

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes August 24, 2020**

6:00 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.

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

1. Call to Order

Upon request from Klesch, Brugger made a motion to open the meeting. Phifer seconded and the vote was 4-0-0.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

- a. Public Comment
- b. Discussion regarding Special Populations In Person Learning- incorporating HPS children of HPS teachers
- c. Reminders for Q & A sessions

Camuso announced a zoom session for August 26th at 5:00 pm for Hopkins Academy to respond to questions that families might have. Dowd said it would be a great opportunity for families to have their questions answered. Students are welcome to attend. Dowd and Camuso said they are always available via email, social media, and phone as well.

3. Public Comment

Note: There was a 4.47-minute technical gap in the public comment period where public comments were not recorded.

Melissa Aloisi- Will you be discussing metrics to be used for reopening. Spoke with Town of Hadley BPH about how town is reporting. Testing results will be counted in home address of student. Hampshire County data will not reflect School Choice students or college students. She offered to forward the email she received from DPH explaining the reporting process.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

- a. Review of metrics – progressing through reopening phases
McKenzie reviewed the two major categories to be considered as metrics as community transmission rates and school transmission rates. She reviewed the metrics, where they could be found and how they can be interpreted. She mentioned School Choice students with 9 being outside of Hampshire County. She said that school transmission does not always mean that transmission took place at school. i.e. Students may have attended a party outside of school. McKenzie reviewed all of the data that SC could review in considering phase movement. Brugger said she had looked at other districts and she liked the metrics that were used by Amherst Regional/ Cambridge Schools. It looks at daily cases per 100,000 per day. She suggests using school transmission data, percent positivity, case count, and

looking at Hadley as a point of discussion, with involvement of the Board of Health. She shared the charts that she was referring to. Brugger said the SC could use the current data and metrics as a baseline going forward. Brugger introduced using a 3% positivity rate as one of the metrics as opposed to 5% and a rate of change over a specific time period. Brugger said that School Choice should be included in the school transmission rate. She asked if there is access to metrics from the local colleges. Phifer mentioned that rapid testing could help determine where the positive rates are originating. Phifer added that he likes the two simple and clear metrics of community and school transmission metrics. McKenzie said the metrics to be considered will always be community transmission and school transmission and agreed it is important to be clear what metrics and parameters are being used. Klesch asked if the School Committee had access to the specifics of the published weekly data. Brugger explained that she was looking at case count for the county, positivity rate for the county, and positivity rate for the Town as the metrics for determining community transmission. Phifer asked how the acceptable case counts would be determined. Klesch asked if the SC would be looking at trends rather than specific numbers. A 4:39 gap occurs here due to technical difficulties. Dr. Mosler, BH liaison, joins the meeting and Klesch reviews the metrics being discussed by SC. Dr. Mosler reports that details of the positive cases in Hadley are reported, but is not sure how much of that information is confidential. She adds that the Town no longer does contact tracing and the state now does that. Dr. Mosler said she would check if the demographics of the positive cases are available. Dr. Mosler said that any positive cases of school aged children would be reported to the schools. Percy and Brugger discussed quantifiable measurements. Brugger said that due to the small population of Hadley it did not make the case count of Hadley a good metric in itself and advocated for using a percentage. Phifer indicated that the school transmission rate is the best metric to be used. McKenzie said that if DPH recommended a school closing for a period of time, that action would be taken promptly. It was suggested that a representative of the SC contact Emma Dragon for more information if needed. Brugger suggested that no action be taken at this meeting. Phifer said the case count is a subjective metric but how it is interpreted is what we need to decide. McKenzie reiterated that the two recommended metrics are community transmission and school transmission. Brugger advocates a 3% threshold as opposed to a 5% threshold and Fasihuddin said she supports that. Klesch summarized the Draft Plan as well as the discussion held and suggested that the SC review the Plan again at the next meeting.

Special Populations

In School Instruction will begin September 14th and DESE has added guidelines to include school aged children of teachers and staff to be allowed to attend school with special populations. McKenzie reported that number of additional students is 21 with the majority being at Hopkins. Fasihuddin clarified that these students would be added to the cohort model. Dowd and Camuso confirmed that the additional students would not disrupt the cohort plan for special populations in place. SC members agreed that the students of HPS staff were restricted to HPS enrolled students only. Phifer mentions the inequity present for

other essential workers in other areas, i.e. nurses, firefighters, that do not have the same option. Fasihuddin made a motion to for HPS enrolled students of HPS educators the opportunity to attend in-person learning with the special population cohorts. Percy asked why the SC was not considering children of teachers who were not HPS students. Klesch mentioned concerns of the school nurses and liability issues. Fasihuddin repeated her motion to allow HPS employees whose children are already enrolled in Hadley Public Schools to send their children to in-person learning with special populations on September 14, 2020. Percy seconded the motion. The vote carried 5-0-0.

b. Review and revision of district strategy document and superintendent goals

McKenzie reminded the SC that they evaluate her annually in accordance with 4 standards and proposed goals under the four standards as follows:

Instructional Leadership

- continue to focus on developing at middle and secondary levels high quality college and career pathways
- Focus on expanding technology, engineering learning activities for children in the early grades, and prepare to implement the Project Lead the Way Grant that was put on hold due to COVID-19.
- Selection and implementation of anti-racist curricula

Management & Operations

- Diversity in hiring, recruiting and retaining diverse educators and staff.
- Close attention to the FY21 Budget in preparation for a difficult FY22
- Reopening Plan with fidelity to ensure safety and effective instruction

Family & Community Engagement

Close communication with families regarding their experiences in remote learning, hybrid learning and feeling a part of the school regardless of whether their children are learning remotely.

Professional Culture

Ensure that educators have the resources and professional development they need to be successful in the blended and varied learning environments.

McKenzie asked the SC members if the above-mentioned goals are in alignment with what the members have expressed at previous meetings and are there any additional goal recommendations. SC Members made suggestions, including considerations of having diversity and inclusion as part of the culture and curriculum, COVID as a factor in Operations and Management, and addressing social-emotional needs of students. McKenzie said she would revise the goal strategy document and bring it back to SC for final approval.

c. Approval of School Calendar

McKenzie presented a revised calendar with curriculum days and a start date of September 14th for students. She mentioned that the calendar provided school end June dates allowing for snow days. Fasihuddin made a motion to approve the revised 2020-2021 school calendar. Phifer seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

McKenzie reviewed the items for the next agenda.

Adjournment 8:23 pm

Fasihuddin made a motion to adjourn. Phifer seconded and the vote was 5-0-0.

5. Action Items

Approval to allow HPS employees whose children are already enrolled in Hadley Public Schools to send their children to in-person learning with special populations on September 14, 2020. Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.

Approval of revised 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented- Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Phifer; Vote: 5-0-0.

6. Next Meeting Dates

- a. August 31, 2020 @ 6:00 pm– Regular School Committee August Meeting