

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes July 30, 2020**

5:30 PM – Regular Meeting Zoom Meeting

Present: Klesch, Phifer, Fasihudin, Brugger, Percy, McKenzie

1. Call to Order

Percy made a motion to open the meeting, Phifer seconded and the vote was 5-0-0.

2. Public Comment

Klesch reviewed the Public Comment Policy and mentioned the 3-minute time limit. Klesch thanked the teachers, staff, administration, superintendent, and school committee members for all of the work that went into the three plans that were required to be drafted- an in-person plan, a hybrid plan, and a remote learning plan, which have to be submitted to the state. She clarified that tonight's meeting would be to review and discuss the plans but no vote would be taken on any plan at this meeting. She thanked the public for their dialogue with the schools. She asked if any other members of the Committee had any opening remarks. Members said that they agreed with Klesch's remarks.

McKenzie said the Public Comment should be held after the presentation so that members of the public could hear about the plans first and the SC agreed.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda- None

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

McKenzie also thanked everyone who involved in the development of the Reopening Plans, including input from parents. She reviewed what the district was charged with in regard to the development of plans for three scenarios- in person learning, a hybrid plan, and a remote learning plan that all demonstrate understanding of reducing risk when reopening schools.

McKenzie said that the understanding for reducing risk was achieved with study of guidelines from DESE, CDC, DPH, medical journals, and a report from the Harvard School of Public Health, which is specifically focuses on reducing risk when reopening public schools. She reviewed the following.

- Layer defenses- there is no one mitigation strategy

- Creating healthy classrooms

- All students and staff wear masks unless there is a medical exemption

- Hand hygiene

- Physical Distancing- 6 feet to every extent -possible

- Cohorts of students with minimum 6- week phasing reentry for movement

She reviewed the specifics of the phases, which can be found in the [DRAFT Fall Reopening Plan](#) and shared a chart with the phases and corresponding details, which included adjusted schedules and shortened days. She also addressed the food service options for the phases. She said that all air ventilation needs would be addressed. Criteria used for moving into new phases would be based on metrics of community transmission and school transmission. She mentioned that there are links

within the District Reopening Plan to data about positivity rates, including in Hampshire County and in the state. McKenzie reviewed the procedures in the event there is a positive case(s). There would be a SC meeting to review the data before entering into a new phase.

McKenzie said that Hadley, is able to accommodate all students for in person learning within the 6 feet distancing guideline with the repurposing of some spaces in the schools. She outlined different alternatives and responses to changes in circumstances, addressing likely scenarios for each plan option. McKenzie provided details of remote learning through google classroom also included in the [DRAFT Fall Reopening Plan](#).

(Student Representative Jack Kelly joins meeting)

McKenzie said that any family could choose a complete Remote Learning Plan but are asked to commit to a time period of one quarter and provide a 2 week notice if changing to the in-person or hybrid plan.

Hopkins Plan

Camuso reviewed the Hopkins Learning Plans. She mentioned, health and safety, scientific evidence, equal access and opportunity and learning rigor as criteria used in developing the plans. She informed the committee that mitigation strategies included in the plans which would be maintained through all phases. She said that all classrooms could accommodate the 6-foot distancing guideline for cohort in-person learning. Camuso also reviewed specifics of school start times, entry, exit, and traffic patterns, lunches, and mask break zones. She shared charts of the different plan options including students following regular schedules and remaining in student grade level cohorts. Camuso also addressed how students could access student services, such as counseling. Charts of each plan were made available for public viewing during the meeting. McKenzie thanked Camuso for her presentation.

HES Plan

Dowd thanked the SC and McKenzie, staff, and families that helped create and shape the HES learning plans. She said that the school values and mission statement were considered in the development of the plans, including social and emotional well-being. Dowd mentioned that HES already has student grade- level cohorts in place. She reviewed how the social distancing for 6 feet would be accomplished and what a typical daily schedule would look like. Final class sizes would determine if adjustments for space would be needed. She mentioned that all details could be found in the [DRAFT Fall Reopening Plan](#).

