

WOBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REMOTE MEETING
August 6, 2020

A REMOTE Meeting of the Woburn School Committee was held on August 6, 2020, beginning at 7:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Chisholm-Present, Ms. Cormier-Present, Mr. Kisiel-Present, Mr. Lipsett-Present, Mr. Mulrenan-Present, Dr. Wells-Present, Chairperson Crowley-Present.

Chairperson Crowley thanked everyone for joining tonight's meeting.

The committee knows that caregivers and parents are in the thick of tackling extremely difficult decisions that impact their children's lives; everything from the practical daily routines to the very basic concept of children's good health. We know that these decisions for the fall of 2020 are extremely emotional, draining, stressful, and scary. We know that they are probably keeping you up at night and on behalf of the school committee you have our continued empathy in that regard. To our staff and teacher's the committee recognizes how strange and uncomfortable this must be to watch while people at public meetings are debating how your job is going to be delivered in the fall. We thank you for your patience and collaboration in this effort. We have been through difficult situations before and Woburn is resilient. When COVID-19 hit Woburn, and we had to close our schools our Woburn Public Schools community responded with grace and courage. A sophisticated system of food distribution and technology access was immediately innovated on the spot. All hands were on deck. Systems were put in place to protect our children from continued catastrophe during this horrible crisis. Teacher's learned on the fly, a new dramatic way of teaching and instructing our children. We did our best that we could at the time when it appeared that everything was stacked against us. We rose to the challenge, and we will do it again. Let's pause here and remember that Woburn and Woburn Public Schools is a community of strength and connectedness. Let's treat each other with kindness and understanding. The school committee is pleased and eager to hear from the public tonight.

Chairperson Crowley turned it over to Dr. Crowley for updates he had from the Administration. Dr. Crowley thanked Chairperson Crowley for her opening remarks. He thanked the school committee, Mayor Galvin, and city council for their support as we try to do what's best for kids. Updates from Administration were presented by Dr. Crowley.

A survey was released yesterday, and we had over 2000 responses. Dr. Crowley walked through the survey. It is available on our woburnpublicschools.com website. The District Coronavirus

Information Page is where all of Dr. Crowley’s correspondence since March 12th is housed. Also, on this page is school return frequently asked questions. We created what we are calling a hotline so if people have questions, comments, or concerns they can drop them into the hotline. We are using that to inform our FAQs. We will update this as much as we have to. Last spring we asked for feedback from parents about our remote learning. The three things that emerged were Connections & Support, Consistency, and Organization. Dr. Crowley spoke to these as to what we think the fall might look like. Beginning with connections and support, one of the questions that were submitted through the hotline repeatedly was device access. We will provide all students a device for online learning. In the spring we were limited to one per family because we didn’t have the inventory. Our plan is to have Chromebooks for student’s grades 2-12 and iPads or something similar for our younger students who don’t yet have familiarity with the keyboard. Our intent regardless of the format we wind up beginning school is our frequent small group meetings. ZOOM allows breakout rooms so you can have smaller conversations and then come back together. With Google Meet that capacity also exists. We want kids to collaborate with each other. Opportunities for offline learning and specialists classes will exist. Being on a computer for six hours a day is not ideal. We are going to do our best to create opportunities for students and staff to be engaged but not necessarily in front of a computer all day. As far as consistency goes, our capacity is with Google Classroom, particularly at the older grades and SeeSaw is a platform for our younger students. Google Meet is the equivalent of ZOOM. We will come up with and already have clear expectations for what online learning will look like. With the organization feedback from the spring, we will be providing assignments to students both daily and weekly so people have time to plan. There will be a predictable in-person and online schedule of classes so parents and students know what the expectations are every day. One of the items that are new from DESE is the first day of instruction for all Massachusetts schools should be September 16, 2020. That is allowing for the 10 days of time for teachers to work collaboratively with each other in this new way of opening school. Dr.

Crowley went through the proposed plans. All of these plans are very fluid.

