

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes January 11, 2021**

[Zoom Meeting](#)

5:30 PM – Special Meeting

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

Fasihuddin arrives 5:40 due to technical difficulties

1. Public Comment- Klesch reviewed the Public Comment Policy

Christine Kelley- spoke of the hardship of remote learning on her family. She specifically spoke to working parents who have young children who cannot be left alone and who cannot complete remote learning independently. She noted that many women are being forced to leave the workforce. She asked that the School Committee consider this when discussing reopening for in-person plans.

Lisa Wilga- Announced that a PTO meeting would be taking place after this meeting and invites parents to attend.

Emily Pfeiffer- reiterates her concern about the data and the need to stay safe. She advocates for live synchronous time during remote learning.

Sarah Berthe- looking for information on why school openings are tied to the county rates. She asked where the informational resources were to explain that decision.

2. Review of HA Phase 3 Transition Plan

Camuso reviewed the transition plan for Phase III reopening. She explained the 6 -day scaffolded introductory transition plan and provided an example model. This is a transition from cohorts to non-cohort classes. Camuso spoke of planned team building activities and the process for mitigation strategies. 96% of the staff who responded to a survey supported the plan. She noted that the dates for starting Phase III were not yet determined. Phifer asked for clarification on the schedule. He also mentioned that vaccinations of staff and testing availability may change the plan. Klesch said the SC was committed to continuing to review all data and resources to reopen in-person learning as close to normal operations safely. Fasihuddin offered to share some team building activities that allowed for social distancing. Brugger said that she strongly encourages students coming back for Phase III to attend during the beginning period to ensure a safe transition. Percy said he thought the HA Phase III plan was solid and agreed with Brugger that all students attend Phase III from the start date for their grade level. McKenzie added that the HA team had been addressing substance abuse issues, especially during COVID. Camuso provided details of their outreach efforts to families.

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

Klesch addressed the earlier question in public comment. She explained why the SC used the Hampshire County data for setting metrics. McKenzie pointed out that the Harvard School of Public Health recommended using a population of 100,000 for metrics and Hadley does not have that size population, thus the use of county metrics. The data for the last 14 days were reviewed and the threshold remains above the 3% although there had been no school transmissions. McKenzie said that the county data, which is used for the threshold is now available on Wednesdays. Phifer asked about the latest CDC

guidelines. McKenzie said she would update them with the link in the weekly newsletter. She mentioned that she had also added an Athletic bubble to the data charts. In response to a question from Fasihuddin, McKenzie said she would update the data charts as well. McKenzie informed the SC that she would be attending a webinar the following day regarding pooled testing and would share that information at the next meeting.

There is still no date for vaccination of educators. Brugger announced that the Town was holding a COVID Q and A on January 13th at 5:30. McKenzie said there was a link to the meeting in her newsletter. Phifer said he is concerned about the rising cases and the new variant, but pointed out that schools are not being affected significantly. He indicated that the data and research show that schools are the safest place for students to be. Phifer advocates establishing a lower risk category for in-person learning. McKenzie thanked the school committee for their dedication and thoughtfulness in approaching the COVID issue. In response to Phifer's comments, she said she is a huge proponent of opening schools but there is research by medical professionals that community spread increases the likelihood of introduction of the virus into the school setting. Mitigation strategies may prevent the spread but the adult staff may be at increased risk. Phifer asked if there was any more recent research on this issue. McKenzie said she would resend the link to the medical document as it is updated frequently.

Fasihuddin informed the public about the next "Hadley Learns" event.

4. Adjourn Meeting 6:30 pm

Fasihuddin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Percy seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.