Dowd said that considerations for safe entry, exit, arrival, and dismissal were all addressed in consult with the Hadley Police and Fire Department. She provided charts outlining the In-person plan, hybrid plan, and remote learning plan. Teacher expectations will be provided at the beginning of the school year. McKenzie thanked Ms. Dowd.

McKenzie informed the meeting that the district would remain in the same safest phase regardless of school transmission data. She said the development of these plans included feedback from HEA and families. McKenzie referred to 2 surveys that were completed.

Jason Burns, HEA president provided the results of the teacher and staff survey.

Phifer addressed the survey that went to families regarding their preferences for reopening plans. 42% responded that they would prefer in-person learning, 27% leaning toward in person, and 31% preferring remote learning or leaning toward remote learning. He pointed out the challenges/ concerns of childcare, existing medical conditions, etc. The majority (77%) responded that their child(ren) were accustomed to wearing a mask. Responses to the bus transportation question indicated that 24% would use bus transportation, 24 % were not sure and 52% would use alternate transportation. 77% said they were comfortable with kindergarten/ first grade students wearing masks. McKenzie thanked Phifer for the survey and analysis. McKenzie mentioned the importance of flexibility as we do not know what trends the virus transmission will take over the next month and we need to be prepared for all possibilities.

Klesch commended everyone for the transparency in the sharing of the plans as they were developed. Phifer asked about the HEA survey not being connected to some of the specifics in the Reopening Plan. Burns responded that the HEA primary concern was of distancing. Phifer asked if the HEA members were given the opportunity to respond as to their comfort level using the hybrid plan which allowed for 6 feet of distancing. Burns responded that they had not to date. Brugger asked Burns if the data collected in the HEA survey could be broken down by school. Burns responded that he did not have those statistics readily available but would compile the data and forward it to her. Fasihuddin asked what date the survey was taken. Burns responded June 28, 2020. Jack Kelly asked if the in-person cohort plan would provide the same opportunities, such as the band program. Camuso said that guidance regarding bands was just released and there was plan work in progress. Phifer asked about the options of tents for learning spaces. Dowd said HES is purchasing tents, which could be utilized for outside learning, in addition to the pavilion and play space. Camuso said Hopkins was also planning to purchase 3 tents for potential outside classrooms. Klesch asked about the work being done regarding air quality and ventilation. Phifer responded vents would be cleaned and that new filters would be installed with at least 20% outside air flow and window fans will also be used.

Percy asked if there was a plan to move from remote learning to in person learning. McKenzie responded how the transition process would occur, starting with Phase 1 and Phase 1 mitigation strategies.

Fasihuddin asked about the phase cycle process and how often the SC would meet and review the data and make phase adjustments if needed. McKenzie said there would be the regularly scheduled SC meetings and emergency meetings could also be scheduled at any time there were concerns. Fasihuddin spoke about remote learning and the importance of preparing our faculty for good teaching practice for distance learning. McKenzie said there is agreement for teachers to have 10 days before school starts for professional development and preparation for remote google classroom learning. McKenzie said she is looking at additional training and resources for teachers to be able to provide quality remote learning. Fasihuddin advocated for better remote learning with exceptional quality education so that schools can be as safe as they want to be. Jack Kelly said that many students felt that the on-line learning in the spring was not what they would have expected in

the classroom and that the learning was not retained as well. Brugger said that a remote learning plan should not be less than an in-person learning plan so parents could make the decision they are comfortable with. Brugger asked if in the event, these three plans were approved, does the SC have the ability to change the plan. McKenzie responded that they did but the educators and families should be involved in making changes. Dowd said that input from the families of the youngest learners indicated that remote learning did not meet their needs as in-person learning opportunities do. Fasihuddin referred to the survey and mentioned the spike in the response about having a child in both schools and questioned why that might be.

Klesch asked about the screening process for bus transportation and the need to have an adult at the bus stop. McKenzie responded that alternate transportation was encouraged because the buses create new cohorts of students. In regard to the need for an adult at the stop, if a child does not appear well, the driver may have to speak with the adult and a nurse and establish whether it is best for the student not to board the bus and attend school.

