

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLDEN □ PAXTON □ PRINCETON □ RUTLAND □ STERLING

Minutes

Regular Meeting #1340

Monday, March 23, 2020
7:00 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED REMOTELY, VIA GOOGLE HANGOUTS

Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Kenneth Mills, Chair	Laura Kirshenbaum
Christina Smith, Vice-chair	Matthew Lavoie
Melissa Ayala	Linda Long-Bellil
Scott Brown	Amy Michalowski
Michael Dennis	Benjamin Mitchel
Stephen Godbout	Karl Ottmar (7:11 PM)
Maleah Gustafson	Asima Silva
Sherri Haber	Megan Weeks
Jeffrey Haynes	Linda Woodland
Robert Imber	Adam Young

Committee Members Absent:

Sarah LaMountain

Committee Members Participating Remotely:

None

Administration Present:

Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent
Daniel Deedy, Director of Business and Finance
Jeff Carlson, Director of Human Resources
Brendan Keenan, Director of Social Emotional Learning
Christine Smith, Administrator of Special Education
Rebecca Petersen, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

Student Representatives Present:

Rianna Massoni-Nesman Leah Michalowski

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. He announced the meeting is streaming live on Holden TV, and is being conducted remotely, via Google Hangouts. Chair Mills thanked Senator Gobi and Representative Ferguson for joining the virtual meeting, acknowledging their availability and participation is limited to 7:45 PM, when they will terminate their remote connections due to another commitment.

- I. Public Hearing
- II. Chair's Opening Remarks
- III. Student Representatives' Reports (R. Massoni-Nesman, L. Michalowski)

Chair Mills took the opportunity to explain the format of the meeting. He will open the floor for public input, following the Superintendent's report to the School Committee, as well as giving Senator Gobi and Representative Ferguson the opportunity to address the Committee and the public. Members of the public will be able to email their questions/comments/input to questions@wrsd.net, and Chair Mills will read aloud for the record what members of the public share and the questions they ask.

- IV. Superintendent's Report

- A. Discussion of Report

Chair Mills turned the meeting over to Superintendent McCall. Superintendent McCall extended thanks to the teachers and staff of the District, District/school administrators, Senator Gobi and Representative Ferguson for all their support and assistance during these challenging times. Superintendent McCall reported on the numerous conference calls and webinars he and others at the Central Office have participated in the last weeks. These remote connections have been with superintendents from across the Commonwealth, Commissioner Jeff Riley, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Public Health, and other state agencies. Superintendent McCall reported he has been working with the teachers' union to develop ways to support students and staff during the period when schools are not in session. He spoke about moving towards an online learning environment, in some fashion, as well as the need to have consistent and common communication between all WRSD parties, student/parents/teachers and staff. Superintendent McCall shared his opinion that schools might not be returning to session on April 6th/7th, and that superintendents have been asked to start working on a long-term plan in the event classes do not resume at the start of April. Special Education and ELL students and how they can be supported during this time is being worked on and discussed by superintendents across the state. Superintendent McCall spoke about the 185th day of school, which for Wachusett would be June 18, 2020. Mention was made that the school year may be extended beyond that 185th day, noting action to amend the 2019-2020 school calendar would need to be voted by the full School Committee. Superintendent McCall spoke about spring 2020 MCAS and MCAS alt portfolios. Superintendent McCall publically thanked Supervisor of School Nutrition Margaret Barton and Food Service employees who have worked together to provide "grab & go" lunches for students who receive free & reduced lunch. Food Service staff prepare five days of lunches for each student who has accepted the invitation to receive these meals, and parents/students pick up their packages at an assigned time, one day a week, at the high school. Superintendent McCall noted that at this time, Wachusett is not eligible to be reimbursed by the USDA for expenses associated with the lunch distribution, but the District is still taking on this offer. The next grab & go distribution is scheduled for March 30, 2020.

7:11 PM Member Ottmar joined the meeting.

