

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Friday, January 21, 2022**

Members Present: Lisa Alberto, Chair
Kristi Brytowski, Vice Chair
Jennifer McKeon
Alysia Butler
Kaitlin Federico

Also Present: Karen Crebase, Superintendent

Pursuant to Governor Baker's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, GL chapter 30A, section 18, this meeting was conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted and every effort was made to ensure that the public could access the livestream of the meeting and the recorded video.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:59 am with a quorum present.

1. **COVID Protocols and School Testing Options** - The Superintendent reviewed COVID testing protocols that have been in place for school districts throughout the pandemic and reported on DESE's recommended transition away from the current Test and Stay program and individualized contact tracing. DESE's newly introduced program encourages in-school testing of symptomatic individuals and weekly at-home testing for students and staff who opt to participate. Ms. Crebase shared a presentation on this recommended shift of focus and resources and the necessary next steps.

A discussion followed regarding the inclusion of the preschool in the program and the potential for extending contact tracing at that grade level in the absence of vaccination availability, an anticipated drop in local positivity rates, lunch-time protocols, elementary school vaccination rates, and the community's shared responsibility for student health and safety.

Mrs. McKeon made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Federico, to adopt the Superintendent's recommendation to move from the Test and Stay program to DESE's new test-at-home program, with in-school symptomatic testing.

Mrs. Butler offered general concerns regarding the availability of test kits, the state's roll out of the new program, appropriate distribution of information to families, the mode of distribution of test kits, and loss of learning time for positive students. The Superintendent noted that every effort will be made to insure the successful implementation of the program locally despite any challenges at the state level.

Upon a call by the Chair to vote on the motion before them, the members unanimously voted by roll call vote to adopt the new program as follows: Mrs. Butler- yes; Mrs. McKeon- yes; Mrs. Brytowski- yes; Mrs. Federico- yes; and Mrs. Alberto- yes. The Superintendent reported that she will begin the application process which opens today and prepare the necessary documentation for staff and families.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: February 1, 2022