

Uxbridge School Committee Meeting

March 17, 2021

(Meeting via Zoom platform)

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK
2021 OCT 27 PM 3:05

Attendees:	Present	Not Present
Matt Keane, Chair	X	
Paul Paulino, Secretary	X	
Kim Cirrone, Member	X	
Brett Pomeroy, Member	X	
Holly Black, Member	X	
Debbie Stark, Member	X	

1. **Call to Order 6:31pm by Matt Keane**
2. **Public Comment:**

No public comment via email.

Paul Paulino expressed thanks to Superintendent Search Committee for the time and hard work they have dedicated to search process.

3. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Tiano shared an update on the progress being made to adhere to Commissioner Riley's mandate that K-5 students be back in school in person (full-time) by April 5th, and grades 6-8 by April 28th.

District is planning for grades 2-7 to return March 29th, with grades 8-12 back in the building on April 5th, ahead of state mandated timeline.

There will still be a full-time remote option available for remainder of SY20-21; no more hybrid option or asynchronous Wednesday afternoons.

All mitigating safety protocols will continue to be in place.

Pool testing procedures are being finalized and Administration is working with school nurses and Uxbridge Board of Health to schedule times for teachers and staff to get vaccinated.

Taft School is looking for lunch coverage support and paraprofessionals to assist with increased student numbers.

Principal Rubin (Uxbridge High School), Principal DeMarco (Whitin School) and Principal Bellville (Taft Early Learning Center) spoke to how Covid related absences (such as a quarantine dictated by a positive case) will be handled, on a case by case basis, in order to keep students on schedule with learning.

**Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021**

Superintendent Tiano clarified that if a participant in the pool testing has a positive test, the rest of the pool is then rapid tested and any other positives are sent home to quarantine (and put into remote learning protocol appropriate for grade level).

Wendy Phillips, Director of Curriculum, shared that new tentative MCAS test dates have been released:

Grades 3-5	May 10-June 11
Grades 6-8	TBD
Grade 9	June 1-June 11 (Science)
Grade 10	May – June

MCAS are being administered for intervention data; scores will not be available and will not be used in decision regarding new math curriculum.

Business Manager Brian Hyde advised group that district is working with Vendetti Bus to accommodate all requests for transportation.

4. FY21 Budget Update

Mr. Hyde reviewed budget packet and shared updates and changes from budget to actual.

All districts in MA received a grant from MA State Coronavirus Prevention Fund; \$25 per student/\$75 per economically disadvantaged student, to help pay for covid related expenses.

District is also due to receive \$947,003 through an ESSER II grant (Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund); funds can be spent in one of three categories: Academics & Instruction, Social/Emotional Support, or Operations.

Deadline to use funds in FY2022 is July 31, 2021.

Additionally, a \$2.5 million ESSER III grant is anticipated; Administration will share updates regarding determined usage of funds.

Kim Cirrone inquired if there will be a full remote option for SY21-22; Superintendent Tiano indicated that as things stand, per Commissioner Riley, there will not be, but that he anticipates normal seasonal availability of new staff.

Administration will share plans regarding academic needs for summer students with the School Committee by mid-April to May.

5. Softball Transportation & Facilities Access

Committee revisited issue raised by community member about inequities experienced by softball team, due to having to travel to Whitin School for practice and home games (can team access locker rooms at high school prior to change prior to leaving; bathroom situation at Whitin Field; and storm shelter situation).

Motion to advise the Administration to provide bus transportation for games and practices from Uxbridge High School to the Whitin School Field, and access to Whitin School for facilities' usage, by Paul Paulino, seconded by Kim Cirrone. Vote: 6-0. Approved.

6. Whitin Outdoor Classroom Proposal

Matt Keane requested members send him their interest and availability for a site visit with the Whitin PTO at the Whitin School to tour the planned area.

7. Light Up "The U" campaign proposal

Someone from School Committee will liaison with Boosters to approve/confirm how donors are being recognized (which donors and appropriate design/verbiage).

Motion to approve Uxbridge Boosters Light Up "The U" campaign proposal for donor recognition with final approval of the design and placement, pending School Committee vote by Paul Paulino, seconded by Kim Cirrone. Vote: 6-0. Approved.

8. Graduation Date Change

Motion to change the date of Uxbridge High School graduation from Sunday, June 6th to Saturday, June 5th by Kim Cirrone, seconded by Matt Keane. Vote: 6-0. Approved.

9. Superintendent Search

Discussion regarding memo provided by Miss Novick as to process and work done by Superintendent Search Committee members, in effort to pare down applicants to three finalists.

The search committee needs to arrange for the School Committee to have visits with co-workers and representatives from candidates' sending districts; either in person or virtually, depending on Covid visitation policies.

School Committee needs to schedule phone interviews with the finalists when the in-person visits are completed. Matt Keane will send an email to determine members' availability and choice re: number of interviews per night.

Week of April 5th for interviews and Week of April 12th for selection process.

10. Old/New Business

New Business:

Discussion about new science curriculum

Update on pool testing roll-out and participation numbers

Timeline of when Whitin School might reintroduce Nature's Classroom, and if the two grades that missed due to the pandemic could be included.

Update of discussion with other municipalities regarding possibility of spectators at away games; currently there are no road fans allowed. Uxbridge parents can only attend home games.

Motion to Adjourn by Paul Paulino, seconded by Debbie Stark. Vote: 6-0. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Keane

Matthew Keane, Chair

Paul Paulino, Secretary

Kim Cirrone

Kim Cirrone, Member

Deb Stark, Member

Holly Black, Member

Brett Pomeroy

Brett Pomeroy, Member