

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
REMOTE MEETING

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

August 28, 2020

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT via REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

Lisa Laprade, Chair

Tracey White, Vice-Chair

Steve Bilafer

Mayanne Briggs

Joshua Donati

Dr. Melissa Pearrow

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

None

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION REMOTELY PRESENT:

Michael J. Welch, Superintendent

Dr. Ian Kelly, Assistant Superintendent

Sam Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance

Meeting Location: Remote Meeting

Remote meeting commenced at 3:05 p.m.

Ms. Laprade called the remote Executive Session to order. A roll call attendance was taken:

Steve Bilafer- Present

Mayanne Briggs - Present

Joshua Donati - Present

Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Present

Tracey White, Vice-Chair- Present

Lisa Laprade, Chair- Present

Supt. Welch informed the Committee that several families have withdrawn from Preschool due to the proposed remote learning model. Between that and the need to reduce class sizes for appropriate social distance spacing; the negative impact to the budget may be \$200,000.

Mr. Rippin noted there will also be a hit to bus fees as fewer families will be taking the bus. There is a Town meeting on Monday to discuss COVID-19 funding and distribution. The School Department is requesting to be refunded for Air Purifiers, PPE and other items to support the School Reopening Plan. For FY 22 funds will have to return to pre-pandemic fees (a \$300,000 budget driver for Preschool and bus fees.)

The Committee discussed if CARES funding would cover the Preschool tuition loss.

They discussed having in-person learning for Preschool only.

Mr. Rippin noted there are limited choices to recoup the Preschool tuition loss. He will know more after Monday's Town meeting.

Supt. Welch stated the meeting on Monday is critical and important to discuss at tonight's meeting as there could be ramifications to personnel.

The Committee discussed the possibility of having to lay off Preschool teachers and contracting out Special Education services.

Ms. White asked how much money has been spent to date for COVID-19 costs that CARES act may cover.

Mr. Rippin explained he spent roughly \$320,000 in ESSER commitments, \$ 200,000 on air purifiers, plus additional custodial costs. More than a million dollars has currently been spent. The Town has received about \$3 million in total to address COVID related costs and the schools have spent half of that on supplies. He noted that as COVID-19 goes away, the funding is going to go away. There will also be an incurred cost to providing bus monitors and other temporary positions.

Ms. Laprade discussed today's negotiation session. A basic agreement has been made for 7 days of day remote professional development (between September 1 and September 11) and in-person PD on September 13 and 14. Remote learning with teachers in their classrooms would begin on September 16.

Dr. Pearrow motioned to close the remote Executive Session of August 28, 2020, Ms. Briggs second; a roll call vote was taken:

Steve Bilafer- Yes

Mayanne Briggs - Yes

Joshua Donati - Yes

Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Yes

Tracey White, Vice-Chair- Yes

Lisa Laprade, Chair - Yes

Motion passed 6-0

Remote Executive Session concluded at 3:25 p.m. The Committee returned to the regular meeting.