Committee on July 23, 2020. The Superintendent assured that because a school building is old doesn't mean that it's unsafe and thanked the maintenance staff. Assistant Superintendent Smith and John Barker and team will start the process of surveying. The Superintendent emphasized the overwhelming response in delaying the return and recognized the difficulty for working parents do remote learning, that CTE students need to

accrue hours and that high special needs students need support as was presented in the first plan.

The Chair inquired if families can still opt out and remain remote for the first term. Dr. Curtis-Whipple advised that the survey will be going out in September, however does not recommend opting out as you can't replace the classroom experience. The chair advised that all information on the website:

https://www.wevmouthschools.org/district/school-committee

Public Comment

-Mike Murphy, WEA President

Expressed his thanks for all hard work and for making changes to Tuesday's presentation. He shared his opinion that no matter how much PPE and distance there is that it does make the environment safer however not 100% safe.

-Jane Hackett, Town Councilor,

Expressed her thanks for all of the hard work and stated that the safety of students and staff and SEL needs drives decisions. Councilor Hackett shared her concern in returning to in person learning being delayed too long. She further stated that there is a large change in the presentation tonight from Tuesdays and that community members have little time to respond before voting.

Chair Belmarsh read letters on behalf of Councilor Haugh (supports in person learning as soon as possible), Mr. Murphy (regarding Special Education and safely returning) and Nancy Garrity (concerned with returning to school)

-Cheryl Taylor, 472 Pond St

- 1. Will Sub Sep families have the option of opting out earlier?
- 2. Like for children to be able to eat of the classroom however will a Custodian have enough time between lunches to clean properly?
- 3. Unsure of how teaching live will be handled for the hybrid model? Would there be a 'remote learning team'?
- 4. In hybrid model and cohorts are split-who will be teaching other class? Licensed teacher or para?
- 5. How will IEP inclusion accommodations be met?

Ms. Taylor expressed her appreciation for the changes

-Jen Gardner.

Inquired if a CTE student came to the program late if they would be following a junior or senior schedule.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple suggested emailing the students' guidance counselor and the building administrators.

-Kristina Keefe, 82 Seaver Rd, Specialist

Expressed her concern for rising COVID numbers and her worry of contracting and spreading COVID from 1 building to another as she works in 2 buildings. She shared her feelings that cohorts should not be mixed and that specialists use shared space and urged the committee to listen to science and medical professionals. Ms. Keefe supports in person learning in January.

-Jamie Adams, 353 East St.

Shared that she is a mom of 2 high risk students and inquired if it's not safe for the kids to return to the building then why should staff be required to? Ms. Adams expressed her concern in opening too early and supports in person later as she feels is better to safe than sorry.

-Mary Cunniff, 14 Cummins Ave.

Echoed what Kristina Keefe said and is worried about cross contaminating between buildings. Ms. Cunniff also stated that special education with underlying diagnosis are more susceptible to contract COVID.

-Doreen Feeney, Teacher and resident

Expressed her concern for students and colleagues who are over age 60, have diabetes or have high risk family members and feels that they shouldn't be forced into the building and should be able to work remotely until there is a vaccine. Ms. Feeney also mentioned poor ventilation and that families should have a choice and that there should be transparent options.

The Superintendent thanked Ms. Feeney for sharing and reiterated that staff reach out to Maryann Foley regarding individual situations so that the district can support staff and their needs

Tim M, 43 Massasoit

As a state employee working for emergency management suggested temperature screening and self certification for students and staff and expressed his concern for air quality. Dr. Curtis-Whipple advised that John Barker, Facilities Director and Assistant Superintendent Smith are working closely with John McLeod concerning system surveillance and varying temperatures. Assistant Superintendent Smith further stated that with 13 buildings to evaluate that procurements must be followed for a company to survey and make recommendations/specifications. Merv 13 filters was mentioned. Elaine Lane, Health Leader advised that checking temperatures is neither required or effective based on current guidance and that families will be asked to self certify.

