

**FALMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS**

**School Committee Minutes**

School Committee Meeting

August 25, 2020

Executive Session 5:30 PM

Public Meeting 6:30 PM

Administration Building

**REMOTE ACCESS MEETING VIA Zoom Webinar**

Got to: [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join)

<https://zoom.us/j/97095388857>

**Webinar Archived on You Tube**

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

340 Teaticket Highway

East Falmouth, MA 02536



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**MEMBERS Present:**

Kelly Welch, Chair

Natalie Kanellopoulos, Vice-Chair

Melissa Keefe, Secretary

Terri Medeiros

Andrea Thorrold

Lisa Hart

John Furnari

Leah Palmer

Lori Duerr, Superintendent

Sonia Tellier, Assistant Superintendent

Patrick Murphy, Dir. Fin. and Op.

Joan Woodward, Dir. of Student Services

Joany Santa, Dir. Of Human Resources

Sharon Reid, Recording Secretary

HEARD Kelly Welch, Chair, open the meeting at 5:30 PM.

MOTION by Kelly Welch to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Units A, B, C, and D. Having these discussions in open session may be detrimental to the school committee's bargaining position.. It is expected that the School Committee will resume **Open Session**.  
SECONDED by Melissa Keefe. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.

REOPEN Public Session 6:44 PM.

HEARD Kelly Welch recite the recording statement.

HEARD Kelly Welch report that the difficulty scheduling a live meeting is due to the "Open Meeting Law" which states that the public cannot be restricted from attending a public meeting. According to Governor Baker's order, the state has limited gatherings to 25 people. Since it is impossible to know how many members of the public would attend, we would not be able to accommodate a live meeting at this time. As soon as the limit of gatherings is lifted, the School Committee will schedule a live meeting.

HEARD Natalie Kanellopoulos read the Falmouth Public Schools Mission and Vision Statement.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

HEARD Becky Charles, mother of a young child, ask what the protocols would be for bathroom breaks for children.

HEARD Lori Andrade, Assistant Principal of the East Falmouth School and FEA President, ask that the School Committee find a place to conduct a live meeting.

HEARD Scott McGann, Falmouth Health Agent, report on the status of COVID 19 in the Falmouth Community. Mr. McGann reported that Falmouth is on the strong side of the virus reporting at .5 on the State metric chart as of last week (in the green). Mr. McGann took questions from Board Members, which included the topics of testing, number of cases, distinction of cases between Falmouth residents vs. travelers and state guidelines.

HEARD Dr. Parkinson, School Physician Consultant, report on three main areas:

1. Great work done in the schools preparing for the return of students
2. Testing
3. What is happening in the Community

Dr. Parkinson answered questions from Board Members, which included the topics of testing, flu shots for children, and the spread of virus by children.

HEARD update from Lori Andrade, Falmouth Educators Association (FEA) President. Ms. Andrade gave an overview of the FEA stating that the organization consists of approximately 450 members. The Association includes teachers, teacher assistants, nurses, and related service providers. Ms. Andrade stated that the FEA leadership and its members want to be back in school when it is safe. Ms. Andrade shared pictures from the classrooms from the various schools. She also reported that the “Day of Action” was not a protest but rather a day of support. The FEA’s biggest concern is the HVAC systems in the schools. Ms. Andrade also reported on survey results taken of the teachers and read some of the comments.

HEARD Mr. Murphy, Director of Finance and Operations respond to Ms. Andrade’s concern regarding the HVAC systems in the schools. Mr. Murphy reported that the company, TRC, has been contracted to inspect each school’s air filtration system, submit a report, and make recommendations. The report will be shared with the FEA once it has been received.

HEARD questions and answers following Ms. Andrade update.

HEARD Dr. Duerr respond to Ms. Charles question from public comment. All students will be able to go to the bathroom when necessary. The Principals have protocols in place.

HEARD Dr. Duerr, Superintendent, report on the following topics:

1. Combinations of strategies to prevent COVID 19
2. Nursing modules to be shown to all staff on a variety of subjects
3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be available for staff and students
4. Updates to the Reopening Plan
5. Students in all grade levels will wear masks
  
6. Survey data

- a. Staff
- b. Families

HEARD Sonia Tellier, Assistant Superintendent, review the policies EBC Supplemental and EBCFA proposed this evening. These policies have been vetted through the Policy Subcommittee and are recommended for adoption.

MOTION by Andrea Thorrold to adopt policy EBC, General (Interim) Policy on COVID 19 Related Issues. SECONDED by Andrea Thorrold. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.

MOTION by Terri Medeiros to adopt policy EBCFA, Face Coverings. SECONDED by Lisa Hart. DISCUSSION. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.

HEARD Kelly Welch, Chair, present the proposed changes to the school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year due to the reduction of student days from 180 to 170. The ten days are to be used for professional development for the staff. The two professional development days previously scheduled in September and October will be moved to a later date during the school year.

MOTION by Leah Palmer to approve the revised school calendar presented tonight, including moving the two previously scheduled professional development days to a later date. SECONDED by John Furnari. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.

HEARD Kelly Welch request to table the discussion of the Equity and Diversity Coordinator due to the late hour. Dr. Duerr asked members to send any questions or comments pertaining to the position to Dr. Santa, Human Resource Director.

HEARD Dr. Santa briefly report that this position is in the Town's format and will be a shared position between the School Department and the Town. A public hearing will be scheduled to hear feedback from the community.

MOTION by Leah Palmer to approve the minutes of August 6, 2020. SECONDED by Melissa Keefe. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.

HEARD Kelly Welch thank members who volunteered for the Health and Safety Committee. She also thanked Ms. Kanellopoulos for answering the many emails over the past few weeks.

HEARD Bill Rider request that the Athletic Director be put on a future agenda to report on the status of school sports.

HEARD Ms. Palmer ask for the HVAC report from TRC once available.

HEARD Mr. Furnari report that the masks received by the Cape Cod Collaborative have arrived and will be tested. If appropriate, and the District decides to purchase from the same company there will be a great savings in the cost.

MOTION by Melissa Keefe to adjourn. SECONDED by Natalie Kanellopoulos. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:38 PM

*The following documents were included in the School Committee packet of August 25, 2020. Hard copies can be found in the Superintendent's Office or electronic copies on-line at the Town's website:*

[www.falmouthmass.us/AgendaCenter](http://www.falmouthmass.us/AgendaCenter)

- General (Interim) Policy on COVID -19 Related Issues – EBC Supplemental
- Face Coverings EBCFA
- Town of Falmouth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator: Grade M-8, DRAFT Job Description 8/12/20
- Draft Minutes of August 6, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary: Sharon Reid

Melissa Keefe  
Secretary

Minutes Approved September 8, 2020