

**TOWN OF WAYLAND
BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, July 27, 2020, at 5:30PM
Wayland Town Building/Zoom
41 Cochituate Road, Wayland, MA 01778**

(Hybrid meeting; in person and via zoom)

Note: In compliance with the March 12, 2020, Massachusetts Office of the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, this meeting of the Board of Health was livestreamed on local broadcast on the WayCAM Government Channel and open to the public to view and participate via Zoom. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted. Public Comment was available by both telephone (508-358-6814) and Zoom during the time designated for Public Comment.

Present via Zoom: Susan Green (Chair), Robert DeFrancesco D.M.D., John G. Schuler M.D., Arne Soslow M.D.

Not Present: Brian MacNamara

Also Present via zoom: Julia Junghanns, Director of Public Health; Ruth Mori, Public Health Nurse; Patti White Health Department Assistant; Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent of Schools; Jeanne Downs, School Committee; Kim Reichelt, School Committee

Call to Order: S. Green called the meeting to order at 5:35PM

Roll Call: A. Soslow – YES, J. Schuler – YES, R. DeFrancesco – YES, S. Green – YES, B. MacNamara- NO

Discuss reopening schools. Review/discuss list of questions from the School Committee and consider BoH recommendations. Discuss and review and new information.

Comments on Question 1:

S. Green shared her responses to the questions with the board. A. Solow suggested there be more information on involving the reporting to BoH. R. Mori said anyone considered a contact is encouraged to test so there is a baseline, and that the BoH may provide documentation so that contacts are able to test. A. Unobskey asked if students in a hybrid classroom would be considered close contacts if they were following the 6-foot rule and masking. R. Mori said yes, and that they want to prevent a high number of close contacts, but the BoH would investigate the situation. K. Reichelt said that DESE would consider everyone in the classroom a close contact and questioned whether the Board found this unnecessary. A. Soslow said there are a lot of variables at play, and this is what makes contact tracing difficult.

J. Schuler stated elementary students are less likely to catch COVID than older students. A. Soslow said it's hard to track every social interaction between all students. A. Unobskey asked if subsequent questions would follow the normal procedures followed for a positive student. R. Mori said yes, getting

all the facts is important because there are too many variables. A. Soslow said the process will change as we learn more about how COVID is impacting Wayland over the coming weeks. J. Junghanns said base guidelines for handling cases are good to have, but every case will have its own variables. She also said the state guidelines are subject to change at any time as well.

K. Reichelt read the DESE guidelines as she felt the Board's recommendation was more lenient in comparison. J. Junghanns said the Board's guidelines and DESE's are not as different as K. Reichelt presumes. A. Soslow said teachers are a factor in positivity rates because they are constantly moving around the room.

Comments on Question 2:

J. Schuler said cohorting is more difficult in high school than elementary because of class changing. He suggested dropping singleton classes like languages, music, art as they see multiple grades. A. Soslow said cohorting needs to include staff as well. J. Schuler said busing would be difficult. S. Green said there is no clear answer and the smaller the cohort, the less likely schools will close. A. Soslow said with no cohorts it becomes impossible to not recommend the entire school be shut down should positive cases arise. J. Downs asked R. Mori how hard contact tracing would be at the high school if there was no cohorting. R. Mori replied we have done this with other communal diseases, it is time consuming but possible. A. Soslow inquired about school drops offs and students mingling in the school corridors. R. Mori said passing someone in a hallway or going into businesses for short amounts of time is not considered exposure. A. Soslow said physicians tend to err on the side of caution.

Comments on Question 3:

J. Schuler said N95s are the best masks, but not useful for students. N95s may be useful for teachers and older people, otherwise cloth masks will suffice. S. Green asked if the Town would supply masks. R. Mori said we must be careful promising items we may not be able to provide given the supply chain. The Town has discussed a 3-ply cotton mask that may be more effective than homemade masks. J. Schuler said the material isn't as important as the weave of the mask. J. Junghanns suggested a reusable washable mask with an insertable filter may be an option. J. Junghanns also said special ed teachers have a clear mask option that does not appear to be very protective.