Chair Mills invited Senator Gobi and Representative Ferguson to address the Committee. Representative Ferguson praised Superintendent McCall and Chair Mills for their leadership during these unprecedented times. She made note of the fact that she and Senator Gobi will not have answers to all the questions at this time; that information and answers to questions are being addressed and shared as available, and all direction is fluid at this time. Representative Ferguson did encourage the District and the Food Service Department to keep track of all expenses associated with distribution of F&R lunches, in the event reimbursement will be available in the future. Senator Gobi added to Superintendent McCall's shout-out to the Food Service Department, commenting on the importance of these meals for many families. Senator Gobi also noted that not all students have access to computers and the internet during their time at home. Lastly, Senator Gobi spoke about the Student Opportunity Act, student promotions and grading, as well as many other areas that are being addressed but about which there are no solid decisions/direction at this time. Before Senator Gobi and Representative Ferguson departed the virtual meeting, Chair Mills and Superintendent McCall both expressed their thanks for the support the Wachusett District continues to receive from these two legislators.

At the conclusion of Superintendent McCall's report, Chair Mills explained he will call on members, in alphabetical order, to give all the opportunity to participate in the discussion about steps taken and steps moving forward. Chair Mills also invited members of the public to email questions/comments they wish Chair Mills to bring before the meeting. The email address for these questions/comments is questions@wrsd.net. Questions/comments from the public will be brought forward after School Committee members and the Student Representatives have the opportunity to share.

Member Ayala expressed her concerns around students on IEPs and 504s, and asked if meetings with school/school administration will be virtual. Superintendent McCall assured Member Ayala this has been a major topic of discussion. Superintendent McCall explained he and Administrator of Special Education Smith have been working together on these questions, and are looking for direction from DOE and also at the federal level. When asked about timelines and compensatory services, Administrator Smith stated these are areas being investigated, but there are no definitive answers at this point in time. Superintendent McCall confirmed attention is being given to supporting all students, and providing special education students with services during this time is of utmost importance. A conference call with DESE is scheduled for March 24, 2020. It is hoped more information/direction will be forthcoming. Parents can always reached out to Central Office administration or the Special Education Department if they have questions or concerns, or feel they need additional support.

Member Brown spoke about the projected last day of the 2019-2020 school year. He asked when parents can expect to hear from teachers about voluntary work on curriculum/instruction, which Superintendent McCall is planning to communicate with parents in the coming week. Superintendent McCall spoke about enrichment v new learning/new material, which has been a major focus during conference calls with DESE and other superintendents. Superintendent McCall wants to be certain that the District's plans for providing support to all students are viable and are actions that can be sustained.

Member Dennis voiced his appreciation for the efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, and students during these unprecedented times. He applauded the grab & go lunches that the Food Service Department is preparing and providing. Member Dennis shared his concerns about moving forward, day-to-day and week-to-week, encouraging District administration to continue to be bold with planning and to continue to follow their moral compass. Superintendent McCall understands Member Dennis' advice to take bold steps, and he spoke about productive conversations he has had with representatives of the WREA. Superintendent McCall spoke about possible student/teacher connections during the day, when daily touch points could be scheduled, perhaps via Google Classroom or other online options, to help with social isolation as well as providing enrichment opportunities for students.

Member Godbout – pass

Member Gustafson expressed her thanks to teachers and to school and District administration during these challenging times. She spoke about the importance of consistency and continuity for students with disabilities, noting some school staff/counselors have reached out to students, while others have not. She shared that an update about plans for special education students would be helpful. Member Gustafson expressed concern about the students who might not have internet access or sufficient access to computers/devices at home. She also asked when/how students would be able to go into schools to retrieve items they may have left behind. Superintendent McCall explained he is waiting for more direction from the federal and state governments, but that he has been in touch with District Counsel MacAvoy about how the District can/should/might move forward with plans for special education students. Superintendent McCall is in agreement about web/internet access at home, which most students have but not 100% of students. Superintendent McCall took the opportunity to report that internet providers Spectrum and Comcast are offering free/reduced cost internet access in the Member Towns. Providing students the ability to get into schools to retrieve personal belongings is an item to be addressed, but there is nothing scheduled at this time.

Member Haber has heard that teachers are looking for guidance, to which Superintendent McCall responded he has been in contact with the teachers' union about defining what is expected to support students. This is a major focus for District administration and the WREA.

