

FALMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

School Committee Minutes

School Committee Meeting

July 24, 2020

Public Meeting 6:00 PM

Administration Building

REMOTE ACCESS MEETING VIA Zoom Webinar

Got to: zoom.us/join

Webinar Archived on You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJIZbUUGx0B-XABvwmMtRZO>

340 Teaticket Highway

East Falmouth, MA 02536



MEMBERS Present:

Kelly Welch, Chair

Natalie Kanellopoulos, Vice-Chair

Melissa Keefe, Secretary

Terri Medeiros

Andrea Thorrold

Bill Rider

Leah Palmer

John Furnari

Lisa Hart

Lori Duerr, Superintendent

Sonia Tellier, Assistant Super.

Sharon Reid, Recording Secretary

HEARD Kelly Welch open the meeting at 6:00 PM.

HEARD Kelly Welch recite the recording statement.

HEARD Kelly Welch state that the School Committee and Administration received information today regarding a potential COVID19 case that may affect the live graduation ceremony scheduled for tomorrow, July 25, 2020.

HEARD Dr. Duerr, Superintendent state that the information about the potential exposure initially came to Principal Gans. The information was then discussed with Scott McGann, Health Agent for the Town of Falmouth.

HEARD Mr. McGann state that at this time, the Falmouth Health Department has not received notification by the Department of Public Health (DPH) that there is a confirmed/active case. Mr. McGann stated he is unable to begin contact tracing until a case has been confirmed from the (DPH). He further stated that the District has taken all the necessary precautions recommended by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as well as local guidance for the graduation proceedings.

HEARD Mary Gans, Principal of Falmouth High School report that she has received emails and phone calls from parents who state that their children had contact with the individual suspected of having COVID19.

Discussion and questions followed.

HEARD Mary Gans state that there are thirty-five staff volunteers scheduled for the graduation ceremony to ensure compliance of the regulations. She is concerned for their safety as well as the students and their families.

HEARD Dr. Duerr state that it has been reported to the District that a number of students have had direct exposure to the presumptive case. It is unknown how far and wide the exposure may reach. Dr. Duerr continued by stating that the health and safety of staff and students will always be the district's first concern.

Further discussion and questions followed.

HEARD Dr. Duerr recommend that in support of Principal Gans' concern for staff, students, and families, she recommends that the live graduation ceremony scheduled for July 25, 2020 be cancelled and to move forward with the *Remote* ceremony.

MOTION by Terri Medeiros, based on the data received tonight, that the live FHS graduation for July 25, 2020 be cancelled. SECONDED by Andrea Thorrold. DISCUSSION. Mr. Furnari suggested that a gathering could be scheduled during the winter break next year for the 2020 seniors. Mr. McGann stated that students coming from all different colleges may be a riskier proposition. Principal Gans suggested they wait to see what the health metric is at that time. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.

Meeting ADJOURNED at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Keefe

Recording Secretary: Sharon Reid

Approved: August 6, 2020