Call to Order
Mayor Nicholson called the meeting to order at 6 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.

CONSENT AGENDA
Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee approve the Consent Agenda as presented:
- Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting, June 8, 2020
- Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting July 29, 2020
- Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting August 6, 2020
- Approval of the following Warrants as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee:
  - Warrant #20-50 dated 06/11/20 in the amount of $278,890.43
  - Warrant #20-51 dated 06/18/20 in the amount of $154,508.48
  - Warrant #20-52 dated 06/25/20 in the amount of $54,313.41
  - Warrant #20-53 dated 06/30/20 in the amount of $189,109.29
  - Warrant #20-54 dated 06/30/20 in the amount of $337,304.17
  - Warrant #20-55 dated 06/30/20 in the amount of $194,920.60
  - Warrant #21-06 dated 08/06/20 in the amount of $430,744.94
  - Warrant #21-07 dated 08/13/20 in the amount of $807,319.42
  - Warrant #21-08 dated 08/20/20 in the amount of $138,618.41
  - Warrant #21-09 dated 08/27/20 in the amount of $38,455.48
- Donations – Acceptance of gift of $4,000.00 donated by Deans Beans Organic Coffee for the School Lunch Program
  Seconded by Mr. Abare.
Roll Call Vote – Abare, yes; Cormier, yes; Hurst, yes; LaFreniere, yes; Pelavin, yes; and Swartz, yes. Count – 6 yes.
Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.
Special Meeting August 31, 2020
SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Subcommittee
Mr. Abare, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met on June 23, 2020 and August 18, 2020. Minutes of the meetings were presented.

At the June 23, 2020 meeting, Mr. Wayne Anderson, Facilities Director, and Ms. April Yu, Business Administrator, presented information regarding the summer cleaning being done by Moura's Cleaning Services. Moura's has been disinfecting all offices, bathrooms and kitchens thoroughly. Moura's has been giving the District a 2% discount for prompt payment of bills. A list of projects that have been completed or in process was presented.

At the August 18, 2020 meeting, summer cleaning was reviewed and is expected to be completed on August 21. The main focus is on cleaning the ventilator units. Ms. Yu will schedule a Zoom meeting with Moura's Cleaning Services and Ms. Becky McCaffrey, District Nurse Leader, to make sure that the cleaning and disinfecting process is meeting the Public Health Standards.

Moura's has recommended day porters for each building to fulfill the needs of extra cleaning and disinfecting when the hybrid model begins. This will potentially add to the cost. The District has spent $358K on PPE which includes masks, face shields, gloves, hand sanitizers, etc. Twelve units of disinfecting equipment are being purchased so that the buildings can be periodically disinfected throughout the day. Safety for students and staff are the #1 priority.

Finance Subcommittee
Mr. LaFreniere, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met on August 14, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The Subcommittee reviewed the Finance packet for June 2020 and had no questions regarding the reports. The FY2020 year-end budget savings mainly related to big projects cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19 were transferred to the School Choice Fund to be used in future years.

The District has started FY202121 without a voted budget by the City and is operating on a 1/12 budget. The official approved budget is expected in early September.

An ESSER grant of $723K and Technology grant of $340K will help the District pay the extra cost of devices for students, PPE costs, food services and other COVID-19 related services.

Donations from Beans Organic Coffee in the amount of $4,000 for the School Lunch Program were accepted and will be presented to the full School Committee for approval.

Special Meeting
August 31, 2020
Policy Subcommittee  
Mrs. Hurst said that the Policy Subcommittee met on July 27, August 5, August 21 and August 28, 2020. Minutes of the meetings were presented. The District developed COVID-19 protocols and the newly developed and recommended MASC policy EBFCA regarding mask wearing. She thanked everyone who worked on the new policies.

Policies reviewed and recommended for a first reading by the full School Committee are listed under Item #3165. Items approved for a second reading are listed under Item #3166.

NEW BUSINESS  
Item #3165 - First Reading of Policies  
Mrs. Hurst presented the following policies for a first reading as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee:
• AC Nondiscrimination  
• EBCFA Face Coverings  
• EBC-S Policy on COVID-RELATED Issues  
• JLCB Immunization of Students

Item #3166 – Second Reading of Policies
Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the following policies for a second reading as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee:
• BBA School Committee and Duties  
• IGB Support Services Programs  
• IHAM Health Education  
• IHB Special Instructional Program and Accommodations  
• IHBEA English Language Learners  
• JFBB School Choice (Districts choosing not to participate)  
• JH Student Absences and Excuses  
• JHD Exclusions and Exemptions from School  
• JICFA Prohibition of Hazing

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Roll Call Vote – Abare, yes; Cormier, yes; Hurst, yes; LaFreniere, yes; Pelavin, yes; and Swartz, yes. Count – 6 yes.

Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.
Item #3167 – Re-Opening of School Plan
Dr. Pellegrino presented information on the re-opening of the schools. Information is being sent to all parents/guardians. Information is different for each school because of students' developmental ages. The information is also being sent out in the Spanish language. Parents can chose a full remote learning option.

Item #3168 – Technology Update
Dr. Pellegrino said that the Technology Department will make sure that each student in the District has a learning device. During the tax-free weekend teachers purchased Chrome books for the District and will be reimbursed. Grants have also been received to help with this expense.

Item #3169 – MIAA Sports
Mr. Dan Forte, Athletic Director, presented possible plans for the fall sports season. He plans to offer boys and girls soccer, field hockey, golf, and cross country track at the High School level. All other sports will be deferred until February 2021. MIAA has issued rules that are above the State's rules at this time. Registration for sports will begin on September 1.

Middle School sports have been disbanded for the fall. He hopes to have an intramural program so that the students can be on the fields and have some social/emotional experiences.

Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee vote to approve a fall sports program as presented by Mr. Forte even though the schools will be in remote learning at that time.
Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.
Roll Call Vote – Abare, no; Cormier, yes; Hurst, yes; LaFreniere, yes; Pelavin, yes; and Swartz, yes. Count – 5 yes; 1 no.
Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

Item #3170 – Waiving Pre-school Tuition
Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee vote to approve Dr. Pellegrino's recommendation to waive pre-school tuition for the FY2021 school year.
Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.
Roll Call Vote – Abare, yes; Cormier, yes; Hurst, yes; LaFreniere, yes; Pelavin, yes; and Swartz, yes. Count – 6 yes.
Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

Special Meeting August 31, 2020
Item #3171 – ID Scan
Dr. Pellegrino explained that there will be new ID scan systems in four of the five schools. Visitors will need to put their ID into the scanner which will print off a pass. All information in the ID scanner will be wiped out in 24 hours. This is one more step to keep students and staff safe in the school buildings.

Item #3172 – Ad-Hoc Subcommittee COVID-19
Mrs. Cormier moved that the District School Committee vote to approve Mrs. Pelavin's recommendation to create an Ad-hoc Subcommittee to deal with COVID-19 matters.
Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.
Roll Call Vote – Abare, yes; Cormier, yes; Hurst, yes; LaFreniere, yes; Pelavin, yes; and Swartz, yes. Count – 6 yes.
Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

Item #3173 – Budget Update
Dr. Pellegrino said that the Gardner City Council will be voting on the budget in early September.

Item #3174 – Food Services
As of today, free meals for all students is now in place and will continue until December 31, 2020. The meals will be available at the High School and at Waterford Street School. The USDA is providing waivers and the District does not have to apply for them.

FINAL COMMENTS
Mrs. Cormier spoke about the work over the summer and the opportunity to work with and get to know the School Committee members.

Mr. Abare thanked everyone for doing a great job to get the school system ready for the students.

Mrs. Hurst said it has been a hard and busy job through the summer. She appreciates all the help.

Mrs. Pelavin commented on the information received over the summer and the amount of work in digging thru it. It was a long summer this year. Today is the first day of school for teachers to report and hopefully everyone can get back to some type of normalcy.

Mr. LaFreniere said that an incredible amount of work was done by School Committee members and school staff over the summer months. He appreciates all of the hard work.

Special Meeting August 31, 2020
Mr. Swartz said he echoed all of the comments made by the School Committee members. It was not a quiet summer. He gave kudos to everyone.

Mayor Nicholson said that the Gardner City Council plans to vote on the FY2021 budget on Thursday, September 3, 2020. He has been able to increase the Foundation budget and the Net School Spending amount. He thanked the teachers for helping to purchase Chrome books for the schools during the tax free weekend. He appreciates all the work of teachers, staff, maintenance workers, and all members of the Gardner Public Schools' family.

ADJOURNMENT
Mrs. Pelavin moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Swartz.
Roll Call Vote – Abare, yes; Cormier, yes; Hurst, yes; LaFreniere, yes; Pelavin, yes; and Swartz, yes. Count – 6 yes.
Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

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Anne Hurst, Secretary