

**WOBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REMOTE MEETING
August 11, 2020**

A REMOTE Meeting of the Woburn School Committee was held on August 11, 2020, beginning at 7:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Chisholm-Present, Ms. Cormier-Present, Mr. Kisiel-Present, Mr. Lipsett-Present, Mr. Mulrenan-Present, Dr. Wells-Present, Chairperson Crowley-Present

This particular meeting was held remotely because we are having public comment, and we have a member who is traveling. Other than that we have had two consistent in person public meetings, we are holding this meeting remotely for the convenience of the public.

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

Mrs. Chisholm made a motion to approve the SC minutes of 7.21.20 and 7.30.20.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairperson Crowley-yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Galvin thanked the school committee for all the hours they are putting in and for the awesome responsibility they have moving forward. He also thanked the Administrative Team and Chairperson Crowley for all of their work during this process. Dr. Crowley's leadership has been pretty intense. Mayor Galvin was here to weigh in on school opening. The most important thing to provide for is the health and safety of our students, teachers, parents, grandparents, and staff. At this time the best vote would be hybrid and that follows in line with the press release from the governor which was really encouraging as this gives the city a lot of flexibility to adjust as we need to between hybrid, remote, and at some point it would be nice to do full. Full will probably have to wait for the vaccine. We have all worked hard to put all the protocols in place. Mayor Galvin thinks we could effectively open up with the hybrid model. He is urging the committee to vote on the hybrid model tonight. The governor came up with the dashboard of what we should be looking for whether you're a red, yellow, green, or white. We all know that things can change, we don't control this virus. Right now we are at that point where we had 19 cases over the past two weeks and this would put us in a full hybrid model. What we see on the ground today is that we are in a good place where the governor would like to see cities and towns move. Those stats can change. We have put the protocols in place. We have also been provided with a significant amount of money from the governor, and he has also provided us with the support that we can adapt and adjust as need be. We will be watching the statistics. Right now, as we see it, we're in a good position and Mayor Galvin is encouraging the committee to adopt the hybrid model when we start the school year.

Chairperson Crowley commented having the city support is so helpful. She thanked Mayor Galvin for having the full city support as we go through this hard process.

Chairperson Crowley moved on to others who would like to speak in front of the school committee.

Ms. Jacinda Felix Haro - Parent

Ms. Haro wanted to know how we are going to be opening schools in person if we can't by order of the Governor, meet in person for this meeting. She also has concerns about the safety of the students and staff. Ms. Haro appreciates all the work that everyone is doing, and she knows that sometimes we make decisions that sound good but aren't. By looking at the way the virus is working and knowing that there is no vaccine this is not a safe thing to do. She just wants to know how we are holding this meeting online yet still encouraging or thinking about opening schools.

Chairperson Crowley reminded folks that public comment is a one way communication. Unfortunately one of the things about public comment is the school committee cannot respond.

A reminder that the reason why we are not meeting in person is that we can't hold more than 25 people in one space. We have met in person, but then we have the issue of if we want to allow public comment we need to have a ZOOM call for that purpose.

Ms. Kini Udovicki - Parent

Ms. Udovicki has a daughter entering grade 6 at Kennedy Middle School. She is also a school adjustment counselor at MS in Cambridge.

The mention of the fact that we have very low numbers here in Woburn. We have teachers who don't live in Woburn but teach in Woburn. Perhaps their city or town has higher numbers.

It is going to be hard for kids to keep their masks on. She thinks asking teachers and asking students to come back in right now where there is poor ventilation is a wrong move, it is irresponsible and dangerous. We should be basing the reopening decision on safety first. She understands the stressors on people due this pandemic. Some states opened up much earlier than us and their numbers have significantly gone up. She feels the communities that have chosen not to open in person have made the right decision. Her daughter won't be returning to school, her own mother is elderly and a child care provider.

Meghan Chapman - Parent

Ms. Chapman began by saying she appreciates all the heavy lifting the committee is doing and how they are trying to weigh on both sides, on all sides and everyone's opinion. She echoes what the previous speaker said and completely agrees. Starting fully remote with an eye on hey if things are going great let's move toward hybrid, instead of starting at what feels like a compromise. This definitely sounds like a safer decision. She wants the committee to know she does agree that in person learning will almost always be superior for our kids; social skills, in the moment teaching, safety checks, collaboration, there is so much more but who can learn if they don't feel safe. We hear so much about how staying home is traumatic for our kids, but with that being given, school instruction as Ms. Chapman understands it is to prepare for when, not if, your district will have positive cases. What will the quarantine of plan be if a teacher is exposed to a student who tests positive? Is the district going to tell us? It looks like at the moment it is not going to be required but Ms. Chapman would like to know what Woburn is going to do. She would like to know when and how the district will notify us. At what level of exposure would we find out? What will hallway traffic look like? Are we going to have pictures of kids just like Georgia where we have so many kids bumped up against each other shoulder to shoulder? What will before school and after school exiting the building look like? Are they all still going out one door? She encouraged the committee to share real specifics because she knows they want to make the very best choice possible. She wants the committee to make the healthiest choice possible which Ms. Chapman thinks is a remote start. Take care of our teachers, and take care of our students to make sure we move forward. Let's wait and see what the fall looks like.

Lauren Kessariss - WPS Teacher

From a Woburn teacher standpoint, she misses her students so much and can't wait to be back with them. She wants to comment on the hybrid model, it is a great model. The concern is the teachers are in the building every day, and this should be considered as well.