Member Haynes expressed his appreciation for everyone's work and attention during this time. He said a valid concern is computer/device access at homes, when family members may have to share equipment throughout the day. When asked about plans to provide F&R lunches moving forward, Superintendent McCall confirmed the next distribution date is March 30, 2020. Member Haynes next asked about the District's financial responsibility to transportation companies and other vendors, during this school hiatus. Superintendent McCall reported on two conference calls with DESE that he and Director Deedy participated in, and that at this time there is no definitive plan of action/expectation in place. Member Haynes' last question was about oil prices for FY21, which both Superintendent McCall and Director Deedy explained the District has already participated in the oil bid process through French River.

Member Imber asked about educational services and the quality of education for students, and if it would be expected that a regular school day (6+ hours) would be provided. Superintendent McCall explained that continuity of services for students is currently being addressed, and what happens in the next week/month will help with planning. When asked by Member Imber when the Committee and the public can expect to be informed of the District plans and if there would be information to share in two weeks, Superintendent McCall responded that a solid report in two weeks might be ambitious, but when able and available, he will share the scope and sequence for a long term plan of action.

Member Kirshenbaum thanked Superintendent McCall and District staff, before her connection was lost.

Member Lavoie commended the teachers who have reached out to students, adding his understanding that special education students have not been contacted by teachers. He reported he had the opportunity to watch one classroom interaction where 12 of 18 students participated remotely. Member Lavoie voiced his concerns about equitable access to technology, and he asked if an inventory had been done to find out who does not have access at home to a computer/laptop/ChromeBook. Member Lavoie acknowledged many links to enrichment sites/documents are available on the District website, but does not find any instruction available on the links. He also noted he has not found any District-shared links specific to special education/special education students, and reported that he has heard from parents who are looking for direction for teaching special education students at home. Member Lavoie next commented on the strong possibility the District will begin FY21 (July 1st) under a 1/12th budget and would Superintendent McCall be looking to make staffing cuts/other considerations. In answer to Member Lavoie's questions and comments, Superintendent McCall explained he and Director Deedy have discussed modifications to the budget and modifications in spending during these times, he reported on the virtual PLT (Principal Leadership Team) meeting held this date, the fact that enrichment activities for students will be optional and families/students cannot be forced to partake in these opportunities, and he spoke about ChromeBooks and ChromeCarts in the schools. Administrator of Special Education Smith also responded to Member Lavoie's concerns about inconsistent messages being shared between teachers and families, that she encourages teachers to maintain connections and support with students, that the availability of links on the website for families of special education students. Lastly, Superintendent McCall confirmed only high school students are assigned ChromeBooks for use at school and at home, through the 1:1 technology initiative, and that students in grades K – 8 have access to ChromeBooks/ChromeCarts in their classrooms during the school day.

Member Kirshenbaum re-connected with the meeting. She spoke about other districts that have moved forward already, voicing her opinion that this district does not have the luxury of waiting for direction from the state. She commented that community is essential for students and while a normal school day cannot be replicated at home, communication and connection student-to-student and teacher-to-student can take place. Superintendent McCall assured Member Kirshenbaum that Deputy Superintendent Berlo is working with teachers and the Curriculum Team to develop grade level and subject specific focused enrichment for students, which will be shared with families and staff as soon as finalized. More discussion ensued about student/teacher contact, communication between the

District/teachers/families, needing to do what is best for students, and planning in the event a staff member or a family caregiver becomes sick.

Member Long-Bellil lost contact.

Member Michalowski encouraged moving forward with plans and planning, without waiting for state directive(s), also encouraging, as soon as possible, conducting a technology assessment to learn from parents what technology/devices/internet capability is available for students at home. At Member Michalowski's inquiry about hourly employees being paid while schools are not in session, Superintendent McCall confirmed these employees will be paid, at this time. Superintendent McCall spoke about providing District paraprofessionals access to online professional development while schools are not in session. Superintendent McCall reported District custodial staff are conducting regular building checks while schools are closed. At Member Michalowski's inquiry, Superintendent McCall reported on a March 20, 2020 conference call hosted by Commissioner Riley, when grading and credits were discussed. No decisions, at the state or District level, have yet been made. Member Michalowski asked that the Committee be kept apprised about discussions and decisions being made "behind the scenes," to assist School Committee members when they are approached by members of the public with questions.

