## Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee

Location: Zoom remote meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 Time: 4:00 pm

VOTE

Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/91780487123?pwd=UDAxZHlwQzFDR3p2YkdCUGhBOXhtQT09

Meeting ID: 917 8048 7123 Passcode: 780825 One tap mobile +13126266799,,91780487123# US (Chicago) +16468769923,,91780487123# US (New York)

Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. This meeting will be posted on the MGRSD YouTube page <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLR0nrLhpZHIyPFUhaMxPSg</u> and broadcast on WilliNet TV channel 1302 in Williamstown.

## Special Open and Executive Session Agenda

- I. Call meeting to order
- **II.** Mission: At Mount Greylock Regional School District, our mission is to create a community of learners working together in a safe and challenging learning environment that encourages restorative based processes, respect, inclusive diversity, courtesy, integrity, and responsibility through high expectations and cooperation resulting in life-long learning and personal growth.
- **III.** Approval of minutes:

Α.	<del>July 9, 2020</del>	VOTE
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- B. August 6, 2020 **VOTE**
- C. August 13, 2020 **VOTE**
- IV. Superintendent Update
- V. Policy Liaison Report
  - A. Policy ADF- School District Wellness Program, 1st read (with option to waive 2nd read) VOTE
  - B. Policy EBCFA Face Coverings, 2nd read
- VI. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting
- VII. Motion to move into Executive Session with no intent to return to Open Session per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining with MGEA (all bargaining units) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the Chair so declares.

#### DRAFT

Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee Open Session

YouTube from MGRS A109 Date: Thursday, Aug 6, 2020 (public will not be allowed on site) Time: 4 pm

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broadcast on WilliNet TV channel 1302 in Williamstown.

\*\*Public commenters should email prior to the meeting rputnam@mgrhs.org and cconry@mgrhs.org. You may send an email to be read by the Chair or may choose to share your public comment via phone. If you will share via phone, you will be called at a phone number that you provide. In your email, please be sure to include your name, town, phone number, and agenda item that you are commenting on.

#### **Open Session**

- I. Call to order at 4:04; Members present Miller, Conry, Terranova, Art, Greene, and Carter (Via Phone);
- II. Reading of Mission: At Mount Greylock Regional School District, our mission is to create a community of learners working together in a safe and challenging learning environment that encourages restorative based processes, respect, inclusive diversity, courtesy, integrity and responsibility through high expectations and cooperation resulting in life-long learning and personal growth.
- III. Public comment
  - I. Chair reads email comment from R. Hammann expressing concern about push to get students back into classrooms ASAP.
  - II. J. Skavlem delivers comments via speaker phone encouraging committee to pursue as much in person learning as much as possible in a manner consistent with state guidelines. Notes particular surprise and concern about plans for remote learning for grades 9-12.
  - III. Chair reads comments from K. Igoe and J. Igoe urging at least some in-person learning for all students.
- III. Approval of minutes [Note this vote was defective and cured by the vote below.]

Miller moves to approve the minutes for the following open meetings, Terranova seconds. Motion passes unanimously (6-0), with typos to be corrected.

1. July 6, 2020

- 2. July 9, 2020
- 3. July 13, 2020
- 4. July 17, 2020
- 5. July 24, 2020
- 6. July 29, 2020
- 7. July 30, 2020
- 8. July 31, 2020
- 9. July 31, 2020, 2:30 pm
- IV. Superintendent update Reopening plans Step II
  - 1. Dr. Putnam described some of the challenges and adjustments of thinking through the logistics of reopening with social distancing, protective measures, and hybrid participation.
  - 2. State deadline for plan submission has been extended to 8/14
  - 3. Dr. Putnam requests delay of vote on plan until 8/13 to allow greater SC review and public comment before vote.
  - 4. Then describes the administration's latest thinking on the plan, with information of the following:
    - I. Pre-requisites for in-person learning
    - II. Criteria for opening schools we don't have the metrics on infection rate yet, commissioner has promised them by next week
    - III. Criteria for closing in-person
      - I. At cohort, building, district level;
      - II. This is also a work in progress;
    - IV. Concerns of high needs students are at the forefront and must be addressed in the plans.
    - V. All of the plans are subject to negotiation. Dr. Putnam will start that process on Tuesday.
    - VI. Technology prerequisites for hybrid and remote environments, including, uniform learning platforms at each grade level, required equipment for classrooms, teachers, paraprofessionals, and students.
    - VII. Hybrid model (his current proposal for start):
      - I. Some students would attend school each day, if they have higher needs.
      - II. Prek-6: 4 days/week in school; half day sessions A/B groups; morning group & afternoon group; focusing on core academics
      - III. 7-9: 2-1-2 model, with 2 full days in person per week, refined curriculum; to the extent possible in cohorts; full non-rotating schedule; lunch in classroom with peers;
      - IV. 10-12: 2 full days in person per week; ½ grade at a time; full non-rotating schedule;
      - SC comments: appreciative of getting all students into school; questions about costs of conversation classrooms to hybrid and additional busing – J Bergeron explains that is being explored; don't have numbers yet.
      - VI. Transportation funding is big issue and big unknown.
      - VII. Community engagement in public health protective measures is a big challenge;
      - VIII. Changes nicely reflect the feedback from the community; consensus of deep appreciation for being responsive to community input;

