



# Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

10 New Bond Street Worcester, MA 01606

Phone: (508) 854-8400 Fax: (508) 854-8484

www.akfcs.org

## Education Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 7, 2021/ 7:45 a.m.

<https://akfcs-org.zoom.us/j/98609414991?pwd=WWJLeGhjZVhqZjMvdmEzRXpabXpuUT09>

**Meeting ID:**986 0941 4991 **Passcode:** 194133

**By phone:** 1-929-205-6099 **Meeting ID:** 986 0941 4991

- I. Call to Order- Shelly Yarnie, Committee Chair
- II. Attendance Recorded
- III. Review of the December 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes and the October 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes
  - a. **Motion:** To approve the minutes from the December 10, 2020 Education Committee Meeting.
  - b. **Motion:** To approve the minutes from the October 6, 2020 Education Committee Meeting.
- IV. AKF Hybrid Model for the District
- V. Regional Planning and Enrollment
- VI. Motion to Adjourn

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## Education Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, December 10, 2020 / 7:45 a.m.

<https://akfcs-org.zoom.us/j/95971612826?pwd=bUJ2Ui9PNkRISVM5UVdGaUNMcWN4QT09>

**Meeting ID:** 959 7161 2826 **Passcode:** 720053

**By phone:** 1-929-205-6099 **Meeting ID:** 959 7161 2826

- I. The Meeting was Called to Order by Shelly Yarnie, Committee Chair at 7:51 a.m.
- II. Committee members in attendance: Celia Blue, Shelly Yarnie, Bibiche Zagabe-Ndiku.  
Committee members not in attendance: Jie Park  
Staff in attendance: Heidi Paluk, Amy Emma, Chris Kursonsis, Amy Pulifico, AnnMarie Little, Rob Kerr, Siby Adina, Jess Regan,
- III. Ms. Yarnie asked for a motion to approve the minutes from November 12, 2020. Ms. Blue made the motion and Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku seconded the motion. Ms. Yarnie abstained from the vote. The Motion was approved by Ms. Blue and Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku.
- IV. Ms. Paluk presented to the Committee AKF's Hybrid Model Plans to begin in January. The anticipated start date for the Hybrid Model is Monday, January 11th. Classes will resume remotely January 4-8th for all students.  

Families at each school have been contacted. The Elementary School anticipated approximately 240 students to return, 225 at the Middle School and 175 at the High School. Student bussing needs to be worked out, there will not be regional transportation, stops have been consolidated.

Staffing is a concern for the District, but the Principals are seeing teachers stepping up who are able with creative solutions to support the needs of our students.

MCAS have been postponed at this time for the eleventh graders who missed their tenth grade MCAS. DESE will continue to communicate with Districts over next steps.

Ms. Paluk shared a forthcoming mandate coming from DESE regarding STL (Student Learning Time). The mandate will require a certain number of hours of live instruction for students over the course of a two week period. Students will not be allowed full asynchronous learning time. AKF should be already meeting this mandate, if not, adjustments will be minor. We anticipate that confirmation in the next day or two.

Ms. Paluk explained this mandate is the result of students who are struggling with mental health issues, and DESE wants to assure students are being checked in with by a trusted adult.

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Teachers are concerned about returning to the buildings in person, with students. Ms. Paluk noted PPE is available for stay, air purifiers have been purchased for the Middle School, masks are required by all and social distancing is in place.

Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku asked if there was a sense of how students were doing within each school. Mr. Kursonsis began by saying they have seen a slide since progress reports. Any student with less than a 75% must attend help sessions in the afternoons. He noted that students are not completing their require work at home and there are some groups of students who are struggling with online learning, but are being worked with and are working to improve. Mr. Kursonsis noted that the students who are struggling will not be coming in to school during the Hybrid switch.

Ms. Pulifico noted they are seeing more struggles from students in grades 6 & 7, and these students have been given supported study hall sessions. Teachers are working hard to get students on the right path academically. As the Middle School moves to the Hybrid Model, there will be some movement among student homerooms. Staff will work to build these new classroom communities prior to the holiday break in anticipation of students coming in in-person.

