



Georgetown School Committee

Thursday, February 17, 2022

Meeting Minutes

51 North Street
Georgetown, MA 01833
(978) 352-5777

Barbie Linares, Chairman

Michael Hinchliffe, Vice Chairman

Cheryl Lachendro, Clerk

Suzanne MacDonald

Lauren King

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Attendance:

Michael Hinchliffe

Superintendent Jacobs

Margaret Maher

Suzanne MacDonald

Suzanne Sutherland

Jack Tiano

Cheryl Lachendro

Collin MacDonald

Lauren King

Jeff Carovillano

Mackenzie Beauvais, Student Representative

At 6:30PM tonight Barbie Linares called the Public Hearing to order. This hearing was for the proposed Superintendent's Budget for FY23. All School Committee members and the Superintendent were present for the hearing, along with members of the Administration Team (Suzanne Sutherland, Jack Tiano, Collin MacDonald, Jeff Carovillano & Margaret Maher). There were no public comments or discussion.

Barbie Linares made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35PM. Michael Hinchliffe moved the motion. Suzanne MacDonald seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

1. Call to Order:

Barbie Linares called the regular School Committee meeting to order at 6:45PM.

2. Consent Agenda:

Motion: to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2022. Michael Hinchliffe moved the motion. Suzanne MacDonald seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Student Representative:

Mackenzie discussed the school play and boys and girls basketball. Both made the playoffs. She spoke about the games being well attended. She said that the Student Council met last week and there was discussion about a talent show in the spring. She said that seniors were receiving acceptance letters from colleges. She spoke about the Prom which will be held at Danversport Yacht Club and will be for Juniors and Seniors. She stated that there was a large participation of the mask survey among the students.

5. Superintendent's Information for the Committee:

Jack Tiano joined the discussion to discuss the Special Education Determination under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) - Meets Requirements (MR). The School Committee thanked Jack for his hard work.

6. Financial Report: None

7. Sub-Committee Reports:

Barbie Linares stated that the Negotiations Sub-Committee has been meeting in regards to the GESA contract. No other Sub-Committee information at this time.

8. Old Business:

The School Committee reviewed the Draft School Calendar. Lauren King asked about a change to the no school day on December 23rd. She requested that it be a full day or a half day instead of a day off. There was a brief discussion, however the date was not voted on. The committee decided to vote on the first day of school, but not the entire calendar. Cheryl Lachendro thought she had seen an error so the committee wanted more time to review.

Michael Hinchliffe made a motion. **Motion: to approve the first day of school as August 31, 2022.** Barbie Linares moved the motion. Suzanne MacDonald seconded the motion. Vote taken. Motion carried.

9. New Business:

The School Committee addressed the Mask Policy EBCFA (FaceCoverings). Barbie asked that Public Comment be held until the end of the discussion. Carol Jacobs talked about the Mask Survey results which showed that the majority of parents, students and staff were in favor of removing the masks. She discussed the vaccination rate of staff and students and stated that the Medical Board was pleased with the numbers. Carol also talked about the COVID numbers in Georgetown. She explained that there has been a drop in the numbers since January. Carol discussed the in-home testing that started last week and the decisions of surrounding districts to remove the masks. She explained to the committee that even if the mask policy is rescinded, there will be some mask requirements still in place (buses, nurse's office, if you return to school after being COVID positive, masking would be required for 5 days). During the meeting we were told that DESE said that the masking after a positive COVID test would not be enforced by teachers, however it is expected that people will do the right thing. The masks will be recommended only.

Mike Anderson, Director of Facilities joined the discussion and explained to the committee that the cleaning and fogging will still take place in all buildings and that masks will still be available at the schools.

Barbie asked Tim Larson, Union Representative for the GEA for his opinion. He expressed his concern that if staff get COVID, they will need time off, but felt it was still safe to remove the masks.

Public Comments:

Nicole Johnson, 11 Thurlow Street stated that she does not want the masks and hopes that the School Committee will vote for that.

Bethany Silk-Brown, 4 Emily Lane stated that she was at the school and a staff member was addressing a parent and that the staff member was not wearing a mask. She said she was upset that the children are made to follow the rules, but the staff is not.

Tanya Manning, 35 Spofford Street seconded Bethany's comment. She stated that she does not think that COVID will go away and she feels that it is time to remove the masks. She believes that the decision to mask should be the parent's decision. She talked about sporting events and the masking. She reinstated that it should be the parent's choice. Tanya was allowed to speak a second time and stated that she thinks the School Committee should follow the Governor's lead.

James Stafford, 13 Lakewood Drive stated that he does not want children to be masked and hopes that the School Committee makes that decision.

Michael Hinchliffe made a motion. **Motion: to rescind the Mask Policy EBCFA (Face Coverings) effective February 28, 2022.** Barbie Linares moved the motion. Cheryl Lachendro seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

10. **Adjourn.**

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 7:39PM. Cheryl Lachendro moved the motion. Michael Hinchliffe seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Parker
School Committee Secretary