-Julie Bowen

As a teacher of 21 years and resident of Weymouth expressed her thanks and appreciation for listening to comments and for all of the hard work being done however supports in person learning in January. Ms. Bowen expressed her concern and supports returning to school in January not 9/21/20 as safety should be considered.

- 1. CTE guidelines released July 29-stating that other guidelines must also be followed (workplace and industry related to covid 19 health and safety, employee health and prevention and best practicesOSHA, COVID 19 guidelines, etc)
- 2. Special ventilation recommended for CTE shops-auto, carpentry, metal fab, culinary arts, cosmetology and graphic communications.
- 3. Best practices practiced for online ordering payment system, monthly tuitions, food ordering and appointments
- 4. Accrual of hours is not really done in first few months as concentration is on safety and workforce preparation
- 5. Thoughtful, rigorous, differential and meaningful instruction can be done remotely. Dr. Curtis-Whipple thanked Ms. Bowen for commenting and clarified that other CTE schools are opening to afford students the opportunity to earn hours. Teri Fleming advised that she has been in talks with DESE and their CTE programs and adaptations for earning hours.

-Vanessa Rivard

Expressed concerns as a parent of an autistic student with sensory issues for remote learning and wearing a mask.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple advised Ms. Rivard to reach out to Allyson Bell, Special Education Director and that a drs. Note is required for a student if they are not wearing a mask due to medical reasons. Remote learning for 2020-21 will not be the same as last spring.

-Tara Coulson, 30 Fairmont Ave

Inquired if the TLC program is still in affect at the high school.

Special Education Director Bell advised that DESE defined which students are high needs and that at the secondary level TLC and LBLD services are provided in the 'B and C grid' (inclusion) and encouraged Ms. Coulson to reach out to the special education office.

-Michelle Walty

Expressed her displease in the revised return to school plan and would like her 8th grade and senior student to return before January. She also inquired what athletics and extra curriculars/activities will look like for remote learning?

The Superintendent advised that at this time there hasn't been updated guidance from MIAA or DESE

-Gina Walton, 124 Belmont Street

Expressed her thanks for all of the hard work.

- 1. Inquired if teachers will need to be in classrooms on Mondays (cleaning days)
- 2. Concerned if not safe for students to be in the building then why ok for teachers
- 3. What will IRC inclusion time look like in hybrid model

Dr. Curtis Whipple thanked Ms. Walton for speaking and advised that she will work with her and Mr. Higgins for the FAQ sheet.

Allyson Bell advised that the district is reaching out to all families that have a student on an IEP so that they can participate in discussions.

-Liz Jaramillo, 245 Central Street

Expresses her feelings that health and safety should come first and that any distance smaller than 6' qualifies as close contact.

- Requests for parents to have plans beforehand regarding how far desks will be and #
 of kids in the classroom
- 2. Would like to see how much live teaching will be in remote and hybrid-possible to get syllabus?
- 3. Are teachers being kept separate as well to eliminate cross contamination.
- 4. Doesn't understand how sport practices are happening when there are now sports The Superintendent clarified that are not sports being run through WPS.

-Andrade Hamilton, 70

- 1. Questions why contact of a contract doesn't need to isolate if the original was asymptomatic and why the district is relaying on symptoms.
- 2. Question HVAC systems and air quality if systems are old.
- 3. Confused why temperature taking is not affective?
- 4. Hiring more additional workers to help with cleaning schools?

Expressed his feelings of thank for the hard work being done to return to school but #1 responsibility is to keep kids safe and that educators should be providing education in a safe environment.

-Arthur Burke, 265 Broad St

Supports getting kids in the building sooner rather than later ASAP and that in delaying in the return prevents using outdoor space and the opening of windows. Does not believe remote learning works.

-Mark Ricci, 35 Robert Dr.

Inquired if families with more than one child will have to share a device and if the district will be provided multiple devices for multiple students in the home.

The Superintendent advised that it is currently being worked on.

