

Westhampton Board of Health Minutes April 29, 2021

Attending: Robby Armenti (RA), David Blakesley (DB), Mark Bushee, Health Agent (MB), Tom Martin, Chair (TM) Guests: Lauren Hotz (LH), Paul Kennedy (PK), Margaret Larsen (ML), Wally Marek (WM), Sue O'Rourke (SO), Kristen Smidy (KS)

Call to Order: 1:03 PM

1. Minutes

- Approval delayed until next meeting.

2. Schools

- KS notes that schools are now open for full days.
 - a. Four classes a day.
 - b. 85 minute classes
 - c. Lunches are 25 minutes
 - Outside or in cafeteria or auditorium if rain and wind
 - Today, inside, for instance.
 - d. Outside lunches have been under sky or tent.
 - e. There have been mask breaks throughout the day.
 - f. They will have to adjust schedules for testing, which is coming up.
 - g. Hallways are difficult to maintain correct distance, but the time is only two minutes between classes
 - h. They have been able to maintain a 6' distance in classes even though DESE required only 3'.
- TM asks about how before school gathering is going.
- KS says there have been no problems so far.
 - a. KS and LH are stationed at front entrance
 - b. KC at back
 - c. No issues, distance maintained.
- TM went to observe and notes that adult monitoring helps.
- KS expects pushback around masks and new guidelines in public.
- Would like guidance as to what to tell staff and students.
- TM says that the school situation is different than the outside world; working hard to keep the schools safe and open.
- Wrestling
 - a. At this time, no guidance. (* Guidance came in later in the week and will be reviewed at the next meeting.)
 - b. KS – MIAA says that practice can start.
 - Students have started working out, but not together.

- TM notes that 15 students is a small amount of students
 - Might be possible to be tested once a week.
 - Possible to be masked, even double masked, with a tightly cinched mask.
 - RA wants to see a COVID coach and contact tracing capability
 - DB suggests that headgear could hold the masks in place.
 - RA would like to keep the meets “in school.”
 - TM would like to see and review possible modifications.
- Senior Class Trip
 - a. Two sites have been approved.
 - Granville, MA (instead of Cape.)
 - High Meadows
 - b. Safety protocols in place.
 - c. DESE recommendations fit nicely.
 - d. Date(s) May 23 – 25th
 - e. Provides for day, as well as overnight, sites.
 - Junior and Freshmen Activities
 - a. Upcoming movie nights
 - b. May 14th Activity Day
 - Musical
 - a. June 11th
 - b. There will be three scenes from three different musicals
 - c. TM asks how large are the pods? KS will find out.
 - d. Seniors are doing two scenes; others are doing one.
 - Graduation
 - a. Will be held on June 4th
 - b. Each student will have six guests
 - c. Everyone will maintain a 6’ distance.
 - d. KS – working on a plan for entering and exiting
 - e. They will livestream it so people can logon to Facebook to watch.
 - f. DB asks about tents
 - g. KS says there will be tents for water, but not for sitting.
 - Tents, in general.
 - a. TM said there was some concern voiced about tents flying away.
 - b. WM said they had some concern with wind and water from rain during installation
 - c. TM wondered if they were monitored during rain and wind storms.
 - d. KS said yes, if not safe, they alerted people to stay inside.
 - e. KS noted they had bought special stakes for their tents and had no problems with any of the tents flying away or falling over. Asked if WM would like to check the stakes.
 - f. WM said yes.
 - g. RA said that if WM found the stakes to be good and helpful, could he please recommend them to the other schools in the HR School system.

3. Library Concert Series

- SO reports that there will be no concerts this year.

4. Pickle Ball

- Recommendations on hold until wall and floor are re-done
- Lines for Pickle Ball will be repainted as long as money is approved

5. Recommendations for COA are being resent

6. 5G

- SO raised the health aspects of 5G with the Selectboard, but they were not interested
- She wants us to be informed
- She will send the Board her notes and they will be included in our folder
- The technology is difficult to understand
- 5G is the next generation of Internet technology
- Following: Discussion of 5G – see SO's notes
- Other than many and apparent health issues, there will be many "boxes" installed short distances apart from each other
- RA will contact DPH and Lindsay Sabadosa about 5G
 - a. What can DPH tell us about health issues?
 - b. What can Lindsay tell us about Bills pending?
- TM notes that we are more likely to have broadband installed first before 5G
- TM impressed by presentation
- TM would like references included with notes (RA will do so when sending notes.)

7. Health Agent

- TM says he did a record search for 1 Main Rd.
- Nothing in files
- It passed in 2005
- MB says he will follow up with the inspector
- MB says there is no word on the Excellence Grant yet; hopefully on Friday, since the start is on Saturday.
- MB notes that a Title V was done in Southampton on 50 Burt Road

8. Selectboard Meeting

- Apprised Board of the Public Safety Complex safety protocols

- RA reported about Triple E opt out program and gave them Whately's opt out draft to them.
- RA introduced MB to Board.
- MB answered questions about mosquito education, outreach, checking culverts, and doing other helpful aspects without spraying.

Meeting adjourned 2:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robby Armenti