

Harvard Public Schools
39 Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard, Massachusetts 01451

Approved meeting minutes

Topic: Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Time: July 21, 2020

Participants: Shannon Molloy, Suzanne Allen, Linda Dwight, Aspen Ference, Jenny Gillard

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes- no minutes approved
2. Covid policies to consider adding
 1. Changes to attendance policy?
 - a. let's review attendance policy and put in revised covid attendance SHANNON
 2. Graduation requirements? not yet
 3. Symptom screening- Health check? SUZIE
 4. Remote vs In person Decision points during the school year - SHANNON
 - a. policy that states when a family can switch from remote to back in school
 - b. Oct 15th- can consider switch from remote to in person- give an early option
 - c. Jan 4th
 - d. Switch to remote can happen at anytime
 5. Create policy with DESE recommendations SUZIE
 - a. local board of health? Sharon MccArthy and Chris Mitchell from BOH, coming to general re-entry meeting
 - b. How do we handle confidential information of someone who is tested?
 - c. What is local contact tracing that is happening?
 - d. Consider a graphic
 6. Masks for students and teachers SHANNON
 - Masks- teachers union would like all kids to be masked
 - Limit other germs as well
 - Need a district policy to enforce the expectation
 - To address parent and teacher concerns
 - What to do if a teacher or student refuses to wear a mask
 - SEPAC group is meeting today at 1:30
 - students with sensory issues or physical disabilities keep on mask
 - Staff concerned about children that won't wear masks
 - Few exceptions and as strong a wording as possible- if a child really can not wear a mask can the family do remote?

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- Will get it checked by lawyers

- Aspen Ference, Massachusetts Ave and Jenny Gillard, Ayer Rd- SEPAC co chairs- brought to the table- feedback from families with children in special Ed
 - kids already who have difficulties with interpreting facial cues bc of autism or other developmental delay- when covered it presents additional challenge
 - Non verbal children with limited hand dexterity or mobility that can be frightening because child couldn't say if they were having a hard time breathing or remove mask on their own
 - Hard of hearing/deaf community- lip reading, muted sounds, difficulty with
 - Speech therapy- difficulties with learning sounds if therapist is wearing a mask, muffles sounds coming from the speech therapist
- Linda- preK and K teachers, special ed and speech therapists working on solutions for masks
- Recommendations
 - Passing time in hallway increased if needed for a child with asthma
 - Clear masks or hoods
 - Can we make case by case evaluations for children?
 - Do we make a process for children with potential issues with mask wearing?
- Problem solving
 - Face shields? Can not use this alone- must have shield and mask
 - Clear masks?
 - Passing time in hallway increased,
- Exceptions
 - can't remove mask on own
- Questions-
 - how much do various masks block sound?
 - How much does a face shield alone block?

3. Future meetings: AUGUST 4th

Adjourn 2:05

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