A. Soslow suggested creating 3 different options for masks, so students have options (3 options for elementary, middle, and high school). J. Schuler said N95s should be used for adults who need extra protection. A. Soslow suggested having parents approach R. Mori with a waiver for a certain mask for their child. A. Unobskey asked if the board is recommending school staff should have surgical masks or is that not the case. A. Soslow said School Committee needs to set standards for what they think is the best practice is regarding masks A. Unobskey said he wants this to be determined by the Board of Health. S. Green thinks options should be made available as people prefer different materials. S. green said the Town should provide teachers and staff with masks. R. Defrancesco said N95s will not work with asthmatic people. Staff should wear N95 if possible, or maybe a level 3 mask with a face shield if not. J. Downs asked what level the surgical masks are the Town provides. R. Mori replied they are not leveled, but most likely equal to a level three. She also said it was her understanding any teacher who wanted a face shield would have access to one. J. Junghanns said face shields are good because they also protect

the eyes. J. Junghann's feels there should be a certain model/type of mask for teachers should they not want to wear a surgical mask, as cloth masks vary in effectiveness.

A. Soslow thinks the Town should offer a good quality surgical mask with a replacement. J. Schuler said the surgical masks are primarily for trapping bacteria, not anti-viral protection. A. Soslow said the mask eliminates droplets from the wearer.

J. Downs asked for clarification on what the Board is recommending. S. Green replied she recommends supplying surgical and cloth masks, and that if people want to wear their own masks they need to be of an approved type. If teachers want face masks, those will also be provided. If teachers have health risks or are older, N95s will be supplied. A. Soslow said we need to have policy if a teacher or student refuses to wear a mask. A. Soslow said he feels surgical masks are appropriate. K. Reichlet asked if A. Solow would be more specific on the type of surgical mask. A. Soslow replied the purpose of the mask is to keep droplets from spreading and most levels of surgical masks do this.

A. Unobskey's understanding is that the Board recommends Schools supply employees with 2 surgical masks a week, or an N95 for those with health restrictions. Furthermore, staff can choose their own masks as long as it is ok with R. Mori. S. Green added she wanted to supply cloth masks as well. A. Soslow said cloth masks are not surgical masks. B. MacNamara said he thinks the Board needs to use leveled masks for cloth and surgical masks. K. Reichelt said the Board needs to be approving the student masks as well. A. Unobskey said R. Mori needs to have enough information to provide a clear definition to send to families

B. MacNamara asked if students wanted to wear solely a face shield, was this sufficient? A. Soslow replied no. R. Mori said she is not comfortable being the only person to determine what masks should be provided. R. Mori said the Department of Public Health will not advise her on what mask is better than the other because the State guideline uses the language "face covering". She is not sure if she has the capability to make a recommendation for students/staff. K. Reichelt said mask guidance is essential because we don't want students to show up using bandanas. J. Schuler said homemade masks should be a couple layers thick with elastic earpieces. B. MacNamara said middle schoolers/highschoolers are going to wear gaiters, would these not be allowed? J. Schuler said yes if they are a couple layers thick. S. Green said she thought gaiters would not be acceptable. R. Defrancesco suggested the language should say a mask that covers nose and chin and should not fall from your face. B. MacNamara said there needs to be a quality standard.

S. Green asked the School Committee if all the mask details needed to be defined during this meeting, or if they were looking for more general guidance. A. Unobskey said thinks the first issue to deal with is the supply chain. He also said he thinks the Board/R. Mori should set mask standards for the schools, and they should give families enough time to adapt to the new guidelines. A. Unobskey said the immediate concern is determining what mask to get for staff and what quantity.

S. Green asked the Board if it wants to recommend surgical masks be supplied several times a week/does the Board want to define what level of surgical mask. J. Schuler said the term "surgical mask" should be replaced with "hospital mask". A. Soslow agreed and said the Board should recommend not wearing cloth masks, but that the public health nurse could determine if a mask was acceptable or not.

B. MacNamara said the town should supply the teachers/staff with surgical masks, and maybe not have a limit of 2 masks per week. A. Solsow added there should be no scarfs or bandanas, and any other mask differing from what's being suggested should be run by the nurse. J. Junghanns asked if R. Mori would be comfortable with this, usually DPH provides that level of guidance not municipal employee. R. Mori says a lot of people wear gaiters and she does not for if these are offer sufficient protection. J. Junghanns asked if language about how many layers a mask is should be included. A. Soslow said gaiters drop down and are looser.

