

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

TOWN BUILDING

August 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM. Present by remote roll call were Brian McNamara (BM), John Schuler MD (JS), Arnold Soslow MD (AS), Susan Green (SG), Robert DeFrancesco DMD (RD). Also present were Julia Junghanns (JJ), Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori MSN, RN(RM) Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader, Louise Miller (LM) Town Administrator, Neil McPherson (NM) Chief of Fire Department, Susan Garfield (SGa) and Jeanne Downs (JD) School committee.

SG: Roll call for attendance: BM – yes, JS – yes, AS – yes, SG-yes

SG: In compliance with revised Open Meeting Law requirements, we will live stream the meeting on WayCAM, Public Comments 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.

5:30 p.m. Updates and discussion Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation

RM: Received 2 new cases since last 7/23 case report. Cases in age brackets 40's and less than 19, and had to do with additional cases becoming positive within the same family due to lack of initial isolation. No other cases since that time.

5:40 p.m. Discuss reopening schools and back to school models for summer and fall, including student building tours, review and discuss list of questions from the School Committee, consider potential BoH recommendations, discuss and review any new information

Three documents sent out by School Department. First protocol written to ensure social distancing, hand washing hygiene, etc., for when kids were in summer school. The second protocol addressed the tours offered to rising freshman and new students to see the High School outlining groups of 8 students and 1 tour guide. Third protocol was for AP Chemistry which must occur indoors due to the fact that it is a lab course. RM: Summer guidance from DESE was utilized to build these protocols. Administration reached out to JJ and RM, who explained back to school tenants, which were addressed by each guideline. For tours, RM did check with Allyson Mizoguchi, high school principal and confirmed just a tour, no sitting, no eating, no stopping, ran by a peer mentored, educated and trained in protocols. AP Chemistry must be done in HS lab, but number of students did allow for at least 6 feet distance. Question from JJ regarding review of ventilation system, JD answered that the engineer had completed review of specific rooms being used. AS: How to decontaminate the school before, when you have people enter the school, and decontaminating after they leave. Everyone will be wearing mask anytime they are in school, so main concern apart from ventilation is what is needed to keep school clean with different groups cycling through school.

BM: Custodial department should be able to wipe down rooms afterwards. LM: There is a plan in place for cleaning protocols, same as applied to open Town Buildings. Have hired additional cleaning service for public safety building and DPW building, meeting with custodial union Thursday morning to discuss protocols and custodial contracts. SG: Request that RM share documents with LM, custodial staff, and school board so they are aware of cleaning protocols, and other concerns. JS: Is air filtration system adequate in High School? LM: Town has hired engineer and architect to review all ventilation systems in all the schools to determine what upgrades or repairs needed.

LM: Summer school started today at Middle School, received stamped letter from engineer that systems in sixth grade wing in middle school (location of summer school) complies with all requirements. Will have preliminary report on August 5th, with list of all systems, age, current condition, as well as short term and long term fixes that may be needed for each room being occupied. LM: Looking at ASHRAE (The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) standards and DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) standard for re-opening schools. JS: Is junior high school okay as far as air handling? LM: Have certification for specific wing right now, will receive one for each of the schools as work gets done. SG: Governor has extended time school can open, until middle of September, and not have to make up the days. AS: It is one thing to come up to standard, but another to meet newer COVID standards. What can be upgraded to meet this? LM: We are already doing this. JS: State helping with expenses? LM: Believe we can use CARES Act funding to pay for this study. State says we cannot use this funding to repair the system for now.

5:50 p.m. Review of BoH Mask Recommendations

SG: Discussion of DESE guidelines and the suggested language from Susan. AS presented SG letter via Zoom Screen Sharing. Several concerns regarding what mask types would be recommended, supplied, and allowed for both school staff and students. LM: Clarifies that town will not be supplying masks. Town has already re-opened to all employees a number of buildings, where we are not supplying them with masks and do not have the same rules concerning acceptable face coverings. There are different rules for Fire Departments, or others that respond to life-threatening type rescues. We need to make sure we are consistent with across all town employees. NM: Pointed out that the supply chain for N95 and surgical masks is challenging, so obtaining supply for employees might be difficult. Must be mindful of this scarcity of resources as well as buying the specific masks that have appropriate droplet protection. LM: N95 should only be used for medical field due to supply constraints. If we require a type of mask, and an individual cannot get access to that mask, what do we do then? NM: We don't have large amount of N95s, which are used by First Responders, so practically speaking that would be difficult to do. RD: K95s are available, and shields with a surgical mask is another option. LM: We are expecting face shields soon, so that is another option. BM: No problem with staff directives, perhaps different for kids as most kids are wearing things such as gators. AS: Looking at rest of world, all are kids wearing masks, not the others. SG: Language says people must wear masks, and furthermore clarifies that this is only for staff. AS: Presented revised statement via Zoom Screen Sharing. AS: Might suggest change to if N95 not available, other FDA approved masks and shields are also protective to a significant degree. Should also advise people go to primary care physicians for guidance on this issue.