Denise Mason - Parent

Ms. Mason has two daughters, one at Joyce and one at Goodyear. She wants a full remote setting. She works in a health care setting and does not want anyone to see this or go through this.

Michael Prior - WPS Teacher

Teacher at JMS- 17 years. He loves the city of Woburn. The parents of these kids are wonderful, kids are phenomenal. Mr. Prior wants to be back in his classroom but not like this. He is concerned about the ventilation system. He wants to know what the filtration system does once you turn the heat on in school. Once you turn the heat on you mess with the filtration system. We have some serious things we need to answer before we make this decision tonight. Going back just to go back is not the wisest decision.

Marissa Schild- Parent

Ms. Schild echoes what everyone else is saying. She wants the kids to go back, but we are living in a different world right now and this is not the best decision. There is a lot going into this decision, but she feels there is a lot more work that needs to get done before we can make a decision.

Nicole Kenny - Parent

Ms. Kenny's daughter attends the Goodyear and wants to go back to school. However, she has been thinking of how kids will enter and exit school buildings and who will be at the doors to make sure this is happening. Who will be escorting a student to the nurse's office? How will you make sure there is nothing going on in the halls? There is so much that needs to be thought about; content delivery, students accessing guidance counseling services, and mask breaks. How about the classrooms after each lunch period or are lunches being served in the cafeteria? How are you going to schedule your PT and OT? Some staff members have to get very close to the students and some special needs students have to be handled with such care. We want to do this safe and do what is right for the students and staff.

Jessica Bedoya - WPS Teacher

Ms. Bedoya has been a WPS teacher for 20 years. She has two children who will be attending the JMS. Ms. Bedoya was in support of the hybrid plan until she saw a lot of holes in it. How long is the remote instruction? She feels it is better to start remote where the students can be with one teacher every single day.

PRESENTATION OF SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF

Dr. Crowley thanked all the families who have taken the time to either comment tonight, last week at public comment, taken surveys or who sent emails. He appreciates the support and patience that families have shown throughout the pandemic. Dr. Crowley also recognized the staff; some of whom spoke tonight and did a great job during the closure. That includes our paraprofessionals, our nurses, our secretaries, and our custodians who have worked throughout the closure. He thanked Mayor Galvin, the city council and school committee for their support and guidance. Dr. Crowley thanked his great leadership team, he couldn't do this alone. The principals are working with teachers at each school to build implementation based programs at each school. Dr. Crowley appreciates

working in a community like Woburn where they can have real conversations and support each other through what otherwise is a very difficult situation.

All Massachusetts public schools are required by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to create three plans for school reopening. Districts are to be prepared to move between these models as needed based on current data. The three model plans are as follows:

- Full remote instruction
- Hybrid learning which combines in-person instruction with remote learning
- Full-time, in-person instruction

On July 31, 2020 we submitted our three plans to DESE and tonight we will vote on what plan we think is best.

From the commissioners call this morning one of the things he pointed to was the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus testing site which indicated that Massachusetts is equal to or below 5%. As a state we are just under 2% as of this morning.

The Governor had a press conference this afternoon. The color coded metric is brand-new today. As of right now Woburn is green, however that can change at any point in time, and we have to be flexible to flip in and out of the models.

With new color-coded metric from DPH / COVID-19 Command, DESE is issuing additional guidance for selecting a learning model

New color-coded metric*		DESE expectation for learning model
RED	Average daily cases per 100,000 is greater than 8	Remote
YELLOW	Average daily cases per 100,000 is between 4 - 8	
GREEN	Average daily cases per 100,000 is less than 4	Hybrid OR Remote (if extenuating circumstances)
UNSHADED	Fewer than 5 total cases over the past 14 days. Generally, this is for communities with small populations and very few cases.	
		Full-time in-person OR Hybrid (if extenuating circumstances)

*Measured as a 14-day rolling average and will be reported weekly as part of the online DPH dashboard

When we built our plan we solicited feedback from parents as it related to our online performance last year. Our plan is to issue devices to all students; iPads to our youngest learners and Chromebooks to those that can use a keyboard. We will have consistent learning platforms. We will be organized and predictable in our schedule. Our intent whether in person, hybrid, or remote students will be working approximately the same amount of time that they would be whether they were in school as we knew school prior to the pandemic.

Hours of Instruction

Elementary Schools - Whether in person, hybrid, or remote, students will be provided learning opportunities from approximately 8:25 AM -2:40 PM. Depending on the setting, this will happen in person or remotely.

Middle Schools - Whether in person, hybrid, or remote, students will be provided learning opportunities from approximately 8:00-2:15. Depending on the setting, this will happen in person or remotely.

High School - While in the hybrid model, students will be provided learning opportunities from approximately 7:30 AM - 1:51 PM. Depending on the setting, this will happen in person or remotely. Those students choosing to be remote, regardless of what schedule the school district follows, will be expected to follow the published schedule. Ex. If the school is in hybrid, hours will be from 7:30-1:51 PM.

Proposed Hybrid Plan

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort A	In School Learning	In School Learning	Learning Virtually	Learning Virtually	Learning Virtually
Cohort B	Learning Virtually	Learning Virtually	Learning Virtually	In School Learning	In School Learning
Cohort C High Needs/ECP	In School Learning	In School Learning	Learning Virtually	In School Learning	In School Learning

Elementary/MS = In person days will be as close to regular arrival/dismissal w/lunch.