Student Representative Michalowski took the opportunity to report that high school students, especially seniors, are concerned and worried about upcoming events i.e. graduation, proms, end-of-year celebrations. She reported it was posted on social media that April break/vacation has been cancelled by some schools.

Student Representative Massoni-Nesman said that students would appreciate a message from the District, specifically to students, about what might be and might not be cancelled. She also reported that some Advanced Placement class students have been provided with enrichment opportunities, and she asked if these assignments could be used as extra credit. She continued with comments about providing enrichment materials in print form, asking about the possibility of re-distributing ChromeBooks that have been distributed to high school students (students who have technology available in their homes) to those in need of such technology to use while at home, and if lunch distribution can be offered to all students. Lastly, Student Representative Massoni-Nesman shared the common opinion that students are missing their connections with their classmates.

In response to the students' questions and comments, Superintendent McCall acknowledged that communications being shared from the District has been addressed to parents and not specifically to students. He added that it is likely most gatherings/events planned for the coming months will not be held. If the District is out of session for the rest of the school year, at this point, it is most likely spring athletics will not be held this year. Superintendent McCall explained that preparing hard copies of work could be a challenge, due to staff/families entering and exiting schools during this period of social distancing in order to prepare the materials or to pick up packets of materials. Providing ChromeBooks to those families with limited technology availability at their homes will be explored. Providing meals to all interested families is not financially feasible.

Member Long-Bellil reconnected with the meeting. She is looking for a timeline for special education support, which Superintendent McCall explained Administrator Smith is working on and a support mechanism is being put into play. Superintendent McCall explained special education teachers are working with regular education teachers to develop a plan. When asked about the location of resources on the District website, Superintendent McCall directed Member Long-Bellil to the Home Page, where the links are easily found. Member Long-Bellil had questions and comments about MCAS, SAT and ACT testing, A.P. tests dates being altered, student grades/grading, college acceptances, college entrance exams, student eligibility for grants, etc. At the conclusion of discussion of these topics, Member Long-Bellil thanked District teachers and administration for their efforts.

Member Mitchel had questions about when/how the District/Business Office would go about refunding parents for fees paid for trips, field trips, sports, program initiatives, other programs, etc. He also asked if Saturday School would be considered, similar to what the District did after the 2008 ice storm. When asked how loss of learning would be addressed, if schools are not reopened before the end of the year, Superintendent McCall acknowledged this is the "\$64,000 question." Once the schedule for the remainder of this school year is known, many things will be considered i.e. the last day of the school year, Saturday School, extending the length of the school day, etc.

Member Ottmar stressed the importance of consistent messaging between and among the Central Office/schools/families/teachers/staff, encouraging giving necessary leeway so that teachers can do what is best for students, which Superintendent acknowledged and agreed with the importance of teachers' individuality, even in a virtual environment.

Member Silva spoke about Zoom as an option to keep teachers and students connected. Discussion ensued about the length of time schools will be out of session, even the possibility of reopening in mid-September, and the importance of being proactive about this possibility. Superintendent McCall stated planning student engagement for the immediate time is what is on the radar, but he acknowledged and agreed that looking long-term is necessary.

Vice-chair Smith thanked all for their flexibility and adaptiveness. She extended a thank you to Central Office Staff, and she added that Supervisor of School Nutrition Margaret Barton and Food Service staff are "heros." She thanked WREA President Heidi Lahey and all teachers for their cooperation, noting that parents cannot provide a school setting, which many students miss. Equity, access to technology, and student and staff wellbeing are top priorities.

Member Weeks thanked the District and parents for their patience and understanding. She commented that some families and students are or will be struggling when dealing with layoffs, working parents who need to be home to care for their children, social-emotional issues that will arise during these times. She had questions about OT, PT, speech and how these services will/can be provided. Superintendent McCall reported Director of SEL Keenan is addressing and sharing information to help support families and students, as well as District staff/counselors who work with these families. Superintendent McCall confirmed that Director Keenan is overseeing the continuation of services to

families/students, services that have been available at the schools. OT, PT, and speech might be delivered in another capacity, details that are being addressed.