Ms. Emma spoke about the Elementary School saying remote learning is a work in progress and they have experienced better success with students when in person. Equity is a struggle among students as some get help at home and some do not. There have been attendance issues specifically with students who are supposed to be coming in and are not. Ms. Emma credits the teachers with their flexibility between moving from model to model.

Ms. Yarnie noted a personal example of her daughter's teacher giving additional support and the impact and difference that has made.

Ms. Yarnie then asked for a motion to Adjourn. Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku made the Motion, Ms. Blue seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.



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## Education Committee Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 / 7:45 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89154021470?pwd=aEtpWnVVRm5ja1FDNlpyMVpBYTEwZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 891 5402 1470 **Password:** 2RFr0y

**By Phone:** 1-929-205-6099 **Meeting ID:** 891 5402 1470

The meeting was Called to Order by Shelly Yarnie, Committee Chair at 7:54 a.m. Attendance recorded (see attached). **Committee Members:** Shelly Yarnie, Bibiche Zagabe-Ndiku, Celia Blue

Ms. Yarnie asked for a review of the September 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes. She then asked for a Motion to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2020 Education Committee Meeting. Ms. Blue made the Motion, Ms. Zagbe-Ndiku provided a second to the motion. The Committee approved the minutes.

Ms. Paluk began the conversation with where the District stands with evaluating bringing additional students back to school. It was noted that if this is possible, the District was looking at the middle of October as the target date. Right now, the additional students to come in would be at the Elementary school, grades 1-3 using the Maroon and Gold group designations.

At the High School and Middle School, at this time the only students coming in and who will continue to come in are students with high needs. Progress reports are coming out in a few weeks and those will be looked at to see if more students should be coming in.

Ms. Paluk and the Committee acknowledged the work of the teachers and staff for making a challenging educational model work, for getting the kids involved and making this school year happen.

Mr. Kerr shared the details of the MCAS schedule (attached) and noted that there will be logistics to figure out to bring students in to take the test in person later this year.

Ms. Tambolleo updated the Committee on the ELL Program. The District received a Title 3 Grant for ESL families to support family engagement. She noted there are opportunities for families to receive training from staff at AKF on the tools being used by students at home for Distance Learning. Ms. Tambolleo noted that the topics for the training for families came about as a result of staff interactions and experiences with families.

The District continues to improve the translations offered to families, and noted that the translation budget of \$5,000 has already been spent one month into the school year. Ms. Tambolleo detailed how things are translated using local companies and some AKF staff who have agreed to help.

ELPAC has a meeting on October 13th which will offer interpretations for families.



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Ms. Yarnie asked for a motion to Adjourn, which was made by Ms. Blue, seconded by Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 a.m. DRAFT

<b>Name (Original Name)</b>	<b>User Email</b>
Michelle Vigneux	mvigneux@akfcs.org
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Heidi Paluk she/her/hers	hpaluk@akfcs.org
Shelly Yarnie (syarnie@wpi.edu)	
Amy Emma	
Amy Puliafico	apuliafico@akfcs.org
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Bibiche Zagabe-Ndiku	gpc.pastor@live.com
Celia.Blue	
Maria Correa	mreyna1129@gmail.com

## **2020-2021 MCAS Schedule**

DESE has released a tentative schedule for MCAS.

### **Grades 3-8**

Normal testing schedule

Math and ELA 3-8

Science for grades 5 and 8

Testing will take place in April & May

### **Grade 9**

Biology test will take place in June

State still deciding on Legacy or Next Gen. test

### **Grade 10**

Normal testing schedule

Math and ELA

Testing will take place May 18-27

\*\*Biology requirement from last year has been waived

### **Grade 11**

Required to take Math & ELA missed last year

Testing options-January or May (Still deciding best option logistically)

Test will be the Legacy MCAS exam

\*\*\*At this time, all testing is in person. Depending on the COVID situation we will have to plan for multiple groups to come in safely to take the tests.