

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes- February 22, 2021**

Zoom Meeting

5:30 PM – Regular Meeting

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adjustments to the Agenda- Action item of approval of disposition of property will be tabled for another time.

3. Pooled Testing [Plan](#) and Q and A (will end no later than 6:00 pm)

Klesch explained that there would be a presentation outlining Pooled Testing followed by a Q and A session. McKenzie introduced Robin Cycz, a parent and school nurse, who will be assisting in the facilitation of Pooled COVID testing. McKenzie shared a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate details about pooled testing. She spoke of the extra layer of protection it may provide as well as it being more affordable than individual testing. She reviewed the existing mitigation strategies that are currently in place for Hadley Public Schools. Pooled Testing will increase safety, identify cases, including asymptomatic cases, build confidence and trust in safety of school buildings, staff, and students, allow for understanding Coronavirus incidence in schools/town on an ongoing basis, encourage importance of safety measures among families out of school, prepare for and perhaps accelerate return to in person schooling, enhancing the education of our kids. McKenzie said that all testing is voluntary and free. Consent forms are being sent out to families. McKenzie described the different types of testing and in what circumstances they are utilized. Robin Cycz, was present to demonstrate the collection process. She introduced herself and spoke to her experience in COVID-19 testing. She elaborated on the swab collection procedure and demonstrated a self-swab. She explained the follow-up if there were positive in the pool, including pool quarantine and further individualized testing. Robin said that she and Allison Willette were happy to assist with the program. Klesch informed the meeting participants that they could ask questions. Cycz responded to a question posed by Klesch regarding the process of handling the specimens after collection. Missie Aloisi- asked about the testing results in relation to Athletic participation.

Mrs. Dan Wilga- asked about the procedure for the individual test type. Robin responded that it is the same collection type she previously demonstrated.

Missie Aloisi- asked if Park & Rec would be able to utilize the testing program. McKenzie said she would look into the possibility of that expansion if so directed by the SC.

Phifer- asked if a parent does not consent, can child still attend school. McKenzie responded that they could- the testing is completely voluntary.

4. Public Comment

Missie Aloisi said that the spring weather would allow for more outdoor activities.

5. Presentations/Discussion Items

- a. Fall Two Athletics [Plan](#)

Athletic Director, Erik Sudnick was present to share an updated Athletics Plan for Fall Sports- Phase 2. He highlighted the changes made from the Phase 1 Fall Sports Plan to begin on March 1, 2021 and to end on April 5, 2021. He spoke about soccer, swimming, and football. He reviewed the participation guidelines and mitigation strategies. Sudnick informed the committee about practice locations, schedules, games, and potential limited spectators. Contact tracing would be in place for athletes and spectators. Phifer gave a shout out for the live streaming of the basketball games.

b. Celebrating 12th and 6th graders in 2021

McKenzie noted that this discussion would be brief due to unknowns but that she wanted families to know that planning is in place. Dowd reviewed what had been done last year during COVID restrictions. She said that work is being done to facilitate an event for the 6th grade with the hopes of having a celebration outdoors with gathering restrictions. The alternative would be a live stream virtual celebration. Guidelines that are in place at the time will determine the type of celebration. DESE is working on guidelines for graduations but has not released that information yet. Camuso spoke about the senior graduation. She provided three scenarios that were being considered dependent on guidelines not yet issued. One would be an outdoor graduation which would involve approximately 250 people for an outdoor event. Camuso said there is a large field that would provide the needed space but a rain date would be needed for this scenario. The second option would be smaller simple crossing of the stage and the third option would be similar to last year with a virtual graduation and a parade. Camuso reviewed options for Class Night as well. A field day type activity at Hopkins is being considered for the senior class trip and outdoor senior banquet at the Hadley Young Men's Club. Phifer suggested having the graduation parade again so the community could participate regardless of which graduation option is decided upon. Klesch asked Dowd if there would be a 6th grade step-up day this year. Dowd said it is her hope to have some type of visit to Hopkins but would have to wait for guidelines.

c. Update Phase 3 at HA

Camuso said they are wrapping things up in preparation for Phase 3. She said that she is looking for SC approval for Phase 3 to start March 1st. Brugger asked how many students were planning to return to Phase 3. Camuso said there was approximately 156 students. She explained the transition phase and classes moving starting March 9th. McKenzie responded to a question from Fasihuddin that approximately 62% of students at Hopkins planned to return under Phase 3. McKenzie said that all students would not be there at the same time due to the off-week schedule, which would be about 36% for middle school and 50% for grades 9-12. Fasihuddin inquired about any changes made for remote learners during Phase 3. Camuso said that teachers were working to provide as much inclusion of remote learners as possible and that teachers had been provided with resources to achieve that goal. Fasihuddin asked if there could be some flexibility regarding remote attendance if the student was completing all the remote work. Phifer made a motion to approve the Phase 3 learning at Hopkins Academy as presented. Percy seconded. The vote carried 5-0-0. Brugger asked that the SC be provided updates on Phase 3 for both in-person learners and remote learners. Klesch said she would like to hear student voices in regard to their learning experiences. Dowd added that the Phase 3 at HES changes would be simply adding more students to the building as in-person learners. She said that during Phase 3, it is anticipated there would be 215 in person students and 37 remote learners.

