Call to Order
Mayor Nicholson called the meeting to order at 7:02 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
Mr. LaFreniere moved that the District School Committee approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting August 31, 2020
- Approval of the following Warrants as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee:
  - Warrant #21-10 dated 09/03/20 in the amount of $410,135.56
  - Warrant #21-11 dated 09/10/20 in the amount of $5,411.28

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

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS
Facilities Subcommittee
Mr. Abare, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met on August 31, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

Moura's Cleaning Services has completed the summer cleaning and 90% of the cleaning of the ventilator units at all school locations. For FY21 adding day porters to each building is recommended to fulfill the needs of extra cleaning and disinfecting when the hybrid model begins.
The District is purchasing twelve units of disinfecting equipment so that buildings will be disininfected periodically during the day. Safety for students and staff is the #1 priority.

A list of projects completed or in process was presented. Moura's is preparing a video which will be posted to the school's website for the community to see the products purchased to keep the schools safe.

**Finance Subcommittee**

Mr. LaFreniere, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met on September 8, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The Subcommittee reviewed the Finance packet for August 2020 and had no questions regarding the reports. The District started FY2021 without a voted budget by the City Council and is operating on a 1/12 budget. If the Council votes the total of $24,892,938 for the School Department's budget, the City Auditor will key in MUNIS all the budget line items.

The Federal and State have given the District some great grant funding opportunities. The ESSER grant of $723K and the Technology grant of $340K, will help the District to pay the extra cost of devices for students, PPE cost, food services and other COVID-19 related services.

Due to COVID-19, planning for students' transportation has been very challenging. NRT/Vanpool have developed bus routes for both regular ED and Special ED. Safety protocols have been drawn up and will be posted on the school's website for the community to view.

**Policy Subcommittee**

Mrs. Hurst presented the policies reviewed and recommended for a first reading by the full School Committee. They are listed under Item #3175. Policies approved for a second reading and a vote by the full School Committee are listed under Item #3176 and policies approved for removal and a vote by the full School Committee are listed under Item #3177.
NEW BUSINESS

Item #3175 – First Reading of Policies
Mrs. Hurst presented the following policies for a first reading as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee:

- ADC Tobacco Products on School Premises Prohibited
- JICH Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use By Students Prohibited
- JIH Searches and Interrogations
- JJA Student Organizations
- JRD School Photographs

Item #3176 – 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:

- AC Nondiscrimination and Harassment
- EBCFA Face Coverings
- EBC-S COVID-19 Management Policy
- JLCB Immunization of Students

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.

Item #3177 – Removal of Policies
Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee vote to approve removal of the following policies from the Policy Manual as the MASC no longer has these policies:

- IGAA Curriculum Research
- IGBE Tiered Instruction

Seconded by Mrs. Cormier.
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 #3178 – Re-Opening of Schools
Dr. Pellegrino said that the administrators and teachers have done a great job preparing for the re-opening of the schools. Pre-K will be back in school classrooms tomorrow and remote learning will also start tomorrow. All the staff has just been wonderful getting everything ready for a safe school year.

Item #3179 – Breakfast/Lunch Program Update
Dr. Pellegrino reported that the Breakfast/Lunch Program will continue and will be free for all students and will be available at the High School, Waterford Street, and via the van. Pick up spots for the van will be listed on the website.

Item #3180 – K-12 Registration Update
Registration is down by about 100 students. The number of Kindergarten students is down and other school system have reported a lower number. There are approximately 2,239 students registered.

Item #3181 – COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Subcommittee
Mrs. Pleavin reported that the COVID-19 Ad-Hoc Subcommittee voted at the August 31, 2020 School Committee meeting will begin meeting on September 28, 2020 and will continue to meet every two weeks. She will Chair the Subcommittee and members will be Mrs. Cormier, Mrs. Hurst, and Mr. Swartz.

Item #3182 – HVAC Update
Dr. Pellegrino said that the Maintenance Staff has gone through every building making sure that the HVAC systems are clean only GALT and Elm Street have to be completed. These systems are crucial to be sure that there is clean air in the buildings and the systems will be operational before the students return to the buildings when hybrid begins.

Item #3183 – MSBA – New Building Project
Dr. Pellegrino reported that the new school building project is moving forward at the right pace. All plans are still on time and on budget. He will be putting out a survey for name suggestions for the school from the community.

FINAL COMMENTS
Mrs. Hurst thanked everyone who has worked so hard to get the schools ready and safe for the students. She reminded everyone that September is Suicide Awareness month.

Mr. Swartz commented on tomorrow being the first day of school and that a lot of people have extended themselves to get to this point. He thanked them all and hopes for a successful year.
Mrs. Cormier said she echoes the comments of Mrs. Hurst and Mr. Swartz and wished everyone a healthy and happy school year.

Mr. LaFreniere thanked Mr. Anderson and the Maintenance staff for all their work to prepare the schools for opening.

Mrs. Pelavin wished good luck to all the teachers and to the parents who will be helping their children on remote learning. This is a whole new experience for the students, parents and teachers.

Mr. Abare thanked parents and students for their patience as the school staff worked to have a safe and comfortable year for everyone.

Mayor Nicholson said that the Gardner City Council has voted the FY2021 budget with the funding requested. He wished good luck to the students and all involved as they begin this trek towards June 2021.

**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 7:40 pm.

Anne Hurst, Secretary