

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent's Report May 9, 2022

We are very quickly approaching the end of the 2021-22 school year. In a little more than six weeks, classroom communities perform their end of year rituals in preparation for a much needed and well-deserved break for all. As is typically the case, the remaining weeks of the school year are spent rounding the final corner of learning plans for the year and celebrating important milestones reached over the course of the year. It is also the time during which we are busily preparing for the next school year - a process that will continue through the summer and up to opening day. The year has been challenging, there is no question about that, but we have also learned a lot and experienced growth and so many areas. I remain deeply optimistic about a strong finish to the current year and an equally strong start next year – drawing upon all of the wisdom gained this year.

As we suspected might be the case and as various COVID data websites can firm, we are in the midst of an uptick in positive cases across our schools. To be clear, positive cases still remain low, but trending upward. Many of the mitigation strategies are still in place. While mask wearing is optional, a number of students and staff continue to wear them. Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes are readily available as well. Given that the warmer temperatures, we are able to more seamlessly create fresh air exchange through open windows. It should also be noted that vaccination rates continue to climb among school age children and young adults in Lynn (see table below).

As of April 19, 2022		
Age Group	One Dose	Fully Vaccinated
5-11 Years	46%	36%
12-15 Years	89%	78%
16-19 Years	93%	79%

The nursing team remains extremely vigilant on positive COVID cases. In the event that they identify a cluster of positive cases in a classroom, the following steps are taken:

- CIC will test everyone with consent

- Mask wearing is recommended for all students in that class for 10 days after the cluster is determined
- A reminder will be sent to keep child home if not feeling well
- The classroom will be deep cleaned at night

We are hopeful that the rates remain low given the latest trend. We will continue to closely monitor the case situation, however, at present, we are prepared to proceed with all planned activities this spring. Should an event require a specific safety strategy, we will be certain to communicate. In all, I believe that we are prepared to face any surge head-on.

The Pickering building project continues to move forward in earnest. As has been the case since the submission of the statement of interest, we have consistently completed action items on or before the established deadlines. In recent weeks, a subcommittee of the building committee whose responsibility it is to choose the owner's project manager, has been meeting on the topic. After the request for proposals for owner's project managers closed, the subcommittee evaluated proposals, created a short list of applicants for interview, and interviewed the short list. In short order, the process will be finalized and an owner's project manager announced. This puts us in very good position to proceed with next steps, which involve identification of a designer and the feasibility study. An outline of the steps ahead can be found on the Massachusetts School Building Authority [website](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent