



# Georgetown School Committee

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 6:30PM

Virtual ZOOM Meeting  
Special Session Minutes

Barbie Linares, Chairman  
Michael Hinchliffe, Vice Chairman  
Cheryl Lachendro, Clerk  
Pamela Lundquist  
Suzanne MacDonald

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Virtual Attendance:

Barbie Linares	Superintendent Jacobs	Jack Tiano
Michael Hinchliffe	Suzanne Sutherland	Collin MacDonald
Cheryl Lachendro		Margaret Maher
Pam Lundquist		Dan Richards
Suzanne MacDonald		

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This meeting was conducted using ZOOM Technology. Chair Linares called the meeting to order at 6:35PM.

**1. Call To Order:**

Barbie Linares - present  
Michael Hinchliffe - present  
Suzanne MacDonald - present  
Cheryl Lachendro - present  
Pamela Lundquist - present

**2. Consent Agenda**

Chair Linares read the items included in the Consent Agenda for April 7, 2020 which were the Acceptance of Warrants #38P20, #40P20, #39V20 and #41V20.

**MOTION:** Pam Lundquist (C. Lachendro second) motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call vote was taken.

Barbie Linares - yes  
Michael Hinchliffe - yes  
Suzanne MacDonald - yes  
Cheryl Lachendro - yes  
Pamela Lundquist - yes  
Motion carried (5-0)

Chair Linares asked for an update from the principals to how the remote learning was working. Principal Richards said that the high school experienced a few bugs. They were having issues with Schoology and some students could not log on during peak times. Collin MacDonald explained that we have now upgraded to the premium subscription of Schoology and beginning tomorrow morning, we should not experience these issues again. Principal Maher said that they did a lot of advance planning and it generally went well. The only issue they had was that all grade levels are holding zoom meetings and there were 2 siblings with their grade zoom meetings at the same time. This issue will hopefully be resolved going forward since a zoom calendar has now been created

where teachers can try to avoid scheduling conflicts. Principal Maher is also requesting that teachers send out their packet of assignments on Friday to give the parents a little more time to prepare.

## **5. Administrative Reports**

### **a) Superintendent's Report**

- April School Vacation

Superintendent Jacobs presented to the school committee 3 different options regarding the upcoming April vacation. She recently convened a conference call with representatives of the leadership team, the GEA and 2 members of the School Committee.

Following is a summary of the options that have been discussed regarding April vacation.

#### **1. Cancel April Vacation**

Considerations:

- Take Patriot's Day Off
- Remote Learning continues April 21-24
- Last day of school moves to 6/19 (181st day) from 6/25 (185th day)

Pros

- a. Can count days towards the end of the year so less school days in June/summer
- b. Does not interrupt remote learning flow after just 2 weeks
- c. With social distancing families and staff are home and not vacationing so less likely to interfere with travel plans

Cons

- a. Responds to concern of some people who think the students are lagging behind and should be in school
- b. Families and teachers have been working very hard and they could use a want a break
- c. Many teachers live in neighboring towns who will have vacation while our teachers are working.

#### **2. Maintain April Vacation as Planned**

Considerations:

- No remote learning for the week although families who might want to catch up can use it but no teacher contact
- No change necessary to the approved calendar
- All staff and students off of work through Monday April 27

Pros

- a. Everyone gets a break from the stresses of remote learning. Staff has been scrambling to set this up and a break after two weeks would allow a change to pause and do a quick check on any things that might need to be changed when school resumes. Parents have been working on school and might appreciate the down time.
- b. If the virus escalates in the next couple of weeks more people may be dealing with challenges and might appreciate not having to be responsible for school in addition
- c. No contractual issues

- d. It would be better to go to school longer in June if students can return to school so face time face learning can occur. It keeps kids safer longer if the virus is around beyond May.

Cons

- a. Provides a break in remote learning after only two weeks. May be hard to get people back into the swing after using a new system for such a short time
- b. Public Perception that this should be school time because students have lost so much already.

The Superintendent added that the last day of school and changes to April vacation is a local decision. The Commissioner has said any days spent over April vacation can be applied to the end of the year (185th day). Most of the North Shore districts are keeping April vacation as it is.

At this conference call, the Superintendent added that another option to the discussion. It is a hybrid of both. This option includes:

1. There would be no school from April 20 (Patriot's Day) through Wednesday April 22 for vacation. Remote school would resume on Thursday April 23.
2. The last day of school would move from Thursday June 25th to Tuesday June 23rd.

Pros

- a. Everyone gets a break for five days in a row including the weekend and three days to rest and recover
- b. This allows a shorter break in the continuity of remote learning

Cons

- a. Teachers who live in surrounding towns will have children at home for vacation
- b. Staff and families may have plans for April vacation

After much discussion, the majority of the group on the call supported the hybrid, but it was not unanimous. There was discussion about sending a survey to staff and parents, but this has not been done yet.

The following is a list of districts on the North Shore that are closing for April vacation:

Danvers, Pentucket, Ipswich, Lynn, Amesbury, Hamilton Wenham, Saugus, Triton, Manchester Essex, Essex Tech, Whittier, Salem, Peabody and Lynnfield. Masco and TriTown are meeting this week but are leaning toward closing. Newburyport is undecided and still discussing. CREST will continue with remote learning

The Committee discussed their concerns with both keeping April vacation and working through it. Stress was a factor on why they should have it, but then disrupting the work flow was an argument made on why they should work through.

**MOTION:** Suzanne MacDonald (P. Lundquist second) motion to not change the Georgetown School District calendar and keep April vacation where it is and keep the last day. Roll call vote was taken.

Barbie Linares - yes

Michael Hinchliffe - yes

Suzanne MacDonald - yes

Cheryl Lachendro - yes

Pamela Lundquist - yes

Motion carried (5-0)

**MOTION:** Pam Lundquist (M. Hinchliffe second) motion to adjourn at 7:45PM. So voted (5-0). Motion carried.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Weiss, School Committee Secretary*