

Harvard Public Schools - School Committee, Policy Subcommittee

Approved meeting minutes 2/24/2021

Date: 2/24/2021

Members present: Abby Besse, Suzanne Allen, Linda Dwight

Members absent: none

Others present: none

Location: Remote meeting via Zoom

Meeting convened at: 9:15

Agenda:

1. Public comment - none
2. Minutes Approval - minutes approved with no changes
3. Covid Policy Review

Commissioner of Education's Proposal to DESE: full time, in person K-8, removing hybrid and remote options

What's next for HPS?

- Work with HTA next week, vet next steps to ensure safety for all but following requirements from DESE
- HES - full day in person including afternoon, full group lessons for all classes, every day.
 - Perhaps change side to side spacing between desks to less than 6 ft. to accommodate more in 2 and 3 grade.
 - Lunch at HES: tents would be used for lunches as they are for snack and mask breaks. Tents need to go back up to accommodate but is a big expense to have them re-installed
 - Question for the Commissioner: do we have to have a lunch program where everyone has the choice?
- TBS - 5 mornings a week for all students is the next step
 - Leadership has measured classrooms for side to side desk placement closer than 6 ft but maintain 6 ft front to back. This will allow 18 kids per class
 - Limits contact tracings to side by side; protects teacher; works with shape of classroom.
 - More PPE for teachers will be needed
- There will be more expenses to implement these changes. Grant money is used but could get more grant money is expected by 4/1 that will be for two years so spending must be judicious.

- DESE Bus Policy Changes- two students per seat new requirements but students may not talk to each other. HPSmay survey families to see want or need to ride more

HPS Policy Considerations:

- Proposal to change last re-entry date from April 1 (Thursday) to April 5.
- Recommendation to reduce side to side spacing to less than 6 ft. but more than 3 ft. as recommended by DESE

4. Future Meetings Wednesday, March 3 at 9:15 via Zoom

Adjourned: 10:19

Next meeting:

Minutes: Abby Besse