Member Woodland asked about virtual connection for students who receive occupational therapy, physical therapy, and/or speech therapy services, which Superintendent McCall said could happen in some fashion. Administrator of Special Education Smith will work on connecting students with their related service providers. Member Woodland expressed her new appreciation for all that goes on in a school building on a daily basis. She spoke about the need for consistency in messaging, plus the fact that with the number of resources and links being shared, it can be daunting for some parents. Discussion continued about keeping to focused enrichment for students v new learning, the fact that assignments with grades and deadlines associated cannot expected by teachers, continuation of providing lunches to those families in need, and lastly donating of any masks in storage at the Central Office, donations which Superintendent McCall confirmed.

Member Young voiced his concerns that the last communication to parents was close to a week ago, that some students have received communication from their teacher(s) while others have not/action that is not consistent District-wide, and he asked about a long-term plan in the event schools do not open before the end of June. Superintendent McCall is aware of and is addressing all of Member Young's concerns.

Input from all members concluded.

Chair Mills asked subcommittee chairs to think about their need to schedule meetings of their subcommittees. The full Committee will need to keep in mind possible action about amending the school calendar and approving transfers within the FY20 budget.

Chair Mills then shared/read aloud questions and comments shared by email from members of the public.

Holden resident Kristine Baez (attachment 1)

WRHS Senior James Benoit (attachment 2)

Princeton resident Corey Burnham-Howard (attachment 3)

Holden resident Jeannette Appel (attachment 4)

Holden resident Elisa Lellios (attachment 5)

Princeton resident Corey Burnham-Howard (attachment 6)

Holden resident Kristin Turner (attachment 7)

Holden resident Geri Herlihy (attachment 8):

Chair Mills reminded members of the next regular School Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2020, at 7:00 PM, a meeting that will also be conducted via Google Hangouts.

Chair Mills thanked Barry Sclar, Jay Brunelle, and Evan Schakenbach for their recording/streaming and technology support for this meeting.

Chair Mills gave members the opportunity to make a motion to extend the meeting. No motion was made.

Member Young asked if there were additional questions from the public, which Chair Mills reported there were no additional emails. Chair Mills noted he read aloud the public comments/questions, though not all questions were answered during this meeting. Chair Mills invited the public to send questions to Superintendent McCall or to questions@wrsd.net

B. Recommendations Requiring Action by the School Committee

There was no action required by the School Committee.

V. Unfinished Business

Deferred

VI. Secretary's Report

A. Approval of #1339 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 9, 2020

Deferred

B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee held on March 9, 2029

Deferred

VII. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements

Deferred

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Management Subcommittee (K. Mills, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Dennis, R. Imber, M. Lavoie, A. Young)

Deferred

- B. Education Subcommittee (R. Imber, Chair, C. Smith, Vice-chair, M. Ayala, S. Haber, L. Kirshenbaum, L. Long-Bellil, A. Silva)

Deferred

- C. Business/Finance Subcommittee (M. Dennis, Chair, B. Mitchel, Vice-chair, M. Gustafson, L. Long-Bellil, K. Ottmar)

Deferred

- D. Legal Affairs Subcommittee (S. Brown, Chair, M. Lavoie, Vice-chair, R. Imber, A. Michalowski)

Deferred

- E. Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Subcommittee (M. Lavoie, Chair, A. Michalowski, Vice-chair, A. DiFonso, K. Mills, M. Weeks)

Deferred

- F. Facilities and Security Subcommittee (A. Young, Chair, L. Woodland, Vice-chair, S. Godbout)

Deferred

- G. Audit Advisory Board (B. Mitchel, Chair)

Deferred

- H. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

- 1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Negotiate the Superintendent's Contract (K. Mills, Chair, M. Weeks, Vice-chair, S. Brown, M. Dennis, M. Lavoie)

Deferred

- I. Building Committees

- J. School Council Reports:

Central Tree Middle School (S. Haber), Chocksett Middle School (L. Woodland), Davis Hill Elementary School (K. Mills), Dawson Elementary School (L. Kirshenbaum), Glenwood Elementary School (A. DiFonso), Houghton Elementary School (M. Ayala), Mayo Elementary School (A. Young), Mountview Middle School (S. Brown), Naquag Elementary School (M. Lavoie), Paxton Center School (K. Ottmar), Thomas Prince School (A. Silva), Wachusett Regional High School (L.

