

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes August 13, 2020**

4:30 PM Executive Session- Zoom Meeting (Closed to Public)

A member of the school committee may move to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if s/he determines that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and to reconvene in open session.

5:30 PM – Regular Meeting [Zoom](#)

Hadley Public Schools – We are guided by the mission to provide a safe and supportive environment that fosters cooperation, critical thinking, creativity, and integrity; and educating students to contribute positively to a global society.

The matters listed below are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair that may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may, in fact, be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Present: Klesch, Phifer, Fasihuddin, Brugger, Percy, Kelley, McKenzie

1. Call to Order

Klesch called for the meeting to come to order and to reconvene into Executive Session at the conclusion of the regular meeting. Fasihuddin made a motion to open the meeting and reconvene in Executive Session. Brugger seconded and the vote was 5-0-0.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Klesch noted that there were some adjustments to the Agenda which will be taken up during Presentations and Discussions prior to the second Public Comment.

a. Review of Capital Plan

b. Articles for Special Town Meeting set for SATURDAY, October 17 at Hopkins Academy

3. Public Comment

Klesch announced that the committee would be adding a Q&A session to be scheduled for the community as Public Comment Policy does not include Q& A. This will be offered after negotiations with the HEA are completed.

There was no public comment at this time.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

a. Approval of the District Learning Plan

Klesch noted that the approval of the plan indicates the committee's understanding of effective mitigation and risk reduction in opening schools. The plans will continue to be revised as needed. McKenzie said that both principals revised the remote learning plans. She wanted to

reinforce that by approving the plan the school committee is determining that the plan demonstrates an understanding of effective mitigation strategies when reducing the risk associated with reopening of schools. The plan also provides sufficient options to be able to address the most likely scenarios that would be encountered in the upcoming year. This plan, once approved, is still open to improvement and change, taking input from staff, faculty, families and community. Additional data and guidelines will also be considered in revising the plan. Klesch informed that the school committee had determined the special population of students to be offered in-person learning during the Remote Learning phase of the plan. These include: students with disabilities, English language learners, economically disadvantaged, homeless, foster care, as well as PreK. McKenzie said that the categories refer to those students who are disproportionately adversely affected.

Klesch asked if there were any questions from members on the remote learning plans. Phifer asked for some clarification on what the vote entailed. Embedded in the plan is the Remote Learning Plan and mitigation strategies, which McKenzie reviewed. She said that a lot of time and effort was put into the plan but it is recognized that there is a shared responsibility in implementing the plan. Klesch said that the committee has committed to meeting every 2 weeks to review data and public health metrics to determine when movement into the next phase would take place. McKenzie said that if there is a greater than 5% positivity rate, it indicates a community spread. She added that the committee's decision to begin the year remotely was not based on the positivity rate metric, but based on other concerns. Community transmission, positivity rates, school transmission rates will all be considered when reviewing metrics. Phifer said he supported the plan but would like as much clarity as possible for what specific metrics will determine when school would reopen for in-person learning. McKenzie suggested that the committee use the information based on Hadley remaining in a green shaded zone and no evidence of school transmission for determining movement into the next phase. McKenzie said that school transmission is defined by spread within the school. Phifer and Klesch agreed that the committee should agree on the metrics that they would use to determine movement. Brugger said she wanted to take multifactorial approach and that she did not want to be locked into metrics as new information becomes available. The committee agreed that they would examine determining metrics at the August 24th meeting.

Brugger said she had a few questions about the special population in school learning. The population would follow the phase 1 in-person cohort model. She asked if the schedules were the same as the remote learning plan. McKenzie confirmed that they were. Jack Kelley asked about extra-curricular activities and how they would be delivered remotely. Camuso responded, outlining how the "specials" teachers and extra-curricular advisors planned to deliver experiences remotely. Plans, following guidelines, are being developed at this time and will be submitted for approval. Camuso encouraged Jack to share any ideas with appropriate teachers and advisors.

Klesch asked for a motion to approve the District Fall Reopening Plan. Fasihuddin made a motion. Brugger amended the motion to read, "Approve the District Fall Reopening Plan with the understanding that this is a living document and changes may be made to improve the plan as more data and guidance is available." Percy seconded the motion and the vote was 5-0-0.

b. Review of Capital Plan

McKenzie shared the School Capital Plan and noted that the changes included unit ventilators and locker room. She said that the current ventilation system was being cleaned and repaired. The capital item refers to a complete replacement of the vent system and said that an MSBA grant was in process for these items and the district should receive notification in December. The technology upgrades are not being funded by the town. It is suggested that these two items be moved to year 2022. Since the plan is being shared with the town, McKenzie wanted the SC to be aware of the changes and confirm that the Schools were not asking for any special articles on the town meeting warrant. Phifer provided an update on the ventilation system and air purifiers delivered to the school buildings. He also mentioned the progress on the athletic field project. Fasihuddin asked about getting chrome books to the younger students in K-2 as it had been previously decided to provide those classrooms with some Ipads. McKenzie said that grade 2 will be provided a Chromebook two-in-one convertible. She also said that the options for K-1 are being reviewed to provide what devices make the most sense. Dowd said that teachers and families would be involved in the decision-making process as some families said they would prefer to use their own devices. Phifer mentioned that the asphalt walking loop around the new athletic fields would be complete and available for public use this fall. Phifer then made a motion to approve the Capital Plan movement of the Locker Room/ Vent system renovation and replacement and Technology Upgrades into FY22. Fasihuddin seconded. The vote was 5-0-0. Klesch confirmed that the SC did not have any articles for the October Special Town meeting. Klesch mentioned the next meeting dates of August 24th and August 31st and the SC commitment to meet every 2 weeks. Fasihuddin said that she requests consideration to eliminate Mondays for SC meetings. McKenzie added that Wednesdays should also be avoided since the Selectboard meets on that day.

5. Public Comment

Emily Phifer- New metrics from state are hard and confusing to apply to our town.

Nancy Sharp- asks about COVID rapid testing and special ed population models and peer integration

Becky Wanczyk- for parents whose children may not be available for synchronous learning times, will there be flexibility or accommodations?

McKenzie said it is recognized how challenging this is for families and want to find ways to make this meaningful and workable for families. She encourages families to speak directly to the principal and bring these questions to Q & A.

6. Action Items

a. Approval of District Reopening Plan – Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Perry; Vote: 5-0-0.

b. Approval of Revised School Capital Plan- Motion: Phifer; Second: Fasihuddin; Vote: 5-0-0.

7. Next Meeting Dates

- a. August 24, 2020 @ 6:00 pm– Review and revision of district strategy document and superintendent goals
 - b. August 31, 2020 @ 6:00 pm– Regular School Committee Meeting August
8. **6:33 pm Executive Session-** Klesch requests a motion to adjourn regular session and convene Executive Session to conduct collective bargaining session as an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and not reconvene in open session. Fasihuddin Made motion and Brugger seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Fasihuddin: Yes, Phifer: Yes; Brugger: Yes; Percy: Yes; Klesch: Yes.