




# Easton School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 7 2020, 6:00 pm  
Remote via Zoom and ECAT Broadcast



**Stay home. Flatten the curve.**  
Visit [www.easton.ma.us/covid-19](http://www.easton.ma.us/covid-19) for latest local information.

# Easton School Committee Agenda - April 7, 2020

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. COVID-19 Update
3. Discussion Regarding Vendor Payments
4. Discussion and Possible Vote to Modify School Calendar
5. Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve MOA from EEA
6. Vote for Joint Labor Management Committee Representative
7. Public Comment
8. Superintendent's Notes
9. Assistant Superintendent's Notes
10. School Committee Notes
11. Adjournment



# 1. Call meeting to order (Meeting Format)




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# Nancy DeLuca - Easton School Committee Chair

- OML: Per State of Emergency (SOE) brought on by COVID-19 pandemic, public bodies can meet remotely (Governor Baker's March 12 Order)
- Easton's boards with *essential* business will meet during the SOE remotely to maximize social distancing.
- For regular *meetings* (in contrast to legal hearings), the public may submit written questions via the chat feature to "Town of Easton 2" during the meeting or use the Q&A feature of Zoom if and when instructed to do so by the Chair.
  - Questions must include your name and address, as the question and response from the Town will be incorporated into the public record via minutes.
  - The Chair reserves the right to discard questions that are off topic, do not include name and address, or if the meeting is concluding.
  - Questions will be answered as soon as practicable.
- All votes by the Committee will be conducted by roll call.



