



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, June 10, 2021/ 7:45 a.m.

<https://akfcs-org.zoom.us/j/96357555695?pwd=eXBEMWpVRkFMZXZreHNQbW1NK0dRdz09>

Meeting ID:963 5755 5695 **Passcode:** 255742

By phone: 1-929-205-6099 **Meeting ID:** 963 5755 5695

- I. Call to Order- Shelly Yarne, Chair
- II. Attendance Recorded
- III. Review of the April 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes
 - a. **Motion:** To approve the April 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes.
- IV. Social Emotional Plans- Ms. Paluk
- V. Planning for Next Year- Ms. Paluk
- VI. Motion to Adjourn



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Education Committee Meeting - **DRAFT**

Thursday, April 8, 2021/ 7:45 a.m.

<https://akfcs-org.zoom.us/j/92883276704?pwd=d0crdzhScTMzMzMEVvUGN1NVVvYWJlUzZ09>

Meeting ID: 928 8327 6704 **Passcode:** 630340

By phone: 1-929-205-6099 **Meeting ID:** 928 8327 6704

The meeting was called to Order by Celia Blue, Board Chair at 7:46 a.m. The attendance was recorded as follows:

Board/Committee Members: Jie Park, Amy Vernon, Bibiche Zagabe-Ndiku, Patrick Royce, Celia Blue

Committee Members not in attendance: Shelly Yarnie

Staff in attendance: Siby Adina, Heidi Palu, AnnMarie Little, Jenn Giusto, Amelie Tambolleo, Jess Regan, Rob Kerr, Chris Kursonis, Amy Emma

The Committee reviewed the Meeting Minutes from the March 11, 2021 meeting. Ms. Blue asked for a Motion to approve the March 11, 2021, Meeting Minutes. The motion was made by Dr. Park, seconded by Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku. The minutes were approved by Ms. Blue, Dr. Park, and Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku. Mr. Royce and Ms. Vernon abstained from the vote.

Ms. Paluk continued the conversation with the Committee regarding the AKF Regional Footprint Conversation. After conversations with DESE, the recommendation is to hold off on a vote by the Board to adjust the AKF Regional Footprint in any way until possibly January 2022. The Committee talked through various scenarios of potential changes, what the District would need to do to make any additions or changes. Ms. Paluk noted that Admin Council was in support of adding the Wachusett Regional District to the Charter and the conversation ended with that agreement. It was noted that this topic is included in the June meeting agenda.

Ms. Blue moved to the next agenda item, the update from the District on full in-person learning. The Elementary and Middle School returned in person on Monday, April 5th, while the High School awaits guidance from DESE. Ms. Paluk noted it was typical “first week of school” issues; pick up and drop-offs need to be smoothed out, bus routes have to be updated to better reflect times. Overall everyone seems happy to be back.

The next agenda item was an iReady presentation by the Curriculum Coordinators. Ms. Adina began with the Elementary School. It was noted the District had no MCAS data to work from in the Fall given the Pandemic closing schools last spring.

iReady testing in the fall for the majority of students was done at home, not in person. Ms. Adina walked the Board through a presentation, explaining the data. Ms. Adina summarized that growth is what is measured with this testing and it's showing less growth for Reading and Math. This is something to watch but is not a grave concern at this time. Ms. Zagbe-Ndiku asked about filling these learning gaps and Ms. Adina and Mrs. Regan answered by saying this will take time, but with small groups, quality instruction, and teachers who have students in person in the future to better work with them, they are confident in the students' abilities to close these gaps.

The Curriculum Coordinators noted the data they intend to collect from January through June is going to be more consistent and they will have more to work with as students for the most part are in-person.

The conversation moved to the topic of MCAS, which the Curriculum Coordinators are trying to plan for. At this time there is no guidance from DESE on what to do for students who have elected to stay remote, and how they would be tested. The High School is anticipating and planning for the students to come into the building.

Graduation for the Class of 2021 is being planned. There is outreach to parents and students alike throughout the planning process. Prom was paused and ultimately it was decided to plan another type of celebration for the students.

Senior Awards Night will be a part of the Graduation Ceremony, which the location of is still undetermined. The High School has reached out to Mechanics Hall and if that is not an option, Graduation will be at Abby Kelley, likely on the Athletic Field. Mr. Royce inquired about the costs of the event at Mechanics Hall verse here at Abby Kelley and Mr. Kursonsis said the High School would find the balance for the event to keep it on budget.

