



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
School Committee Minutes  
Thursday, February 17, 2022  
Educational Support Center**

**PRESENT**

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Robert Bergeron	Member, Hubbardston
	Emilly Cartier	Member, Hardwick
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	Joanne Cormier	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	Jenna Garvey	Member, Hardwick
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree (arrived 6:50)
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

**ABSENT**

Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham
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**ALSO PRESENT**

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
District Administrators/Staff	Kristin Campione; Colleen Mucha; Gregory Devine; Anne Doble; Colleen Mucha; Jill Peterson; Shelly St. George; Tricia Worthington; Andrew Walsh; Chris Carlson; Kim Staiti; Numerous other faculty & staff members
Town Officials/Residents	Numerous parents and community members not identifiable on Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Discussion of Changes to DESE Mask Mandate – a vote may be required

Dr. Muir provided a short presentation and provided reference to the information the district has based its protocols on during the pandemic. Dr. Muir also referenced an email sent by our school physician, Dr. Jeremiah. Dr. Jeremiah also spoke to the gathering and recommended that anyone attending school or living with someone who is compromised continue to mask. Dr. Jeremiah looked at information from our area and the surge and severity of this past winter is lessening.

Dr. Muir's recommendation is that the district make masks optional for staff and students on February 28<sup>th</sup> with the following exceptions: Masks must be worn for 5 days after an individual has returned after quarantining for

COVID-19; Masks must be worn in school health offices; Masks must be worn on school busses at all times. It is strongly recommended that unvaccinated individuals and those at high risk continue to wear masks in the school setting.

Discussion also ensued that there needs to be clearly articulated expectations for students and staff regarding refraining from making statements and judgements about an individual's choice to wear or not to wear a mask. The district will provide KN95 masks for any student or staff member who would like to use them through the end of the 2021-22 school year as long as there are no supply chain issues that prevent the district from obtaining the masks.

- 3. Public Comment** – The public comment section of the meeting was taken prior to any committee votes. The committee and administration heard from numerous parents, the vast majority of whom believe the mask mandate should be lifted.

School committee members discussed their concerns around vaccinations and non-vaccinated individuals wearing masks as well as the importance of speaking to students about bullying of students who choose to wear or not wear a mask.

In order to move to optional mask wearing, a change needs to be made to Policy EBCFA Face Coverings which will go into effect on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Dr. Allan to accept the changes to Policy EBCFA Face Coverings, which will make face coverings optional effective Monday, February 28, 2022.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- 4. Adjourn** – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett  
School Committee Secretary