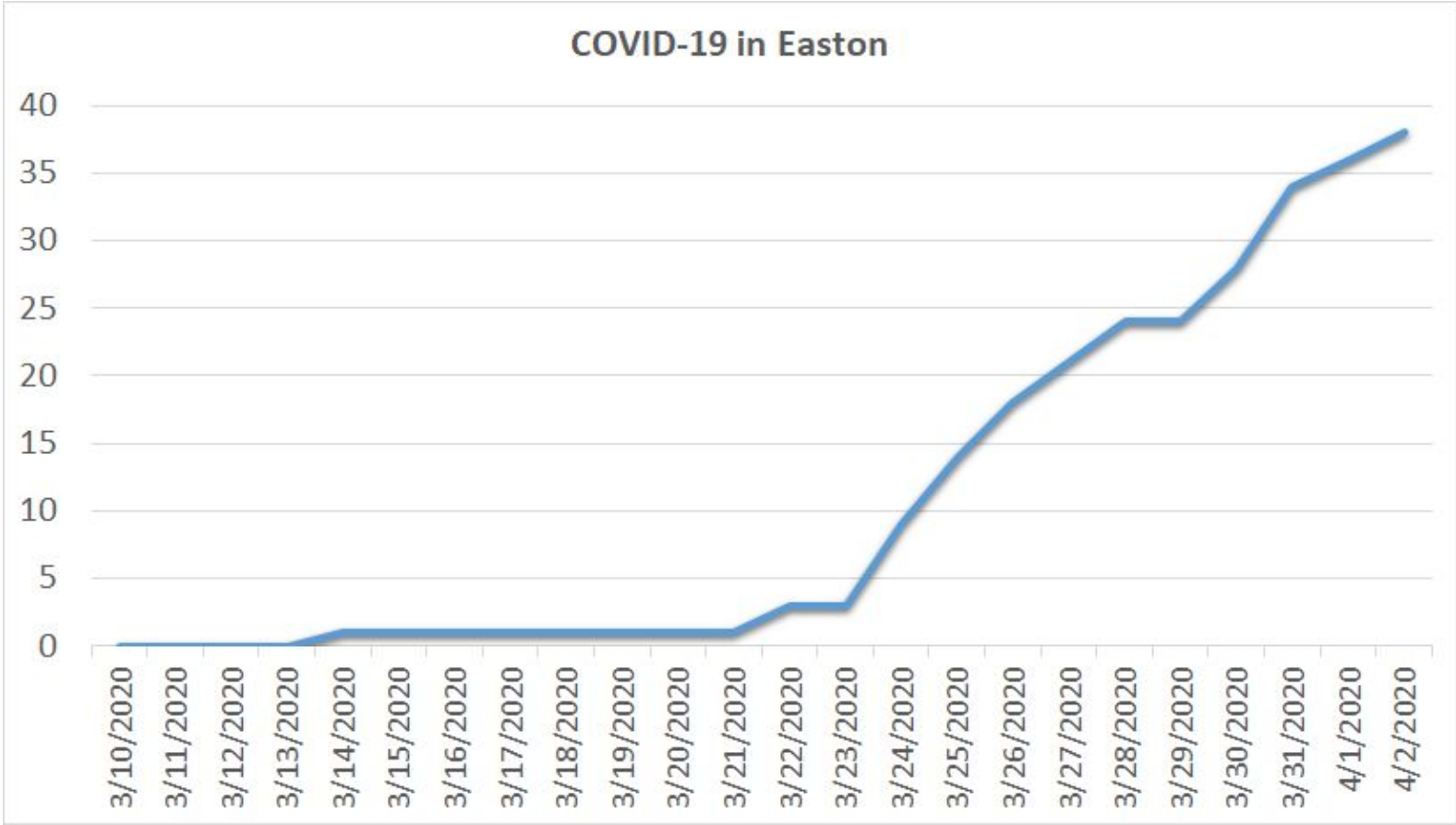
## 2. COVID-19 Update



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# Easton COVID-19 Cases



# Prior to closure - February 27 to March 13

## ***Communications:***

- Feb. 27 - EPS community info
  - CDC information
  - Sanitization procedures
  - Hygiene recommendations
- Mar. 11 - EPS community notice
  - All schools for 2 weeks
  - All events indefinitely
- Mar. 13 - communication & resources
  - Food services and donations
  - Child care services
  - Extended learning opportunities Pk-12
  - Staff payments
  - Special education letter
  - Press release

## ***Cancellations:***

- Mar. 4 - all groups
  - International travel
- Mar. 11 - all groups
  - Travel outside Easton
  - Large gatherings
  - Parent volunteers
  - Facilities use
  - Sports - small and local only
- Mar. 13 - all groups
  - All schools for 2 weeks
  - All events indefinitely

# Week 1 - March 15 to 21: Prep, mitigation & care

## ***Communications:***

- Mar. 15 - EPS community update
  - Governor closure (to May 7)
  - Information to staff
- Mar. 16 - daily/weekly meetings set
  - Town Department Heads, Easton Board of Health, Cabinet, ETeam, regional Superintendents. DESE (Commissioner, business office and grants, Special Education), Vulnerable Populations group, state Superintendents, the Department of Public Health
- Mar. 20 - Update and FAQs
  - Families
  - Staff

## ***Tasks completed:***

- Mar. 16 - 20 preparations/implementation
  - Schools disinfected
  - Staff collects belongings/resources
  - Chromebook distribution - staff
  - Social distancing information sent
  - Medication distribution
  - Easton Food Pantry coord., volunteers
  - Payroll moved online
  - Outplaced students
  - Staff volunteers solicited (75+)
  - Outdoor facilities CLOSED



# Week 2 - March 22 to 28: Stability and connections

## ***Tasks completed:***

- Mar. 23 - 24 services and expectations
  - Daily and weekly meetings continue
  - All food service, Industrial Arts, and nursing supplies collected
  - Inventory taken with EFD
  - Chromebooks delivered to students
  - Social emotional checks - ALL students
  - Google Meet/Classroom videos and tutorials
  - Expanded enrichment activities uploaded
  - Staff videos, competitions, engagement
  - Curriculum Leadership planning
  - IEP meetings

## ***Tasks completed:***

- Mar. 25 - 27 services completed
  - Grab and Go program operational
  - Food donations organized
  - Chromebooks distribution - students
  - Veteran and Internet services added
  - EPS nurses supporting BOH efforts
  - Classrooms disinfected, schools CLOSED
- Mar. 27 - 28 communications
  - EVERY grade and content area met and completed remote learning plans
  - COVID-19 website completed
  - MOA with EEA
  - ELL families contacted
  - FAQs updated