d. Gazette Request: Story Re: HPS Approach to School Reopening

McKenzie said that the Gazette has reached out to her to do a story about the approach Hadley has taken to successfully offer in person learning. She explained what the reporter and photographer planned. There were no concerns from SC members.

e. School Choice Slots 2021-22

McKenzie presented available School Choice slots. She explained that every year, the SC voted to approve participation in School Choice. She thanked the School Choice families for choosing Hadley Public Schools. School Choice students make up approximately 20% of the student population. Dowd mentioned that there were several inquiries for School Choice for this year due to the fact that we are offering In-person learning. She said that applications are being accepted for 2021-2022 only and that there are 30 slots open at the elementary school. It was noted that the slots for preschool and kindergarten are not yet available. Camuso said she is anticipating opening 83 slots at HA. She said the staffing resources, and programs are available for a total student population of 330 students. In response to a question from Brugger, McKenzie said that they added 5 slots to each grade level this year. She added that in the years from 2009 – 2012, there were 700 students in the district as opposed to the current 500 and feels that HPS has the capacity to meet the School Choice slot proposal. Camuso said that there were many benefits to having a larger student population. Fasihuddin made a motion to approve the School Choice slots as presented. Percy seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

f. HPS [Implementation](#) of Updated CDC [Guidance](#)

McKenzie reviewed the latest CDC guidelines and their implementation with the aid of a visual mapping presentation. McKenzie credited Camuso and her staff with their successful work in establishing cohorts at HA. She summarized all of the mitigation strategies, cleaning, isolation and quarantine guidelines, and contact tracing procedures.

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

McKenzie reviewed the data from the CDC and Hampshire County. There was an increase in average daily increase in Hampshire County with a slight increase in Hadley.

h. Updated transportation [guidance](#)

McKenzie reviewed the updated transportation guidelines. Two students are allowed on a bench, although Hadley does not currently need to use that option.

i. Impact of UMass infection rates on HPS

Klesch said that the UMass students need to realize that their actions regarding COVID restrictions affect neighboring communities. She said that some students work or shop in the community, which is of a concern. Klesch mentioned that it might be mentioned in the upcoming Gazette article. Fasihuddin said with the right tone, an appeal for social responsibility would be a good op ed piece for the newspaper. Brugger said that she feels hesitant to single out UMass in a public manner. She said that mentioning college community impact in general would be better. Parents are encouraged to share their individual concerns in public media.

j. School Committee Discussion Pooled Testing

Klesch asked if there were any questions or concerns about the Pooled Testing for HPS. Brugger asked if a parent could decide to consent once the testing has started. McKenzie responded in the affirmative. Parents can opt in or out at any time. Brugger and Fasihuddin expressed positive comments about the pooled testing. SC members agreed. Fasihuddin made a motion to approve the Pooled Testing for HPS. Brugger seconded and the vote was 5-0-0.

6. Business Manager Reports

a. Expense Report

Desjardins said the budget balances were in good shape with 3.2 million dollars remaining to meet expenses this year. He explained why some accounts are over encumbered, such as water and electricity. He will be making adjustments. Klesch asked about under encumbered contracted services at HES. Desjardins said it was for Futures services and it was unanticipated.

b. Grant Report

Desjardins said the grants are being spent, with some of the balances to be rolled over until next year. He said that some payroll items are going to be paid from grants.

c. Revolving Accounts

Desjardins said there not been minimal activity in the revolving accounts. School Choice had a transfer of expenses. The Lunch account has a healthy balance at this time and should continue to maintain that. Pre-School, as mentioned previously has a negative balance and will be balanced through transfers by the end of the year.

d. Disposition of property

Desjardins mentioned an old school bus that is in need of expensive repairs. He is going to get an estimate for repair and have the SC decide if they want to repair or dispose of the bus.

7. School Committee Reports/Discussion (3/8/2021)

8. Announcements

Jane Nevensmith thanked the SC for all of their deliberations and work.

Fasihuddin announced that *Hadley Learns* would be holding a spring series. It is held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. at Hadleylearns.com. She provided details about the topics.

McKenzie said that the link is in the Superintendent's newsletter. Dowd said she is starting a book club with "Despite the Best Intentions".

9. Action Items

- a. Approval of Minutes – January 11 and 25- Motion: Phifer; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.
- b. Approval to Progress to Phase 3 at HA- Motion: Phifer; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.
- c. Approval of School Choice Slots – Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.
- d. Approval of Pooled Testing Program- Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Brugger; Vote: 5-0-0.
- e. Approval disposition of property- postponed

10. Next Meeting Dates

3/8/21: School Committee Reports, Program of Studies HA

3/15/2021: Hold for Special Meeting Health Data Review

3/22/2021: Business Manager Reports;

3/29/2021: Hold for Special Meeting Health Data Review

11. Adjourn Regular Meeting

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

11. Enter Executive Session- not needed.