

WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEBSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION MINUTES (M.G.L. C.39) OF Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Date: July 27, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Remote ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by: Chair Seddiki

The following Committee Members were present

- Member Blythe
- Member Adamopoulos
- Member Napierata
- Member Millet

The following Committee Members were absent:

Chair Seddiki stated as a reminder there were changes issued by Gov. Baker modifying the Open Meeting Law requirements given the COVID19 pandemic, and Act relative to extending certain COVID19 measurements that were adopted during the state of emergency have been extended. This meeting has been posted on the district website with a Zoom link allowing the public to join in the meeting. As another reminder this meeting is being recorded both audio and video and will be posted on the district website.

I. Call to Order:

II New Business

A. Discussion and Approval of COVID Protocols for 2021-2022

Dr. Goguen thanked Committee members for the addition of this additional meeting. She felt it was important to notify staff and families of new protocols. Nurses Kathy Pepin, Sarah Phillips and Board of Health Director helped put this together. We are recommending wearing masks and doing our best with distancing, 3 feet at lunch with all students facing forward when mask less. Given the American Pediatrics and CDC advice to wear masks (vaccinated or unvaccinated) the COVID Leadership Team met on what is best to keep our students and community safe. If things change for the better we can relieve these protocols. We want to have a sense of normal for our students. Masks are not required when outdoors or playing spots. Our RN's have developed a Daily Home Health Assessment that will be shared with families. We want all our students to return to school. DESE is not allowing for remote learning so we cannot distance in the classroom.

Member Millett asked about the distribution of the policy. Dr. Goguen explained this is a protocol not policy. It can change at any time. As we saw last year things change, we are hoping the variants get under control and we can make a new recommendation. As students under 12 cannot be vaccinated there was much discussion around that. The middle school is difficult because of the ages in one building – how do we separate. Students in the high school move from room to room – impossible to track/contact trace. With all that it was decided to have these protocols district wide.

Mrs. Pepin stated that this is very similar to last year – not much to adjust to. Mrs. Phillips explained the close contact and quarantine changes.

Member Blythe asked for clarification on attendance, since remote learning is not an option with this negatively impact students. Dr. Goguen said students would be not impacted with excused absences. We would provide work for students to complete at home. Time on learning is defined as the school hours, not specific students.

Dr. Goguen stressed that things change quickly. We are responding to the current data and we can revisit at any time.

Member Adamopoulos asked for clarification about getting work to students if there is a positive case. Dr. Goguen said it was discussed and would be case by case determination. Dr. Goguen did clarify that students would not have access to synchronous learning – they would have access to independent work at home.

Chair Seddiki thanked Dr. Goguen for putting this together so families can be prepared.

Motion: To approve the COVID Protocols for 2021-2022 as presented

The motion was made by Member Adamopoulos

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

The following roll call vote was taken:

5* members having voted in the affirmative

 members having voted in the negative

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

*Member Blythe approved this motion with the caveat that this be revisited.

B. Approval of Amended Facemask Policy

Dr. Goguen explained that the Facemask Policy was approved by School Committee and has been modified sever time. The document presented has the most recent changes in blue, the red was the last changes. We took out mask wearing outside, social distancing and removed the legal references as they are outdated.

Member Millet asked for clarification regarding students refusing to wear a mask. Should the principal or teacher handle the situation? Dr. Goguen explained that each situation is addressed on an individual basis. It is everyones responsibility to remind students of proper mask wearing. The principal certainly could not address each issue, but if a pattern of refusal to wear a mask presents it would go to the principal. It's a team effort!

Motion: To approve the Amended Facemask Policy as presented.

The motion was made by Member Millet

The motion was seconded by Member Napierata

The following roll call vote was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative

 members having voted in the negative

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

Chair Seddiki thanked everyone for the effort in adjusting these protocols to be in place.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:22 PM

The motion was made by Member Blythe

The motion was seconded by Member Millet

The following roll call vote was taken:

5 members having voted in the affirmative

 members having voted in the negative

 members having abstained

The motion: X passed

 Failed

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Marrazzo

Documents included in the packet:

- COVID Protocols SY2021-2022
- Daily Student Home Assessment
- Parent Guide to COVID for SY2021-2022
- Policy EBCFA – Face Coverings
- COVID Testing Decision Tree for Vaccinated Symptomatic People