Hybrid Instruction			
	Hybrid; In-School and Connected Virtually Students will be divided into two heterogeneous cohorts. Within a given day, students in both cohorts will be addressing the same learning standards.	Cohort A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 Days In-person instruction: Mondays & Tuesdays ➤ 3 Days Remote Instruction: Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays
		Cohort B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 Days In-person instruction: Thursdays &, Fridays

			➤ 3 Days Remote Instruction: Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays
Our most vulnerable students need to be in school as much as possible and so Cohort C was created. They would be in school 4 of the 5 days in a hybrid plan.			
	Students in substantially separate special programs and those dually identified as special education + english language learners	Cohort C	➤ 4 Days In-person instruction: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

Everyone would learn virtually on Wednesdays which would allow our buildings to be cleaned between the two cohorts.

Dr. Crowley spoke to a full remote model.

In the FULL Remote Model:

Students will work virtually for the duration of a typical school day (Tech breaks incorporated into schedules)

Students will be provided with some materials to support remote learning

Students will receive virtual live instruction for scheduled instructional block each day

Individual and small group instruction will provide support and scaffolding for all students

EL and special education services will be scheduled virtual live

Attendance will be taken everyday

Grading system will be followed at each level

Dr. Crowley recognizes there is no perfect solution. The best thing would be to come back to school as we know it. We miss the kids, we miss the adult interaction and so there is no winning in any of this. Dr. Crowley appreciates everyone's time tonight.

Chairperson Crowley thanked Dr. Crowley for his presentation and moved on to the Open Public Hearing. The topics in the Public Hearing shall pertain to School Re-opening for the Fall of 2020. If you would like any follow up you can “chat” Chairperson Crowley via ZOOM, and she will be happy to follow up any concerns that need to be addressed. No member of the School Committee may respond to comments made during public hearing, unless there is a majority vote by the School Committee to suspend the rules. Everything is being recorded by Woburn Public Media and will become part of the record.

VOTE TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL RE-OPENING

Mr. Mulrenan made a motion to open up the public hearing.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairperson Crowley-yes

Presenters:

Ms. Evelyn Riley - Woburn Resident/Parent

Ms. Riley read that the MTA is pushing for 100% remote. She feels this would be the worst possible thing for her son who had a difficult time with remote learning. She is more than willing to volunteer her time in the schools. She understands the extra things that are expected of a teacher. She is asking to please try the hybrid learning plan. Let's try for a sense of normalcy for the kids as this is their childhood.

Derrick Genova - Woburn Resident/Parent

The virus has not gone anywhere. Opening schools is going to be far worse than opening indoor restaurants, bars or gyms. How do you expect kids to properly social distance and wear masks when a large percentage of adults can't manage this? Unless a vaccine becomes available very quickly, we can't allow schools to reopen. College students can return to school with testing every 2 days. This will not happen at the K-12 level. The best way is to teach them safely and remotely. We need to keep this virus at bay. Look around, we are losing 1000 people per day to this virus. Things are not fine, and we need to stop pretending they are.

Dr. Mary Ellen Cobbs - Woburn Resident/Parent

She has taken a lot of interest in the plan that Dr. Crowley and his team have put together.

Dr. Cobbs is a 23-year public school teacher and a 9-year principal, so she is feeling everything.

Tonight she is speaking as a parent and speaking on behalf of parents that are not here to speak.

EL Students, other students at higher risk need the social emotional of a school setting,

please consider the equity and the need. Thank you to Dr. Crowley and the School Committee

for the surveys. Please get a full perspective on what is happening. Those children referenced in Cohort C need a special look.

Laura Gill - Woburn Resident/Parent

There is a major issue here and that is one of the reasons why the best option we have is the hybrid model. It is because of our large classroom sizes. We all know that students in smaller

class sizes perform better in subjects and assessments when compared to their peers in larger classes. In smaller classes students tend to be one to two months ahead in content knowledge which we certainly could have benefited from now. However, because of our large classroom sizes, we are unable to social distance safely, hence the hybrid model. It sounds like we will be dealing with COVID-19 for a long time. What are the plans to reduce classroom size in every school in Woburn to help support our children's education and health? Once the children return to school the chance of her children getting COVID-19 or bringing it back home is out of her control. It will also start to impact the broader community because we could spread the virus and not even know it. We don't even know the long term effects of this virus. We all know what happens when children return to school; they get sick with a cold, flu or strep. We as a community are not ready to physically reenter the classroom. Our job is to keep the kids safe. It is August 6th. What are the plans and procedures? PPE costs must be outrageous. Take this opportunity to invest in the best remote learning plan that we can use beyond COVID-19. Invest in reduced classroom size and invest in keeping kids and staff alive, healthy, and safe.

