



**Teaching and Learning Subcommittee**  
**Remote**  
**October 19, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.**  
**Open Meeting Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Beverly Hugo (Chair), Priscila Sousa\*, Tiffanie Maskell

**ABSENT:** Scott Wadland

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Amy Bright, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Anne Ludes, Director of Special Education Laura Spear and Executive Assistant to the School Committee Joanna Hastry

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Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. She noted all in attendance and said that the meeting was being held remotely, was being broadcast live on Facebook, and was also being recorded.

Public Comment

No public comment

Update on Remote Learning with the Office of Teaching and Learning

Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Anne Ludes spoke about daily attendance during remote learning, and how they will be looking at reports to see patterns, such as classes a student missed repeatedly or times of day where absences seem to be more pronounced. She said they are waiting for all the small issues to be fixed in order to run the numbers to make sure they are accurate. Ms. Maskell asked for an update on the progress in reaching out to English Language Learners regarding attendance, as attendance was very low for those students. Ms. Ludes said they have seen an improvement, but want to sustain it, and they have been reaching out, doing home visits, and using interpreters. Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Amy Bright said that they are also working on students who have not enrolled in another district, working to make sure they are withdrawn from Framingham and enrolled in the new school. Ms. Ludes spoke about the usage of Securely which allows teachers to see if students are not working on the classwork or looking at something else on their computer. She said that all students in the same grade are taking tests on the same day, to help prevent multiple kids in one household taking tests on the same day and causing WiFi issues.

Special Education Updates

Director of Special Education Laura Spear spoke to the Special Education Audits, and said that there was supposed to be a self assessment in the Spring, and a Fall site visit from DESE, but

due to schools being closed because of COVID-19, the self assessment has been postponed to this Spring and the site visit for the Fall of 2021.

Ms. Spear gave an update on remote learning for special education students. She said that the DESE Spring guidance was for reduced IEP services, but this year's expectation is that all IEP services are being delivered, although the mode of delivery could be different than in the past. She said that they have to develop Special Education COVID-19 learning plans for each student with an IEP, and the department has also looked at all three different potential models of learning and how their services would look within each. Ms. Spear said that the second wave of students are returning on November 5th, which includes the remaining sub-separate programs in the district, and the preschool special education students and their typical peers. She said they are checking in with families to see what their preferences are about returning or remaining remote, and their need for transportation. She said that they are working with visual and hearing impaired consultants with remote learning, with items such as larger screens and boom microphones for teachers to help with clarity.

Ms. Hugo said that there may be some students absent due to technology issues, and asked if the strict absentee policy with unenrollment should be looked at due to that. Ms. Ludes said that this year they have to look at attendance in a different way, and principals have been approaching it as removing any barriers, using all resources to try and contact families that they have not had any contact with, and have also been using the Attendance Officer. She said they are looking at evening classes for high school students who may be supporting their family during the day. Ms. Hugo asked how many students are in out of district placements during this time. Ms. Spear spoke about all the internal programs they are expanding, and that the greatest obstacle with expanding and being able to provide internal services is the physical space for them. Ms. Hugo asked the administrators in attendance at the meeting what is keeping them up at night during this remote period. Ms. Spear said her concerns are that the in person experience helps with risk reduction, which cannot happen as well during remote, so it is hard to determine who is higher needs than someone else. Ms. Bright said her concerns are around school play being a learning and supervision role, the struggle with the amount of screen time, and being able to create a community remotely. Ms. Ludes said that she worries about the staff; it was not a restful summer so opportunities to recharge did not happen, and worries about staff struggling to keep the work/life balance. Ms. Maskell asked for metrics of bringing other students back to in person learning, and asked how many teachers will be remaining remote due to personal reasons, if that number will be a problem for in person learning, and if substitutes will be qualified to fill in for longer lengths of time. Ms. Ludes said the Back to School Plan has designated dates to look at bringing more students back, and the next one is on December 7th. She said that these dates were set up to help with planning, as decisions will not be made before those dates, and involve conversations with the Department of Public Health and senior leaders. Ms. Ludes said staffing will be a factor in making determinations on bringing more students back, and they do not have the exact number yet, as staff are not required to notify the District at this point and time. Ms. Spear spoke about what they have seen with staff needing to stay remote during Phase 1, how they anticipate more having to have to stay remote during Phase 2, and there are not a lot of people looking for longterm substitute positions during this time.

Next Meeting Dates and Agenda Suggestions

Members agreed on the next meeting date of November 16th at 5:00 p.m. The suggested topics for the agenda were a discussion on the progress of the Code of Conduct with the Department of Health and Wellness, and a discussion on the later high school start times.

\*Ms. Sousa disconnected due to technical difficulties and joined by audio at 6:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of July 29, 2020.

**Moved:** Ms. Maskell

**Seconded:** Ms. Sousa

**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (3-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Sousa, Maskell)

Adjournment

**Motion:** To adjourn.

**Moved:** Ms. Maskell

**Seconded:** Ms. Sousa

**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (3-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Sousa, Maskell)

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda

July 29, 2020 Draft minutes

*These minutes were approved by the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meeting in Open Session on December 21, 2020.*

*These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham for posting on December 22, 2020.*