-Kristen McDonald, 73 Taft Road

Questioned if there would be discounts on tuition for JECC students for remote learning. Suggesting tuition for the 2 remote days and then full tuition in January. She also expressed her feeling of siblings in different schools, different grades be kept together,

-Julie Ellis, 1051 commercial St.

Inquired what services (OT/PT/SLP/Counseling) and exploratories (gym/art/ect) will look like?

-Beth Crawford,

- 1. Agrees with Mrs. Nardone about grouping cohorts by neighborhood to help with support and transportation.
- 2. Inquired how Sped needs in mainstream will have accommodations met
- 3. MCAS for 10th graders now entering 11th grade-how will that be handled for graduation?
- 4. Does not want underclass CTE students to fall behind with accommodations being made for senior students

-Larrinda Baccus, 61 Queen Anne Crt, #3

Expressed her appreciation for the plan as a teacher in Boston and moving here from TX.

- 1. What will seating on the van look like?
- 2. How will it be handled in have multiple students in the same home whom have different return dates?
- 3. Will teachers interaction be monitored
- 4. What supports and considerations will be made for remote learning?

The Chair reminded that community members may also email their questions and comments.

-Jen Mackin, 68 Pond St

Expressed her disappointment with the changes to the return to school plan and supports going back earlier and not during flu season.

How will it be handled with cohorts with kids in different schools and return dates.

-Kelly Carlson, 60 Rindge

Expressed her thanks for all of the hard work and for listening. She also voiced her concern in not being able to hire a tutor to help facilitate remote learning or have high risk family members help out as well. Ms. Carlson also questioned what her role will look remotely and hybrid as an ESP at Adams juggling her job and remote learning for her children.

-Helen Lee. Clarke Ave

Commented on emotional abuse of children aged 6 and under and providing tools and strategies for emotional well being. (617) 652-6660

-Donna Beath.

Believes that Dr. Curtis-Whipple wants all employees to be safe and knows that if she takes care of the staff they in turn will take care of the children.

1. Why the district is not using the state evidence based learning management system?

- 2. Asked for patience in adapting a 170 day curriculum in the first 10 days of PD just as the committee gave the Superintendent in updating the website.
- 3. Wants to work collaboratively

The Superintendent clarified that she indeed knows how to update the website however not the infrastructure behind it. She also verified that the state platform uses virtual school teachers and she believes and wants the teaching to be done by Weymouth teachers.

-Kathleen Salvaggi, 48 Bluff Road

Expressed her thanks for extra time in returning and also for the push back of the opt out survey.

- 1. What if different children in different with different return times-what will that look like?
- 2. Will their be flexibility is sick time?
- 3. Can St. Jerome's be used as an extra space?

Dr. Curtis-Whipple advised that attendance is currently being worked and the Chair advised that St. Jerome's is not feasible.

-Arianna, 27 Carroll St

1. Will the schools be putting something in place to help out families who will have to quite or will lose their job to facilitate remote learning?

-Caitlin McInnes, 20 Neck St.

- 1. Concerned with K-2 students being responsible for monitoring their own schedule.
- 2. Will there be consideration for synchronous learning-maybe recorded teachings.
- 3. What will it look for teachers who are teaching remotely and for monitoring their own children's remote learning. Suggested that she would be facilitating her own children's remoted learning after 3.

Assistant Superintendent Wargo advised that currently looking and different way to address the schedules for kids that are younger.

-John Eye, 47 Wituwamut

Expressed his feelings that if an asymptomatic carrier (child or staff) should not be able to return with out a negative test. Children should not have to experience the death of a friend or teacher due to COVID.

-Shaun DeWitt. 45 Knollwood Circle

Commented that some children are sent to school with medications masking temperatures and asked for nurse feedback on these repeat offenders.

- 1. What other learning management systems were considered for delivering remote learning? Suggested EDX
- 2. If requiring families and staff to self certify want to ensure that the information is protected per HIPPA

-Alicia Linquist, 16 William Ave

Commented on how it was determined safe for general ed to be pushed back but not for CEP or other sub sep programs.