Ms. Jennifer Jones - Woburn Resident/Parent

Ms. Jones knows the community has been working hard and appreciates all the work that has gone into this. Her family really struggled with the decision over the past few months. Despite the WPS choice to go with the hybrid model her family is choosing to stay home and do the remote model. She is not seeing where the fully remote model lines up with the hybrid model and has concerns about the social emotional health of her children. When their friends are in school experiencing the hybrid model and seeing each other in person and her children are at home she is not sure what that remote model will be if Woburn chooses the hybrid model.

Chairperson Crowley made a general reminder the SC has not yet voted on the return to school plan, it has been proposed.

Rina Mazor - Woburn Resident/Parent

Ms. Mazor thanked the school committee members and all the Woburn educators for their incredible work during this difficult time. She is here to highlight the fact that neither remote learning nor in person learning will look like what many people imagine. While many people call going back into the building face to face learning, she thinks the term mask to mask learning is much more appropriate. Mask to mask learning does not provide for socialization learning in groups. Kids have to stay 6 feet apart, can't share supplies, and can't hang out at recess. If your children are missing other kids and socializing, mask to mask learning will not fix that need. Of course children want to be in school, but they cannot imagine the school they are returning to. On the flip side remote learning will not look like what it did this spring either. Particularly if we empower our educators now to begin planning for good remote instruction. Last spring educators had no training in how to engage students remotely. In addition, confusing guidelines

from DESE tied the hands of school systems and teachers, and we were not able to offer robust remote learning to our students. Many of these obstacles have now been removed and most of her colleagues and teacher friends have been engaged in professional development and collaboration of how we can do a really good job of teaching remotely. Ms. Mazor believes that a fully remote start is the only safe way to begin our school year.

Mr. Shukan - Woburn Resident/Teacher/Parent

Mr. Shukan began by saying if we do choose to go hybrid there needs to be a mechanism to escape it in advance. Not just that, we'll keep an eye on it, philosophy and make a decision. There have to be laid out clear guidelines that tell us how we exit the situation back to remote. If someone gets sick in his class and tests positive maybe it's an outlier but if the next day someone gets sick in the class next to him it's probably not an outlier. You can wait for ten cases, and if you do, everyone will know that you should call it and get out; but the problem is it's too late. If you wait until you see everything it's already too late. That is what the country has done and a general underestimation of this disease has caused the problem that people wait too long. Whatever is decided Mr. Shukan would stress that if we choose to go hybrid at the beginning, in the middle, or whenever, there needs to be a clear and cogent exit strategy delineated for conditions that will signal game over for that experiment. Without that you are really taking a chance of waiting too long because you just want to keep the schools open and that bias is a problem.

Last week there were some comments made which some of them were false and perhaps some of them a little offensive that related to the opening of school. We had a school committee member say that during the remote period no learning happened. This statement is a false statement. Mr. Shukan is not saying that a lot of learning happens, it is not 5 out of 10 or 7 out of 10, that's true but it is not 0 out of 10. This can be proved by showing virtual papers, emails from students and parents, student work, vast amounts of student submitted stuff and comments that were written on papers on Google Classroom. It is not great but it is not zero and the phrase no learning happened is absolutely false. Mr. Shukan would caution school committee members to be very careful about making extreme statements of no learning happened, all learning happened, those kinds of statements are usually not true and the truth is somewhere in the middle. The second comment that was made was 80% of whom I talked to said that their students had no learning. This may be true but it's not relevant. If people call you to complain it is obvious that 80% or 100% will complain and that's what you go by. Mr. Shukan can tell you of the 5 people that contacted him 100% said it sucks but it was a decent job and the structure was good for their kids. So Mr. Shukan's sample is 100% positive, and he knows that's not accurate either. Not everybody says it's positive and not everybody says it's negative. Mr. Shukan would caution the school committee to make sure they collect all the data on this, not just the people who call you individually or speak to you, but one hundred or a thousand pieces of data to get the entire

picture. That's important before making statements because in this age your statements need to be accurate, even if they're somber, they need to be accurate not false to advance a specific agenda. That is Mr. Shukan's main concern in the process that we're taking, that the discussion is accurate and reflects all data. That would be Mr. Shukan's suggestion to all the school committee members, all the senior staff members, all the teachers and parents. Accuracy is most important.

