

Sudbury Board of Health

Executive/Virtual Meeting 7/14/2020

July 14th Executive Meeting:

Attendees: Carol Bradford – Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton – Member, Susan Sama – Member, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Phyllis Schilp – Public Health Nurse

Bradford motioned to enter Executive Session at 3:03pm. Sama seconded. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Linda Huet Clayton joined the meeting 3:10pm.

Carol Bradford called the General Meeting to order. Mr. Murphy gave the Board a brief description and reasoning for entering into Executive session. Under the Open Meeting Guidelines from the Office of the Attorney General, Boards can enter into executive session to “discuss the reputation, character... of an individual, staff member or employee. An employee of the health department requested an opportunity to discuss matters in which the fore mentioned would be discussed. The employee was given a copy of the meeting notice as notification.

Sama motioned to adjourn Executive Session at 3:35pm. Bradford seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

July 14th Board of Health Meeting:

Attendees: Carol Bradford – Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton – Member, Susan Sama – Member, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Phyllis Schilp – Public Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Beth Porter-Admin. Bella Wong – LSRHS Superintendent, Brad Crozier – SPS Superintendent, Janie Dretler – Select Board, Kay Bell – Commission on Disabilities, Charles Russo – Resident

Carol Bradford called Board of Health Meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Brad Crozier – Sudbury Public Schools Superintendent – Reopening Update:

Task Forces: There are 4 task force groups currently collecting and submitting data to stakeholders for input to school reopening models. The groups are: Teachers/Learning Group, Facilities/Buildings Group, Human Resources Group and Mental Health Group.

Models for Learning in the Fall: Using the 6 foot social distancing model, it is apparent that 100% of students, faculty and staff cannot safely engage in full time in house learning. Focus has shifted to hybrid learning and remote learning. Depending on the direction that COVID-19 progresses, it would seem that the earliest learners would be the first full time in-house students.

3 Hybrid Models: 1. Split Kids into 2 groups one week on, one week off. 2. Split Kids into 2 groups 2 days in school 3 days at home. 3. Have half of the kids come in the morning and remaining half come into school in the afternoon. Remote learning will be conducted for the remaining hours for each group.

Surveys: Parents are being surveyed to determine what can be done in terms of child care options.

Families on the task force prefer 2 day or 3 day set schedule in order to obtain consistent child care.

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Brad Crozier – Sudbury Public Schools Superintendent Cont:

Regression: Children are experiencing a backward slide in learning skills and milestones by not attending school in person. Socializing is fundamental to emotional growth. The fear is that many kids will have lost momentum and regressed. Brad has identified these high-risk children and has been in contact with parents.

Forum for S.P.S. Brad Crozier will host a virtual forum for parents and stakeholders on July 20th. Bill Murphy and Carol Bradford will be panelists. Bill has requested an agenda to prepare for meeting.

Carol Bradford BoH Chair: Was thanked by Brad Crozier and others for her tireless, multi-faceted work on committees, contact tracing, PPE and everything COVID related.

Bella Wong – LSRHS Superintendent – Reopening Update:

Models for Learning in the Fall: Bella needs to draft a plan for each model. She feels that the state is pushing in school learning.

In School Learning Model: This model has the 6 feet of social distancing that will pose the same problem at the high school as in the grade schools. Some of the classrooms have stationary furniture (like science labs) and will only be able to house a limited amount of students. The 3-foot social distancing will allow only 18 students in the science labs as well. Where do you house students during down time? Biggest obstacles – Students moving, eating, mask breaks, restroom runs, etc. Staffing will also pose problems.

Hybrid Learning Model(s): This would be the preferred model of learning. It allows for in school and remote learning. This gives students and teachers a better transition to full time classroom learning with COVID precautions. Bella is focusing on this model. In order to give students continuity, she suggests that there be 2 schedules for students, Schedule 1 = Monday and Thursday Schedule 2 = Tuesday and Friday. Wednesday would be deep clean day.

Hybrid Model Survey: Out of a total of 1500 students at LSRHS, Bella had 1200 responses to her model preference survey.

Forum: Bella will hold a virtual Forum for parents, students and stakeholders for a Q & A session. Bill Murphy will participate. The Forum will take place on July 21st. Bill has requested an agenda to prepare for the meeting.

Team Sports: It is anticipated contact sports like football, basketball etc. will not be allowed. Bella would like teammates to experience comradery by working out together.

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Schools Reopening General:

DESE Guidelines: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has published guidelines for public and private schools for COVID Protocol. The guidelines are coming out in parts as they are published. The superintendents are using these guidelines for their re-opening strategies. Temperature checks are not required by DESE.

Hybrid Models: Sama asked both superintendents if they have come up with more than just one hybrid model. The short answer is yes.

Social Distancing: Sama likes the idea of students using outdoor areas. The meta-analysis DESE cited for their 3-foot social distancing recommendation largely included studies conducted in health care facilities, with personnel that have better training with regards to cleaning and disinfection and respiratory protection. Sama has concerns about this study and recommends 6 foot distancing in any indoor setting. Using outdoor areas and having shorter sessions will limit exposure and help to mitigate the spread of COVID. Fomites (contaminated surfaces, door knobs, light switches, chairs, desks etc.) remain a route of transmission and the current scientific evidence indicates that aerosol transmission of COVID likely presents the highest risk to students, teachers and staff. Extended indoor exposure to aerosols are a concern. If a hybrid model is chosen, Sama prefers that the same students have consecutive days in school as opposed to the Monday, Thursday and Tuesday, Friday schedules, she would like to see Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, Friday Schedules. Easier to contact trace and cuts back on exposure.