Deferred

IX. Public Hearing

Deferred

X. New Business

Deferred

XI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

(M. Dennis)
(A. Silva)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Kenneth Mills
Christina Smith
Melissa Ayala
Scott Brown
Michael Dennis
Stephen Godbout
Maleah Gustafson
Sherrie Haber
Jeffrey Haynes
Laura Kirshenbaum
Matthew Lavoie
Linda Long-Bellil
Amy Michalowski
Benjamin Mitchel
Karl Ottmar
Asima Silva
Megan Weeks
Linda Woodland
Adam Young

Opposed:

None

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Emailed question from Holden resident Kristine Baez
- Attachment 2 – Emailed question from WRHS Senior James Benoit
- Attachment 3 – Emailed question from Princeton resident Corey Burnham-Howard
- Attachment 4 – Emailed question from Holden resident Jeannette Appel
- Attachment 5 – Emailed question from Holden resident Elisa Lellios
- Attachment 6 – Emailed question from Princeton resident Corey Burnham-Howard
- Attachment 7 – Emailed question from Holden resident Kristin Turner
- Attachment 8 – Emailed question from Holden resident Geri Herlihy



Attachinent 1

Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Re: Curriculum question

Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 11:06 PM

To: baezlyons@gmail.com, Darryll McCall <darryll_mccall@wrsd.net>, Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Kristine, thank you for your comment. I have the same concern. I will forward to the superintendent and secretary.

On Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 9:30 PM <baezlyons@gmail.com> wrote:

If a child is currently taking pre calculus and plans to take calculus in the fall should she just self study?

Sent from my iPhone

--
Kenneth Mills
Chair,
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

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Attachment 2

Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Re: Questions for school committee

Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 11:06 PM

To: James Benoit <jrbenoit1@icloud.com>, Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>, Darryll McCall <darryll_mccall@wrsd.net>

Thank you for your comment. I will forward it to the superintendent and secretary.

On Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 9:13 PM James Benoit <jrbenoit1@icloud.com> wrote:

Hi —

I'm currently a senior at WRHS, and I've been watching the broadcast of the school committee meeting – I had a question I wanted to have answered on-air.

Currently school work and learning activities are being offered purely for enrichment purposes, however countless students are lacking the incentive to complete these activities and assignments and are suffering from a large loss of learning. While not all students may have access to these opportunities so mandated assignments isn't possible, can students receive extra credit for the work? Much like myself, students are putting in countless hours that have no impact on their grade and are losing interest in completing these assignments. Additionally, there are many concerns over grades. Can students receive extra credit to incite them to complete these activities, without hurting those who lack access?

Thanks,

James

--

Kenneth Mills
Chair,
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

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Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Fwd: MCAS as graduation requirement

Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 11:07 PM

To: Darryll McCall <darryll_mccall@wrsd.net>, Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Corey Burnham-Howard** <cburnhamhoward@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 9:03 PM

Subject: MCAS as graduation requirement

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

Students must earn a passing grade in certain subjects on MCAS as graduation requirements. Any information on how that is being or will be addressed? For example, my student would need to take the MCAS Physics test this spring, but it looks like she will likely not complete the curriculum for Physics this school year.

Thank you,
Corey Burnham-Howard
11 Osgood Rd, Princeton

--

Kenneth Mills
Chair,
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

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Attachment 4

Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Fwd: Questions

2 messages

Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>
 To: Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 6:25 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <appel@charter.net>
 Date: Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 8:38 PM
 Subject: Re: Questions
 To: Kenneth Mills <kenneth_mills@wrsd.net>

Hi Ken,

I'm getting off now. Laura made n Mike n Scott n Amy made my points.

