

## BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

February 1, 2021

TOWN BUILDING

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Present by remote roll call were Arne Soslow, M. D. (AS), Susan Green (SG), Robert DeFrancesco DMD (RD) Chair, Julia Junghanns, (JJ) Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori MSN, RN (RM) Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader, Ellen Mahoney (EM). M.D. School physician

RD: Roll call to open meeting: AS – yes, SG – yes and RD-yes

### **5:30 p.m. Discuss full in-person Kindergarten**

5:37 Brian McNamara joined the meeting.

5:38 John Schuler (JS) M.D. joined the meeting.

The board reviewed the kindergarten resolution we wrote in December 2019:

*In response to the School Committee Chair requesting the Board of Health's recommendation regarding their desire for in person Kindergarten to be held with 5 foot distancing in late January; The Board Of Health voted 4 to 1 (abstention) on December 9, 2020 in favor of the following statement;*

*The Board of Health supports the desire by the School Committee, in late January or later, to move towards a 5 foot distancing model for kindergarten. The Board's support is contingent on the school committee submitting to us what they envision as their plan as well as an update on adequacy and functionality of the ventilation system.*

AS would like to see information on trends in kindergarten cases and staff cases which aren't currently reported in the Schools' dashboard. This information would be helpful to follow what is happening in COVID cases. RM said information is available but needs to be extracted and provided. AS wants to see new and cumulative cases. EM is concerned about calling this school opening an experiment.

SG was concerned that Happy Hollow (HH) was going to be 5' apart, not 6' like the two other elementary schools. BM said 5' apart meets our criteria. RM asked what would Happy Hollow be doing regarding snacks. She wanted to ask the School Committee this question. Are they 5' apart in the classroom when eating snacks or more? RM wondered if the 5' distance would mean more quarantining for HH? EM said this is a big question. JS asked if ventilation is up to standard at HH for 5' apart?

JJ is concerned about inflammatory disease in children and how to respond in kindergarten if there is an increase. BoH is under the assumption that if we see an increase in inflammatory disease, Wayland may need to go back to hybrid learning.

RM said Wayland has had to quarantine teachers related to a positive COVID student.

### **6:05 p.m. Joint meeting with School Committee to discuss plans for full in-person Kindergarten**

6:06 Ellen Greico, Chris Ryan, Kim Reichelt and Jeanne Downs from the School Committee and Arthur Unobskey (AO), School Superintendant joined the meeting.

AO said there is no evidence of in-school transmission. In answering BoH questions, he said:

- All the schools will have some classrooms at 5' of distance. At Loker and Happy Hollow the children will be 5' distances. This will also be true in some cases at Claypit.
- Snack and mask breaks will occur at a central location such as the cafeteria or gymnasium at 6' distance.
- Ventilation standard is 3 air exchanges per hour as per DESE. We have well over this level in Wayland Schools. Thinks it meets the 4 -6 air exchanges level recommended by CDC.
- Parents can elect to do a full remote program (WRAP) program up to Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Kim updates the Schools Dashboard every day. AU said he is open to adding what information we need and EM asks that the information is pulled out via grade level.
- The backup plan is to return to hybrid model.

With the kindergarten all-in program, 7 parents have asked to go remote. One parent asked to go from remote to all-in. The School Committee had heard from many parents asking to go all-in. Some parents have elected to go to the full day model, up from half day, now that kindergarten will be all-in.

EG said the state initiated a testing program that will start next week which includes 6 weeks of free testing. Tests will be \$3-5 per test after the free 6 week program expires. Maybe Wayland will begin after Feb. break to allow time to tie up all loose ends. There will be 10 kids in the pool. Hope to be able to expand the pool to up to 25 – Cohort A on Tuesday, Cohort B on Friday. EM said we may see some spikes when there is testing and we need to understand how to interpret them. In Watertown, getting 1 – 3 positive pool per week.

JD asked if the School Committee has the support of the Board of Health to move to an all-in kindergarten program.

**JS: Motion to support the School Department to return the kindergarteners to all-in model assuming we do the data tracking and ventilation is appropriate. BM: Second AS – yes, SG – yes, JS- yes, BM- yes and RD- yes**

**6:30 p.m. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting, if any**  
None

**6:32 p.m. Public comment – None**

JJ updated the BoH about the status of the vaccine administration. Wayland will be getting 100 doses a week. Hopefully in near future the state will provide more doses. There will be small clinics, by appointment at St. Zepherin's hall. When we need a larger site, Longfellow is offering their facility which has its own parking. RM stated that she just learned that Wayland won't be receiving the vaccine tomorrow due to the storm. We are getting info on our website and will provide info to senior citizens. The town plans to have a waiting list. AS asked why we aren't offering a clinic in the town hall where flu clinics have been in the past. JJ said the town hall is a closed so not ideal for a COVID clinic. Eventually there will be a outdoor clinics at the former Whole Food parking lot. The Health department considered traffic in choice of clinic location.

Next meeting Monday Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

6:47 p.m. JS Motion to adjourn the meeting, second BM roll call JS yes AS yes SG yes. BM yes RD yes

6:47 p.m. Adjourned

Submitted by Board of Health member Susan Green  
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