

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
TOWN BUILDING
August 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:10AM. Present by remote roll call were Robert DeFrancesco DMD (RD), John Schuler MD (JS), Arnold Soslow MD (AS), Susan Green (SG). Also present were Julia Junghanns (JJ) Director of Public Health, Susan Bottan (SB) Director of Finance and Operations, Jeanne Downs (JD) School Committee.

SG: Roll call for attendance: AS – yes, RD – yes, JS – 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.

8:10a.m. Review of Health and Safety Protocol for School Reopening Blueprint and any Covid 19 related updates

JD: Comments helpful but many had already been discussed and suggested changes already in progress.
SB: Wanted to point out that neither Arthur Unobskey (AU) nor SB received the comments prior to this meeting.

AS: Would like to work with school, having site principal do a walkthrough, creating a checklist that can be put into a dashboard based off what he or she sees during that walkthrough. Corridors, bathrooms, and things we want to see getting done. Good way to get an idea of how schools are comparing in terms of adherence to guidelines. Can compare this to what is happening in the state, to what's happening in Boston. One important measure could be where we are in terms of fresh-air rotation and ventilation, so we can have interim measure until systems all "fully perfect". JD: Speaking to ventilation issues, we have had contractors, architects, and engineer in, just finished preliminary review of every single space in the schools and ventilation and every type of ventilation. Made recommendations of what needs to be done to open the buildings, what needs to be done but not necessarily to open buildings. By end of this week should have report that informs us on timing, work involved, and costs. Once that is complete it will be shared.

JS: Thought that some of the criteria are a little bit unrealistic, particularly for younger kids. All the handwashing, after arrival, before lunch, after lunch, etc. how are you going to get 25 kids to wash their hands this often? Instead of handwashing, perhaps hand sterilizers. SB: Wanted to point out that in elementary school, there are sinks and handwashing capacity in each classroom. Will have sanitizing liquid in all classrooms, hallways, entryways and exits to the building, next to bathrooms, and in bathrooms. There will be many opportunities for staff and students to clean hands. We will still monitor it. Like idea of walkthrough with checklist that AS had suggested.

AS: Any discussion in school committee on non-compliers? Those that don't want to wear a mask or those with resistant parents? What happens if they come to the school door and don't want to complete

health survey? SB: We are putting in place procedures and practices and have high expectations for compliance. If student arrive and not feeling well, they will not be allowed entrance and parents will be called. Positive reinforcement and instructional practice will be essential.

SG: Don't know if we have to vote on this, but SB now has various comments from SG and AS. Is it okay that they show as coming from the board? Are we generally enough in agreement on them?
Approval from the board noted.

JJ: Talking specifically regarding the Baker-Polito Administration communications from 8/11 on a live site that will display the disease rates of each town, designating them as either white, green, yellow, or red. This could indicate whether the school should be moving towards a full in-person class setting vs remote setting vs hybrid setting. This was shared with everybody. Will probably be a helpful tool going forward in order to see what is going on in the state. Baker has urged communities in his press conference to strive for in-person learning as according to Baker, data doesn't support remote learning.
JS: What's likely to be more helpful than governor's rules, are going to be experience found in schools starting this summer. We're going to be remote to start, so we're going to hear if some of the southern states are having issues as they reopen schools to see what issues arise.

AS: This kind of data collection displays hotspots based upon where people live, but it is likely influenced by where they work and travel. We need to be able to display where positive cases work and have been. JJ notes that this cannot be displayed on a website.

SG: I'm sure we will be revisiting these topics in the future. Would like to turn over to conversation from 8/10 Selectman's meeting

JS: We (AS and JS) agreed that less formal working group (with less reporting and regulations) would be the optimal situation. It would be a small working group that AS and JS have volunteered to participate in with Dr. Susan Garfield (SGa). The selectman made known that this isn't just necessarily for schools, have to be mindful of the fact that this could apply to all town workers. We have to be looking after the safety of all town workers. This could lead to insurance issues etc. JS maintained stance that this is to explore what could be potentially available to maintain safety of those within the schools. SGa said she received a number of phone calls from interested parents who would be able to help her gather information such as what testing facilities are in the area, how much they would cost, as well as the accuracy and expediency of their test results.