S. Green asked if the Board could agree that it wants to recommend the use of surgical masks supplied by the Town for the staff. B. MacNamara said yes, he agrees with this. A. Unobskey asked if supplying masks two times a week is the right number. B. MacNamara replied yes, and if the schools are finding they're needing more masks, they will have to increase. A. Soslow said the number 2 came from the fact that masks are good for 3 days. A. Unobskey asked if they should distribute 2 mask per week and if they can be reused. A. Soslow replied yes, if masks are taken care of, they can be reused every 3 days. K. Reichelt said DESE is recommending 5 masks per week. S. Green pointed out hybrid classes would not be in school every day. A. Unobskey said hybrid teachers are in school every day. R. Mori said 5 masks per week is more than the Town has ever given an employee and that masks can be preserved and reused. J. Schuler suggested someone speak to the manufacturer of the masks and DESE and find out what the recommended weekly distribution is.

S. Green asked if the Board is recommending 5 masks per week. A. Soslow said if DESE is recommending this, the Board will not go against it. J. Junghanns said she wears the same surgical mask for multiple days depending on how long it is worn and in what setting. A. Unobskey asked the board if DESE is recommending 5 masks per day, or 5 masks per week as needed. J. Junghanns replied it should be as needed. B MacNamara said he would recommend 2 per week and see how it goes. A. Soslow said someone should contact DESE and get clarification. A. Unobskey said DESE offers no input on the number of masks to be purchased. DESE is only offering a suggestion with mask purchasing, and this is not included in their guidelines. A. Soslow said the recommendation from the Board is two surgical masks per week and asked if the Board should vote on it. The board responded they are all in agreement but should not vote because it is a recommendation.

J. Junghanns said there should be options and if people want to use a cloth mask, the Town should select and supply one. J. Schuler said someone should contact the provider and find out the exact use and specifications of the masks being purchased.

S. Green began changing the language of the response to the question. B. MacNamara said the language should read "surgical mask or approved cotton mask" J. Schuler pointed out that you can wash and reuse cotton masks. A. Soslow asked what the traditional surgical mask is made of. J. Schuler replied they used to be cotton, and now they are paper. He also said surgical masks are not washable. J. Junghanns asked if there was going to be an option for cotton masks. S. Green said the language reads cotton masks are okay if approved by public health nurse. J. Schuler said masks should be 2 layers. J. Junghanns said the Town should provide a cotton mask it feels is appropriate. S. Green asked for clarity on not including bandanas and gaiters. The Board replied yes, they will not allow them. S Green added 2 ply masks and no bandanas, scarfs, or gaiters to the language of the response. K. Reichelt said there

should be minimum standard for masks that comes from the Board of Health. She also said this language should apply to both teachers and students. J. Downs noted we are only supplying staff with surgical masks, not the students. J. Downs and A. Unobskey said there should be some kind of homemade mask guidelines and masks will be checked by the nurses the first day. J. Schuler said there needs to be a supply of paper masks for students who forgot theirs at home. R. DeFrancesco said surgical masks are made of non-woven fabric, 100% polypropylene. A. Unobskey said it's important that R. Mori doesn't wind up checking 2800 masks. J. Downs asked A. Unobskey if he wanted to include family guidelines in this response. A. Unobskey said no, Schools will approach the Board of Health on that subject at a later date. The Board agreed that we are not addressing students right now, just staff.

B. MacNamara, A. Soslow, and J. Junghanns left the meeting at 7:19PM

J. Schuler said he has received emails from teachers who felt uncomfortable returning to school. He also said he received a note from a doctor regarding group testing and required if this was a possibility.

Public Comment

Andrea Gellerstein, (Special education Teacher at Claypitt Hill School) – A. Gellerstein mentioned June 5th memorandum from DESE entitled “Guidance on required safety supplies for reopening schools”. A. Gellerstein said required supplies included disposable masks (5 masks per week for teachers, 10 per week per nurse, 1 per week per student).