- IX. Discussion of HVAC -
  - I. MG has new system with some HEPA filters in place and being maximized;
  - II. WES HVAC has been worked on since March, and is working better than it has; JAMROG is also looking into additional changes to improve air quality;
- Questions about childcare not much to report, it may be that we need to get the plan in place and seeing what the community can do to deliver coverage;
- XI. Instructional group concerned about the skills necessary to go remote, to figure out how to do it well. Concern about the calendar, and what happens during the flu season;
- XII. Have been in conversations with town health departments but not yet about strategies to increase community effort or norm for communal approach to protective measures;
- XIII. Possible testing strategy may be developed in conjunction with Town of Williamstown's Cares act funding; could be random sampling of the school community; possible pooled testing;
- XIV. Questions about behavioral contracts for students and how much enforcement is possible.
- XV. Discussion of how instruction works in hybrid weeks don't have an answer for that yet; Core subjects could be in the classroom, and some of specials could be remote;
- XVI. All students will have ability to elect for remote;
- VIII. Full in-person model working on benchmarks for transition to in-person model;
  - IX. Full Remote can have diversity of courses, but other risks associated with isolation and impacts on families;
- VI. Principal updates (delivered by Dr. Putnam)
  - 1. MG all faculty positions filled, hiring a few remaining staff, lots of input from faculty and staff; hosting check-ins and meetings with faculty, staff, students and families;
  - 2. WES classrooms being prepped, answering questions from families, and faculty;
  - 3. LES hiring new gen. ed teacher and music teacher, getting prepared for school in whichever
- VII. Chair report
  - 1. Minutes Recorder Resignation submitted by Jonathan Nopper; may have a replacement soon
- VIII. CORRECTIVE VOTE: Miller moves to approve the minutes for the following open meetings, Terranova seconds. Motion passes unanimously by roll call vote: Art, aye; Carter, aye; Conry, Aye; Greene, Aye; Miller, Aye; Terranova, Aye with typos to be corrected.
  - 1. July 6, 2020
  - 2. July 13, 2020

- 3. July 17, 2020
- 4. July 24, 2020
- 5. July 29, 2020
- 6. July 30, 2020
- 7. July 31, 2020
- 8. July 31, 2020, 2:30 pm
- IX. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports
  - 1. Policy Liaison Greene provides report. Mask policy coming for our next meeting.
    - I. Policy BEDH-R Remote Public Comment, 2nd read
    - II. Miller moves to approve BEDH-R Remote Public Comment with changes discussed, Greene seconds. Motion passes unanimously by roll call vote: Art, aye; Carter, aye; Conry, Aye; Greene, Aye; Miller, Aye; Terranova, Aye.
    - III. Policy ACAB Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment and Grievance Procedure, 2nd read Miller moves to approve, Greene seconds. Motion passes unanimously by roll call vote: Art, aye; Carter, aye; Conry, Aye; Greene, Aye; Miller, Aye; Terranova, Aye.
    - IV. Policy EBC- Supplemental, 1st read A. Greene reads.
  - Finance Warrant Report- Accounts payable/Payroll

     Art provides update on warrant process, Covid-related grant funding
    - 1. Art provides update on warrant process, covid-related grant funding
  - 3. Education Miller notes education committee work aligned with work of Dr. Putnam and administrative team on reopening plan.
- X. Greene moves, into Executive session with intent to return to Open Session per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel (New Superintendent); per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel (New Superintendent). Miller seconds. Art, aye; Carter, aye; Conry, Aye; Greene, Aye; Miller, Aye; Terranova, Aye.

In executive session at 5:58 with Joe Bergeron as invited guest.

