

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035**  
**Minutes December 7, 2020**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5yaNIVb-BU>

**Zoom Meeting**

**5:30 PM – Regular Meeting**

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

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Klesch announced that there was no need to hold the Executive Session that was on the agenda as a placeholder. McKenzie informed the committee that Ms. Camuso was currently unavailable to provide her Update on Phase III but may be available later in the meeting.

**3. Public Comment**

Bob Wade- Supports Hopkins Academy participation in winter sports as scheduled within MIAA regulations and guidelines. He is a parent and states that his son has practiced and played sports during COVID with no issues.

Missie Aloisi- said she has decided to keep her children in remote learning due to the recent positive COVID cases. She also mentioned that her son received his first non-passing grade and asked that grading on a curve and weighted tests be considered during this time. She said that the teacher was supportive but that her son's morale has been affected. She added that her son's lack of studying was a factor. Ms. Aloisi also spoke about the 12:00 to 2:00 pm time period of remote learning and indicted that it was not a productive time for all students. She feels that her daughter needs more direction and class discussion during that time. She added that she supports winter sports participation.

Addison Phifer- expressed his support and desire for a winter sports season participation for Hopkins. He said he played basketball under AAU with MIAA guidelines and restrictions and said it is possible to play safely.

Emily Pheiffer- Expressed appreciation for the transparency about COVID cases and maintaining the schools with safety mitigation strategies and equipment. She asked if there was a response to the positive case of a faculty member in regards to deep cleaning. She also asked that remote learning quality be as close to in-person learning as possible. Ms. Phieffer recommended that the SC have regressive plans as well as progressive plans.

**4. Presentations/Discussion Items.**

**a. Winter Athletics Update**

Erik Sudnick, AD shared a plan based on the guidance approved by the [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the MIAA](#), as well as the [EEA](#). This plan is for winter athletics only.

Hopkins conference start date would be 01/04/2021 with an end date of 2/21/21. Sports to be played would be basketball, co-op girls and boy's ice hockey, and swimming. Sudnick provided logistics and details about each sport, including teams, cohorts, schedules, practices, games, spectator attendance, and transportation. All of these were established with maximum safety and protections in mind. Sports that are moved to a spring season per MIAA (currently set to occur between the dates of 4/26/21 - 7/3/21) are wrestling and cheerleading. Sudnick provided details about use of locker rooms, mask wearing, modifications to game rules, and presence of pep band. He also provided additional information about the co-op sports. He is looking into livestreaming the games for viewing by community. Klesch thanked Sudnick for the comprehensive report.

**b. Update Phase III**

Camuso was present to update the SC on progress and planning for Phase III. She said she planned to provide complete details at the next meeting. She said that a block approach to scheduling was being looked at. She said that a survey was sent out to students regarding Phase III. Klesch said she was looking forward to reading the draft plan and that she would like to see how remote learning would be implemented in Phase III, as well as in-person learning. Brugger mentioned her concern about social emotional well-being of students and proposed surveying teachers for feedback in this regard. She also asked about failing grades in comparison to previous years. She referred to an article that indicated that there are more failing grades during remote learning. McKenzie responded about the aggregate data that would be gathered regarding grades, academics, and emotional/ social well-being. She said these would include disengagement and attendance.

**c. Review of Public Health [Data](#)**

McKenzie reviewed the data that she had also shared in the weekly newsletter. She noted that the positivity percentage rate had decreased slightly. She provided the dates and number of students in attendance since the opening of school and noted that the 3 cases reported were not a result of school transmission, adding that the mitigation strategies and protections in place are working. She talked about recommendations for cleaning, with daily disinfecting of all surfaces and buses on a daily basis. McKenzie also spoke about the community rate and the data that would indicate the need to shift to all remote learning. McKenzie reviewed all of the community rates over the past several weeks and noted that there was no threshold reached during that time that warranted school closure. Phifer noted that even with increased community transmission, it had not translated into school transmission. He expressed concern about keeping schools closed as we are not meeting social/ emotional needs of students. Fasihuddin asked about the criteria for contact tracing in relation to social distancing in the classrooms. McKenzie said that strict social distancing for every minutes of each day could not be confirmed so that contacts would be over identified. She said she would always communicate any transmissions to families after close contacts had been informed. Brugger thanked McKenzie and the school nurses for their caution and vigilance. Percy agreed and thanked everyone for their work. Percy said that he would like to see more students in attendance at Hopkins but advocates for balance with safety. He asked about the possibility of having teachers specifically dedicated to remote learning. McKenzie said that there has been some ongoing discussion with HEA and there are many logistics to consider as well as defining the desired outcome.

**d. Committee Acceptance of Ipad for HPS (gift)**

Phifer made a motion to accept the gift of an IPAD from Ms. Rose. Fasihuddin seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

**5. Business Manager Reports (12/21/20)**

**6. Personnel Report**

McKenzie reviewed the new hires and internal transfers.

**7. School Committee Reports/Discussion**

- a. CES – Fasihuddin had no new updates
- b. Negotiations – will be scheduled for Unit A and Unit D after New Year
- c. Policy – will resume meetings after New Year
- d. Fields – Phifer said he walked the fields and the project is going well. He said he attended the Select board meeting regarding the easement for a resident on Middle Street. The Town did not grant a permanent easement but allowed use of the area for a specific amount of time.
- e. Finance – Percy- no updates

**8. Action Items**

- a. Approval of Minutes 10/15/20 and 10/22/20 – Motion: Fasihuddin; Second Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.
- b. Acceptance of Gift- Motion: Phifer; Second; Fasihuddin; Vote: 5-0-0.

**9. Next Meeting Dates**

December 14, 2020 @ 5:30 pm

December 21, 2020 @ 5:30 pm

**10. Adjourn Regular Meeting**

With no further business at hand, Fasihuddin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm. Phifer seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.