

**Tewksbury School Committee
Special Meeting - Wednesday, March 3, 2021
All Members Attended Remotely via WebEx**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith M. Sullivan, Chairperson
James A. Cutelis, Vice-Chairperson
Shannon M. Demos, Clerk
John R. Stadtman, Member

MEMBERS LATE

Scott D. Wilson, Member

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Christopher J. Malone, Superintendent
Brenda T. Regan, Assistant Superintendent
David A. Libby, Business Manager

OTHERS PRESENT

Karen Cronin, Principal of the North Street School
Terry Gerrish, Principal of the Dewing Elementary School
Jay Harding, Principal of the Trahan Elementary School
Judi McInnes, Principal of the John Ryan Elementary School
John Weir, Principal of the John Wynn Middle School
Felicia Cenanovic, Principal of the Heath Brook School
Jon Bernard, Principal of Tewksbury Memorial High School
Karen Baker O'Brien, Director of Student & Family Support
Richard Pelletier, Director of Student Services
Ron Drouin, Athletic Director
Gail Johnson, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sullivan called the March 3, 2021, Special School Committee meeting to order at 5:02 p.m

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes: Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos, and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Sullivan reported that the March 3, 2021 Special School Committee meeting will be televised and recorded. School Committee Chairman, Keith Sullivan, confirmed that all members of the School Committee and persons on the agenda are present and give consent to be recorded tonight.

By Roll Call - School Committee: Mr. Cutelis, Mr. Stadtman, Ms. Demos, and Mr. Sullivan; Staff: Mr. Malone, Ms. Regan, Mr. Libby; Other Guests: Principals: Ms. Gerrish, Mr. Harding, Ms. Cenanovic, Ms. Cronin, Ms. McInnes, Mr. Weir, Mr. Bernard; Administrators: Mr. Pelletier, Ms. Baker O'Brien, Mr. Drouin, and Ms. Bosworth.

Mr. Sullivan stated that the March 3, 2021 is an open meeting. Due to the recent open meeting law policy set forth by the Governor during the current state of emergency the meeting will be held as a virtual meeting *via WebEx*.

Mr. Sullivan read the Governor's Order for conducting a remote meeting and the Tewksbury School Committee ground rules. The public was invited to pre-register to make a comment at tonight's meeting and/or make comments by calling in during the Citizen's Forum section of the meeting on 781-565-8134.

Approved
April 14, 2021

The meeting can be viewed live on Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 34, or [YouTube.com/TewksburyTV](https://www.youtube.com/TewksburyTV). Mr. Sullivan announced that the agenda is available on the district website or by contacting Ms. Johnson, at gjohnson@tewksbury.k12.ma.us. You may reach out to a School Committee member or the Superintendent if you have any questions regarding the meeting tonight.

DISCUSSION OF OPEN NEGOTIATIONS

Discussion of Open Negotiations with the Tewksbury Teachers Association (TTA) specific to more In-Person time Learning.

Mr. Malone reported that the district is working with the TTA specifically to return to school this year and negotiating models and lately, on more In-person Learning time. We believe, from meetings with the TTA, that it is important to make sure we have staff input on all aspects of students returning to school. He related that Mr. Bilodeau, President of the TTA Union, is interested in open negotiations regarding more In-person time. With the collaboration of the TTA we are proposing open negotiations with the TTA and the Tewksbury School Committee and for the public to view the meetings live.

Mr. Malone responded to questions and comments from the School Committee. The School Committee members were in agreement and support of open negotiations for In-person Learning.

Mr. Wilson was experiencing technical difficulty and joined the meeting at 5:14 p.m. He was able to hear the meeting and agreed to the open negotiations.

Mr. Cutelis wanted to confirm that the Committee would be able to begin the open negotiations on March 4th, 2021.

Mr. Cutelis moved for the School Committee to engage in open communication with the Tewksbury Teachers Association (TTA) to negotiate more In-person Learning time, to begin immediately. Ms. Demos seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes: Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION OF PHASE-IN SCHEDULE

Discussion Phased-In Schedule for the return of students to school.