High School = Early dismissal w/grab & go lunch ---1 - 45 minute and 3 - 70 minute in person blocks + virtual block at home in afternoon.

Everybody would be learning virtually on Wednesday. Teachers would be working from home on Wednesday so the custodians can do a deep clean of the building before the next cohort comes in on Thursday. Cohort C, our high needs population will be coming in 4 of the 5 days.

Dr. Crowley ran through a few sample schedules so people could understand what it looks like. Dr. Crowley wants people to know the key word here is “sample” and these are things we are going to work through depending on the model selected. Dr. Crowley is very comfortable with whatever model is selected that we are going to provide a great education to all of your children in the Woburn Public Schools. We have well-developed, thoughtful plans and are prepared to implement (fluid/pivot) all models. We have worked collaboratively with all stakeholders throughout this process. There is no perfect answer. We are in a new world right now.

Sample Schedule **Elementary Hybrid

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Format: In-Person		Format: Virtual Learning		
Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting (synchronous)	Morning Meeting (synchronous)	Morning Meeting (synchronous)
ELA	ELA	Science/Social Studies (synchronous) Small Group/Independent Work	Specials	Specials
Morning Break	Morning Break	Tech Break/Snack	ELA (Virtual Class)	ELA (Virtual Class)
Math	Math	Writing (synchronous)	Remote Learning (asynchronous)	Remote Learning (asynchronous)
LUNCH	LUNCH	Asynchronous Independent Work	LUNCH	LUNCH
Writing	Writing		Math (Virtual Class)	Math (Virtual Class)
Afternoon Break	Afternoon Break		IXL ELA and Math	IXL ELA and Math
Science/Social Studies	Science/Social Studies			
Closing Meeting	Closing Meeting		Closing Meeting	Closing Meeting

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Check-in	Check-in	Check-in	Check-in	Check-in
ELA (synch)	ELA (synch)	ELA (synch)	ELA (synch)	ELA (synch)
Small Group/Independent Work	Small Group/Independent Work	Small Group/Independent Work	Small Group/Independent Work	Small Group/Independent Work
Asynchronous Independent Work/Specials	Asynchronous Independent Work/Specials	Asynchronous Independent Work/Specials	Asynchronous Independent Work/Specials	Asynchronous Independent Work/Specials
Tech Break/Snack	Tech Break/Snack	Tech Break/Snack	Tech Break/Snack	Tech Break/Snack
Asynchronous Independent Work/Specials	Asynchronous Independent Work/Specials	Asynchronous Independent Work/Specials	Asynchronous Independent Work/Specials	Asynchronous Independent Work/Specials
SEL Check-in/Tech Break	SEL Check-in/Tech Break	SEL Check-in/Tech Break	SEL Check-in/Tech Break	SEL Check-in/Tech Break
Writing (Synch)	Writing (Synch)	Writing (Synch)	Writing (Synch)	Writing (Synch)
Small Group/Independent Work	Small Group/Independent Work	Small Group/Independent Work	Small Group/Independent Work	Small Group/Independent Work
Tech Break/Lunch	Tech Break/Lunch	Tech Break/Lunch	Tech Break/Lunch	Tech Break/Lunch
Math (synch)	Math (synch)	Math (synch)	Math (synch)	Math (synch)
Small Group/Independent Work	Small Group/Independent Work	Small Group/Independent Work	Small Group/Independent Work	Small Group/Independent Work
Closing Meeting	Closing Meeting	Closing Meeting	Closing Meeting	Closing Meeting

Sample Schedule **Elementary Remote

	Monday (Cohort 1 - in person / Cohort 2 - remote)	Tuesday (Cohort 1 - in person / Cohort 2 - remote)	Wednesday (all remote)	Thursday (Cohort 1 - in person / Cohort 2 - remote)	Friday (Cohort 1 - in person / Cohort 2 - remote)
8:00 - 8:10	Homeroom	Homeroom	1 - 8:10 - 8:35	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:12 - 8:52	1	1	2 - 8:40 - 9:05	1	1
8:54 - 9:35	2	2	3 - 9:10 - 9:35	2	2
9:37 - 10:18	3	3	4 - 9:40 - 10:05	3	3
10:22 - 11:03	4	4	5 - 10:10 - 10:35	4	4
11:03 - 12:06	5	5	6 - 10:40 - 11:05	5	5
12:09 - 12:50	6	6	7 - 11:10 - 11:35	6	6
12:52 - 1:33	7	7	8 - 11:40 - 12:05	7	7
1:35 - 2:15	8	8	12:05 - 2:15 students lunch and work on assignments	8	8
			12:05 - 12:30 Teacher Lunch		

11

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 - 8:10	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:12 - 8:52	1	1	1	1	1
8:54 - 9:35	2	2	2	2	2
9:37 - 10:18	3	3	3	3	3
10:22 - 11:03	4	4	4	4	4
11:03 - 12:06	5	5	5	5	5
12:09 - 12:50	6	6	6	6	6
12:52 - 1:33	7	7	7	7	7
1:35 - 2:15	8	8	8	8	8