(Daniel Gorksy, Wayland Middle School Teacher, sent the Board a copy of DESE guidelines via Zoom)

J. Schuler noted how the Board needs to adhere to the DESE guidelines. S. Green said maybe the Board can just refer to the DESE guidelines. A. Soslow said there needs to be language regarding the supply chain. J. Downs noted DESE recommendations are based per 100 individuals per group per school. She also said the guidelines say to measure usage rates during the first 30 days and adjust accordingly.

Susan Garfield, 24 Sherman Bridge Road – S. Garfield recommends incorporating testing into schools. She would like the Dept. of Health to have initial baseline screenings to minimize infected students from going to school, and for them to consider ongoing screening during school (PCR testing).

J. Schuler mentioned to S. Garfield that he had asked if pooled/group testing was an option for schools. S. Garfield replied pooled testing is a great way to reduce costs and have a constant screening strategy. Pooled testing ranges from 4 samples (Quest Diagnostics) to 25 samples. Other methods for pooled sampling will be coming within the next 4-12 weeks. Contracting with an independent laboratory means the Town can determine the turnaround time.

S. Green asked S. Garfield if she would consider discussing pooled testing at a later meeting. S. Green informed the Board S. Garfield is doing research on availability and costs of pooled testing. J. Schuler wanted to discuss surveillance as well to alleviate concerns of staff and parents. S. Garfield said surveillance could be done in a couple different ways which they can discuss at next Monday's meeting.

Continued discussion on masks

J. Downs wanted to make sure the language was correct on suggesting cloth and surgical masks. S. Green said the Board should refer to the DESE memo. A. Soslow said the language needs to reference the DESE guidelines. J. Schuler said the recommendation needs to coincide with the DESE guidelines at minimum. J. Downs expressed she is nervous about being able to provide the quantity of masks. R. Mori said if everyone is going towards those supplies, she doesn't know how the Town will be able to maintain the supply chain. J. Downs questioned if the language "to the extent possible" could be included in the language when referring to supplying masks. A. Soslow said the School Committee should be responsible for writing this language. S. Green said if supply becomes an issue, it will be an issue statewide and DESE will have to change its guidelines. J. Downs noted DESE is also allowing cloth masks.

The Board rewrote the language to reflect that the Town will supply masks if it is possible. The new language also cited the DESE memo from June 5th. Specifically, supplying teachers with masks (up to 5 per week).

A. Unobskey said his understanding from DESE was that they wanted schools to secure supplies and have the Board of Health recommend how to use them. A. Unobskey now understands the Board interprets DESE guidelines as directions and said schools would follow those directions. A. Unobskey said they will follow the Board of Health's recommendation and see how supplies hold up after 30 days. A. Soslow asked if the Board was recommending a mask per teacher per day. J. Schuler replied no, they can have 2 ply cloth or disposable masks. A. Unobskey brought up the language of disposable vs. surgical masks. He also questioned whether "multi-ply mask" and "surgical mask" should be brought into the language. A. Soslow asked A. Unobskey to share what schools have been ordering for masks. A. Unobskey asked if the term "medical grade" should be used for the masks. A. Unobskey said he would look at the masks the schools have been ordering and verify with Ruth if they appear to be acceptable before ordering more. J. Schuler said to look for disposable, surgical, or hospital masks, do not worry about what they are made of. R. DeFrancesco said there is a break down of masks on the FDA website.

S. Green sent the language to A. Unobskey for his review. A. Unobskey said his understanding is two mask per week for teachers, but 5 masks on hand if needed? S. Green said yes. S. Green sent the official language to the Board.

A. Unobskey, J. Downs, and K. Reichelt left the meeting at 8:15PM

Updates and discussion on COVID-19

P. White informed the Board that R. Mori would not be doing an update during this meeting.

General Business (Approve bills and minutes, set next meeting date)

The Board decided they would meet again next Monday August 3, 2020, at 5:30PM

Motion to adjourn: J. Schuler motioned to adjourn. R. DeFrancesco seconded the motion.

VOTE: **YES: A. Soslow, J. Schuler, R. DeFrancesco, S. Green**

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned 8:20PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin McLaughlin

APPROVED 040422