

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
Minutes March 29, 2021**

Zoom Meeting

5:30 PM – Regular Meeting

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

1. Call to Order

Upon request from Klesch, Fasihuddin made a motion to open the meeting, Percy seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda- No adjustments to the Agenda

3. Update Pool Testing and Additional [Q and A](#)

Willette and Cycz were present for the Pool Testing Update. Willette reported that there are currently 140 students and staff signed up for testing. Willette will be testing at the high school and Cycz will be at HES. Cycz said that they were excited to get the testing started. She said that people could still sign up for the testing. The plan is to routinely test on Mondays. McKenzie provided data on results of pool testing statewide. There have been very few positives, indicating that the mitigation strategies to prevent school transmission have been successful. Klesch asked if SC members had any questions and then opened the Q and A to the public.

Mrs. Wilga- Are all the students in one classroom considered one pool? Willette said that a classroom would be a pool depending on the number of students in the class. Cycz said at HES it depends on the number of students who consent in each class as the pool has to be at least 5 individuals.

There were no further questions and Klesch said that the Q and A document was very helpful and thanked Willette and Cycz for their work.

4. Public Comment

C. Cullen- said that looking forward to opening school full days. Concern that a senior would have to be quarantined during senior week. A student who has been learning remotely all year and then comes back could be exposed right before graduation.

5. Presentations/Discussion Items

- a. Final [guidance](#) for in person learning

McKenzie reminded the public that there is a link to the guidance in the weekly newsletter. She said she would like to have the principals report on their plans for in-person learning.

- b. Plans for in person learning HES and HA based on updated guidance

HES

Dowd presented a visual of the plans for opening full days for in person learning. She highlighted the major changes, including the full day schedule, lunch procedure, and in-person Art, Music, PE, and library. She reported that 232 students would be attending in person and 22 students would remain remote learning. There will be two remote teachers who will work in consultation with the classroom teachers. She reviewed the safety mitigations that would remain in place and extend into a longer day. Distancing will be at 3 and 6 feet. Dowd said that all lunches are of no charge for all students. All

lunches will be in classrooms with the exception of Grade 5. Survey was sent for those who would like their child to receive lunch. Dowd reviewed the “specials” activities procedures, including remote access. Transportation and arrival and dismissal procedures were reviewed. Phifer asked Dowd about her biggest cause of concern. She said she was ready and excited to have the students experience a full day of in person learning. Brugger asked what the plan was if students needed to quarantine. Dowd said it was important to maintain connections with any students in quarantine. In response to a question from Fasihuddin, McKenzie said that any changes to the instructional model are now in the authority of DESE. Fasihuddin asked if the thresholds were above those set by the SC, the district would be eligible for a waiver. McKenzie said that is not the intent of the waiver but that it would be up to DPH and DESE.

HA

Camuso said that it is important that students commit to in person learning for 4 weeks as deviations in this create some logistics challenges. Camuso reviewed the schedule, mask breaks, and lunch. All classrooms have the capability of 3 to 6 feet distancing. Students will be eating lunch outside depending on weather. Picnic blankets have been purchased for students. Seniors can leave campus for lunch. Camuso reviewed dismissal order, google classroom instruction, and attendance procedures. Camuso noted that remote learners must be committed to learning independently and seeking help when needed. Brugger asked about hand hygiene after class passing. Camuso says students use sinks for hand washing when available and/or hand sanitizer. Brugger asked McKenzie why additional guidance and date for opening the high school full days was being delayed. McKenzie responded that the guidance has been established but DESE has not set a date. Brugger asked Camuso for the percentage of students who are returning. Camuso said that currently 74% are planning to return in person. Brugger also asked for percentage of those enrolled in pool testing. McKenzie said she would report those statistics. Phifer mentioned that windows can be opened more with the warm weather coming. Camuso responded to Percy’s questions about senior privileges, specifically leaving campus, socializing, and mask wearing. Camuso reviewed the student survey regarding their satisfaction with their learning. Over 50% of students were satisfied with their learning and were motivated. Students also noted what they liked about in-person learning vs remote learning, and what they find most challenging. Camuso said the survey is still open. McKenzie provided the current statistics of individuals participating in pool testing. At HA, there is total of 60, 41 students and 19 staff which is about 22%.