Sample Schedule**Middle School Remote

Sample Schedule**High School Hybrid

	Mon. (Cohort 1 - in person / Cohort 2 - remote)	Tues. (Cohort 1 - in person / Cohort 2 - remote)	Wed. (all remote)	Thurs. (Cohort 1 - in person / Cohort 2 - remote)	Fri. (Cohort 1 - in person / Cohort 2 - remote)
	Day 1	Day 2		Day 1	Day 2
7:30 - 8:15 (45)	A & Advisory (5 minutes)	A & Advisory (5 minutes)	7:30 - 8:15 A	A & Advisory (5 minutes)	A & Advisory (5 minutes)
8:20 - 9:30 (70)	B	E	8:15 - 9:00 B	B	E
9:35 - 10:45 (70)	C	F	9:00 - 9:45 C	C	F
10:50 - 12:00 (70)	D	G	9:45 - 10:30 D	D	F
12:00 - 12:35 (35)	Teacher Lunch *Grab & Go for students	Teacher Lunch *Grab & Go for students	10:30 - 11:36 Break/Lunch	Teacher Lunch *Grab & Go for students	Teacher Lunch *Grab & Go for students
12:35 - 1:51 (76)	(Students - Remote Learning) Staff - Teacher Prep/Meeting Time/Student Check Ins/Support Services	(Students - Remote Learning) Staff - Teacher Prep/Meeting Time/Student Check Ins/Support Services	11:36 - 12:21 E	(Students - Remote Learning) Staff - Teacher Prep/Meeting Time/Student Check Ins/Support Services	(Students - Remote Learning) Staff - Teacher Prep/Meeting Time/Student Check Ins/Support Services
			12:21 - 1:06 F		
			1:06 - 1:51 G		

13

Mon. (All Remote)	Tues. (All Remote)	Wed. (All Remote/All Classes Meet)	Thurs. (All Remote)	Fri. (All Remote)
Advisory - Take Attendance (9:00-9:12)(12)	Advisory - Take Attendance (9:00-9:12)	Advisory - Take Attendance (9:00-9:15)	Advisory - Take Attendance (9:00-9:12)	Advisory - Take Attendance (9:00-9:12)
Period 1 (9:12-10:23)(71)	Period 5 (9:12-10:23)	9:15-10:00 (45) A	Period 1 (9:12-10:23)	Period 5 (9:12-10:23)
Period 2 (10:30-11:41)(71)	Period 6 (10:30-11:41)	10:00-10:45 (45) B	Period 2 (10:30-11:41)	Period 6 (10:30-11:41)
Lunch (11:41-12:11)(30)	Lunch (11:41-12:11)	10:45-11:30 (45) C	Lunch (11:41-12:11)	Lunch (11:41-12:11)
Period 3 (12:18-1:29)(71)	Period 7 (12:18-1:29)	11:30-12:15 (45) D	Period 3 (12:18-1:29)	Period 7 (12:18-1:29)
Period 4 (1:36-2:47) (71)	Office Hours / Additional Service Delivery (1:36-2:47)	12:15-1:00 (45) Break/Lunch	Period 4 (1:36-2:47)	Office Hours / Additional Service Delivery (1:36-2:47)
Teacher Collaboration Time/Student Check Ins (2:47-3:21)(34)	Teacher Collaboration Time/Student Check Ins (2:47-3:21)(34)	1:00-1:45 (45) E	Teacher Collaboration Time/Student Check Ins (2:47-3:21)(34)	Teacher Collaboration Time/Student Check Ins (2:47-3:21)(34)
		1:45-2:30 (45) F		
		2:30-3:15 (45) G		

Sample Schedule**High School Remote

****Asynchronous Independent Work:** This is work that can be done on the student's own time and does not need to be completed during this 1:30-2:50 time period. After the Grab & Go lunch and dismissal, students do not need to get home and sign right back on. This is work that can be completed at any time before the next school day. Some examples of asynchronous independent work include, but are not limited to, personalized assignments on IXL, working on a writing assignment that was started in class or watching a pre-recorded lesson.

person as close as they **School Reopening Plan for Fall 2020 Deliberation and Discussion**

Chairperson Crowley asked the Superintendent when he will be releasing a comprehensive plan.

Dr. Crowley said his hope is to release it tomorrow.

Chairperson Crowley stated the reason it has not been released yet is that the school committee has not approved the plan.

Chairperson Crowley asked about specific protocols and PPE; will that be contained in this plan?

Dr. Crowley said yes it is.

Dr. Wells asked the Superintendent to give his recommendation for his choice of plan.

Dr. Crowley said his last recommendation was the hybrid model. They are prepared to implement whatever plan the committee votes, they are all great plans.

Dr. Wells said the reason for his question is the Superintendent and his staff are more closely attuned to this than any of us, and he is looking for a recommendation from the administration for which plan they think best serves the students.

Dr. Crowley stated they prioritized the hybrid plan because of the social emotional connection.

Ms. Cormier asked about locker use and the spacing out of cohorts.

Dr. Crowley said it is going to be building specific, but he does know the plan is not going to allow locker use.

Ms. Cormier asked who will be doing the remote teaching on the opposite days for those same kids who are in the classroom and Monday and Tuesday.

Ms. Sprague said that depends on the level. At the elementary level we do have plans for some of our support staff to be the folks who will provide instruction during the remote portion. That being said on Wednesday the classroom teacher will have her group all together so it will be the two days the support staff will be doing that. Part of the Wednesday will be planning and collaboration time. At the middle and high school we have talked about the possibility of using Google; for example you could set up Google meets in breakout sessions or even individually. MS and HS talked about the possibility of using Google, for example I would set up google meets in breakout sessions, or individually. This would allow the teacher to have her class in front of her working independently and allow the teacher to bounce into meets that would combine students in class with students who are at home.