Outbreaks: Susan Sama, Bill Murphy and Phyllis Schilp voiced concerns about outbreaks in the schools. What if the staff and faculty become infected? What happens when there is an outbreak? Is there a plan for what *immediate* steps need to be taken? How do we properly contact trace? When do we switch to remote learning only?

COVID Training: Phyllis Schilp Has been working with the school nurses since April with Contact Tracing and COVID Protocol. She feels comfortable that the nursing staff is well versed on how to proceed once a positive case is reported.

Student Attestation Sheets: Carol Bradford is on the SPS Task Force and is concerned that parents may not be as forth coming about their children, that may have symptoms, prior to them going to school on a daily basis. Should sheets be signed by parents prior to kids getting on the school bus? There needs to be accountability on the parents' part. There needs to be firm guidelines for parents and students.

Open Areas: Should the schools choose to use Spaces, where there is an opportunity for students to congregate, there needs to be strict supervision to be sure that masks are worn, social distancing is adhered to etc.

Responsibilities: Mr. Murphy would like a clear understanding of what role the Board and Health Department will play as Bella and Brad plan and implement school re-opening. The Board is not responsible for the Superintendents' plans and outcome. The Board's role is for guidance.

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Phyllis Schilp - Public Health Nurse – COVID Update:

Reporting: COVID Numbers: Nationwide : Positives are surging in FL, TX, CA and AZ. These states account for one half of the positive numbers coming out of the U.S. **Massachusetts**: 105,783 Confirmed Cases, 8,000+ Deaths. **Sudbury**: 198 Confirmed, 1 new case, 2 new probable cases, and 4 new contacts.

State Testing: The state has added 8 new testing sites to Hot Spot Communities (testing for residents from other communities can be done at these sites). Marlborough and Framingham, neighboring communities, have been identified as “hot spots”. It is currently taking 4 – 6 days to get COVID test results and it is unsure why. Susan Sama is concerned that less testing is being done.

New Testing Requirements: CDC mandates after 6 weeks of post recovery you should be retested if exposed. If you test positive you must quarantine unless you are symptomatic then you must isolate. MDPH policy, as of July 19, requires all staff at long term facilities to be tested. Any LTC facility that does not comply will lose government COVID funding.

Cooling Centers: New guidelines require COVID considerations and PPE use. 3 days of 100 degree weather determines if and when cooling centers open.

EEE: Staff has been mindful to consistently message to public to protect against mosquitos. PSA's by MDPH have been posted on social media. Dr. Hoenig inquired about signage being posted in conspicuous locations in town to get residents attention. The board agrees that EEE signs should be put up. The electronic message Board has been activated and directs residents to our website.

Flu Clinics: Will be Drive-thru this fall. There will be 5 clinics this fall. Logistics of where and how these clinics will be run are currently being worked out.

Day Cares: The Health Department is experiencing a large influx of phone calls from the Sudbury day care facilities. HD has been referring any questions that we cannot answer to the EEC Early Education Commission. There are guidelines in place to handle suspected positive and COVID positive cases, but many of the schools are cautious and want additional guidance in this area.

Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker – COVID Update:

Community Need(s): There has a 50% increase in referral requests for residents in need.

Insurance Insecurity: Many residents are reporting that they do not have insurance coverage at this time.

Schools for Financially Insecure: Re-opening part-time will pose many problems for those residents that need to go back to work. Hybrid school schedules present major child care issues. Janie Dretler asked if High School aged kids would be interested in baby sitting or helping out with younger kids for child care coverage during COVID.

Hope Sudbury Applications: Bethany Hadvab has processed 10 applications this month alone. Sharp rise over the July 2019 numbers.

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Bill Murphy – Health Director – Updates:

Town Meeting: Two models of Annual Town Meeting depicting indoor and outdoor specifications. Seniors cannot be indoors for extended periods of time without significant risk. Outdoor challenges would include hand washing/bath facilities, social distancing, face coverings and EEE protections.

To reduce the amount of time that the meeting would take, Janie Dretler proposes that the presentations are pre-recorded and to condense the warrants. The Town could set up some kind of microphones and visuals.

Phase III Reopening: The Health office continues to get complaints about businesses and COVID compliance. Staff is prioritizing these complaints and addressing them with assistance from the MA Department of Labor Standards.

MetroWest Tobacco Coalition: Received a grant from state to continue compliance checks and provide cessation programs, primarily to getting kids to stop vaping.

Board of Health: Needs to continue to address all issues that present themselves. COVID has encompassed a large portion of manhours. Finding time for EEE, Flu Clinic, MRC, record requests, inspections, and plan reviews for wells/septics has been challenging.

EEE: The Health Department continues to post all new and relevant information as it becomes available. Phyllis Schilp's 2019 Power Point presentation was posted to the health webpage. Videos and information are being posted (via Face Book and Twitter) thru the Sudbury Data Administrator.

VOTE: Carol Bradford motioned to vote to approve and publish BoH Meeting Minutes, as edited, for 6/16/20, 6/23/20 and 6/30/20. Motion seconded by Linda Huet-Clayton. Passed 3-0-0

Meeting Adjourned 5:46pm.