

Westhampton Board of Health

Minutes to Meeting of

August 13th, 2020

Meeting to order @ 1:03 PM and adjourned @ 2:25.

Present: Robby Armenti (RA), David Blakesley (DB), Tom Martin (TM), Mark Bushee, Health Agent (MB), Carl Schlerman , HRHS SC Chair (CS), Margaret Larson , HRHS SC Member (ML)

- 1) DB moves to approve minutes of July 28th Meeting with RA seconding and the motion passing unanimously.
- 2) CS and ML before the Board for clarification of its Recommendations for School reopening at Hampshire Regional. Mask wearing, ventilation, and consumption of food and drink discussed with many challenges faced by administrators trying to meet their educational and social service mandates amidst the pandemic, and conflicting messages issued by the State noted. ML to contact TM about a new safety committee just forming to look at details surrounding these issues. RA notes that HRHS nursing teams will be having meetings soon the Board members plan to participate in surrounding covid health protocols being developed to deal with suspected cases arriving in the schools. MB notes the seriousness of the challenges faced by the schools. TM notes that school superintendents retain authority to close schools immediately at the first sign of covid spread within the school community. TM notes that families uncomfortable with the hybrid learning model (with transition periods) approved by school boards can opt for distance learning. CS notes that families surveyed about schools opening are roughly split in thirds desiring distance, hybrid and in-person models and that such lack of clarity complicates matters. CS also notes that school boards are presently in negotiation with teachers' unions about reopening.
- 3) MB reports on activities in town related to Covid compliance, State travel orders, and regular Board of Health business.
- 4) Board reviews and approves an outdoor Story Book activity at the Library that is being planned by Pat Miller. This program will invite families to walk through a series of scenarios related to a children's story book on the grounds of the Library. Families will not mix or gather on the premises.
- 5) Board notes it will review safety and health protocols for the Library later today in preparation for opening the building for the public next week.

David Blakesley

Robby Armenti

Mark Bushee