Chairperson Crowley asked Ms. Sprague what the definition of support staff is.

Ms. Sprague replied those folks would be composed of our content specialists, our STEM coaches and our Title I teachers.

Mr. Lipsett commented that the metric that was used was very specific on very new cases, this is the primary metric they are using. What metrics would be used by administration to roll from one model to another?

A lack of a clear understanding of what the benchmarks are to go into hybrid or remote has been a frustration for Mr. Lipsett.

Dr. Crowley said one of the things they would consider would be what is happening in Woburn on a daily basis. He is in contact with the Mayor and the Board of Health. He would look at clusters or the growth. He would have to rely on medical personnel to make that determination.

Mr. Lipsett asked if there are logistical issues in schools. Are there plans in place for individual schools or individual classes should they need to go remote at any given time due to contracting the virus.

Dr. Crowley thinks what Mr. Lipsett is asking if we have contingency plans class by class or school by school. Dr. Crowley said that is one of the reasons they asked people to develop a remote and an in person so that we could flex

as needed. If a second grade cluster needed to be remote for a certain amount of time the curriculum mapping wouldn't go awry.

Mr. Lipsett was looking at the hybrid model for the HS for teachers who are delivering instruction in person but also have to develop asynchronous lessons; are we comfortable with that given the restrictions we may be working with? Ms. Callanan commented she thinks this is the best schedule we can come up with given the constraints in the situation of what we're asked for. She does have concerns with the time for planning and making sure that we keep all of our students on the same and rigorous curriculum when the students are not able to be face to face with their teachers 2x a week.

Mr. Lipsett understands there were personal and professional challenges for teachers in March. He thought the consistency was really good once we were able to really develop this. He has concerns with the hybrid plan; bouncing between three different kinds of instruction understanding we are going to try to keep that curriculum as closely mapped as we can vs having a remote model where we would have stability with one teacher throughout. He is asking for the benefits or trade-offs.

Ms. Sprague feels one of the benefits is we can have a group of teachers that can work together. That happened in the spring as well, teachers did a remarkable job. When we first did it some of us stumbled. Once we were able to get our feet under us we did a great job with grade level planning. There will be connections that will be made not unlike a child's day normally in school where they will see multiple teachers. We are focusing on standards through a two-week period.

Mr. Lipsett asked if the specials will be fully remote under the hybrid plan.

Ms. Sprague said yes, that is our thinking now due to the number of people that would be moving in and out of classrooms.

Mr. Lipsett asked about the logistics, example passing in the halls in the middle and high school. What accommodations have been made for traffic flow?

Dr. Crowley said the principals have been working with their building implementation teams to resolve these details.

Ms. Callanan said she has sat down with her facilities director. The hallways at the high school are wide enough to, and they are looking at placing two-way directional arrows in the hallways.

We are basically having to recalibrate every teachers' duty to monitor hallways, bathrooms need to be monitored.

We are looking to see if some bathrooms could be closed down due to the less # of students in the building. Coming in and out of the building we will be using every staff member to make sure all the students are socially distancing.

For the grab and go lunch we are making sure they are distancing when they come down, get their meals and exit the building. We are measuring every classroom, moving extra desks out of the classroom and storing them somewhere.

Mr. Lipsett thanked the whole administration team for their incredible work and had one last question. Have we received any guidance on how to handle lockdown drills?

Mr. Sprague said Mr. Dunkley is reaching out to the fire department.

Mr. Kisiel asked about the breaks at different levels. What will the students be allowed to do?

Ms. Sprague said a teacher may choose to take them outside or to another part of the building. The building implementation team will determine what is available. Protocol will be followed.

Mr. Kisiel asked what we will be doing for the ELL population remotely?

Ms. Sprague said they will be assigned to their EL teacher and will get the same work assigned to them from their homeroom teacher.

Mr. Kisiel asked about the kids who have parents who can't stay home. What will be happening to them in the 4 days of remote learning? Would there be any extra space in the schools? Have we looked at this from the standpoint of using all the space in each and every school? Many families are going to have a hard time finding child care.

Dr. Baldassaree said we have between 400 and 500 families that child care will be an issue. If we are in full remote there should be space at schools; if we are hybrid there will not be any space. He is meeting with the library, YMCA

and the Boys and Girls Club to have a discussion about space. We want to find better options for our families if we can.

Mrs. Chisholm wants to make sure everyone understands that the parents and teachers need to feel safe. It is hard and no matter what we choose people are going to feel uneasy about it. We are doing the very best we can, and she feels it is very important that we as a committee with the administration, keep as much information flowing to families that we possibly can. Mr. Chisholm was on the call today with the commissioner. She wishes some information he gave to them was given a little sooner but at least we got it. We are not alone, the whole country is dealing with this. People have the same concerns across the state. One of the questions a few parents had is if they choose remote because they are nervous in sending their kids back and things are going well can they convert back to hybrid? Once they commit do they have to commit to at least mid-year?

Dr. Crowley said we are able to allow flexibility in our planning for that but it will not be an immediate back in. We have to make sure the numbers are aligned.

Mrs. Chisholm asked if the administration could explain why the high needs students are going back 4days.

Dr. Baldassarre said Cohort C is made up of our high needs population.

Cohort C - SpEd in the early childhood program at the Shamrock and Reeves,

RISE at Shamrock and the Joyce (autism and received ABA services). Gain at Goodyear and Ace program at the Kennedy. Therapeutic classrooms, therapeutic classrooms with learning disabilities, high school students who have intellectual impairments. Launch program and PEAK program at the high school.