AS: Selectman said they wanted to touch base with school board and wanted to work with colleagues on "charge" to provide limits on how they authorize group participation and how it will proceed. Other boards may want to participate if testing is for more than just those in schools. SG: would love to see more citizens involved, particularly those who bring expertise.

JJ: Sounds like a good summary from AS and JS. Louise Miller (LM) and JJ will be working on the charge together to have something prepared for the selectman and different involved boards to look at. There are differences between working group and subcommittee, advisory board. Will need to confirm differences, but will explain to the best of her knowledge. Working group has a little more freedom to work together and not have to post agendas, take minutes, set formal meetings. There is more freedom to work on things and potentially report back to boards on what kind of work they are doing. Advisory

board would be more formal with scheduled meetings that are on the town calendar with an agenda, minutes, and are recorded. JD: Believes that if town puts together group it is a working group. If committee like school committee or BOH puts it together it is a subcommittee. AS: JS and I are comfortable with working group designation. JJ: On state level, another possible testing program that could be related to school openings and closings. Not much info at this point. AS: In article that JJ is talking about, there was info which suggests that the state will target high level communities where testing might be started first, SG agrees.

8:50 a.m. COVID-19 Situation Updates

JJ: No new confirmed cases. One probable (believe from antibody test).

SG: Continuing discussion of mapping tool. Assuming Wayland would be in the “White” category? JJ: Correct.

JS: In regards to work group, are we allowed to talk amongst each other (AS, JS, SGa, etc.) even though not official group? JJ: As a board we have never formally discussed who would be on the working group. In regards to informal conversations, anyone can talk when not in a quorum of three board members. Will find out about specific rules for a working group. Believe two board members is okay, but will find out rules for meetings. In addition, anyone can send information to the entire board, but members have to be careful not to “reply all” or else we are in violation of open meeting law, especially if entire board is on copy. An update can be sent, but can’t have discussion via email. Must be discussed on a BOH Agenda. JS: Can we send something directly to JJ and she can decide who specifically can receive information? JJ: Can forward things along to the board, but again do not respond.

SG: Addressing JJ question of who would be on working group, hope would be that AS and JS would be representatives.

8:55a.m. SG motion to appoint AS and JS to the working group that will be reviewing feasibility of testing for town employees and Wayland school system. RD seconds. Roll call votes: AS – Yes, JS-Yes, RD – Yes, SG – Yes. 4-0 votes all in favor motion passes

SG: One more COVID-related topic. Had talked with JD about school committee wanting some sort of metrics coming from BOH about when they open school in person in the hybrid model. Said we didn’t think we could come up with specific metrics, but criteria. They may be looking to us for a green light to open up in hybrid fashion. AS: If everything is green on community, health policy implementation side, then would give thumbs up for hybrid model. If there starts to be yellow orange, red, then reassess. SG Agrees. JS: Equally as important is experience of other school systems that will start before us both foreign and domestic. Our idea of appropriate knowledge and practices might change over time as we look at other people. Jeanne said the school committee would be discussing this issue.

9:10 a.m. General business, approve minutes May 12, 2020, approve bills.

SG: Motion to approve May 12, 2020 Minutes as written JS second. Roll call vote: AS – yes, JS – yes, RD – Yes, SG – yes. 4-0 vote all in favor motion passes.

SG: Motion to approve three sets of bills received in last two days from Health Department. Second RD. Roll call vote: AS- yes, JS- yes, RD- yes, SG- yes. 4-0 vote all in favor motion passes

Next meeting Wednesday 19th at 8:10 AM.

9:10 a.m. Public Comment

SG: Public comment is now open, phone calls received at: 508-358-6812

There were no calls, public comment is closed

9:10a.m. SG: Motion to adjourn JS second. Roll call vote: AS – yes, JS – yes, SG- yes. 3-0 vote all in favor. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted
Zachary Jonas
Health Department Staff
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