

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
July 6, 2020
TOWN BUILDING

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present by remote roll call were Susan Green (SG), Chair, John G. Schuler M. D. (JS), Robert DeFrancesco, D.MD. (RD), Julia Junghanns, (JJ) Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori MSN, RN (RM) Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader, Arthur Unobskey (AU), Superintendent, Ellen Greico (EG), School Committee, Kathie Steinberg (KS), School Committee, Patti White, Health Department

*In compliance with the revised Open Meeting Law requirements, we will live stream the meeting on the WayCAM government channel Comcast channel 9 and Verizon channel 38. Public Comment will be received by Phone at 508-358- 6812 for this meeting. The phone number will be active during the public comment portion of the meeting. Thank you in advance for your patience; we intend to address all calls that come in during the Public Comment period.

Discuss/review Initial Fall School reopening Guidance, Summer School Programs and potential Wayland School models, Guest School Superintendent Arthur Unobskey

AU: Schools were asked by the governor to develop three plans for the reopening of schools, all-in, hybrid and remote with privilege towards the all-in model. Wayland has been doing significant work on the hybrid model. Been reviewing all rooms in all schools to determine what it would look like for all students to return to school including spacing, furniture acquisition, lunch etc. They will be meeting with School Committee to discuss the opening options for the July 15th decision on the model. He is reviewed the schools with the Facilities department and the School Business office. The process involves details like how students arrive, depart, are transported, how the classrooms will be configured, mask wearing, and hand sanitizing. They were thinking about the 3' social distancing will work vis-a-vis the all-in model because the all-in model offers significant educational advantages. They are also having meetings with families and staff to gain their perspective.

JS is concerned about staff and what their concerns are about returning to work including health concerns. The School Dept. is considering protocols for older teachers.

SG is concerned about mask-wearing and what the education will be around mask-wearing. AU said students have been wearing them and feels they will be able to work with students to wear masks successfully. Wayland says K-1 grades will wear masks. Will produce videos for parents, do explicit teaching and be very clear. There will be signage throughout school buildings. Will include how to do mask breaks. Will use tent structures to help with outside breaks.

RD asked about air purification for schools. School department is reviewing the air ventilation, circulation and will purchase new parts for filtration where needed.

JJ is concerned about training and protocols in schools in the cafeteria, recess, in cohorts. State guidance has specific instructions and it seems very complex and she wants to know what the schools will do. AU says students will eat briefly 6' apart and they are working on specifics.

JS is wondering about children who will become sick. What are the plans? What will the response be and what will happen with close contacts? AU is working to cohort students to help with contact tracing. There will be isolation rooms. AU is waiting for more specific guidance from the state. JS asked about whether there are enough nurses in schools? Amy Schoeff retired from the high school. Looking for a replacement.

5:58 Dr. Arne Soslow (AS) joined the meeting.

There was a discussion about 3' foot distancing allowed in the DESE guidelines. SG inquired what the School Department's thoughts were on this issue? This amount would be necessary for the all-in approach. AS was wondering about the rush to get everyone back in school given it will be a big undertaking. Why not wait for a while and go to school in the hybrid model first for 6 months? AS said parents are contacting him and urging not to move quickly on the all-in model.

AU: The School Committee will make the decision about the three models, but the School Department is reviewing the approaches to implement the all-in model in detail, because there is an urgency to have an all-in model. American Academy of Pediatrics recommended the all-in model to avoid further learning loss and reduce social-emotional impacts for students.

AS asks why the School Dept. isn't focusing on the hybrid model when there are so many issues with implementing the all-in model. AU said they will put together a hybrid model that is well done. A hybrid model means losing 20-30% of curriculum so the emphasis is on the all-in model. The transition from hybrid to all-in model is complicated and disruptive. Better to plan on one model. Surrounding districts are also considering the all-in model because if Wayland does hybrid and surrounding communities don't, then there may be child-care issues.

KS said that day care for essential workers has been able to continue to operate without shutting down throughout the spring. That data is encouraging for schools. Her issue is trying to balance the health issues with the educational issues. Benefits of having children in the building to promote learning are greater than the incremental benefits of 6' social distancing. This is her challenge and asked us what we think about this balance. JS is saying experts don't know. AS says to start hybrid and that the all-in isn't based on good science.

The next steps are a discussion of the three plans with the School Committee on July 8th, then again on July 10th, they will further discuss it and then hopefully the School Committee will make a decision on July 13th. The Board of Health will join in the School Committee meeting at 1:45 on July 10th.

Updates and discussion: Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation

RM said there was an additional confirmed case. DPH says we have 108 cases, but Ruth's information says Wayland has 107. The discrepancy is a resident who is in a long-term care facility who tested positive in the hospital but was admitted to the hospital for another reason. There are 7 probable cases who tested positive for antibodies. None of the 7 have any active infection. Test turnaround has improved – as fast as 24 hours, but could be as long as 5-7 days. RM has seen good test turnaround for both congregate living and citizens in Wayland.

AS asked RM how the State contact tracing is going? CTC state program is aligned with Partners in Health, there is a decrease in staff because COVID numbers are low. Will come back if case numbers increase again. CTC wasn't getting many call-backs because RM believes people are not picking up because they don't recognize the phone numbers.

Updates and discussion on Governor Baker's Phased reopening plan

Baker announced the state has moved into Phase 3 starting today. The first part allows certain businesses to open. A second step will occur later. The aquarium, museums, health clubs, movie theaters can open.

Quarantine requirements are changing in MA. Certain states are exempt from the 2 week quarantine in MA if from Maine or New York and other states.

General Business, Set next meeting dates

There were no bills or meeting notes. Next meeting on July 13th.

Darren MacCaughey joined the meeting. Butler Septic submitted pumping records, Title 5 inspection reports and some as-builts. Butler Septic provided 16 of 28 records that were required. Hauler's application license was also submitted. BoH recommended not renewing application for pumping and Health Dept. will give deadlines for document submittal in an order and put Butler Septic on notice that their license is suspended.

6:49 AS left the meeting.

Public comment

No public comment.

SG: Roll call to close meeting: RD - yes, JS – yes, and SG – yes

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