



#### **IV. Public Comments**

A member of the public asked the Board to reconsider the School Start time plan. They felt it would adversely affect commuting families and the time they get to spend with younger children during the week. It may also increase the cost of child care.

#### **V. Reports and Recognition**

##### **A. COVID-19 Update**

**Dr. Bryan Luizzi, Cabinet,  
Ms. Kris Woleck and Ms. Maura Fruin**

At the high school, seniors were welcomed back at 100% last Friday. On Tuesday and Wednesday, juniors will be brought back at 100% and on Thursday, freshmen and sophomores will return at 100%. About 10% of the student population have requested to remain remote. Mitigation strategies will be kept in place, and there is a chance of more quarantines possible due to the increase in the number of students. At the middle school, students are still in their cohorts. Recently, a fifth grade team that had been quarantined in the past had a positive case. Students were offered COVID testing which, given that 100% were negative, allowed for an earlier return to in-person learning. This was an instance of the district reevaluating and updating their processes. The half-day Wednesdays have been important for teachers for professional development. Dr. Luizzi would like to continue the half-days through April and likely beyond. Programming in the afternoon is being looked at for students who many need it.

Dr. Correnty gave an update on the work the district has been doing on the BOE goal on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Many opportunities have been offered to broaden staff and administrative perspectives. Chris Lehman, a Literacy Leader from Education Collaborative, shared strategies on how to maximize student contributions during interactive read alouds. Dr. Mara Gottlieb, President of Talking Changes, presented to Saxe and high school staff about cultivating a cultural humility where diversity and inclusion are celebrated. Dr. Andrea Honigsfeld, a professor in the Division of Education at Molloy College, teaches doctoral courses related to diversity, social justice and equity. She works to blend equity and a second language acquisition to explore ways to celebrate diversity and inclusion to support students who are currently identified as ELL. Daniel Braunfeld, from Facing History and Ourselves, has been working with social studies teachers to examine history and understand how it informs our behaviors. And Debby Irving, who will be presenting to the administration in April, will be providing perspective on racial equity at a personal and institutional level.

At East School, Ms. Woleck and Ms. Fruin discussed the tools and strategies that are used to monitor learning and instruction. These include formative assessments that allow teachers to be fluid and flexible such as running records, exit slips and checklists. The strategies are also used with students who are learning remotely. Special area teachers are working hard to deliver their curriculum in new ways and are contributing to the overall community spirit, as well as helping students participate in community service activities.

Vaccinations also continued last week. Any staff member who wanted a vaccination has now received one. Approximately 700 vaccinations were given over the past two weeks and the process was positively received.

##### **B. Statement of Accounts**

**Dr. Jo-Ann Keating**

With eight months into the fiscal year, the budget is running similar to prior years. As of the end of February, there is 7.2% of the budget left which relates to accounts that cannot be encumbered such as substitute teachers, stipends, overtime and utilities.

**C. Budget Update**

**Dr. Bryan Luizzi & Cabinet**

The Board of Finance completed its review and approval of the Board of Education’s budget. The BOF reduced the budget by \$3.1 million before voting to approve. The BOF explained the rationale for the reduction to be a combination of the COVID expenditures (approx \$900K), increased insurance claims that were deferred or cancelled due to COVID (\$1.1 million), and a change they wish to make to the risk corridor (\$1.1 million). Ultimately, only the BOE has line item control over its budget, and the Board of Education will have to decide how to allocate its budget after final approvals in March by the Town Council. The Resource Committee will be reviewing the outcome of the vote and will be reporting back. There is a Town Council meeting on March 16th where the Board of Finance will give an overview and assessment of the budget. The Board will respond to the Town Council’s questions throughout March before a final budget is reached.

**VI. Action Items**

- A. *High School Sign and Table Donation ~ Mr. Bill Egan and Ms. Jody O’Donnell. Move to approve a donation of \$32,708.13 by the High School PEA for sign and outdoor seating.*

Mr. Hayes moved to approve, seconded by Ms. Carlson.

	Carlson	Gardiner	Hayes	Naughton	Parkhill	Rashin	Reeves	Richardson	West
Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No									
Abstain									

- B. *Move to approve a donation of \$15,700 from the Saxe PTC for outdoor seating (tables and umbrellas) in the courtyards at Saxe.*

Mr. Naughton moved to approve, seconded by Ms. West.

	Carlson	Gardiner	Hayes	Naughton	Parkhill	Rashin	Reeves	Richardson	West
Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No									
Abstain									

**VII. Public Comments**

Two members of the public spoke about the Start Time proposal in the Board’s budget. They felt that the plan was not well known publicly and would like to see it changed to support students in all grades and their families.

**VIII. Announcements and Future Business**

Next BOE Meeting: April 12, 2021



Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Julie Reeves  
Board of Education Secretary