

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 24, 2014
Cary Memorial Building, Estabrook Room
1605 Massachusetts Avenue

6:30 p.m. Call to Order and Welcome:

Public Comment – (Written comments to be presented to the School Committee; oral presentations not to exceed three minutes.)

6:35 p.m. School Committee Member Announcements:

6:40 p.m. Agenda:

1. School Committee Position on Town Meeting Article 30 –
Amend Zoning By-Law – Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers
2. Discussion of Town Meeting Articles
3. PARCC Update (if time is available)

7:25 p.m. Consent Agenda (5 minutes):

1. School Committee Member Reports:
 - a. Liaison Report for the PTA/O Presidents Council (PPC)
 - b. Curriculum Work Group
2. Vote to Accept a \$342 Donation from Wilson Farms' *Shop at Wilson Farms* School Fundraiser to Be Deposited in the Bridge School Gift Account

7:30 p.m. The School Committee will remain in session and relocate to Battin Hall for the purpose of discussing Annual Town Meeting Articles.

The next meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the Cary Memorial Building, Estabrook Room, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue.

All agenda items and the order of items are approximate and subject to change.

ARTICLE 28

**AMEND ZONING BYLAW – ALLOW FOR-PROFIT
EDUCATIONAL USES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS
DISTRICT AND REMOVE SIZE LIMITATION**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Law for Neighborhood Commercial (“CN”) uses, to allow for profit educational uses and removal of the associated development standard from the same zone; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

(Inserted by Inga Magid and nine or more registered voters)

DESCRIPTION: This article requests a change in the zoning to permit for-profit educational uses to operate in the neighborhood businesses districts. In addition, this article also requests that the size or square footage limit be removed. The current zoning restricts the size of a business located in the neighborhood business district to 1,500SF; this article requests that the square footage limitation be removed to allow a business more flexibility.

ARTICLE 29

**AMEND ZONING BY-LAW –
ALLOW FOR-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL
USES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Law for Neighborhood Commercial (“CN”) uses, to allow for-profit educational uses within this designation.

(Inserted by Inga Magid and nine or more registered voters)

DESCRIPTION: This article requests a change in the zoning to permit for-profit educational uses to operate in the neighborhood business districts. This request adds to the types of uses that would be allowed in a district created to provide resident-serving uses, such as convenience stores, dental offices, and hardware stores.

ARTICLE 30

**AMEND ZONING BY-LAW –
MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 135 of the Code of the Town of Lexington to zone for Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, also known as Registered Marijuana Dispensaries; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Planning Board)

DESCRIPTION: This article will define where Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers will be allowed in the Town.

ARTICLE 31

**AMEND ZONING BY-LAW – SITE PLAN REVIEW
FOR PROJECTS OVER 10,000 SF**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 135 of the Code of the Town of Lexington to allow developments of 10,000 square feet or greater by right with Site Plan Review, removing the current special permit requirement; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Planning Board)



Lexington Public Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Recently, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education identified school districts throughout the Commonwealth that would be required to participate in the “field test” administration of a new assessment tool called PARCC, the **P**artnership for **A**ssessment of **R**eadiness for **C**ollege and **C**areers. This new assessment tool is currently being evaluated in many states across the country in an effort to ensure that all students are making progress towards the common learning goals established as a result of the National Common Core State Standards Initiative.

What is PARCC?

PARCC is an assessment tool that is designed to measure student progress toward a common set of academic learning standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. It is a multi-state project designed to develop a next-generation, computer-based testing program aligned to our academic learning standards. The new PARCC assessments promise to offer rich, performance-based tasks that will provide school districts with a better measure of our children’s ability to read, write, solve mathematical problems, think critically, and apply what they know. PARCC is also designed to provide clearer signals to educators and parents/guardians about students’ readiness for the next grade level and, in high school, for college and careers.

What is a “field test?”

The purpose of a field test is to allow schools and students to experience a new test before it counts. A field test works to ensure that the test questions are fair, on grade level, and measure the intended skills. As part of PARCC’s “field test” efforts, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has randomly selected schools throughout the Commonwealth to participate in the “field test” administration of PARCC. In the Fall of 2015, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will vote whether to adopt and fully implement PARCC in English Language Arts and Mathematics, and thereby replace MCAS in those two subject areas. The MCAS Science and Technology/Engineering test will continue in its current form.

Which Lexington schools have been selected for the PARCC “field test?”

The Lexington Public Schools listed below have been selected for participation in the PARCC field test for various subjects at various grade levels. Some schools have been selected to participate in the “paper” version of this assessment, while others will be participating in the on-line administration of the test. You will also notice that some schools will participate in the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and others will participate in End-of-Year (EOY) assessment. Please note that one of our schools is participating in both PBA and EOY assessments. Please also notice that not all grades, all classes, nor all subjects will be tested.

The Lexington schools, specific subjects and grade levels selected by the state for the PARCC “field test” include:

- Bowman Elementary School – on-line: two grade 4 classes, English Language Arts (PBA & EOY)
- Fiske Elementary School – paper version: two grade 4 classes, English Language Arts (PBA)
- Harrington Elementary School – on-line: two grade 3 classes, Mathematics (EOY)
- Jonas Clarke Middle School – on-line: two English Language Arts classes, grade 6 and : two English Language Arts classes, grade 8 (EOY)
- William Diamond Middle School – paper version: two grade 6 classes, Mathematics (PBA)
- Lexington High School – on-line: four sections of Integrated Mathematics (PBA) and two sections of grade 11, English Language Arts (EOY)

Why am I receiving this notification?

You are receiving this notification, as your child has been randomly selected to participate in the PARCC “field” test. Please note that not all students in your child’s grade or program are participating in the PARCC field test and there is no “opt out” choice for students or parents/guardians.

In the box below, please see the specific classes and dates assigned for your child’s PBA. The dates for the EOY assessments have not, as yet, been determined.

Important Facts:

- Those students being “field tested” in a PARCC Performance Based Assessment (PBA) will NOT be required to take the MCAS exam in that subject matter. For example, if your child is assigned to the Mathematics PARCC “field test” in his/her grade, s/he will not be taking the state required MCAS exam in Mathematics in the spring of 2014. However, s/he will still be taking the English Language Arts MCAS in the spring. If your child is assigned to the English Language Arts (ELA) PARCC “field test,” they will not be required to take the MCAS ELA test, but will still need to take the Mathematics MCAS exam in the spring of 2014.
- If your child is only scheduled for the End-of-Year (EOY) “field test,” they will be taking all components of the state’s MCAS exam in the spring of 2014.
- No raw or scaled scores from the PARCC “field test” will be made available to individual students or to the school district. The sole purpose of a “field test” is to review the questions and answers to determine that they are fair, understandable, and measure the intended skills. In other words, the “field test” does not “count.”

I appreciate that the information included in this memorandum can be somewhat confusing and complex. I have tried to make the information as clear as possible, but understand that you may have questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 781-861-2580 ext. 217, if you are in need of any further clarification

Sincerely,



Carol A. Pilarski