Ms. Blue then asked for updates on the status of the schools. Ms. Emma noted that The majority of students had already been back in person and the focus was on building community, addressing logistics and certainly managing the 10 buses. Ms. Emma reflected on some of the challenges with Hybrid learning, but noted that the staff goes through it.

Mrs. Regan filled in for Ms. Puliafico for this update, as Ms. Puliafico was unable to attend the meeting. Mrs. Regan noted with the return of roughly 75% of students the Middle School felt full but not crowded. She noted all staff were team players and working hard. It was mentioned that there was a wave of staff out due to second shots for the COVID vaccine.

Mrs. Paluk took the last agenda item, plans for Summer School. She noted that a plan was being worked on as there was a need, however, there were several paths of thought 1) let the kids have the summer, no classes, 2) give them summer fundamentals, but what exactly has not been decided. Things to still work out were staffing, transportation, and which students specifically would be participating. None of this was put into the FY'21 budget and the stimulus money the District received and continues to receive had been spend (per the guidelines for the money) or comes after it would be needed; summer school would be mid-June through July with the stimulus money coming in July. Guidelines for this money state that it has to be spent on "present" needs not refunding previous programs/needs. Ms. Vernon asked what the District did previously for summer school and Ms. Little and Ms. Paluk explained that our programs were for students with high needs and in support of Title I programs. The Committee continued with some questions for Ms. Paluk around would/could the program be remote,

would there be meals, do students pay for these programs. Students paying for summer school was not an option, but the other questions were still being addressed.

Ms. Blue thanked everyone for joining the meeting and asked for a Motion to adjourn. The Motion was made by Dr. Park, seconded by Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku and the meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness and all students have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.



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Education Committee Digital Meeting

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- I. Call to Order- Celia Blue, Board Chair
- II. Attendance Recorded
- III. Review of the March 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes
 - a. **Motion:** To approve the March 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes.
- IV. Regional Footprint Update- Ms. Paluk
- V. Update on Full in-person learning- Ms. Paluk
- VI. iReady Presentation- Curriculum Coordinators
 - a. MCAS Schedule
- VII. Updates from the Principals
 - a. Graduation Plans/Updates
- VIII. Summer School- Ms. Paluk
- IX. Motion to Adjourn



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Education Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 11, 2021/ 7:45 a.m.

<https://akfcs-org.zoom.us/j/97727203439?pwd=TGVMWZ21QaExudmpJZU83OVBFVEdQdz09>

Meeting ID:977 2720 3439 **Passcode:** 971710

By phone: 1-929-205-6099 **Meeting ID:**977 2720 3439

- I. Call to Order- Shelly Yarnie, Committee Chair
- II. Attendance Recorded
- III. Review of the February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes
 - a. **Motion:** To approve the February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes.
- IV. IB Class Update- Ms. Paluk
- V. Moving forward with the school year- Ms. Paluk
- VI. 2021-2022 Academic Calendar- Ms. Paluk
- VII. Motion to Adjourn



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Education Committee Meeting Minutes

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<https://akfcs-org.zoom.us/j/97727203439?pwd=TGVWZ2lQaExudmpJZU83OVBFVEdQdz09>

Meeting ID:977 2720 3439 **Passcode:** 971710

By phone: 1-929-205-6099 **Meeting ID:**977 2720 3439

The Meeting was Called to Order by Shelly Yarnie, Committee Chair at 7:50 a.m. The following Committee Members and Staff were in attendance;

Committee Members: Dr. Jie Park, Ms. Bibiche Zagabe-Ndiku, Ms. Shelly Yarnie, Ms. Celia Blue (joined the meeting at 8:00 a.m.)

Staff: Rob Kerr, Jenn Giusto, Jess Regan, Amy Puliafico, Chris Kursonis, Amy Emma, Siby Adina, Heidi Paluk, Amelie Tambollo

The Committee reviewed the February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Yarnie asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes. Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku made the motion, which Dr. Park seconded. The minutes were approved.,

Ms. Paluk started the meeting with an IB Class update. There are nine students who will be joining the full IB Cohort from the Class of 2023, 74% of the class are participating in IB classes. Ms. Paluk noted this is in line with past years, this year there are six full IB students.

The forthcoming announcement from DESE to bring more students back for full in-person learning was the next topic for the Committee. Ms. Paluk summed up the changes by saying “hybrid is going away” families will choose between full in-person learning or full remote learning. Ms. Paluk noted that DESE talks about making plans for K-5, the Middle School struggles with space for students, and there has not been any discussion of High School students returning at this time.

Ms. Paluk spoke a bit more about each of the schools, along with the respective Principal for each building. **Elementary School** is making plans for the anticipated switch. Numbers for students in-person are increasing while in hybrid as more students are returning to school. The Elementary School made a video for families to get more details about the learning model switch. Plans for in class lunch are being made, Facilities staff are measuring out classrooms and there will be a designated remote teacher for each grade, who may not be the teacher the students have had through the year thus far. Conversations are still ongoing regarding Professional Development and the need for half days. **Middle School** Ms. Puliafico has a survey available to parents to determine their plans for their students. As previously mentioned space in the Middle School is an issue, as the rooms are not a standard size throughout. The building’s lack of air conditioning makes the interior rooms warm

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and not a desirable classroom space. Ms. Puliafico mentioned the Middle School was looking at half days on Wednesday's, the schedule blocks would be longer, teachers will move, students would stay within their classrooms, there would be time built into the schedule for a recess break for students, and with all of this staffing requires a delicate balance. DESE has said representatives would potentially come out to Districts to help with measuring and classroom configuration. **High School** is looking to return in May as they await guidance from DESE. There is the possibility of submitting a waiver to include the 8th grade with the High School for the May return. There will be MCAS testing to work into this scheduled return.

Ms. Paluk noted there were some questions on attendance to clarify (can a student who is in-person choose to be remote and would that count as if they were in-person?) How to handle classes should they have to move to remote due to a quarantine need.

As these plans for full in-person learning come together, curriculum for next year is also being looked at. Work on assessing students, making adjustments to curriculum as needed, and now that the District as a result of the remote learning, is now 1:1 on Chromebooks, the curriculum needs to be reflective of this technology availability.

Ms. Paluk addressed the 2021-2022 academic calendar within the Committee's packet. At this time the plan is for a traditional opening to the school year, with an academic calendar which is reflective of staff Professional Development, built in snow days, parent conferences, ect. The full Board will vote on the 2021-2022 academic calendar at the full Board Meeting on March 30th.

As that concluded the business of the Committee, Ms. Yarnie asked for a Motion to adjourn. Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku made the Motion, which Ms. Blue seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

Diagnostic Results

School: ABBY KELLEY FOSTER REG CS
 Subject: Math
 Academic Year: 2020 - 2021
 Diagnostic: Window 2
 Prior Diagnostic: Window 1
 Placement Definition: Standard View

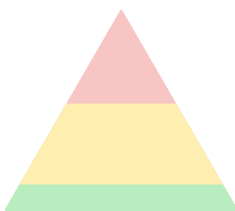
Students Assessed/Total: **966/1,053**

Overall Placement



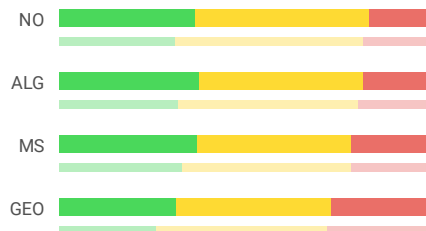
Window 2

- **At Risk for Tier 3**
21% (From 22%)
- **Tier 2**
51% (From 54%)
- **Tier 1**
29% (From 24%)



Window 1

Placement By Domain



Switch Table View

Show Results By

Placement Summary

Grade

Showing 9 of 9

Grade		Overall Grade-Level Placement	Students Assessed/Total
Grade K	Window 2	51% 49%	117/117
	Window 1	35% 65%	
Grade 1	Window 2	27% 65% 8%	112/116
	Window 1	23% 70% 7%	
Grade 2	Window 2	25% 56% 20%	117/121
	Window 1	26% 62% 13%	
Grade 3	Window 2	17% 57% 26%	115/118
	Window 1	18% 56% 26%	

Diagnostic Results



School: ABBY KELLEY FOSTER REG CS
 Subject: Math
 Academic Year: 2020 - 2021
 Diagnostic: Window 2
 Prior Diagnostic: Window 1
 Placement Definition: Standard View

Grade		Overall Grade-Level Placement	Students Assessed/Total
Grade 4	Window 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 15% 60% 25% </div>	106/122
	Window 1	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 12% 57% 31% </div>	
Grade 5	Window 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 15% 51% 34% </div>	103/115
	Window 1	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 16% 49% 36% </div>	
Grade 6	Window 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 28% 40% 31% </div>	109/120
	Window 1	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 21% 39% 39% </div>	
Grade 7	Window 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 33% 36% 31% </div>	78/113
	Window 1	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 21% 47% 32% </div>	
Grade 8	Window 2	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 46% 37% 17% </div>	109/111
	Window 1	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 39% 40% 21% </div>	



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Education Committee Meeting Minutes-**FINAL**

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Meeting ID:963 5755 5695 **Passcode:** 255742

By phone: 1-929-205-6099 **Meeting ID:** 963 5755 5695

The meeting was called to Order by Shelly Yarnie, Board Clerk, at 7:52 a.m. The attendance was Recorded.