Mrs. Chisholm asked if Mr. Dunkley could weigh in on the ventilation systems. She also gave a shout out to all the custodial staff during this pandemic. She thanked Board of Health Nurse Karen DaCampo for all of her input and keeping the lines of communication open. Mrs. Chisholm knows the bus situation is a work in progress with John Devine. We know we have to find out who will be taking the bus and Mrs. Chisholm is trying to get some answers for parents, so they can feel safe as they possibly can through all of this.

Dr. Wells asked the Superintendent to explain what would happen if a student is absent from remote learning. Do we have a protocol?

Dr. Crowley said we introduced a plan last spring where we had a sheet that tracked every kid to make sure they were checking in. The first stop was the teacher and then it would make its way to a guidance counselor, adjustment counselor or ultimately to the principal and attendance officer. Adriana Mendes-Sheldon, our family and community liaison, went to many homes to ensure that students were safe.

Mr. Mulrenan commented that there had been questions or concerns about the performance of our teachers in the spring. He noted the teachers stepped up and pulled it off. They made a plane while flying. Plans keep changing, scenarios keep coming up. If it ain't broke don't fix it. His first thought was to build on the remote plan. Then he thought some more about some of these kids who need to get back into school. We know each building is different and there are no good answers. Mr. Mulrenan feels we should move forward with the recommendation of the Superintendent. Let's all get on the same page and go for it. We can change as need be. We might find out that we are where we are supposed to be.

Chairperson Crowley asked Dr. Baldassarre to talk about mask compliance and the behavioral aspect of this.

Dr. Baldassarre stated we are requiring all of our students and staff to wear a mask. In our population of students who have social emotional and behavioral challenges we are starting off with an incentive plan for them. A positive behavior action. We know coming into it a lot of these students are probably not going to be interested in wearing their masks, so we are going to be looking at this from an educational standpoint. We are requiring even our younger students to be masked. What will happen is the student will be referred to the principal. Every case has to be looked at individually to see if there are any exceptions. There are certain exceptions where a student can't wear a mask and may have to have a face shield or some other apparatus. The principal will interact with the family and the student. Unfortunately students who are not wearing a mask will have to go to remote learning. We can make plans with any student with them returning to school when they can be masked but this is a public health issue.

Chairperson Crowley asked if the individual school based plans include a previewing of what the day might look like or what the classrooms might look like for the parents to see things ahead of time.

Dr. Baldassarre said that is called setting conditions and what we stated in the equity in student services plan was that we would actually have some contrived methods for having our students know what things are going to look like before they come in. We are going to find ways for those disabled students and young students to preview their learning environments. We are also going to be doing some PD for our teachers about setting up their spaces.

Ms. Cormier spent 10 years as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in congregate care. Obviously she has never seen anything like COVID-19. She has been a part of the Safe Return to School Planning and the Equity in Students subcommittee, and she feels strongly that we are on the right path for a safe return. She thinks the administration has implemented protocols that will help mitigate the disease spread. She feels this plan is sufficient. It may not be ideal for every child or family but DESE is allowing parents to choose remote if we choose to go hybrid. She thinks this is going to get worse in the winter months. We need to get as much in person learning in as we can before this community spike that a lot of us are expecting but Ms. Cormier does not think that our schools are going to contribute to that. She feels the protocols that we put into place will continue to be bolstered as more evidence arises around this disease. Ms. Cormier read the draft of the Safe Return to School Plan, and she is happy with what has been outlined. We're clearly not ready to open today, but she thinks we will be in time for the actual opening in September. With the Hybrid model and the option for remote she feels that parents and guardians are going to be able to make the best choice for their student and their family.

Chairperson Crowley mentioned two surveys were done. She believes that the choice of hybrid for parents was around 79% and the teachers did their own survey and it came out to a preference of remote at 63%.

Chairperson Crowley is reporting those as objective data.

Chairperson Crowley received emails from the following:

Derek Genova	Dinah Borden	Sue Machnik	Karen Dionne	Karen Martell
Valerie O'Brien	Carrie Johnson	Allison Bennett	Melissa Greer	Nicole Doucet
Kara Dattilo	Michelle Broadbent	Crystal Keating	Amy Martin	Amy Panichella
Corinne Genova	Bridget Myers	Kate Claydon	Michelle Mearls	Evelyn Riley
Renee Prestia	Sue Machnik			

Dr. Wells made a motion to enter these emails into the permanent record.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairperson Crowley-yes

Mr. Kisiel would like to know somewhere along the way and things are going better or getting worse; what is our metric, who makes that decision?

Chairperson Crowley stated it is the Board of Health who is supposed to shut down schools in a case of infection.

Dr. Wells would suggest that administration work with the Board of Health to set some parameters to go one way or the other. He would appreciate setting them to let parents know here is what we are looking at, if things go this way we will go fully remote for example. Set things up ahead of time so parents know how we are going to be making decisions down the road.

Dr. Crowley commented that today was the first day we got any metrics from the state, pivoting one way or another. He is comfortable with all of our plans. We will do a great job with any of our plans. He has a great team, a lot of information will be forthcoming as it relates to our return to school.

