

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes-November 20, 2020**

Zoom Meeting

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

4:30 PM – Special Meeting - Public Health Data Review

1. Call to Order

Fasihuddin made a motion to open the meeting. Brugger seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

Klesch mentioned that an adjustment to the agenda was to add Public Comment that had been inadvertently omitted from the agenda. Also added to the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the Executive Session with the HEA from the previous meeting of November 19, 2020.

2. Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

3. Review of Public Health [Data](#)

McKenzie shared the most recent public health data charts and reviewed the case counts in Hadley and Hampshire County. She also provided data on school transmissions. McKenzie said that DES reported cases of students and staff that are engaged in in-person learning, not those participating remotely. Klesch pointed out that rates were increasing. She asked committee members for their input regarding moving back or forward into another phase. McKenzie said that there was a confirmed positive case of an individual enrolled in remote learning which would not be recorded in the DESE report. In response to a question from Fasihuddin, McKenzie said that approximately 25% of Hopkins students are participating in-person and 81% in person at the Elementary school. Any cases whether remote or in-person are reported by school nurses. McKenzie informed the meeting about the procedure for screening for symptoms, reporting positive cases, and contact tracing collaborative. Fasihuddin inquired about the level of confidence that all remote learner cases were being reported to the school nurse. McKenzie responded that families had been extremely cooperative and responsive to the district's expectations and protocols. Phifer asked for confirmation that the plan had originally been to move to the next phase (Phase III) on December 7 or December 14. Klesch said that during Executive Session with HEA, an agreement was proposed that Phase III would not be considered until at least January 19, 2021. The HEA presented recommended revisions to the district reopening plan. These revisions take into consideration what faculty, administration, and staff have learned during the early stages of implementation as well as state and federal guidance. The proposed revisions include:

- Delaying the start of the next phase (III) to no earlier than January 19, 2021
- Continuing with shortened days (no lunch served on campus) for five days a week through the next phase (III)
- Modifying the Phase III HA schedule proposed originally in the reopening plan; the original plan introduced on full day of instruction with students attending all of their classes in person every Monday. The HA faculty and administration will present a modified schedule that allows HA

students to attend in-person instruction gradually (e.g., one block in a day rather than all blocks and increasing the amount of in person instruction over time).

- HA will present the schedule to the School Committee at a future School Committee meeting.

Klesch recapped the discussion of the executive session meeting with HEA. Phifer spoke about how the January 19th date was determined. Klesch said it was important to let families know as soon as possible about what phase the schools would be in and adjustments made. McKenzie pointed out some situations other than the data that would warrant a pivot to remote learning during any phase, such as the absence of a school nurse in the building or the need to close the building to complete thorough contact tracing. Emma Dragon, representative of the Board of Health was present and thanked everyone from the school community for their cooperation in difficult times. She spoke of the recent surge in positive COVID cases. She said that because the schools are set up in such a safe and well-planned manner, there has been no correlation between positive cases and school transmission. Fasihuddin said she was optimistic that if safety protocols are followed through the holiday season, Hadley would be able to move forward in the future, but agreed with the delay in moving to Phase III. Phifer asked McKenzie about DESE's position on the schools being closed to in-person learning and mentioned auditing districts as to why they are not offering in-person learning. McKenzie responded she did not think there would be any more audits at this time and the commissioner recognizes the challenges school committees face in making decisions regarding school openings. She said that Hadley students have in person learning with adult support as an option while many districts do not offer this option. Phifer advocates for Hopkins to consider synchronous learning and increased in-person learning options in the future in order to increase attendance. Brugger proposed meeting weekly during this time where data rates are increasing at a significant rate. McKenzie reminded families that make decisions for holiday travel or gatherings to adhere to the governor's quarantine guidelines. She said that remote learning is always an option. There was some follow up discussion regarding weekly "check-in" meetings to review public health data. It was decided that a brief weekly meeting would be posted and canceled if not needed. Penciled in placeholder meeting dates were determined. Discussion was held regarding the use of family surveys to gauge the number of students who planned to return to Hopkins in Phase III and the general reasons for decisions for remote learning. Phifer pointed out that parents and students would need to know what the Phase schedule would be like in order to respond.

4. Approval of Minutes of Executive Session of 11-19-20

Percy made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2020 Executive Session minutes. Brugger seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

5. Adjourn Meeting

5:55 pm With no further business at hand, Percy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brugger seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.