

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes March 8, 2021**

Zoom Meeting

5:30 PM – Regular Meeting

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

1. Call to Order

Phifer made a motion to open the meeting, Percy seconded and the vote carried 3-0-0.

- 2. Adjustments to the Agenda-** McKenzie announced that there would be no need for executive session at the conclusion of the regular meeting.

Fasihuddin joined the meeting.

- 3. Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

- a. Overview of changes to HA Program of Studies 2021-22

Camuso reviewed the changes made to the Program of Studies with a lens for Equity and Inclusion. These included organization and ease of use. Hyperlinks, visuals, and four-year projections were added. Course descriptions were also added and revised. GPA weighted scales were changed to better match college GPA weighting. Non-core courses will now be included in the GPA. The number of credits a student can/ should take was also addressed. New courses include MS Oceanography and French Culture. Literature courses were revised to be more inclusive. A transcript analysis for students is a new element of the Program. Klesch said she appreciated the planning transcript tool for students. Percy asked about the variance of prerequisite grades for AP courses. Camuso said that the required prerequisite grades were determined by each department. Fasihuddin suggested that the requirements for AP courses be reviewed in the future in order to ensure that access to AP courses and career paths is equitable. Phifer said that the number of courses and career pathways offered for such a small school is impressive. Percy asked about class ranking and if there were any considerations for changing that.

Brugger arrives at meeting.

Fasihuddin said she understands the need to place a minimum cap on the number of courses required but said that the maximum cap does not make sense to her. Brugger said that some clarification is needed. McKenzie said that Early College/ High School requires that the classes have to be taken during the school day within the schedule. She feels that there may be unintentional equity consequences to allowing students to add credits to their Hopkins transcript beyond what is currently the policy. McKenzie said that the issue could be revisited with input from students. Fasihuddin said she would be willing to approve the Program of Studies with a commitment to student centered response about the issue. Camuso said that input from educators is also important. The SC asks that the issues of consistency for prerequisites for enrollment in Honors and AP classes, Transcript restrictions, and Class ranking be reviewed prior to the next publishing of the HA Program of Studies. Phifer made a motion to approve the HA Program of Studies as presented. Percy seconded. The vote carried 5-0-0.

b. Update Pool Testing and [instructions](#) for providing consent

Klesch asked how the Phase III at HA was progressing. Camuso said that the transition period had been completed and the Middle School would start moving within class locations soon. She said that everything is going well and mentioned how nice it is to see the students in person. Camuso said that about 52% of the students were in attendance. Brugger said she would be looking for future data on in-person attendance. McKenzie reported on the progress of Pool Testing and informed the families regarding the consent for testing procedure. She said that to date, 32 % of staff and 21% of students had indicated that they would be participating in the pool testing program. Individuals who have tested positive for COVID within the past 90 days may not participate in the pool testing. Klesch asked about students who were 18 needing parental consent and use of the video showing the collection process. Klesch said it would be helpful for students to see how easy the collection is. SC members encourage participation. Nurses Willette and Cycz provided input regarding increasing participation to get a more accurate picture of the school community and prevent outbreaks. Cycz said that testing may be used in the Fall as well. Fasihuddin asked about testing for students who are remote learning. McKenzie said that all students were invited to participate but the focus of testing was on in-person learners. Suggestion was made to post information and demonstration on the website in addition to an email.

c. [Expectations for in person learning](#) and consequences for non-compliance

McKenzie said that DESE voted to give the commissioner of education authority to determine when hybrid and remote learning would not count toward learning requirements and what consequences there might be. Guidance has not yet been published but it may potentially require additional make up days of school and possibly affect Chapter 70 state funding. McKenzie shared proposed dates for required full day in-person learning. Additional guidance will be forthcoming. Brugger asked about family choice to continue remote learning. McKenzie responded that remote learning would remain a choice for families. Fasihuddin said there is significant pushback from school districts on this. McKenzie assured the SC that the district will be able to comply with any DESE mandates. She mentioned the work of the Reopening teams and the plans that have been in place from the start of the school year. McKenzie said that families still had that option. McKenzie said that currently HES is planning to incorporate lunch and specials into the school day and establishing mitigation strategies for those activities. The High school does not have a date for full in-person learning. Camuso said she is planning to revise the plan to include additional activities. Phifer said that our district may want to establish their own plan beyond what the state mandates. Dowd updated the SC on their plans for full days at HES. Fasihuddin mentioned writing to legislators to make vaccines available at school sites for teachers and staff due to the difficulty in getting an appointment. Dowd said that McKenzie said that if staff are able to get a vaccination appointment during the school day, coverage would be provided and that supportive message from the Superintendent is appreciated. Brugger mentioned that all teachers and staff should not be vaccinated on the same day due the possibility of side effects resulting in excessive absences.

d. [Quarantine and Isolation Guidance](#)

McKenzie updated the SC and public about new quarantine guidelines based on testing results, sharing the Quarantine Guidelines Chart. She said that the Guidelines have been updated. Clarifications for family quarantine were also provided.

e. Review of Public Health [Data](#) –McKenzie

McKenzie reviewed the Weekly dashboard, noting the downward trend of cases and fewer positive tests in Hampshire County.

5. School Committee Reports

- a. CES – Fasihuddin reports that there have been no meetings since the last SC report. She reviewed the data collection for SPIFFY (mental health of students). Search for a new Executive Director is well under way with 80 applicants. She mentioned some new programs coming up.
- b. Finance – Percy- Meeting coming up on the 17th. FY 22 request for level funding. Public Hearing on School Budget scheduled for April 26th.
- c. Policy – will resume in March

6. Business Manager Reports (3/22/2021)

7. Announcements

Fasihuddin reviewed recent sessions on Hadley Learns. Sessions are held the first Thursday of the month. The topic will be housing. She mentioned a tragic loss in the community for a father of four students in HPS. She encouraged donations to GoFundMe to help the family with funeral expenses.

8. Action Items

- a. Approval of Minutes 2/1/2021- Motion: Phifer; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.
- b. Approval of Program of Studies – HA 2021-22- Motion: Phifer; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.
- c. Approval of AP warrants for month of February 2021- Motion: Brugger; Second: Percy; Vote: 4-0-1
- d. Approval of warrants for month of February 2021- Motion: Brugger; Percy; Vote: 4-0-1

9. Next Meeting Dates

3/22/2021: Business Manager Reports;

Request to change date to 3/29/21. Klesch asked SC members about moving back to once a month meeting. Phifer mentioned that he wants to make sure that moving HA into a new phase is discussed at the March 29th meeting. Klesch said that an emergency meeting could be scheduled before the 29th for reopening plans if needed.

10. Adjourn Regular Meeting

Motion to adjourn: Fasihuddin; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.

11. Enter Executive Session- canceled