Ms. Sprague said there will be a group of students who will opt to go fully remote no matter what our choice is and stay that way. Ms. Sprague had a meeting with her department last Friday, and they looked at four possible models for remote instruction that would be provided on a platform. A couple of them would not be supervised by our teachers but would be supervised by licensed Massachusetts educators through that platform. There were two choices that we would need to staff, but they would provide all the instruction for students for whatever courses they take. We are looking at that as a possibility for primarily the high school and possibly the middle school. Again, this depends on the number of students who may choose to go fully remote, and we also need to look at the staff we have available to teach.

Dr. Baldassarre said TECCA and Greenfield are the platforms the state is offering. Those are the virtual academies that have existed in the state for a very long time. They do follow the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks. Students who attend those schools do get Massachusetts diplomas.

Ms. Sprague commented that those students would still be considered enrolled in Woburn Public Schools.

Mr. Lipsett is uncomfortable about the idea of, which would essentially be, outsourcing our instruction to teachers through virtual learning academies simply because we are in a hybrid model and can't meet the staffing needs that we have. He understands that the administration is under incredible strain and that DESE has made these available to us. He does not like the idea that we are unable to meet the needs of our students. This is a very good point for Mr. Lipsett to be against the hybrid model.

Dr. Wells doesn't see this as we are not meeting their needs. He sees this as we are offering them more opportunities. He thinks we can meet their needs, but we are trying to give them more opportunity.

Chairperson Crowley asked Ms. Sprague if the parents could choose a program.

Ms Sprague said they haven't decided on any program. There were two that were provided to us; the two that Dr. Baldassarre mentioned. There are also two others that would be staffed by our teachers, and they would be course driven or semester driven.

Mr. Mulrenan reminded the audience that those were sample schedules the Superintendent provided us with tonight. Dr. Crowley said his intent is to release a thorough plan to the public tomorrow predicated on the outcome of tonight's meeting. On Monday, August 17th parents will be informed of what cohort their students are going to be placed into. On August 21st parents will be made aware of the building based plan of their child's school. Currently, the start date for students is September 16th.

Dr. Wells made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that we go with the hybrid learning model. Motion was seconded.

Dr. Wells on the motion, this is a very difficult decision. He feels at this stage this is the logical choice.

The Superintendent summed it up best; this is going to be a flexible plan that can be changed depending on the change of circumstances. He has heard people say we should go remote and then see what is happening. Dr. Wells thinks if anything, the situation will get worse rather than get better. If we don't go now he doesn't know when we'll go. Right now with the state of Massachusetts this seems like the best option, and he is going to support the Superintendent's hybrid plan.

Mr. Lipsett is a teacher, and he knows how hard this spring was on everyone. He thanked our teachers who worked so hard under intensely difficult personal and professional circumstances to deliver education and support for our kids. Dr. Crowley and his team, with the support of the Mayor and school committee, have faced the most difficult set of decisions anyone working in education has had to make and created a thoughtful plan to return to school despite many obstacles. Mr. Lipsett is continually reminded that many of those obstacles should not have been there. We have been met with a failure of leadership at the federal and state levels that has forced us to face a global pandemic and its fallout largely on our own. Because of this, even given the extraordinary job that everyone has done, Mr. Lipsett can't support a plan that puts all of our students back into school under a hybrid model at this time. Rather, a phased in model provides us with safety nets far better than an immediate return to school can. Here's what we face without safety nets that Congress and the Department of Secondary and Elementary among others could

have provided but didn't. Parents are forced to choose between work and children who need them. Without a plan providing for additional transportation, physical resources, and staffing different districts have to work with the margins of what is possible given our current limitations. Without in school testing we are unable to monitor our own health and avoid larger outbreaks. Mr. Lipsett is speaking of COVID-19 testing. Without clear instructions and with ever shifting goal posts leadership has had to revise on the fly. In fact only today DESE and the Governor released new guidance using just one single arbitrary metric to recommend opening plans to districts amazingly after most of our districts have already voted on their plans. These are not our failures, but they are the hand that we've been dealt. Because of this we now risk the terrible side effect of forcing our teachers, our parents, our administrators, and our school committees in opposition and blame when we all want the same thing. We all want a safe return to in person education. There is so much that we don't know. We've done the very best with what we have, but we do not have enough. A phased in structure will enable us to provide in person education to students who need it the most while bringing back the rest of our students slowly. Providing the ability to monitor health indicators and handle logistical problems as they arise. This would give us a workable safety net for our kids. Challenges remain, but we can deliver both safety and support for our families and our students under a phased in model. Mr. Lipsett urges the committee to consider this as an option before us.

Chairperson Crowley commented that Dr. Wells has a motion for the hybrid model to start on September 16th.

Chairperson Crowley assumes that if that motion fails, Mr. Lipsett will make a separate motion.

Mr. Lipsett said that is a safe assumption.

Dr. Wells is not clear on what a phased in approach would be. He has heard talk of it, but he has not seen anything from the administration talking about a phased in approach.

Mr. Lipsett said it is a model in which the majority of students start remote. For example the high needs students could be in school either immediately on September 16th or once we reach certain benchmarks down the road. As we work through some of our issues and as we see numbers improving we can then bring in for example younger students where parents may be struggling with child care or who need more direct in person instruction. Then moving on to older age groups as numbers and logistics allow.

Dr. Wells said it sounds like if we did that unfortunately administration would have to develop a fourth plan. He is concerned that this would add more planning time to what they are doing.

Chairperson Crowley said maybe we could adopt the hybrid plan with a delay in the start date.

