

Harvard Public Schools - School Committee, Policy Subcommittee

Approved Meeting Minutes 8/3/2021

Date: 8/3/2021

Members present: Abby Besse, Suzanne Allen, Linda Dwight

Others present: none

Location: Remote meeting via Zoom

Meeting convened at: 9:30

Agenda:

1. **Minutes Approval** - minutes approved from 5/11 and 6/25

2. **Public comment** -

Kelly Callaghan - Consider family choice and do not require masks for younger children.

Sue Voute - full support of universal masking K-12. MD and member of AAP.

Nathan Finch - 500 unvaccinated students in HES, wearing masks is the best way to keep all kids in school and safe

Jen Manell - mask all HPS people regardless of vaccine status indoors and outdoors

Allison Evans - masks should be a family choice, lunch should be inside, masks in speech therapy is ineffective

Katy Covino - in favor of universal masking K-12

Ken Schalk - in favor of required universal masking K-12

Toby Bazarnick - supports required universal masking k-12, more variants will emerge, HPS has done a lot to mitigate risk and should continue

Thalia Charles - unwise not to mask K-12

Emily Marsick - mental health professional, masking inside should be a choice, advocating for balance with no masks outside. Asked what the HPS “off ramp” is for making masks a choice.

3. Covid Policy Review

- a. **Mask Policy:** Sub-committee members reviewed the recent guidance and recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, CDC, and DESE regarding masking in schools in the fall. Members discussed and deliberated policy implications for HPS in light of the new guidance and recommended beginning the school year with universal masking indoors, pre-K-12 would be appropriate to begin the school year.
- b. Sub-committee also noted that an “off ramping” plan should be implemented for students and teachers who are able to be vaccinated.
- c. Masks will remain a choice outside as is the current policy.
- d. Masks on busses and in health offices will remain mandatory as per Federal regulation.

B. Distancing/Spacing Between Students Policy

Subcommittee reviewed the current policy and recommended that the policy now should read that spacing between students can be reduced to a minimum of 3 ft indoors.

Both revised policies will be brought to the 8/12 full committee meeting for deliberation and vote.

Adjourned: 11:35

Next meeting: Friday, August 13 at 8:00 am

Minutes: Abby Besse