# Week 3 - March 29 to April 4: Online learning routine

## ***Communications:***

- Mar. 30 - EPS community update
  - Remote Learning Plans launched Pk-12
  - Special Education services/therapies
  - Daily and weekly meetings continue
  - COVID-19 website links live and updated
  - School Committee message
  - Commissioner of Education message
- Mar. 30 - Apr. 3 - communications
  - SRO wellness checks
  - Remote learning technology protocols
  - MOA approved
  - School events/competitions, etc underway

## ***Tasks completed:***

- Mar. 30 - Apr. 3 meetings
  - All staff, departments, grades Pk-12
  - April calendar feedback
  - House Bill (passes) - analyze
- Apr. 2 - PD site completed (not live) Pk-12
  - Content (all)
  - Role specific (all)
  - Wellness
  - Enrichment
- Apr. 2 - information
  - Document translations complete (7 languages)
  - EBT debit cards - families
  - Positivity and gratitude campaign

# Week 4 - April 5 to 11: “Normalcy,” PD, budget

## ***Communications:***

- Apr. 6 - EPS community
  - Remote Learning Update
  - Daily and weekly meetings continue
  - Staff Professional Development live
  - Town - Census information
  - Special Ed (staff) information and guidelines
- Apr. 6 - vendors, contracts
  - Transportation (2)
  - School Planning Committee
- Apr. 7 - SC meeting
  - School Committee updates

## ***Completed and ongoing:***

- Apr. 6 - website
  - Weekly learning plans
  - PD opportunities and expectations
- Apr. 6-10 - ongoing
  - Face shields to FD
  - Vendor negotiations
  - “Disaster” budget preparation
  - EPS community update



### 3. Discussion regarding vendor payments



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# Massachusetts law regarding vendor payments

- Massachusetts Public Schools are required to follow Massachusetts General Law
- Chapter 41 Section 56 allows municipalities to only pay for services rendered
- Current legal counsel from Town indicates we do not pay for services at this time
- Implications: transportation
- Investigating further with regional Superintendents



## 4. Discussion and Possible Vote to Modify School Calendar



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# School calendar considerations

- Current last day of school - Friday June 19th
- April vacation
  - Commissioner guidance
  - Cabinet
  - Curriculum Leadership Teams (Pk-5 and 6-12)
  - EEA (13 of 125)
  - Monday, June 15th
- June extension
  - 11 days
  - Fiscal (and other) considerations

## 5. Discussion regarding EEA MOA

- Signed April 1st
- SC vote not necessary (per legal)

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6. Vote for Joint Labor management Committee  
Representative (per EEA MOA)



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## 7. Public Comment



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## 8. Superintendent Notes

- H. 4617
- FY 21 budget Impacts



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# H. 4617- An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19

- Passed - An Act to address challenges faced by municipalities and state authorities resulting from COVID-19 (H. 4617)
  - Allows for postponement of Town Meeting by Select Board vote;
  - Creates 1/12th budgeting for town governments;
  - Various other changes

# Looking Forward - Local Governance During the State of Emergency

- Financial Uncertainty - Regional and National
  - Commonwealth of MA is projecting a *multi-billion* dollar revenue shortfall - roughly 5 percent of their annual budget;
  - Municipal bond market is in turmoil - which will challenge our capital projects and ability to issue bonds and BANs;
- Local Impacts Thus Far
  - Town immediately sought and received DOR authorization for COVID-19 deficit spending;
  - FY2020 spending and non-emergency personnel hiring freeze implemented;
  - FY2021 budget was already going to be difficult, now redesigned from scratch. Finance Team is tracking March actuals and awaiting further estimated shortfalls from Commonwealth (ETA next week);
  - FY2021 will be most difficult since 2008 Great Recession - potentially worse - severe service cuts will likely be unavoidable;
  - FY2021 health insurance incentive plans launched - applying all effort to save where we can.



## 9. Assistant Superintendent Notes



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## 10. School Committee Notes



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# Easton School Committee Meeting - Adjournment

## Thank you for joining us.



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