

**NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MA**  
**MARCH 9, 2021**  
**6:00 P.M. VIRTUAL MEETING**

The North Attleborough School Committee held a virtual meeting on Monday, March 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman McKenna called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

***Attendance Roll Call:***

***School Committee:***

John Costello - Present  
Kathryn Hobbs - Present  
Kevin O'Donnell - Absent  
Carol Wagner - Present

Secretary Ethan Hamilton - Present  
Chairman James McKenna - Present  
Sarah Stone - Present  
Town Council President Keith Lapointe - Present

***Central Administration:***

Superintendent Scott Holcomb - Present  
Business Administrator David Flynn - Present  
Technology Director - Gideon Gaudette - Present  
Middle School Principal Brianne Kelleher - Present  
District School Nurse Leader Melissa Badger - Present  
Town Accountant Linda Catanzariti - Present

Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon - Present  
Interim Dir. of Facilities and Grounds - Christopher George - Present  
High School Principal Peter Haviland - Present  
Director of Students Services Meg Camire - Present  
Town Manager Michael Borg - Present

***Student Representatives:***

Shruti Srinivasan - Present  
Dylan Desrosiers - Absent  
Grace Noreck - Present

Brody Rosenberg - Absent  
Joseph Perriello - Absent

Mr. McKenna announced the meeting was being held remotely due to the Executive Order of Governor Baker on March 12, 2020 and read the order into the record.

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Shruti Srinivasan followed.

***Discussion:***

Chairman McKenna called on Superintendent Holcomb for an update on the return of Kindergarten students on March 8, 2021. Superintendent Holcomb spoke about going to the schools to check on Kindergarten classrooms and called on Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon's report. Mrs. McKeon reported on the visits stating there was excitement across the district between both students and teachers to have everyone back. Mr. Holcomb asked Principal Brianne Kelleher about the status of bringing MS students back on Monday, March 15th. Ms. Kelleher reported teachers and students are excited to be back all together. Ms. Kelleher stated work has been completed at the school to welcome the students back safely and explained schedules will remain the same to start for a transitional period. Ms. Kelleher stated they will look forward to moving to a more typical schedule with students moving between classes in a couple of weeks. Arrangements have been made to have the students have lunch in the cafeteria safely distanced from each other. Ms. Kelleher explained a memo was sent to all parents on Monday with the logistics of arrival and dismissal procedures. Mr. Holcomb called on High School Principal Peter Haviland for a report on preparation to welcome students back on Monday, March 15th. Mr. Haviland stated there is excitement throughout the school. He explained in September desks, tables and other classroom furniture was removed from the classrooms to allow for safe distancing. Over the last week, classroom furniture was brought back and strategically placed to allow for all students to be present and stay within the distance guidelines. Mr. Haviland reported a survey will be sent to fully remote parents to be sure they were aware of their choices and a letter went to parents today regarding arrival and dismissal procedures. Mr. Holcomb spoke about Grades 1-5 going back on March 22nd. He stated he was planning another school committee meeting next week to report on that. Mr. Holcomb spoke about a letter that was released today from Department of Education Commissioner Riley. He explained that the Commissioner's letter stated all students in the state of Massachusetts would be back to in-person learning 5 days a week on April 5th. The Commissioner also stated in his letter that hybrid and remote learning models will no longer count towards meeting the required student learning time hours for elementary students as of April 5th, middle school students as of April 28th and the plan for high school students

would be announced in April. Discussion ensued. After discussion, Superintendent Holcomb instructed Principals Kelleher and Haviland to release a detailed attendance policy to all Middle School and High School parents/students regarding expectations and guidelines.

Chairman McKenna asked for public comments and questions and referred to Mr. Gaudette for any emails received. Mr. Gaudette received one email from resident Melissa Russano at 6:23 p.m.

Question 1: We received an email from Principal Kelleher that formerly hybrid students are expected to be in person and cannot remote in unless they have received permission from the school nurse for COVID-related reasons. If a family travels out of state, and per the state needs to quarantine, will they be permitted to remote in? If not, how will you address the concern/likelihood that parents simply won't disclose travel? Principal Kelleher referred to Nurse Leader Melissa Badger for a response. Missy Badger reported they would be looking at all types of scenarios in the coming weeks to determine a clear policy pertaining to what would be considered "COVID related reasons" for quarantine.

Question 2: Last week someone mentioned that one solution for lunch in the classroom was every other row unmasking. DESE guidelines require six feet apart when unmasked, and nothing I can find suggests that every other row unmasked at less than six feet is permissible. Can you confirm that you will NOT be using every other row unmasked at less than six feet apart for lunch, snack, mask breaks? Superintendent Holcomb stated this suggestion for lunch that came last week was determined to be not advisable and would not be used going forward.

Chairman McKenna called on Superintendent Holcomb for an update on the Town of North Attleborough Management Letter. Superintendent Holcomb called on Business Administrator David Flynn to report on the town audit regarding the findings for the school department. Mr. Flynn explained that an audit has been done every year by the town. Mr. Flynn stated over the years, very few findings were against the school department. Mr. Flynn reported the school department's accounts payable office has been reduced in staff from 3 full time employees to 1. It has been determined there is too much work coming in and out of the department for 1 person and they have recently hired another full time person. Mr. Flynn stated this addition to his staff will rectify the inaccuracies coming from his office. Mr. Holcomb went on to explain that he recommends an outside independent audit for AP, AR, and payroll. Discussion ensued.

Nurse Leader Missy Badger reported on teacher vaccinations. Ms. Badger explained that she has notified all staff members of the locations where they can make appointments to receive the vaccine as they will not be able to administer the shots in district as originally planned. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna called on Mr. Chris George for an update on the results of the RMF Engineering audit of our HVAC systems. Mr. George introduced Mac Craig and Stephanie Lafontaine from RMF engineering who were part of the audit team. Mr. George explained the recommended requirements by the CDC and ASHRAE which includes not only HVAC system modifications but also personal hygiene practices, masking, social distancing, and cleaning and disinfection protocols that would ensure safe, in-person learning. Mr. George reported on the list of completed recommendations that North Attleborough Public Schools have put in place that follow the requirements set forth by the CDC and ASHRAE. Mr. George described the deficiencies the buildings within the school department still need to address and the mitigation strategies that have been put in place in meantime while we wait for a final report the RMF giving us a list prioritized by need and cost. Discussion ensued. Stephanie Lafontaine confirmed that mitigations we have put in place has ensured a safe environment for our students and staff and adheres to the guidance from the CDC and ASHRAE.

### *Executive Session*

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with Union Non-Union Personnel which may have a detrimental effect if held in open session and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;; so moved by Carol Wagner, seconded by Ethan Hamilton. No discussion. So voted by roll call vote:

#### **Roll call vote:**

John Costello - Yes

Kathryn Hobbs - Yes

Sarah Stone - Yes

Motion passed 6-0-0

Secretary Ethan Hamilton - Yes

Carol Wagner - Yes

Chairman James McKenna - Yes

Chairman McKenna stated they would not return after Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Mary Chagnon.*