Ms. Jena Howard - Woburn Resident/Parent

She does feel learning was poor. It needs to be 80% or above and it wasn't. It was no fault of the teachers; it was the learning model which was terrible. Everyone did the best they could, but learning didn't happen. We have information all pushing for the kids to return. They say the risk of returning outweighs the risk of the virus itself. We know school is going to be different. She is looking at a private school that has a full return because they are making it work. She feels Woburn should have done a better job. 40% is the time that the children will be in school. This is not acceptable. This gives them no structure. Her son is saying they are taking away our friendships. We need to have benchmarks for a full return. If we can't do it today when can we do it? Are we going to be looking at the data on a weekly basis, a bi-weekly basis, a monthly basis? What does that data have to say? We need to understand what it is that we need to look for, so we can get hope back in our kids lives.

Michele Widomski - WPS Paraprofessional

She loves her job and wants to be back in school. Before you make a decision on the type of learning we will use, please make an informed decision. Ask what the schools will look like. Ask about what play spaces will look like. Ask if PPE will be required and provided. Ask how behaviors will be managed both for Gen. Ed. and SpEd. What plans are in place if a child refuses or cannot wear a mask. How will play spaces be cleaned? What protocols are in place for symptoms and positive tests? What will the classroom actually look like? What bathroom breaks will look like. Do we have enough substitutes? What will the social aspects look like? Ask what cleaning products are being used in the classroom, are they safe for the schools. Ask about the ventilation system in our schools. Ask these questions and be informed.

Corinne Genova - Woburn Resident/Parent

Ms. Genova has been a teacher for over 20 years. Her district decided to start off full remote because they realized their plan wasn't completely in place yet. Their goal is to go hybrid and obviously full in person. She wants to keep her kids home as she feels that is the safest option right now but it's also very hard because she has to teach and her husband has to teach. As someone who went to Woburn Public Schools and as a teacher, she wants to speak up for the teachers here. We have some older buildings and the windows at the JMS do not open well and

the building does not have the proper ventilation. Is this going to be really safe? Take the time to think about what the ventilation system is like. On remote learning, we all tried so hard as teachers in the spring but it was also really difficult because we were stuck at home with our kids and did the best we could. In the fall, to plan for it, it can be done. If people have social emotional concerns, this week her kids did a virtual summer program, and they sat down in front of the screen with different teachers and different kids. Some counselors were so good they taught kids to make space; I'm not going to mute you all just make space for your voice. When you hear it's time to talk, it's time to talk. This week her kids have been up beat, happy, laughing and really excited to go in and do their Zoom movie magic or puppet play. She does realize her kids are privileged to be able to do these things. A lot of Woburn teachers have been teaching for a long time and have the expertise to really make it work. It can be done and it can be done really well but teachers need to start planning for it too.

Tony Bartone - WPS Teacher

In his opinion he believes starting fully remote is the safest possible option. The thought that keeps coming back to him is that there is definitely a chance of being infected with this virus going hybrid or in school learning. On the table is death. What would happen if one of his colleagues or students, or a family member of a student passed away because we are trying to do some sort of in person learning? If one of his students grows up and says to him my grandfather died, my teacher died, or my classmate died for example, why did you not prevent this from happening. Going fully remote to make sure our community stays safe and healthy is the best option.

Ian Hunt - Woburn Resident/Parent

He and his wife are essential personnel. He is in support of going full in person learning. His son did not do very well with remote learning. One son is in daycare and goes every day. The daycare teacher wears masks, children do not. Not one case of COVID-19. People go to grocery stores every day, Lowes and all types of interaction every day following the proper protocols of the safety measures of wearing masks. You have not heard of many cases that are positive. Remote learning is not a practical way of teaching. Kids need social interaction. If you follow the proper protocol, that is your safety net. Everyone is adapting, schools need to start adapting. When are you ever going back to school?

