

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES  
TOWN BUILDING  
September 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:00AM. Present by remote roll call were John Schuler MD (JS), Arnold Soslow MD (AS), Robert DeFrancesco DMD (RD), Susan Green (SG). Also present were Julia Junghanns (JJ) Director of Public Health, Jeanne Downs (JD) School Committee, Kim Reichelt (KR) School Committee, Kathie Steinberg (KS) School Committee.

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

JD: School Committee Roll Call: KR – yes, KS – yes. \*Not officially a joint meeting but School Committee present.

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. Discuss metrics for back to school and/or school closing due to Covid-19**

SG emails metrics to participants. JJ shares metrics via Zoom Screenshare

SG: Metrics will draw from State, Middlesex, Boston, and Wayland data. First metric is a 2 week case count. Second is average daily incident rate per hundred thousand over last 14 days. Third is positive COVID-19 tests over last 14 days. Defined similarly to state definition. KR: Have we done any analysis on where the staff and students reside so we include the right locations? SG: We are looking at the state as well as the listed areas. JS: Believe we should only care about numbers in Wayland.

JJ: Who is going to be the person looking at all this data and deciding when BOH needs to be involved? How is the BOH going to meet in the case that a quick decision is needed. JD: Could Ruth consult, rather than entire BOH. JJ: Don't you have COVID-19 point person at each school and district? JD: Yes, but we used Ruth last year. JJ: That was before we had a real system in place so doesn't seem realistic to have myself and Ruth deciding when the schools open or close. Document suggests that the BOH is the one to decide. AS: If it would be the BOH, would have to convene and discuss. JD: If there were 5 cases suddenly, would BOH have a meeting that day? AS: Believe the BOH would have to. JJ: Ultimately it is school committee that makes decision, with consultation from BOH. SG: Would School Committee have emergency meeting as well? JD: Yes. SG: From DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) guidance, sounds like the schools are supposed to consult with the state before they close. Realistically is that what would happen? JD: We did in the spring. SG: Would it make sense or be helpful to have a consensus from the BOH while school committee makes decision? JD: Yes. SG: Don't see way around BOH having an emergency meeting. JJ: This means the BOH would be committing to being on call 5 days a week while school is in-person. JS: If cases within one cohort, do we just ask that class to go home while testing, or close the whole school down? One school outbreak might not necessarily call for complete school system shut down.

JJ: Looking at DESE document *Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in School, on the Bus, or in Community Settings* revised Aug 20<sup>th</sup>. Includes on Page 7, Section 2: Protocols for Potential School Closure, Partial or Full, or District Closure. Protocol: Presence of Multiple Cases in the School or

District. Protocol: Presence of Significant Number of New Cases in a Municipality. Protocol: Statewide Regression to a Previous Re-Opening Phase. JJ: Would like to try and get some samples of metrics from other towns. Might be some metrics drafted for Boston Public Schools. On Page 20 of that same DESE document, goes into more on protocols. This document should be available on state website. Does address school leaders and superintendent working with the Local Board of Health to determine if it is likely if there is transmission happening in school, for each individual case follow steps under Protocol: Student or Staff Tests Positive for COVID-19. When there is a suspect in school transmission beyond one cohort or in a small number of cohorts, school and district leaders must consult with the Local Board of Health. Before a final decision is made on a school closure, the superintendent must consult with DESE for further guidance. JS: The National Education Association was putting together a tracking system. Don't know if it will be helpful but it shows all cases in schools in Massachusetts. SG: Good thing to have, although don't know if it will have the desired level of specificity.

JD: Shared metrics with Arthur Unobskey (School Superintendent) who was confused over where the numbers are. Will average person who looks at this criteria also wonder why there aren't numbers? Not advocating for numbers, but wonder if there should be a reference to the guidelines from the state, something that says BOH would be using state information. So average person understands where the information being discussed is accessible.

