Call to Order
Mayor Nicholson called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The meeting opened with a roll call. The meeting was broadcast live on Channel 8 television, on the Gardner YouTube Channel, and recorded by Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS
Item #3157 - First Reading of Policies
COVID-19 Pandemic Re-Opening Policy
Mrs. Hurst, Chairperson of the Policy Subcommittee presented the minutes of the Subcommittee meeting of July 27, 2020. If approved, this policy will also allow for the development of protocol for other emergencies. Mr. Swartz submitted suggestions for minor changes in the policy and they will be considered by the Policy Subcommittee before the policy is submitted to the full Committee for a second reading.

Mr. Swartz moved that the District School Committee approve for a first reading the following policy – COVID-19 Management Policy.
Seconded by Mr. Abare.
Roll call vote: Abare, yes; Cormier, yes; Hurst, yes; Pelavin, yes; and Swartz. Count – 5 yes. Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

Item #3158 – Re-Opening of School Plans
Dr. Pellegrino presented a PowerPoint of Preliminary Plans for the re-opening of the Gardner Schools. He thanked administrators, principals, assistant principals, the school nurse leader and everyone who volunteered their time to come in and help draft the plan. He also appreciated the help from members of the Teachers' Union.

This is a preliminary plan tonight in preparation for submitting a final plan to the DESE by August 10, 2020. It is one plan with three models – all structured on “time on learning”.

1. All students return to school - but safely.
2. Hybrid model – half in remote learning, half in school and then switch.
3. Remote learning – looking to have a robust program.
Due to a You Tube problem, there was a delay in the presentation from 7:16 to 7:23 pm.

For planning purposes the areas of focus were safety, emotional wellness, and the learning environment. For safety, school rooms and buses were evaluated to comply with the State's design parameters and a chart was presented showing this information.

Dr. Pellegrino presented charts showing the results of the surveys he has conducted. A survey of parents resulted in the following:

- Full return 35% - barrier would be social distancing in rooms and on bus.
- Full remote 35%
- Hybrid model 30% - Cohorts for students – Monday/Tuesday – Thursday/Friday Wednesday planning day for teachers

Parents can opt in for a fully remote program.

**Motion**
Mr. Swartz moved that the District School Committee vote to approve Dr. Pellegrino's recommendation for the District Re-opening of School with a two week robust remote learning plan for students to allow time to support teachers in using the new tools the District will be acquiring and then adopting a Hybrid learning plan for students.
Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.
Roll call vote: Abare, yes; Cormier, yes; Hurst, yes; Pelavin, yes; and Swartz, yes.
Count -5 yes.
Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

**Item #3159 – Annual School Calendar 2020-2021 Discussion**
Dr. Pellegrino submitted three possible school calendars for the school year 2020-2021. Due to upcoming changes in the re-opening of school, no calendar will be voted on at this time. Also, the State may reduce the required number of school days to 170. He plans to have a calendar ready by August 10 when the re-opening plan is submitted.

Due to a technical difficulty, there was a short recess. The meeting resumed at 8:28 pm.
Item #3160 – Review Surplus List from Gardner High School
Mr. Swartz moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the list of items in GHS as surplus as presented in order to clear space during the restructuring of the Technology classes and rooms. Some items are beyond repair, 30 to 40 year old textbooks, and student projects that have been left in the rooms. Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Roll call vote: Abare, present; Cormier, yes; Hurst, yes; Pelavin, yes; and Swartz. Count – 4 yes; 1 present.
Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

FINAL COMMENTS
Mrs. Hurst, Mrs. Cormier, Mrs. Pelavin, and Mr. Swartz all thanked Dr. Pellegrino and all the staff for their hard work on the re-opening plan and for their sincere commitment to the students.

Mr. Swartz thanked Dr. Pellegrino for all the surveys conducted to provide feedback on the re-opening.

Mayor Nicholson said he appreciates all of the work done by the members of the School Committee.

ADJOURNMENT
Mrs. Pelavin moved to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Roll call vote: Abare, present; Cormier, yes; Hurst, yes; Pelavin, yes; and Swartz. Count – 4 yes; 1 present.
Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

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Anne Hurst, Secretary