Miller moves to return to open session, Terranova seconds, Art, aye; Carter, aye; Conry, Aye; Greene, Aye; Miller, Aye; Terranova, Aye.

Return to Open Session at 6:21

Called back to order 6:22pm

IX. New Superintendent contract discussion (possible vote) VOTE

Greene moves the of the 3-year employment agreement by and Between MGRSD and with Dr. Jason McCandless as presented. Miller seconds. Art, aye; Carter, aye; Conry, Aye; Greene, Aye; Miller, Aye; Terranova, Aye.

X. Upcoming meetings:

Finance Subcommittee Thursday at 11 by Zoom.

School Committee Retreat, August 25

Possible public forum on Tuesday;

School committee next Thursday.

- XI. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting None.
- XII. Terranova moves to adjourn, Miller seconds. Art, aye; Carter, aye; Conry, Aye; Greene, Aye; Miller, Aye; Terranova, Aye.
- XIII. Adjourned at 6:25.

#### DRAFT

Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee Open Session

YouTube from MGRS A109 Date: Thursday, Aug 13, 2020 (public will not be allowed on site) Time: 6 pm

Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting.

The public can access the meeting virtually here:

MGRSD YouTube Channel at:https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLR0nrLhpZHIyPFUhaMxPSg or watch the TV broadcast on WilliNet TV channel 1302 in Williamstown.

Public comments may be sent to the school committee at schoolcommittee@mgrhs.org up to 2 hours before the meeting. Your emailed comment will be read aloud by the Chair. If you prefer to voice your public comment, please send an email of intent with your phone number and you will be called during the public comment portion of the meeting. In your email, please be sure to include your name, town, (phone number), and agenda item that you are commenting on.

#### **Open Session Minutes**

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm.
- II. Reading of Mission: At Mount Greylock Regional School District, our mission is to create a community of learners working together in a safe and challenging learning environment that encourages restorative based processes, respect, inclusive diversity, courtesy, integrity and responsibility through high expectations and cooperation resulting in life-long learning and personal growth.
- III. Introductions:
  - I. Members present Carter, Miller, Conry, Terranova, Art, Greene, and DiLego;
  - II. Dr. Putnam, Interim Superintendent
  - III. Principals Thomas, Schutz, and Pratt
- IV. Public Comment: Reading of 17 written comments submitted via email by members of the public, all available here:

<u>https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1miYiJ9u3iH46CvxA2mYzfoNWKOdKx6lO</u>, and comment from Charlie McWeeny, rising senior MGRSD, by telephone call, who voiced support for inperson education, following guidance of public health experts and state officials.

- V. Approval of minutes:
  - I. June 16,2020 -- Miller moves to approve June 16, 2020 minutes, DiLego seconds. Motion passes unanimously, 7-0.
  - II. June 25,2020 -- Miller moves to approve June 25, 2020 minutes, DiLego seconds. Motion passes unanimously, 7-0.

- VI. Superintendent Update.
  - I. Dr. Putnam presents reopening plan, voices appreciation for tone and comments, notes that reopening plan is a series of compromises. Notes fear of disease is tempered by low positivity in Massachusetts, and especially in Berkshire county. No cases in Williamstown & Lanesboro in the last month, out of 513 tests. No positive COVID tests among BMC staff in last month. All this demonstrates low level of infection in the community. Notes diversity of school reopening plans in county, all dependent on
  - II. Discussion of Options for Families in 2020:
    - I. Blended synchronous learning model for in-person learning (Hybrid)
    - II. Remote synchronous learning model.
    - III. Full in-person for high-needs
    - IV. Hybrid option starts on 9/16 with 2 weeks of fully remote instruction; but bringing kids into school during those 2 weeks to meet with teachers and learn. Fully implemented Hybrid model starting October 1. Grades 7-12: 5.5 of synchronous instruction / day. Pre-K to 6 receive 5 hours of synchronous learning per day.
      - I. Pre-K to 6: instruction committee recommended AM/PM sessions.
      - II. Extended discussion by School Committee members and administrators.
      - III. Grades 7-9: Group A for 2 days; Remote on Wednesday; Group B for 2 days. With synchronous learning for core classes on remote days.
      - IV. Grades 10 12
      - V. Option 1A: half of grade attends in science class cohort; conduct classes remotely, with only in-person class being the lab science;
      - VI. Option 1(B): half of grade attends in alphabetical cohorts; rotates to their classes;
    - V. Remote Synchronous Learning Model
    - VI. Dr. Putnam: He's supposed to send a plan tomorrow comments and discussions have highlighted problems of plan;
    - VII. SC discussion we should submit what we want to see, and try to negotiate;
      - I. Summary generally accepting of plans, but desired more in person time at elementary school;
      - II. Consensus of proposed changes have 4 full days at pk 6
        - I. Need 3 new teachers + 1 para at LES;
        - II. At WES need additional 6<sup>th</sup> grade class + 1.5 Sp. Ed. hires;
        - III. Some committee members press for scheduled transition to inperson at middle & high school;
        - IV. Summary of consensus, for all who want it (remote remains an option):
          - Pk 6; 4 days a week in person, 1 day remote; start 9/16
          - II. 7 9; ABRAB synchronous Hybrid / remote; start 9/16
          - III. 10-12: Option 1(b) ABRAB; start 9/16
          - IV. Plan to go full in day instruction for all 7-12 on 10/1, 4 days per week, with Wednesdays remote
        - V. Committee notes this is aspirational and subject to negotiation.
        - VI. Miller moves the approval of reopening plan with the following changes:

- I. In person prek-6 (one day remote on wednesday for deep cleaning) for 4 full days a week (mon-tues-thurs-fri), starting Sept. 16;
- II. 7-9 AB-AB for two full days of instruction in person (Mon-Thurs for one cohort, Tues-Fri for the other) for those who want it. lectures will be synchronous, teachers will give four lectures and not repeat.
   Wednesday all are remote for deep cleaning. Starting hybrid in person Sept 16 as well
- III. 10-12: option 1B; for now grouped in alphabetical cohorts. Rotate classes. Cohort structure as in 7-9 (AB-AB). Wednesday deep cleaning and all remote. Starting hybrid in person on Sept 16.
- IV. Milestone is to go to full day for all: plan is for all to go four full days starting oct 1.
- VII. DiLego seconds.
  - I. Greene voices support for administration position;
  - II. Motion passes Vote 6 -1, with Greene opposed.
- VII. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports:
- VIII. Policy Liaison
  - I. Policy EBCFA- Face Coverings, First Read by Greene. Discussion of what is an acceptable facemask both in terms of propriety (covered by normal dress code policy) and efficacy.
  - II. Policy EBC-S Emergency Plans: Interim Policy for COVID-19 Related Issues, Second Read. Greene moves the approval of the Policy, Miller seconds. Motion passes unanimously, by a vote of 7-0.
- IX. Business Administrator Update

A. SBCS late update. Dr. Putnam explains that we need to update the School Building Committee per MSBA rules. The only changes that we are proposing tonight reflect the changes in district staff and school committee members. The Superintendent role is now Robert Putnam, Business Administrator role is Joe Bergeron, the MGRS Principal is now Jake Schutz, and Carrie Greene is now on the school committee. For signing authority, Rob is the Superintendent and Regina can take signing authority as SBC Chair. (In case anybody asks, Dan Caplinger held the signing authority before.) Everybody else remains as they were.

Miller moves to accept the school building committee composition as presented. DiLego seconds. Greene notes her first name should be Carolyn. Motion passes unanimously, by a vote of 7-0.

B. SBC Finance Subcommittee Reorganization: Dr. Putnam explains the Superintendent and Business Administrator were previously on the committee along with longtime members Steve Wentworth and Hugh Daley, and suggests that the finance subcommittee consist of Steve Wentworth, Hugh Daley and Joe Bergeron -- to have an odd number of people on the committee, focused on the financial picture as we move through completion of the project.

Miller moves to accept Steve Wentworth, Hugh Daley and Joe Bergeron as the members of the School Building Committee's Finance Subcommittee. TerraNova seconds. Motion passes unanimously, by a vote of 7-0.

C. MGRS Building Project Signing Authority. Dr. Putnam explains signing authority is embedded within the School Building Committee slate, but good to move and accept a motion separately with more detail. In the past, signing authority was sometimes given to allow the Superintendent and SC representative to execute things below certain dollar thresholds or when time was of the essence ... but we're now in a phase where those caveats are not necessary. Miller moves that Robert Putnam, as Interim Superintendent, and Regina Dilego are persons with signing authority for the school building project, with the direction to use that authority only after recommendation by the School Building Committee's Finance Subcommittee. Terranova seconds. Motion passes unanimously, by a vote of 7-0.

X. Dilego, moves to go into Executive Session with intent to return to Open Session per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1) to discuss a complaint brought against the public body (Open Meeting Law Complaint filed July 28, 2020 by T. Daniels of iBerkshires against MGRSD School Committee); per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Interim Superintendent). Miller seconds. Carter, Aye; Miller Aye; Conry Aye; Terranova, Aye; Art, Aye; Greene, Aye; DiLego, Aye.

Return to open session at 10:15.

- XI. Interim Superintendent contract discussion.
   Miller moves that we accept the submitted contract with Dr. Putnam to run from 9/1 through 11/10. Dilego seconds. Discussion notes Dr. McCandless to start 11/5. Motion passes unanimously.
- XII. Terranova moves to adjourn, Miller seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- XIII. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting
- XIV. Motion to adjourn

## ADF - SCHOOL DISTRICT WELLNESS PROGRAM

The School Committee recognizes the relationship between student well-being and student achievement as well as the importance of a comprehensive district wellness program. Therefore, the school district will provide developmentally appropriate and sequential nutrition and physical education as well as opportunities for physical activity. The wellness program will be implemented in a multidisciplinary fashion and will be evidence based.

## Wellness Committee

The school district will establish a wellness committee that consists of at least one (1): parent/guardian, student, nurse, school food service representative, School Committee member, school administrator, member of the public, and other community members as appropriate. If available, a qualified, credentialed nutrition professional will be a member of the wellness committee. The school committee designates the following individual(s) as wellness program coordinator(s): **Nolan Pratt, Lanesborough Elementary School Principal**. Only employees of the district who are members of the wellness committee may serve as wellness program coordinators. Wellness coordinators, in consultation with the wellness committee, will be in charge of implementation and evaluation of this policy.

#### Nutrition Guidelines

It is the policy of the school district that all foods and beverages made available on campus during the school day are consistent with School Lunch Program nutrition guidelines. Guidelines for reimbursable school meals will not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to law. The district will create procedures that address all foods available to students throughout the school day in the following areas:

- guidelines for maximizing nutritional value by decreasing fat and added sugars, increasing nutrition density and moderating portion size of each individual food or beverage sold within the school environment;
- separate guidelines for foods and beverages in the following categories:
  - 1. foods and beverages included in a la carte sales in the food service program on school campuses;
  - 2. foods and beverages sold in vending machines, snack bars, school stores, and concession stands;
  - 3. foods and beverages sold as part of school-sponsored fundraising activities; and
  - 4. refreshments served at parties, celebrations, and meetings during the school day; and
  - 5. specify that its guidelines will be based on nutrition goals, not profit motives.

## Nutrition and Physical Education

The school district will provide nutrition education aligned with standards established by the USDA's National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program in all grades. The school district will provide physical education training aligned with the standards established by

the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education. The wellness program coordinators, in consultation with the wellness committee, will develop procedures that address nutrition and physical education.

## Nutrition Education

The following list contains examples of goals your school district may want to consider for inclusion in its policy. Each school district must determine its own goals and include them in its policy.

- Students receive nutrition education that teaches the skills they need to adopt and maintain healthy eating behaviors.
- Nutrition education is offered in the school cafeteria as well as in the classroom, with coordination between the foodservice staff and other school personnel, including teachers.
- Students receive consistent nutrition messages from all aspects of the school program.
- Division health education curriculum standards and guidelines address both nutrition and physical education.
- Nutrition is integrated into the health education or core curricula (e.g., math, science, language arts).
- Schools link nutrition education activities with the coordinated school health program.
- Staff who provide nutrition education have appropriate training.
- The level of student participation in the school breakfast and school lunch programs is appropriate.

# Physical Education Activities

The following list contains examples of goals your school district may want to consider for inclusion in its policy. Each school district must determine its own goals and include them in its policy.

- Students are given opportunities for physical activity during the school day through physical education (PE) classes, daily recess periods for elementary school students, and the integration of physical activity into the academic curriculum where appropriate.
- Students are given opportunities for physical activity through a range of before- and/or after-school programs including, but not limited to, intramurals, interscholastic athletics, and physical activity clubs.
- Schools work with the community to create ways for students to walk, bike, rollerblade or skateboard safely to and from school.
- Schools encourage parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.
- Schools provide training to enable staff to promote enjoyable, lifelong physical activity among students.

# Other School-Based Activities

The wellness program coordinators, in consultation with the wellness committee, are charged with developing procedures addressing other school-based activities to promote wellness.

The following list contains examples of goals your school district may want to consider for inclusion in its policy. Each school district must determine its own goals and include them in its policy.