Klesch asked about the timeline for providing breakfast for Hopkins students. Diane Zak, Food Services Director said that the high school students did not appear interested in breakfast at an earlier time and the breakfast schedule is the same as it had been prior to COVID closure.

Brugger asked Camuso about why Phase 2 mixed students and moved from 6 feet to 3 feet distancing. Camuso said alternative learning spaces are being looked at. Brugger asked about why the in person learning plan was for 5 half days per week rather than 2-3 full days. McKenzie said they were trying to provide teachers some time for developing meaningful remote learning experiences and still provide students access to in person learning every day. Camuso added that the students would be based in the same classroom at the same desk and this would shorten the time students had to stay in the same space.

7:30 pm Public Comment

Mr. David Kotfila expressed his dissatisfaction said that it was 2 hours before public comment was allowed. Ms. Carey Simos cited several data points from Commissioner Riley's recent letter. She quoted several statistics about the low transmission rates of the virus in schools. She questions why, in light of these documented statistics, the rules being suggested in the reopening plans are so oppressive. She indicated that science does not justify these restrictions.

Emily Phifer thanked everyone who worked so hard and said there is no easy solution. MTA is pushing for remote learning and she feels that remote learning is a good option. Skills for remote education should be cultivated. The more students who stay home, the less the risk of exposure.

Lisa Giddons said she was happy to hear about the air flow plans but wanted to know more about the air flow specifically in the gym. She said she would be happy to follow up after the meeting and had other concerns about having 5th grade in the gym. Dowd said that there would be a meeting specifically for 5th grade parents.

Christine Kelley asked if there was still going to be after school care available for parents. Klesch said that after school care was not addressed in the plan and asked if there were any plans for that. McKenzie said after school care is not included in the Reopening Plan but it will be considered in the future.

Susan Bye asked about remote learning. In the past, teachers gave students options to attend zoom class meetings rather than require it. She said it works better for her son to be required to attend. McKenzie said that the state requirements for remote learning would be stricter than they were in the spring.

Robin Cycz said she admired the school department and its staff for everything they have accomplished. She has concerns about the cohorts, specifically if there is an issue between 2 students in a cohort and how that would be mediated. She wanted to know if there would be a designated area for suspected positive cases. She added that she worries that the nurses, teachers, and students will feel overwhelmed and that extra staffing may be needed. Has there been any consideration of bringing in volunteers to help the staff with health concerns. Klesch thanked her for her questions and concerns and said her concerns would be reviewed.

Jeanette Boudway had a question regarding room assignments for the elementary school. Dowd said that class assignments were being made so that paras and teachers would work in collaboration between adjoining classrooms.

a. Diversity, Inclusion, Anti-Racism, and Equity

Fasihuddin reported on the following:

i. Update Community Activities and Discussions

1. The community needed some healing and a community conversation about race was held and well attended and received.
2. Book discussions
3. Provided website where people can join the community group

Fasihuddin provided details about the group and its activities.

ii. Anti-Racism Resolution Hadley School Committee

Fasihuddin presented the Anti-Racism Resolution. Support was voiced by members of the School Committee and the student representative.

5. Action Items

- a. Approval of Anti-Racism Resolution – Motion: Phifer; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.
- b. Approval of AP Warrants Submitted June 2020 – Motion: Phifer; Second: Brugger; Vote: 4-0-1
- c. Approval of Warrants Submitted June 2020 Motion: Fasihuddin Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.

6. Next Regular Meeting Dates

- a. August 6, 2020 – Review and final approval of Reopening Plan

- b.** August 24, 2020 – Review and revision of district strategy document and superintendent goals
- c.** August 31, 2020 – Regular School Committee Meeting August

McKenzie recapped the feedback concerns introduced at this meeting as:

- Quality of Remote Learning concerns- specifics and expectations
- Phase 2 Hopkins distancing concerns
- Air flow in repurposed learning spaces
- Information about After Care School Options
- Space designated for isolation
- What conditions would cohort changes be made
- Strategic and safe use of parent volunteers
- Room assignments
- Too much Emphasis on restrictions and cohorts
- HEA Survey information
- Grade 5 meeting

8:15 pm Adjournment: Fasihuddin made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Phifer seconded and the vote was 5-0-0.