

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes- October 15, 2020**

[Zoom Meeting](#)

5:30 PM – Regular Meeting

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

Absent: Phifer called in to meeting at approximately 6:30

1. Call to Order

2. Adjustments to the Agenda- Klesch made an announcement regarding the availability of flu shots at the Senior Center

3. Public Comment

Lisa Giddens thanked the School Committee for all their efforts in the HPS reopening plan.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

a. Presentation of NESDEC and MASS Achievement Awards -postponed

b. Review of Public Health [Data](#) – McKenzie/Dragon

McKenzie reviewed the data of positivity rate and school transmissions. She reviewed the case counts for the last 3 weeks. She mentioned a recent uptick in cases but the threshold is still well below 3%. She shared that she would be including the DESE statistics of cases by school district in her data reports. Klesch said that the School Committee would be making a decision on Phase reopening, so they had requested a representative of the Board of Health to be present. Dragon said that the BOH supported moving to the next phase of opening HPS. She added that they had confidence in HPS in implementing the reopening plan. Klesch asked for dialogue with the SC members prior to their decision. Fasihuddin said that the data shows that the community has kept the contagion under control and feels confident in reopening. Brugger asked if the various school district positivity rates could be distinguished as to what kind of learning plan was in place for each district. Brugger said that the SC has taken a very conservative approach to the metrics parameters and feels positive about moving forward. She added she would like more information about testing. Klesch said that the SC is committed to continually reviewing the data dashboard. Phifer asked for clarification of the next phase. McKenzie said students would be in cohorts for shortened days for six weeks. She said that the next phase would include one full day, including lunch. She cited information that several outbreaks could be traced to lunch and break rooms. Phifer said he has concerns about the number of high school student remaining on the remote learning option. Camuso said that teachers had expressed similar concerns because there are advantages to being in the school building. Percy said that the data was holding firm and thanked everyone who had worked to get to this point. Klesch asked for a vote to move into Phase 2 of reopening plan. Fasihuddin made a motion to do so. Percy seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

McKenzie spoke of the aspects of testing. She reminded the committee members that

they had passed a resolution requesting the Commonwealth to:

- (1) allocate funding for regular proactive testing for teachers, staff and students in our schools;
- (2) support school districts to identify and procure appropriate testing strategies and supplies, which may include low cost, low sensitivity tests to be used at high frequencies; and
- (3) mandate that the MA Department of Public Health and local public health departments provide real-time data for decision-making including daily updates on the number and rates of new COVID-19 cases, percent positive tests for SARS- CoV-2, and exposed contacts in their district.

McKenzie said that DESE was considering testing for schools and suggested that the committee be thinking about testing, if and when it becomes available. She mentioned several things that would have to be considered, including costs, consent, staff, community. McKenzie added that if there are school community members who have opinions on the testing, they should share their thoughts with the SC. McKenzie said she would follow up to questions the SC members had regarding testing details.

c. Survey Data - [HA](#) and HES First Six Weeks

Camuso provided detailed results of the survey for Hopkins. The survey was intended to obtain feedback from students, parents, and staff about issues during the first six weeks of school opening. It included response to questions about mask breaks, attendance, and technology. She provided a chart outlining what was going well and what needed some reconsideration or revision. Some students mentioned the amount of sitting and screen time. She said the schedule had been adjusted in response to concerns and the feedback would be used for future surveys with more targeted questions.

Dowd shared results of the HES survey. She said the HES survey focused on the overall experience. She was pleased that there was not much difficulty with technology. Dowd said that although there are always improvements to be made, she felt that the results of the survey were positive. Parents responded to the level of communication of the school and mentioned that the learning videos were very popular. A common theme was that parents feel that students need in-person learning.

SC members thanked the HPS faculty for their efforts to create positive learning opportunities for students. They thanked the school administrators for their leadership.

d. Projected and Actual Tuition Expenses FY21 and School Dept. [Proposal](#) to Return Funds to the Town

McKenzie explained that the Town was trying to avoid a tax rate increase during these difficult times. The school committee has the authority to return funds to the Town at any time before the end of the fiscal year. A chart outlining a proposal for return of funds, including the source of money was shared with the SC members.

She said there would be an adjustment to Summer School Expenses reduction. McKenzie's proposal was to return \$375,000 to the Town with the adjustments. The expenses budgeted for this year have changed allowing this return of funds. Klesch said this proposal did not cut any school services and

mentioned how supportive the Town has always been to the schools. Jane Nevinsmith, Selectboard school liaison was present to speak to the committee regarding the tax formula. Fasihuddin made a motion to return \$375,769.00 to the Town. Brugger seconded the motion. The vote carried 4-0-0. (Phifer lost contact with the meeting via cell phone).

e. Job [Description](#) Bus Monitor

McKenzie said that the bus monitor was a relatively new position for regular bus transportation to assist with seating and masks. She added that implementing health and safety measures is included in the job description. Percy moved to approve the bus monitor job description. Brugger seconded and the vote was 4-0-0, with Phifer absent.

f. Review of [Conflict of Interest Disclosure](#)

This does not require a vote of the SC. The AD's wife is in the photography business. Parents have asked if she could be the senior class photographer. Mr. Sudnick contacted the Attorney General's office and completed Conflict of Interest paperwork for photography and also for golden hawk masks for athletics.

5. Business Manager Reports

a. Expense Report

Desjardins said there will be a need to do some transfers for COVID expenses from Health accounts to CARE grants. He said that the grant funds helped keep the expense lines in check.

b. Grant Report- not available at this time as applications are still being made

c. Revolving Account Report

These accounts are looking good, especially since free lunches have been extended to the end of the school year.

Student Activity Account balance unavailable at this time.

6. School Committee Reports/Discussion (11/5/2020)

7. Action Items

a. Recommendation to move into next phase of reopening – all students have option to attend in-person cohort model- Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.

b. Approval to return funds in amount of \$375,769.00 to the Town- Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Brugger; Vote: 4-0-0.

c. Approval of Bus Monitor Job Description- Motion: Percy; Second: Brugger; Vote: 4-0-0.

d. Approval of AP Warrants for September 2020- Motion: Percy; Second: Brugger Vote: 3-0-1.

e. Approval of Warrants for September 2020- Motion: Brugger; Second: Percy; Vote: 3-0-1.

f. Approval of Minutes of August 6, 2020- Motion: Brugger; Second: Percy; Vote: 4-0-0.

g. Approval of Minutes of August 11, 2020- Motion: Brugger; Second: Percy; Vote: 4-0-0.

h. Approval of Minutes of August 31, 2020- Motion: Brugger; Second: Percy; Vote: 4-0-0.

8. Next Meeting Dates

10/22/20 @5:30

11/5/20 @ 5:30

11/19/20 @ 5:30

9. Adjourn Regular Meeting

Fasihuddin made motion to adjourn at 7:25 pm. Brugger seconded and the carried unanimously.

11. Policy Subcommittee

a. [Policies for Review](#): Title IX replaces existing policies

b. Existing Policy ACAB