Nancy Whipple - Woburn Resident/Parent

She is a nurse. It is not going to be easy to provide PPE for all the schools. Her daughter did not do well with the social emotional aspect of not being in school. Younger daughter has Down's syndrome and is in a program at the Reeves. She would hide the iPad and be in tears. For kids like her daughter and maybe some EL they need to be in school because of how they learn. She

heard a comment that kids will get behind, but get behind from whom? The whole country is doing this. She said there is no right answer. Going back full time in person is not the right answer. Every percent matters. There are so many unknowns. The testing is not pleasant. She feels there are no good answers and trusts the school committee that they will do their best. We will get through this.

Gauri Ackerman - Woburn Resident/Parent

Ms. Ackerman works in home care as an OT. When this pandemic started, she was worried about the PPE. They have particular PPE to wear because they are in close contact with patients. The typical type of masks people are wearing out to the grocery store won't really work if you are in close spaces. Medical grade masks are going to be harder to get. In her own team which serves the greater Boston area, six of her coworkers got sick with the COVID-19 and thankfully no one died but there were a couple of close calls and this is with medical grade PPE. Are there going to be adequate ventilation systems in the classrooms? It is not as simple as washing your hands and wearing a mask, if the air is circulating you are going to get sick if there is a high enough viral load in the air. She would highly recommend not to just look at CDC guidelines. Public health has become a political issue, and we don't always get the clearest answer. Take a look at what other countries have done and just use common sense.

Ms. Ackerman grew up in 1980s England. Teachers were on strike constantly. For a couple of years every other day they were on strike and the students just went home. They did not have remote learning. Thinking of other pandemics decades ago, kids were isolated at that time. Kids will recover and they will be fine. Kids are smart, they will catch up. Teachers are wonderful and will help our children. She did not suffer for those teachers being on strike. Ms. Ackerman went to undergrad school and went on to graduate school and did quite well despite not having school for a couple of years constantly. Ms. Ackerman also worked in a school system as an OT and thinks it is important that we start thinking outside the box for those high needs students who are very vulnerable. They also have health concerns; some of them are at high risk to get sick. Think about doing home visits for those children, it would be safer. Think about places with more adequate ventilation. Maybe outside using a tent; these services could still be provided. She does get the need for the children to have that social interaction. People were just learning how to use ZOOM in the spring. Technology was new to some teachers. She feels that won't be the case in the fall and teaching could be done in a good way. We need to take a step back and think about the fact that we don't want people to die.

Rachel Kuberry - Woburn Resident/Parent

Ms. Kuberry thanked everyone for all of their hard work on developing the back to school plan. She also spoke in response to the comment of a school committee member that no learning took place in the spring. Although she does believe this is a false exaggeration, it does highlight perception of some community and in the meeting here. Ms. Kuberry as a teacher herself spent

countless hours receiving training on remote learning this summer. She was happy to see the details in the FAQs about remote learning, but we need to move to fully support this. This is radically different teaching than our teachers were asked to do in the past. Spring was an emergency, and we should really be able to do better this fall. The planning we are doing around the hybrid model is really based on positivity and hope not science. We have seen students and teachers test positive as schools across the country go back. She does not want this to be Woburn. Look at the data and work with our professionals. She is curious to know more about the ventilation systems in our schools, particularly the older schools. She is curious to hear from our own board of health. Cases in the state have more than doubled in the past month. She is very curious what our metric for closing will be. Ms. Kuberry thanked the committee for their planning and thoughtfulness and fully supports in-person learning for those most at risk, but that's a minority of our student body. She also wants to encourage the committee to put excellent resources behind remote learning for all because that is exactly what is going to happen this year.