- An adequate amount of time is allowed for students to eat meals in adequate lunchroom facilities.
- All children who participate in subsidized food programs are able to obtain food in a nonstigmatizing manner.
- Environmentally-friendly practices such as the use of locally grown and seasonal foods, school gardens, and non-disposable tableware have been considered and implemented where appropriate.
- Physical activities and/or nutrition services or programs designed to benefit staff health have been considered and, to the extent practical, implemented.

## **Evaluation**

The wellness committee will assess all education curricula and materials pertaining to wellness for accuracy, completeness, balance and consistency with the state and district's educational goals and standards. Wellness program coordinators shall be responsible for devising a plan for implementation and evaluation of the district wellness policy and are charged with operational responsibility for ensuring that schools meet the goals of the district wellness policy. Wellness program coordinators will report to the School Committee annually.

LEGAL REFS.:	<ul> <li>The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, Section 204, P.L. 108 -265</li> <li>The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 - 1769h</li> <li>The Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1771 - 1789</li> </ul>
CROSS REFS.:	EFC, Free and Reduced-Cost Food Services IHAMA, Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs KI, Public Solicitations/Advertising in District Facilities

File: EBCFA

#### FACE COVERINGS

The District is committed to providing a safe environment as schools reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks or face coverings. Therefore, in accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the following requirements are in place until further notice.

A face covering that covers the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals in school buildings, on school grounds and on school transportation, even when social distancing is observed. <u>"Masks have to be</u> either multiple-layer fabric face masks with a tight weave or paper surgical masks, and must fully cover both the nose and mouth. Studies indicate that bandanas, neck gaiters and buffs, and masks with exhalation valves are less effective at preventing droplet spread, so will not be allowed as substitutes." <u>Exempted</u> from this policy are students in Grade 1 and below. Masks will be required for all ages.

Individuals may be excused from the requirement for the following list of reasons, per CDC guidance:

The individual:

- has trouble breathing;
- is unconscious;
- in incapacitated;
- · cannot remove the mask or face covering without assistance.

In addition, masks or face coverings will not be required for anyone who has a medical, behavioral or other challenge making it unsafe to wear a face mask or face covering. A written note from a physician is required for a requested exemption. Parents may not excuse their child from the face mask requirement by signing a waiver. No student who is not wearing a mask can be around other students.

Additionally, face masks or face coverings will not be required when appropriate social distancing is enforced:

- during mask breaks;
- while eating or drinking;
- during physical education classes;
- while outside.

Exceptions to this policy under certain circumstances, such as for students with medical, behavioral or other challenges who are unable to wear masks, must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances.

#### Commented [VS1]: Language from Williams college

**Commented [AD2]:** This will be a difficult standard to enforce. It may be best to say that "It is strongly recommended that masks be either..."

The next sentence would begin "All masks must fully cover..."

Potentially delete ", so will not be allowed as substitutes"

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Commented [VS3]: Submitted by Wellness Group and SC

**Commented [AD4]:** This will be very difficult to enforce against children in this age group which is why the Commissioner had this age group exempted in his recommendation. Instead of exempted, you could state that children Grade 1 and not required, but are strongly encouraged to wear masks at all times.

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Commented [VS5]: Submitted by Wellness Group

Commented [VS6]: Submitted by Wellness Group

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members are responsible for providing their own face coverings. However, the district will supply disposable face covering for individuals who arrive at a building, or board school transportation, without one. <u>Reusable masks/face coverings provided by families should be washed by families daily.</u>

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal will consult with the parent/guardians to determine whether an exception is appropriate, or the student may be removed from the school building for in-person learning until such time as they can comply with the requirement or the requirement is lifted.

Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of School Committee policy.

Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility. No visitors will be admitted to the building.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.

LEGAL REF.:	Commonwealth of Massachusetts, COVID-19 Order No. 31 - <u>https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-</u> <u>coverings/download</u>
REFS.:	Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Considerations for Wearing Masks - <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html</u> Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Reopening Guidelines - <u>http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/</u> Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Mask Up MA! – <u>https://www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma</u>

CROSS REF.: JICA- Student Dress Code

SOURCE: MASC – August 2020

Commented [VS7]: Submitted by Wellness Group

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building during school hours.

**Commented [VS8]:** Submitted by Wellness Group **Commented [AD9]:** Visitors will be necessary in the school, such as delivery and family members for pick-ups. You could say here a statement to the effect that only visitors approved by Administration who are in compliance with this policy will be permitted to enter the school