AS: How do we collect information from the schools? JD: Thought that was what AS dashboard was for? AS: Need to figure out how to do this before dashboard comes into existence. Susan Bottan has these criteria, first step is to start doing this on paper, and then she can begin to establish a database which BOH can look at for the dashboard. SG: Could give her a call to work with her to come up with a first draft.

JJ: The state summarized data (Green, Yellow, Red, Gray, zones on map) was originally in draft but has been removed? AS: Feel that board should be working with raw data, rather than summaries of data. JJ: Would feel more comfortable if it was somewhere included in the document because it is important and could potentially be of use in the future. And it is an existing tool that no one needs to create. JS: Need to keep things as simple as possible so decisions can be made quickly. SG: Think this most recent iteration accomplishes that. Also believe that we should be able to include for the first three metrics a note that mentions we are using state metrics. SG: Next time we can perhaps have looked at Newton's and Wellesley's metrics to see if that informs our approach. I will get in touch with Susan Bottan to get to work on the dashboard so it is usable in the school.

### **9:00a.m COVID-19 updates, new information**

JJ: Ruth unable to join but has been working with school nurses on the Health and Safety PowerPoint presentation to be given to the teachers. Met with school nurses last week and went over everything and have been in ongoing communication with them. There is an individual who does not live in the Town of Wayland but works for a long term care facility who tested positive during routine testing. Individual was asymptomatic. Facility will be testing all their staff. Only positive person we are aware of there. JS: Is school staffing ready? JJ: Have one new hire for the Loker School, probably won't be available until beginning of October as she needs to give notice to current workplace. Nurse staffing will be full once she starts, will have a substitute filling in for time being. Still working on a school physician. Has not been paid position, but there should be a stipend.

JD: Move that we adjourn school committee. KR second. Roll call: KR-yes, KS – yes, JD – yes. 3-0 vote all in favor school committee adjourned. Members can continue to listen and JD will continue to answer questions. Will follow up with Arthur Unobskey (School Superintendent) on physician position.

**Next meeting will be September 16<sup>th</sup> 8:00a.m.**

**9:05a.m. General business, approve bills, approve minutes June 3 2020, and June 8, 2020**

SG: Motion to approve the June 3, 2020 BOH minutes. RD second. Roll call votes: AS –yes, JS –yes, RD – yes, SG –yes. Vote 4-0 all in favor motion passes.

AS: question about expenses bill. What were the items that led to an \$8,000 charge? JJ: One of those East Middlesex Mosquito Control was \$6,000 and is one of our quarterly payments.

SG: Motion to approve two sets of bills submitted for Sept 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. JS second. Roll call votes: RD – yes, AS - yes, JS – yes, SG – yes. Vote 4-0 all in favor motion passes.

**9:10 a.m. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting, if any**

Discussion of testing meeting from 9/8/21 that was attended by JJ and AS.

JJ: At meeting AS shared a test that would take 45 minutes and potentially cost \$1-\$2 per test. Cost is significantly lower than some of the other options out there including pool testing. This test is not available yet, but AS has heard it could be in the near future. Would be a rapid saliva test that could be done at home by parents. Would be daily or weekly test likely aimed at asymptomatic children. Was told EUA coming out this month. Good choice as long as it is authorized as a home-test. JJ did speak to Natick Health Director and Superintendent, and found that they have not made any decisions. Currently a hybrid model and are looking at pool testing on “off” days. One of the drawback is costs. With ~6500 kids in school will cost \$1.5-2 million for the school year. Creating a district and are open to other towns being involved. SG: For antigen test, state has reported almost 100,000 results from antigen tests, does AS know where these results are coming from? AS: No, will look into this.

**9:20 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

**9:20a.m. SG motion to adjourn. JS second. Roll call vote: JS –yes, AS- yes, SG- yes. 3-0 vote all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted  
Zachary Jonas  
Health Department Staff  
090920minutes  
APPROVED032421