Thank you n sorry for all of the emails.
 Jeannette

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 23, 2020, at 7:25 PM, Kenneth Mills <kenneth_mills@wrsd.net> wrote:

>

> Can you include name/address please for the record? Thanks! Ken

>

> Sent from my iPad

>

>> On Mar 23, 2020, at 7:24 PM, appel@charter.net wrote:

>>

>> Thank you for the opportunity to ask questions

>> 1) I read the letter sent out by commissioner Riley as it was sent to a teacher from another school district. The letter is vague n just says different districts doing different things

>> 2) why can't we use kids chrome books n use of zoom or whichever platform for kids to learn?

>> 3) it is very apparent that this situation will go on past April. I feel like school isn't being realistic or proactive about a plan to continue to teach kids, esp high school kids.

>> 4) we keep talking about equity throughout the state but I know of many schools where all teachers have reached out to their students n provided work to do. It's optional but it's still continued work. Kids need structure n to go back to a routine.

>> 5) seriously, everyone knows kids will probably not go back to school this year. What is Wachusett's plan to teach these kids?

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>

> --

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 > Wachusett Regional School District, and subject to the Public Records Law,
 > M.G.L. c.66, § 10.*

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Kenneth Mills
 Chair,
 Wachusett Regional School District Committee

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Attachment 5

Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Re: Parent perspective

Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 11:06 PM

To: Elisa Lellios <elisalellios@hotmail.com>, Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>, Darryll McCall <darryll_mccall@wrsd.net>

Thank you for your comment. I will forward it to the superintendent and secretary.

On Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 8:04 PM Elisa Lellios <elisalellios@hotmail.com> wrote:

- Just curious- as an educator myself- it seems antithetical to leave everyone behind for fear of leaving a few behind.
- Find out who needs paper materials and get them to them. Some high school teachers are giving lessons and others are not. That also seems odd, does it not? What should we expect? The longer you delay on doing anything the harder this will be.

Sent from my iPad

--

Kenneth Mills
Chair,
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

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Attachment 6

Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Fwd: Distance Learning Plans

Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 11:06 PM

To: Darryll McCall <darryll_mccall@wrsd.net>, Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Corey Burnham-Howard** <cburnhamhoward@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 7:49 PM

Subject: Distance Learning Plans

To: <questions@wrsd.net>

I understand the issue of equities and the related law and guidance. I appreciate all that Dr. McCall and the School Committee and District staff are doing. These are unprecedented circumstances and trying times in so many ways for all of us. I do want to express my frustration with the lack of guidance from Mass DESE with regard to quickly implementing distance learning. I have friends around the country and even in the state who have kids already engaged in distance learning programs provided by their school districts. I have yet to hear of any concrete plan being pursued by WRSD. I understand that does not necessarily mean there is not planning ongoing. I do want to acknowledge that in my opinion there is inequity in this discrepancy in approaches and implementation of distance learning plans such that all of our kids in the District are losing out. I'm hoping to hear tonight and soon in communications to the whole WRSD community what plans are being pursued for distance learning and timelines for their implementation.

Thank you,
Corey Burnham-Howard
11 Osgood Rd, Princeton

--
Kenneth Mills
Chair,
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

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Attachment 7

Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Re: School committee questions

Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 11:05 PM

To: kristinsturner@gmail.com, Darryll McCall <darryll_mccall@wrsd.net>, Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Kristin, Thank you for your comment. I will forward it to the superintendent and secretary.

On Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 7:37 PM <kristinsturner@gmail.com> wrote:

1. What specific training has the staff received over the course of the last week to prepare them for online education? What training is planned for this week? Next?

2. When can parents expect materials/enrichment (in any form) tailored to their child's class (not just a list of generalized links)?

3. When can students expect daily check ins from educators?

4. How are teachers spending their school days?

Thanks!
Kristin Turner
Holden

--
Kenneth Mills
Chair,
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

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Attachment 8

Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Re: Question

Kenneth Mills <Kenneth_Mills@wrsd.net>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 11:05 PM

To: herlihyforholden@gmail.com, Darryll McCall <darryll_mccall@wrsd.net>, Rebecca Petersen <rebecca_petersen@wrsd.net>

Thank you for your comment. I will forward it to the superintendent and secretary.

On Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 7:28 PM <herlihyforholden@gmail.com> wrote:

Please tell us your plans for the children's education while they are out of school. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

--

Kenneth Mills
Chair,
Wachusett Regional School District Committee

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