-Ann Pike

Expressed her thanks for all the hard work and preparation and allowing community participation.

- 1. Hope will stick to 6' guideline
- 2. A negative should be mandatory for return to school if isolated or guarantined.
- 3. An order for masks to be washed after each use if only have 1 mask
- 4. Temperature checks off another layer of protection

-Carolyn Donohue, 16 Pierce Crt.

As a parent of 3 and a teacher is relieved the return to the buildings is delayed.

- 1. Feels there is a lack of specificity in returning for 9/21
- 2. Will there be a nurse on site?
- 3. Supports screenings and temperature checks
- 4. Best way to minimize spread is to wear a mask, 6' of distance and frequent hand washing.
- 5. Monitoring remote learning for 2 working parents is not an option Wants learning to be safe and sustainable.

-Laurie mack, 18 Rhitu Dr.

- 1. For returning senior CTE students, when they are not in the shop will they be the only students in the classroom with the teacher?
- 2. Concerned for air filtration in CTE shops and labs

-Laura Danna, 26 Sandra Lane

Questioned if it's not safe for students to return then how is it safe for staff to be in school. Suggest that ventilation should be looked and brought attention to some staff having underlying conditions.

-Francis Moore, 105 Central St

1. Will parents have the choice to use the state run remote learning option? The Chair advised that the question will be taken under advisement and added to the FAQ.

-Siobhan Haughey, 12 West St.

Questioned why gen ed students in grade 8-12 are not returning until January.

-Cassi Belmarsh.

Shared that a possible reason for teachers and staff to be teaching from the building is for access to resources and materials is more robust than a home environment.

-Jennifer Strong, 80 Old Stone Way

As a healthcare worker of 18 years shared that younger children are 'higher' carriers and feels that staff should also be remote. A negative test should be mandate for return to school/work

-Fern Ponce-, 12 Susan Dr. Wished everyone a good night

Motion by Dr. Sherlock Shangraw to approve the return to school plan as presented by Weymouth school district with the understanding that the district will monitor health and safety and changes to the plan will be presented as necessary. Seconded by Mrs. Nardone. Roll call vote. (Ms. Palazzo-frozen, voted after the calendar). Passed unanimously.

Mrs. Curran expressed her appreciation for the motion and emphasized the need to be flexible as data and numbers or surrounding towns come in.

Teri Fleming advised that the curriculum standards have not changed and emphasized that the 10 days at the beginning of the year for teachers will not be used to rewrite curriculum but to be used as professional development and collaboration time.

Mrs. Nardone shared her appreciation for the wording on the motion, worried about Weymouth and thinks the plan in place is good. Mrs. Curran clarified that data from other towns would be helpful.

Mayor Hedlund expressed his disappointment in not returning to the classroom earlier but supports the motion.

Dr. Sullivan agrees with Mrs. Curran and the Mayor and supports the motion.

b. School Year Calendar 2020-2021 (action requested)

Superintendent Curtis-Whipple outlined the 1 change in the calendar from Tuesday (a type for conferences in November)

Motion by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw to approve the school calendar of academic year 2020-21 as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Nardone. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

Mrs. Curran requested in information be posted on the website.

Dr. Curtis Whipple thanked the entire team and staff for collaborating, especially Melanie Curtin.

-Announcements:

Weymouth Market-August 5, 2020-NEW time-2:30pm-4:30pm-WHS Gold Cafeteria: Market will occur in a drive thru manner

Next School Committee Meeting:

Regular Meeting: Thursday, August 20, 2020 - 7:00pm Policy Subcommittee: Monday, August 10, 2020 - 6:00pm Budget Subcommittee: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 - 6:00pm SEPAC-Tuesday, August 11, 2020

The Meeting adjourned at 10:31pm on the motion of Mrs. Nardone, seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw. Roll call vote - passed unanimously.

Documents Attached to These Minutes:

- Return to School Plan
- 2020-2021 School Calendar

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sullivan

Secretary