Chairperson Crowley stated we have a motion on the floor to accept the plan as is maybe there will be a motion to amend the plan at some later date.

Mrs. Chisholm on the motion, at the commissioners meeting today he did speak about a level which would put you into a hybrid and what would put you into remote. He recommended anything below a 4% should be in school, and we are at 1.8% in Woburn. He actually wanted to push for kids to be totally in school and Mrs. Chisholm feels that is over the top at this point. She feels we are in a good spot to start the hybrid, the Mayor says our numbers are good. As Dr. Wells stated we have to jump back into education the way we kind of thought it was going to be and kids expected it to be. It is going to be different, but she feels it is going to be different for the entire year. WE are going to have some changes that kids are going to have to be accustomed to. The benchmark they put out today at that meeting is anything over 5% might have to go back to remote learning but right now that is not here in Woburn and hopefully we will stay well.

Mr. Mulrenan said he is endorsing the hybrid plan. He has seen all the work being done behind the scenes and all the work that is going to get done before the start date. We want to open our doors to educate our kids the best we can, and we can change as we need to.

Mr. Kisiel knows this is a tough decision overall after speaking with parents. Some want to go back remote, some hybrid and some full in person. He probably will be supporting the hybrid at this point.

Mr. Lipsett commented he is seeing the way the debate is going. He would like to offer an amendment to the motion that is on the table; to introduce a phased in model to our hybrid model where we would begin with our high needs students and with benchmarks to be set by the administration, bring back students as logistics and time permits.

Dr. Wells does believe a staggered opening might be good but if we don't have parameters provided how are we going to bring people back? It is not clear to him that we will ever go from not having students in class. You have to set up the parameters to when the students could come back. You could keep making the goal post move farther down the road and if we don't have standards it is not clear on how the administration would make the change. Without setting the standards before we start this, he is not sure how the administration would get us back to the hybrid plan.

Mr. Lipsett understands the concerns that Dr. Wells has. His understanding is we could set dates for which we could advance to the next step of the phase in model; assuming that our numbers continue in the right direction.

Dr. Wells asked Dr. Crowley to weigh in on the phased in approach.

Dr. Crowley said they have not given it great thought but because of the flexibility of the hybrid plan, this is something they could do. He would need clarity as to what the benchmarks would look like.

Chairperson Crowley asked Mr. Mulrenan to take the chair, so she could make a brief statement on this important issue. Mr. Mulrenan accepted the chair.

Ms. Crowley is in support of the hybrid model. As a foster parent and a legal aid attorney who works with children who are at risk, she is concerned that children have not been visible in the community for over six months. Our school buildings provide authentic in person relationships with teachers. A lot of those teachers are mandated reporters. A lot of our children have suffered trauma during this time. She is concerned about children going through issues like domestic violence, housing instability, mental health issues, and are just not adjusting well. Obviously in person learning provides those students with that in person interaction. It is not just about kids needing friends, no kids really need peer interactions in order to develop pro social behaviors and really learn things like empathy and inclusion. She feels this is the best model to really provide that to get kids back into the community and back in visibility, so we can see what is going on with them. Remote learning will divide along socioeconomic lines. She feels we will lose children as it will be hard to keep them engaged. She is really scared of what will happen to kids if we don't have in person interaction, so she will be supporting the hybrid model through that lens. Acting as Chair Mr. Mulrenan asked Dr. Wells to repeat his motion already on the table.

Dr. Wells repeated his motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that we go with the hybrid learning model. Mrs. Chisholm seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-no, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Ms.

Crowley-yes

Motion passes 6-1.

Acting as Chair Mr. Mulrenan passed the Chair back to Ms. Crowley.

Dr. Wells appreciates the administration's desire to have a flexible plan. He appreciates all the input from teachers, parents, administrators, neighbors, and the community. We don't know what the future will bring. We can all work together now that we sort of set the plan. Administration will flush out more and let's be as supportive as we can. Let's make sure that everyone is as safe as possible and that education can occur as best as possible.

Mr. Lipsett briefly stated he 100% concurs with Dr. Wells and now that we voted and are moving forward with this plan we need to make sure our kids and our families have the best educational experience that we can provide.

Chairperson Crowley stated the safety of our staff is absolutely paramount. There is a lot of talk of what children need, but we do have to negotiate with our staff and our teachers to set policies that are going to keep them safe. A lot of the details need to be worked out. We have a lot of work to do. Chairperson Crowley is excited to actually work with our teachers union. If she stated wrong, she would like to reiterate that the teachers survey reflected a 63% preference for remote. We will be working with our union and our bargaining units to come up with some really good MOAs to keep everyone safe, that's our absolute #1 goal here.

Mr. Mulrenan made a motion to enter the executive session for the purposes of strategy in collective bargaining.

Dr. Wells seconded the motion.

Mrs. Chisholm removed herself from the executive session.

Mr. Lipsett on the motion, although he is a member of another teachers union, he checked with the ethics commission and placed a letter of file with the city clerk stating he believes that he can fulfill his obligation as an elected member of the school committee without bias despite the perception that some may have.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Chisholm-no, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairperson Crowley-yes

Superintendent Crowley thanked everyone who was on the call tonight. He appreciates the support, patience, and kindness and believes we will get through this.

Executive session ended at 10:05 PM.

Chairperson Crowley announced there were no votes taken in the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mulrenan made a motion to adjourn.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairperson Crowley-yes

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jean MacLeod

Jean MacLeod

Recording Secretary