

Westhampton Board of Health Minutes February 19, 2022

Attending: Board: Robby Armenti (RA), Katch Bacheller (KB), Tom Martin, Chair (TM) Mark Bushee, FHD Health Director (MB) Guests: Todd Alexander (TA), Carol Barcomb (CB), Deane Bates (DB), Anne Chaput (AC), Morley Cleary (MC), Peter Cleary (PC), Stephanie Faas (SF), Doug Finn (DF), Jenny Finnie (JF), Scott Johndrow (SJ), Susan Lucas (SL), Lindsey Meisner (LM), Carol O'Connor (CO), Kelly O'Connor (KO), Ian Stith (IS)

Call to Order: 9:03 AM

1. Recommendation of Continuing Masking at Westhampton Elementary School

- SF opened discussion by presenting WES data
 - a. Combined vaccination rate of 61.18 percent
 - b. 49.54 students “fully” vaccinated (as much as they can be to this point.)
 - c. 90.7 staff fully vaccinated.
 - d. Pool testing conducted every Monday
 - They have been doing this for 13 weeks
 - So far, 6 positive cases
 - No positive cases in the past 6 week
 - e. Provided staff and students take home Antigen test kits
- SF feels that March 21st would be a good day to start a “less masking” policy in the school.
- SJ asks what kind of masks are worn in the school at this time.
- SF – mixture of N95, KN95, KF94, surgical and cloth and doubled
- SJ – efficacy?
- Discussion of efficacy of various types of masks.
- IS asks if there is no mask mandate, will that change the definition of a “close contact?”
- SF – replies
 - a. There will be no more contact tracing
 - b. There may be situations where masks are still required (ex. Buses, Nurse’s office)
- TA- Do we have any data about how many children have recovered from COVID in town?
 - a. SF will prepare data for TA
 - b. TA – explains 5 step process for risk management
 - c. Discussion of risk management
 - d. Discussion using slides showing data
 - e. TM notes data.
- DB (Principal of WES) notes that mitigation strategies are working in the school.
 - a. Has not seen a lot of colds or flu this year either.
 - b. Would like to see an increase in vaccination rate.
 - c. Pool testing is helping a lot.
 - d. Agrees that middle of March would be a good date to try “mask optional or less masking” policy.
- KB likes the approach of less masking.

- RA agrees with SF, DB and TA and likes March 21st as a possible “less masking” date.
- TM – When mask optional would be a good thing
 - a. We can always go back
 - b. COVID seems to go in waves, we can follow the wave.
 - c. Supportive of the March 21st date
- PC asks about mask requirement in town buildings in Westhampton
- Discussion of role of local Boards of Health
- TM – Makes a motion to support a masking optional policy on March 21st at WES.
 - a. Seconded by KB
 - b. Passed unanimously.

2. Health Director Report

- MB reports that district has been mostly quiet
- Will meet with Steve Holt about opening of Steve’s Sugar Shack
- Met with Pandora Redwin

3. Approval of Past Minutes

- Minutes of October 30, 2021 – Approved
- Minutes of December 4, 2021 – Approved
- Minutes of January 8, 2022 – Approved as amended
- Minutes of January 15, 2022 – Approved
- Minutes of February 5 – Section I need to be rewritten, will look at Minutes on Meeting on March 5, 2022.

4. Discussion of Roles of Board of Health

Adjourn 10:38 AM

Next Meeting, March 5, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Robby Armenti, Clerk