Crystal Keating - Woburn Resident/Parent

Ms. Keating is a twenty year teacher in a neighboring district. Ms. Keating appreciates all the hard work the teachers, staff and administration has put together during this time. She has a child who is Cohort C and has heard what others had to say about what would happen to those children who do need more support in academics. It was not easy to be home this spring however she appreciates all the work the teachers did. Ms. Keating is concerned that the committee and administration are the people who must make the choice and propose what you will do to keep our staff and students safe. The proposals of less than six feet and the assurance of ventilation being ok in four of our oldest buildings isn't enough for what's best for our kids and adults. When children, teachers, and staff return under your proposal, it's not possible or feasible. Look at videos of fellow school committees like Ashland; these have been put together with members of their school committee, admin and government volunteers. Ms. Keating urges the committee to go through what a student's day will look like at each grade level; Gen. Ed., SpEd, and ELL. Look at what they will go through under each of these proposals. Start with getting on the bus and getting off of the bus. Leaving masks on the whole day, walking down the halls, lunches, and bathroom breaks. Go through a full day and film this and then come back and say you fully support going hybrid. Teaching under these conditions students will hurt students. Teachers and students will get sick, someone may die. You have talked about social and emotional resources. What social emotional resources are you willing to bring to our schools when someone dies from a COVID-19 related illness? Are the Administration and School Committee ready to have this on their conscience when schools open in person? Ms. Keating is urging us to begin this school year remotely to keep our teachers and our students safe.

Elissa Milto - Woburn Resident/Parent/SEPAC President

Ms. Milto wanted those who have students needing services to know that Dr. Baldassarre will be coming to the next SEPAC meeting and answer questions that specifically pertain to the plan you are going to move forward with and what services the students are going to get.

Anthony Montanaro - Woburn Resident/Parent

His son did not do well with remote learning. He was maybe exposed to 50% of the content. It does concern him going back to school. Parents, kids and some teachers want to go back full time. Mr. Montanaro is comfortable with his kids going back to school.

In his line of work in the restaurant business some of these people are exposed to thousands of people a day and are fine. Why can't we choose for students who want to go to school full time and go remote for those who want to keep their kids home? Why is hybrid suggested? Kids need to have some sort of outlet and some sort of normal life. He feels if we manage this properly kids will be alright if we go back to school.

Chairperson Crowley reminded the public there is a parent choice of all remote learning that has been cleared by the guidelines. If you choose an all remote education for the fall the district will provide that.

Ms. Debi Drebit - Woburn Resident/WPS Paraprofessional

She is here to say thank you to the teachers that she works with and Principal Kessariss.

They had meetings every week. The staff made sure they talked to their students and made sure they were safe. Ms. Drebit also wanted to thank the parents. The SpEd parents of her classroom were phenomenal. They were there every time they needed them. They sat with their students during their learning time. Their children enjoyed their schooling. Without those parents we probably would not have had such a good rapport with the students.

Chairperson Crowley wanted to clarify that Ms. Milto will post a SEPAC meeting soon.

Mary Bonsignore - Woburn Resident/Teacher/Parent

She wanted to comment on last week's school committee meeting. She does not think there is anybody here that does not disagree that in person learning is what is going to be best for our students. Teachers want to be back in the classroom with their students. Ms. Bonsignore wholeheartedly believes and agrees with Mr. Shukan that learning did take place in the spring. Was it perfect, no it wasn't. But was there learning going on? Absolutely 100% there was learning going on. Maybe it didn't look exactly the same as what was going on in our classroom however there were some students who learned some college and career readiness skills with all the Google skills that they had to learn; Google slides, Google documents and their Google Classroom. At the beginning of this meeting you said thank you to the administration who is