SGa: Posted links of K95 masks from Amazon into Zoom Chat.

LM: Addressing Madam Chair, Employer issues are very important to address. Teacher returning to work with standard face covering is fine, with respect to others, they have to be handled by Human Resources. Concerned over defining specific PPE for specific employees. BM: Likely should not note specific mask types, but say choose the best type for the individual. "We strongly urge/ the BOH strongly urge school staff consult with PCP about recommendations for specific masks they should wear in school". All members approve of this change. After extended discussion of statement language SG

presented the final version which was verbally approved by board members and discussed how to communicate this information to Arthur and Susan, which LM said she would handle.

6:45 p.m. COVID-19 Testing Strategies with Susan Garfield

SGa: Employee of Ernst & Young but acting as private citizen, presentation on testing and back to school solutions. Explained how we could more effectively bring students, teachers, and staff back to school more safely by looking at types of testing, costs, and just a general preliminary discussion of this topic. Testing gives concrete information on current prevalence and incidence of disease within a determined population, and also provides for a “gate” to enter into the school system. Many successful examples of this in sleepaway camps. But testing must go hand in hand with contact tracing, symptom screening, and behavioral changes such as social distancing, mask wearing, and organizational policies and procedures. This will make the school setting as safe as possible. Went over specific test types that either increase or decrease false negatives and positives in addition various methods of collecting test samples. Furthermore went through example processes from a specific company to show both possible costs, and operations. Discussed specifics for Wayland Public School and explained how different percentages of opt-in would affect the specific program WPS would need. Explained the merits of pool testing in a low-incidence community like Wayland. Additional option is waste-water sampling as another way to test large numbers of individuals. JS: False positives / negatives of pool testing? SGa: Accuracy is good but specifics can be found for later. AS: Next step is to form a small working committee that can begin to explore testing options for WPS. SGa: Have reached out and exploring different funding options to see if community would be able to step up and offer funding. BM: Is JD expecting to put out a survey to gauge interest levels in this program? JD: We are going to, but quite early in the process. JS: Reports suggest that children don’t transmit and contract as easily as adults in Scandinavia, but study in Korea says the opposite. Not confident anymore that transmission amongst children is as low as it was once said to be. SGa: Is this program appropriate for all levels of schooling? Or just certain age groups? If you look at parent response to school surveys, fear from both parents and teachers about going back to in-person schooling. Would having a testing system in place make them feel safer? Testing may also help show lower incidence amongst town and school system. If we are starting all remote, what will it take to get us back in person? Testing might be able to help us do this.

SG: Make a motion to form an exploratory committee to look into COVID-19 Testing Strategies. Second JS roll call vote BM yes, AS – yes, JS – yes, RD – yes, SG – yes. 5-0 all in favor.

Discussion of who will be interested in joining this committee. JJ: Would like to make sure we are in compliance with any committee rules in how we go about any meetings for a committee, will check. JD: if Julia sets it up, 2 from BOH can be on and it is a working group, if SG sets it up it is a committee with posted meetings. Julia will investigate and decision will be made later.

7:15 Discussion of School Committee meeting from Jeanne Downs

JD: Discussion of school committee meeting. Start with remote model that will transition to hybrid model for everyone by second quarter. Roughly the first week of November. Many caveats. Special Ed students will do some in-school during remote model for certain services. Will also have limited in-person times for people to come to do Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and extracurricular activities. All contingent upon Health and Safety up to par (ventilation, PPE, etc.). Remote model will be a full day of school. Goal is to have teachers be teaching from school. AS: Question about teaching from school. How many Wayland teachers? 400-500 staff at the school according to JD. Will they be in cohorts? All in masks? JD: Teacher would be coming to classroom by themselves so there would not be much interaction, only real concern is that some teachers share classrooms. SG: Blueprint will be submitted by next Monday. A component is Health and Safety, will Board of Health be taking a look at that? Should BOH meet about it? Should a few people be designated to make comments? BM: expressed opinion that board would want to see it. Sent into state August 10th, will need to meet again. Meet Thursday at 5:30?

SG: Whole Committee will meet Thursday 5:30

7:30 General Business

SG: Next meeting date will be August 6th at 5:30PM,

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting

BM: Suggestion that we stick to a tighter agenda as people are logging on to watch topics at specific times

7:40 Public Comment

There were no calls, public comment time is closed

7:40p.m. SG: Motion to adjourn

Roll vote BM – yes, RD – yes, JS- yes, SG – yes. Vote 4-0 meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Zachary Jonas
Health Department Staff
080320minutes

APPROVED 032921