

**Hopedale School Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Wednesday, February 23, 2022**

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Media Center at 25 Adin Street, Hopedale, Massachusetts, with a quorum present. Mrs. Alberto reported that the Superintendent was absent due to a prior commitment.

1. Agenda Items -

- **Department of Education Announcement Regarding Masks in Schools:** The Chair shared a written statement from the Superintendent reporting on recent school and town positivity data, the recommendation of the Town's Health Agent regarding masks, and recent guidance from the Department of Education. Based on this information, the Superintendent included her recommendation to the Committee to adopt the state's guidelines and move to a mask optional environment in the schools upon return from the February break. The Chair then sought a motion on the recommendation. Mrs. McKeon made a motion to move to a mask optional environment in the schools as of February 28, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Federico. Mrs. Butler made a request for a roll call vote, which was granted by the Chair. Prior to the vote, the Chair invited discussion from the Committee and the audience. Kristen Brown, a parent, made a statement in favor of the motion. The Chair invited additional statements, discussion or questions from the members of the Committee and the audience. There being none, the Chair called for a vote on the motion. The Committee voted as follows: Mrs. Brytowski-yes; Mrs. McKeon-yes; Mrs. Federico-yes; Mrs. Alberto-yes; Mrs. Butler abstained.
- **Policy EBCFA-Face Coverings:** In light of the Committee's action to adopt a mask-optional practice in the schools effective February 28, 2022, Mrs. McKeon made a motion to rescind Policy EBCFA- Face Coverings, which was seconded by Mrs. Federico. The Chair invited discussion on the motion. There being none, the Committee voted unanimously to rescind the policy and Mrs. Butler abstained. The Policy Committee reported that it will discuss Policy EBCFA at its meeting on February 28, 2022 and report to the Committee at their next meeting on March 1, 2022. A brief discussion followed regarding the continuing mandate that masks be worn on school transportation and in the health offices. There was also a request that the Superintendent report on any continuing mitigation strategies, for example distancing and lunch procedures, at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee will be March 1, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Upon a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. McKeon and seconded by Mrs. Federico, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne McGuane, Recording Secretary
APPROVED: April 5, 2022