Ludlow Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

205 Fuller Street, Ludlow, Massachusetts 01056

The Mission of the Ludlow Public Schools is to provide a quality education for every student by working in partnership with parents and community to assist each student in reaching his/her full potential.

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Interim Superintendent of Schools
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LUDLOW SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA – February 22, 2022
LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
500 CHAPIN STREET - LUDLOW – 6:00 P.M.

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CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Consent Calendar
    a. Approval of Minutes
2. Upcoming Meeting Dates/School Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Those that want to comment will sign in on a clipboard and will be called upon when it's their turn to speak

RECOMMENDED ACTION
NEW BUSINESS

1. MIAA Rule 53
2. Policy Changes - COVID Related -
    a. EBCFA - FACE COVERINGS - Recommend approve
3. Superintendent Search Sub-Committee

OLD BUSINESS

FINANCIAL UPDATE

1. Mr. Desjardins will provide the Committee with an update on the current financial status of the district

REPORTS

1. Superintendent Report
2. School Committee Sub-Committees

CLIPBOARD:
Events, Student achievement
EXECUTIVE SESSION
ADJOURN

(*The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may, in fact, be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.")

File: BEDH

PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The School Committee desires individuals to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear public comment.

Public comment is not a discussion, debate, or dialogue between individuals and the School Committee. It is an individual's opportunity to express an opinion on issues within the School Committee's authority.

To ensure the ability of the School Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. At the start of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals will sign in for an opportunity to speak during public comment. The public comment segment shall not exceed 15 minutes. All speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner

2. Speakers will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to present their material and must begin their comments by stating their name and city/town. The presiding Chair may permit extension of this time limit, in extenuating circumstances.

3. Topics for discussion should be limited to those items within the School Committee's scope of authority. The authority of the School Committee primarily concerns the review and approval of the budget of the district's public schools, the performance of the Superintendent, and the educational goals and policies of the district's public schools. Comments and complaints regarding school personnel (apart from the Superintendent) or students are generally prohibited unless those comments and complaints concern matters within the scope of School Committee authority.

4. The Chair of the meeting, after a warning, reserves the right to terminate speech which is not constitutionally protected because it constitutes true threats that are likely to provoke a violent reaction and cause a breach of the peace, or incitement to imminent lawless conduct, or contains obscenities.

5. Written comments longer than three (3) minutes may be presented to the presiding Chair before or after the meeting. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting. Comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Ludlow School Committee.

6. Sign up instructions will be provided for those who wish to participate in Public Comment.

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LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. c. 30A: 18-25

CROSS REFS: BE, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
BEC, EXECUTIVE SESSIONS
BEDA, NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SOURCE: MASC
Revised: January 2020

ADOPTED: September 7, 2021

MGL 30A, section 20

(g) No person shall address a meeting of a public body without permission of the chair, and all persons shall, at the request of the chair, be silent. No person shall disrupt the proceedings of a meeting of a public body. If, after clear warning from the chair, a person continues to disrupt the proceedings, the chair may order the person to withdraw from the meeting and if the person does not withdraw, the chair may authorize a constable or other officer to remove the person from the meeting.

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Attorney Generals Open Meeting Law Guide

Any member of the public may make an audio or video recording of an open session of a public meeting. A member of the public who wishes to record a meeting must first notify the chair and must comply with reasonable requirements regarding audio or video equipment established by the chair so as not to interfere with the meeting. The chair is required to inform other attendees of any such recording at the beginning of the meeting. If someone arrives after the meeting has begun and wishes to record a meeting, that person should attempt to notify the chair prior to beginning recording, ideally in a manner that does not significantly disrupt the meeting in progress (such as passing a note for the chair to the board administrator or secretary). The chair should endeavor to acknowledge such attempts at notification and announce the fact of any recording to those in attendance.

EBCFA - FACE COVERINGS

The Ludlow Public Schools (the "District") is committed to providing a safe environment in schools during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The District utilizes a layered approach to mitigating the effects of COVID-19 by implementing the following measures as appropriate:

- promoting vaccines and boosters;
- offering access to testing supplies to students and staff;
- asking individuals to stay home when they are sick;
- emphasizing personal hygiene (wash hands; cover coughs and sneezes).

According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks or face coverings. Accordingly:

- Any individual who wishes to wear a mask <u>may</u> do so and will be supported in that choice.
- It is strongly <u>recommended</u> that all individuals in schools wear masks but especially those who are unvaccinated and those who face higher risk from COVID-19.
- A face covering that covers the nose and mouth <u>must</u> be worn by all individuals under the following circumstances:
    - on school transportation (per federal law);
    - in school health offices (state requirement);
    - upon return to school after a five-day isolation period (after testing positive for COVID-19) or quarantine period (after exposure to a COVID-19 positive person) (mask required for five days except when eating, drinking, or outdoors)
    - upon return to school after staying home because of COVID-19 symptoms, receiving a negative test, and experiencing improvement in symptoms (including fever-free for 24 hours without medication) (mask required for five days except when eating, drinking, or outdoors)

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Masks or face coverings will not be required for anyone who has a medical, behavioral or other challenge making it unsafe to wear a face mask or face covering. A written note from a physician is required for a requested exemption. Parents may not excuse their child from the face mask requirement by signing a waiver. Exceptions must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances.

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal will consult with the parent/guardians to determine whether an exception is appropriate, or the student may be removed from the school building for in-person learning until such time as they can comply with the requirement, or the requirement is lifted.

Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of School Committee policy.

Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.

REFS:

Update on DESE Mask Requirement, February 9, 2022: https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2022-0209mask-requirement-update.pdf

Approved:

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