

Westhampton Board of Health
Minutes to meeting of
July 23, 2020
To order at 1:09 pm. Adjoined @ 1:55.

Present: Robby Armenti (RA), David Blakesley (DB), Tom Martin (TM),
Present Remotely: Dean Bates (DB), principle of Westhampton Elementary School (WES), Aaron Osbourne (AO), superintendent Hampshire Regional School District (HRSD), Morley Cleary (MC) Westhampton School Committee (WSC) member, Wes Bowser (WB), WSC member, Stephanie Faas (SF) Hampshire Regional School Districts Nursing Team Leader, Mark Bushee (MB), Health Agent for Foothills Health District.

- 1) Floor is given to DB who notes that WES is progressing in its plans to open next month based on three educational models the State has outlined to be frameworks for public education this fall within the context of Covid-19 mitigation. Fully open, on-line distance learning and a hybrid of these two. PPE, Plexiglas, cleaning supplies, equipment and technology. HVAC at WES is discussed. Board notes that it is working on specific recommendations for HVAC systems all town buildings. It will be forthcoming.
- 2) Floor is given to AO who notes the process that his team is going through to place a definitive proposal before the HRHS BOARD and its timetable, which is, hurried he feels. Transportation via buses is discussed with AO explaining the challenges posed by that piece of the puzzle. AO notes that defining and refining what the school year looks like will be locally decided. TM notes a pattern in the actions of the State responding to Covid: guidelines as issued and then refined and altered as local authority and pushback interact with the local conditions. TM notes the DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) guidelines seem to fall within this pattern. TM believes that final authority rest with School Boards and that the Board of Health is principle stakeholder/advisor/partner in the process. To that end the Board will be putting together written guidance/recommendations for the School Board to use for their decision making process. This will be ready early next week once it has gone through public meeting process. Meeting times with School Officials for the BOH to be included in are set for early next week.
- 3) Some general guidelines related to schools are discussed, including transportation and social distancing and contact tracing in the event of a suspected case. SF notes concern about the 4.5 social distancing threshold wondering if it is protective enough. TM notes that 6' social distancing is the standard in other environments and why would the Schools be less restrictive. AO notes that 6' distancing would likely push the Schools into using the Hybrid model. Suspected Covid cases are discussed. TM notes that according to DESE guidelines that suspected cases in Schools are to be treated differently than elsewhere with all students in a classrooms subgroup (called "cohorts" in DESE guidelines) being immediately notified of a suspected case and required to be self quarantined for 14 days or receive a negative test result. MB notes that students and drivers of buses would have to be considered in list of close contacts in the event of a

suspected or positive case. Also it is noted that family members of a students or staff with a suspected case would also be eligible for testing or have to self-quarantine for two weeks. Contact tracing could lead into the classrooms of other schools via the sibling of suspected cases.

- 4) DB moves and RA seconds approval of minutes of July 16th meeting with minor correction and motion passes unanimously. Board to set another meeting for as soon as public notification process will allow in order to discuss and finalize recommendations for School Reopening.

David Blum
Roberta Armenti
[Signature]