Mr. Malone and Ms. Regan presented a presentation, More In-Person Learning Time for Our Students. The goal of the presentation is to propose an initial plan for a phased-in approach, specific to more In-person Learning for Tewksbury Public Schools' students and to further explore stakeholder input, solutions to obstacles, gathering information to support a formal plan to be voted on by the School Committee in a forthcoming meeting. The presentation may be found on the district website [More In-Person Learning Time Presentation](#).

Mr. Malone responded to questions and comments from the School Committee members. He will coordinate to have Ms. Demos do a walk-through in the schools to look at the classroom sizes and set-up for return of the students. The Committee members supported the proposed plan for students to return to school.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Mr. Sullivan opened the Citizen's Forum for comments from parents and guardians that had pre-registered to address the School Committee.

Peter Foster, 156 Marshall Street, Tewksbury

Mr. Foster supported opening the schools for the return of students. Thank you from Mr. Sullivan.

Grace D'Ippolito - 11 Allison Way, Tewksbury

Ms. D'Ippolito supports the return of students to the school. She requested the district think of additional classroom settings using the gym and cafeterias.

Community Member

Concerned about the timing to notify the district (end of term) if a parent wanted their students in the Remote Learning Academy to return full in-person.

Jessica Rauseo, 936 North Street, Tewksbury

Ms. Rauseo inquired if her son would lose his current teacher in the Remoter Learning Academy when the district returns to full in-person.

Mr. Sullivan took a moment to remind the public that the next School Committee meeting will be held on March 10th. He thanked those that called-in tonight and those that watched the meeting.

Colleen Gallant, 49 Patten Road, Tewksbury

Ms. Gallant voiced her concern about coming back to school full in-person. Her concern is safety for teachers and aides and students and the spread of COVID.

Patryk Maciak, 38 Quail Run, Tewksbury

Mr. Maciak inquired if the district would be able to offer before and after school programs/extended day for students.

Grace D'Ippolito, 11 Allison Way, Tewksbury

Ms. D'Ippolito inquired if the district would be offering summer classes for students. She also inquired if the district would notify parents when the phase-in would happen and if they would need to provide transportation for their children.

Maria Coviello, 250 Cart Path Road, Tewksbury

Ms. Coviello supports full in-person return to school. She commented that she was thrilled the vote for open negotiations between the School Committee and the TTA passed.

Jennifer Kelly, 10 Sesame Street, Tewksbury

Ms. Kelly inquired about the phase-in schedule and why the middle school would not be in school full-time in May.

Mr. Sullivan reported that the next Regular School Committee meeting is scheduled on March 10th relating that the Committee will be talking about the proposed plan at that meeting as well.

Lesley Rossetti, 682 South Street, Tewksbury

Ms. Rossetti supports getting kids back in school full-time, inquiring what the primary drive is for not bringing them back full-time now.

Jessica Ryan, 30 Bonnie Lane, Tewksbury

Ms. Ryan inquired why the MCAS testing was not discussed.

Tracie Krueger, 13 Woodcrest Drive, Tewksbury

Ms. Krueger asked for clarification on the Hybrid Model, three foot (3') social distancing.

Mr. Sullivan announced that the regular scheduled School Committee meeting on March 10th will be preceded by a Public Budget Hearing. He hopes the audience will join the Committee on March 10th. If you have questions or input please email Mr. Sullivan or Mr. Malone.

Greg Meagher, 16 Patriot Road, Tewksbury

Mr. Meagher inquired how teachers will be able to support students full-in as well as the online students.

Ms. Regan announced that the presentation and the recording of the meeting will be posted on the district website.

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Special SC Meeting
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Michele Blaikie, 71 Martha Avenue, Tewksbury

Ms. Blaikie inquired if the gyms will be open and how the district hopes to get the support of teachers. She also asked about receiving reimbursement from the district to cover the costs of sports and gyms families incurred while schools were not offering physical education.

Scott Austin, 30 John Street, Tewksbury

Mr. Austin supports opening the schools and offered thanks to the School Committee members and administrators for all their hard work.

Mr. Sullivan inquired if there was anyone who had called-in wishing to speak on any item on the agenda. Seeing no one, he moved to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:38 p.m., Mr. Sullivan adjourned the March 3, 2021 Special School Committee meeting with a motion from Mr. Cutelis and seconded by Ms. Demos.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.