c. [DESE guidance](#) graduation

McKenzie said the DESE link is in the Superintendent’s weekly newsletter. She thanked all those involved in the reopening team for all of their work. She mentioned their attention to detail and caring. Camuso shared a general overview of senior activities from May 21 through May 28. Graduation will be outside on May 28th with a rain date of June 5 in the varsity baseball field. Families will have plenty of room for separate pods. Families must be registered and be screened for COVID. She elaborated on the details. Masks must be worn by everyone at all times with the exception of the designated photography area for seniors. Camuso emphasized the need for seniors to remain vigilant in their mitigation strategies to prevent any interruption in the senior activities due to an unintended transmission.

Camuso responded to a question by Klesch that plans are in place to video record the graduation as well as class night for public viewing.

d. Spring [Athletics](#)

McKenzie said there are three significant changes. There will not be limits for play with schools. There is a possibility that tournaments and spectators will be allowed. A chart provided the changes from the Fall guidelines.

e. Hartsbrook approval – McKenzie

This is an annual approval as Hartsbrook is a private school operating in Hadley. McKenzie said she has reviewed all of the documents submitted by Hartsbrook and reported that all requirements have been met. The SC needs to vote on approval for Hartsbrook to operate for the 2020-2021 school year. Phifer made a motion to approve the operation of Hartsbrook School for the 2020-2021 school year. Percy seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

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

McKenzie noted that there continues to be decrease in positivity rates. Klesch asked if it was possible to collect data on the number of students and staff who have been vaccinated for informational purposes. McKenzie said that data on pool testing could also be added to the data charts.

g. Preschool Tuition [rates](#)

McKenzie shared information of preschool tuition rates with a 1.5% increase. There were no questions or comments on the rate increase. McKenzie said she would provide FY22 enrollment data when it is available. Fasihuddin made a motion to approve the Preschool Tuition rates for the 2021-2022 school year. Brugger seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

6. Business Manager Reports- Desjardins reported on the following:

- a. Expense- 63% of budget has been expended and district is in good fiscal standing. Some expenses still need to be moved to grant accounts. i.e. substitutes that covered for FFCRA leaves. Klesch asked about an HES expense of textbooks that was over encumbered. Dowd said that the new books are to align with the new social studies curriculum.
- b. Grant- Little change from last month. Expenses will be transferred over to grants as appropriate. Desjardins briefly reviewed each grant and expenditures. Fasihuddin asked if the federal Covid Relief money for schools would be allocated to the school budget or the town budget. Desjardins said that both the school and the town will receive funds. There is more flexibility and the monies may be spent over a period of years.
- c. Revolving- minimal activity. Fasihuddin posed a few questions about the lunch account. Desjardins said that much of the expense was payroll and other expenses are food supplies, packaging and equipment. The salary of the Food Services Director is funded through the school budget. Desjardins explained the process for federal lunch reimbursement.

7. School Committee Reports

- a. CES – Fasihuddin- Next Board meeting this week. Fasihuddin to attend. She has been invited to a Racial Justice Conference and will share information with SC.
- b. Finance – Percy- Budget hearing and department meetings taking place over next month.
- c. Policy – will meet after regular SC meeting

8. Announcements

Phifer announced approval for purchase of bushes to be planted on line of abutter to Athletic fields.

Fasihuddin- Hadley Learns has a 2 part program on Housing and housing discrimination on Thursday Zoom 7:00 pm- Hadleylearns.com

Nevinsmith- Candidates Night on April 5th and elections on April 13th

Annual Town Meeting on May 22nd.

9. Action Items

- a. Approval of Minutes February 22, 2021- Motion: Phifer; Second: Fasihuddin; Vote: 5-0-0.
- b. Approval of Preschool Tuition Rates FY22- Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Brugger; Vote: 5-0-0.
- c. Approval of Hartsbrook School Operation for 2020-2021- Motion: Phifer; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.

10. Next Meeting Dates

4/26/2021 - Public Hearing FY22 Budget

10. Adjourn Regular Meeting- Fasihuddin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm. Percy seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

11. Convene Policy Subcommittee

- IHBEA-R-2 Exit Criteria and FEL Monitoring Policy
- Policies and practices pertaining to retention; changes to practice in light of pandemic; projected #s SY 2020-21