The Committee reviewed the Meeting Minutes from the April 8, 2021 meeting. Ms. Yarnie asked for a Motion to approve April 8, 2021; meeting minutes were recommended with a correction on the second page, the first-line (incomplete sentence). The motion was made by Ms. Vernon, seconded by Dr. Park.

Ms. Yarnie then introduced Ms. Paluk to speak on the social-emotional plans. Ms. Paluk opened the floor for the various administrators to share some highlights of the year and reflect on the successes of this year, as difficult as it was. Ms. Yarnie commended all the staff and students for overcoming this difficult year.

Ms. Paluk explained that when students return to school, their social-emotional health will be a primary focus. Ms. Paluk explained that the last time she calculated the attendance, about sixty-five to seventy percent of students across the district were in person. Ms. Paluk explained that even the students who were in school did not have a normal school year and some had not seen their friends for more than a year. Ms. Paluk stated that social-emotional work will be a great priority in Fall 2021. Ms. Paluk stated that a large amount of time has been spent trying to figure out the best way to support our students. Ms. Paluk commended the amazing guidance staff but stated that we were missing a higher-level strategic plan to address the issues Abby Kelley may have. Ms. Paluk stated that the school will be adopting a multi-tiered support system also known as MTSS. Ms. Paluk stated that this is not new but it is a model of making sure that all students' needs are being met.

Ms. Paluk stated that all of the guidance staff currently report to the principles, yet we need a district-wide approach to SEO delivery. Ms. Paluk stated that after many conversations she has asked Dr. Caroline Cole, school psychologist, to oversee the guidance and counseling services. Dr. Cole has been with the school for many years as a consultant and full-time for the last 2 years. Ms. Paluk stated that Dr. Cole would be responsible for creating a plan to make sure that all of the students had support (Tier 1- Tier 4) to help them succeed. Ms. Paluk stated that Dr. Cole will be working on the job descriptions, infrastructure of the department, identifying the different Tier interventions, and establishing a process during the summer months. When school is in session, she will be meeting with the guidance team to address the needs of students ensuring everyone is providing the tools that the teachers and staff need to care for the students.

Ms. Paluk explained that they will have more information to provide to the Board in Fall 2021 and that they want to start proactively addressing issues that are causing much hardship. Ms. Yarnie inquired about whether this MTSS model has been implemented across the state and if there is information to compare. Ms.

Gould explained that the state recommends the model and they have many documents and resources and to assist with the implementation.

Ms. Vernon inquired about how the students would be evaluated, was it going to be all students or a select few, and what the process looks like. Ms. Gould explained that diagnostics are already done for academic concerns and that there is a plan in place to screen for SEO health. Dr. Park inquired about whether there was an assessment mechanism built into MTSS and how we would see the efficacy of this approach and whether it is being implemented with fidelity. Ms. Gould explained that with MTSS, every decision/intervention relies on data so that administrators can track if a student is in the right intervention or if they are ready to leave or enter a new intervention. Ms. Gould stated that all of these Tiers are very fluid and dependent on the students' performance at any one time. Ms. Gould stated that for this year, next year's diagnostic is almost complete. Ms. Paluk explained that there are resources available for MTSS and they are looking into all of it.

Ms. Paluk then took a moment to thank Ms. Emma and Ms. Adina for their work for Abby Kelley. Ms. Paluk stated that we would miss them all and wished them success in their new endeavors.

Ms. Vernon asked about the potential of the summer program. Ms. Paluk informed everyone that summer school was being done at the high school only. Ms. Paluk stated that there was many factors going into this decision such as that all students will be given intensive interventions in the fall; with most of our students having been in the building for a large part of the year, the students were not as behind as was initially thought; and that based on the vacation camps for ESL students, the interest was limited for additional 'schooling.' The decision was made for grades K-7 not to have summer school with the exception of students in Special Education. The consensus was it would be better to let the students and teachers have a break.

Ms. Yarnie called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 a.m. Ms. Vernon moved to adjourn and Ms. Yarnie seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.