working 16-hour days. Ms. Bonsignore has heard thank you to teachers and people say what a great job they have done, but she has also worked 16-hour days. She can show you her schedule in April and her schedule in May, and she can show you she has put in a lot of time and effort into the spring. It was very disheartening for Ms. Bonsignore to sit back to listen to those comments last week or the week before and not have any school committee member, not have any administration member stop those comments and say wait a minute this isn't true. The slides that Dr. Crowley showed at the beginning of the meeting were from parent surveys that were taken. We were given the results of those surveys. Ms. Bonsignore read through them very thoroughly and although there were a lot of constructive criticisms, which she agrees with as there are places she feels she could have done better, there were many positives that were related to teachers from those surveys. Ms. Bonsignore hopes that the administration and school committee would all agree that learning did take place. Again, a little disheartening that nobody else felt it was time to say you're right, learning did take place. For all the work that they put in it was very sad. Ms. Bonsignore is on a committee for her building at the Malcolm White and today she met with a small group of people. For every solution that they came up with, whether it was putting your stuff in your cubbies or bringing our stuff to our chairs; ten more questions arose on how we are going to keep those children safe. Is sending her child back to school worth that risk? Ms. Bonsignore does not know. Does she want her daughter back in the classroom? 100% she wants her back with her friends and in the classroom. Does she want her to be that 1% that people keep speaking about? Absolutely not. She doesn't want to lose her daughter or have her daughter lose her mother. She wants her daughter to go to school where she will be in a safe environment. With the hybrid model how are we going to do lunch? It is going to be super difficult to get them through that line without them touching each other. Ms. Bonsignore is urging people to watch the Ashland Video. How do we support bathrooms and lunches? We need to provide a little more transparency to the parents about this hybrid model. Teachers also need to be more informed. They are not always informed with what is going on in all of these subcommittees.

Dr. Wells made a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairperson Crowley-yes

**VOTE ON WOBURN PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR/START DATE UPON
RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Dr. Crowley made a recommendation to start school on September 16, 2020 for instruction.

Dr. Wells, on the motion, asked the superintendent to give a little background on what is happening prior to that.

Dr. Crowley said that DESE allowed for 10 professional development days for teachers 10 days prior to the start date for instruction. Guidance from DESE moves a bit from call to call. The sooner we can begin instruction in whatever capacity the better served our students will be.

Dr. Wells made a motion to approve the start date of September 16, 2020.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passes 7-0.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairperson Crowley-yes

The SC has voted on a start date of Sept. 16, 2020.

Chairperson Crowley thanked everyone who participated in the public hearing. It was extremely helpful. If anyone has any further questions please email Chairperson Crowley, and she will be happy to follow up with you.

The school committee will vote on this on August 11, 2020 at 7:30 P.M. It does look like it will be a remote virtual meeting because we have a member that has to ZOOM in remotely. That will be the official vote of the school committee. Chairperson Crowley will have a school committee office hour on Monday, August 10th at 6:30 P.M. for people to just drop in if they don't feel like emailing. She will write down what was said and pass it along to school committee members as official correspondence to the school committee on your position on school reopening. Sometimes it is difficult to speak in front of 300 people, so we will honor that as well.

Chairperson Crowley asked school committee members if they have specific questions that need answers from the administration to vote that they ask them now.

Dr. Wells, on one of the issues that were raised, if we go hybrid what would be the signals to stop? If we go remote to start, what would be the signal that we would go back? Whichever way we go, we need to know where we will be going moving forward. If the Superintendent could look into that.

Mr. Lipsett would like to make sure we clarify issues of ventilation and make sure we are as confident as we can be that the ventilation is up to regulations from the state.

Mrs. Chisholm asked about the possibility of having Mr. Dunkley in on the next meeting to talk about our ventilation system and assure people that this is being talked about and worked on.

Chairperson Crowley commented the steering committee will be meeting tomorrow, and they will be discussing ventilation.

Dr. Wells said it would be helpful if the committee could receive the Superintendent's recommendation as soon as possible.

Mr. Lipsett asked if there are any plans to open public comment at the next school committee meeting.

Chairperson Crowley said yes.

Dr. Wells said it might be easier if the public could send Chairperson Crowley their questions ahead of time.

Chairperson Crowley said public comment should be one night and then digesting the information and then coming up with deliberation, which is her opinion instead of on the spot. This provides for much better communication.

Mr. Mulrenan commented that the committee has received numerous emails from parents and constituents. If Chairperson Crowley could read the author's name and make that part of the permanent record.

Chairperson Crowley will make sure all of these are organized with Mrs. MacLeod and the committee has them and are part of the discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Chisholm made a motion to adjourn.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Chisholm-yes, Ms. Cormier-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Lipsett-yes, Mr. Mulrenan-yes, Dr. Wells-yes, Chairperson Crowley-yes

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jean MacLeod

Jean MacLeod

Recording Secretary

