

**Health and Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 7, 2020**

Attendance:

Joanne Genva	Beth Bradshaw
Larry Davis	MaryLynn Orgonas
Maureen Moy	Doug Cambria
Monique Caccavale	Noreen Killeen
Lauren Lambo	Christine Oliva
Tricia Koppelman	Seth Lipshie
Nicholas Mancini	Ron Petrie
Sharda Sookhdeo	Dennis Warsaw
Anne Hoenderdos	Deb White
Stephanie Quigley	Christine Mangiamele
Hannah Kuemmel	Trish Cucinello
Desiree Shanks	Jen Lakas

Mr. Seth Lipshie started the meeting referencing the two documents that were emailed to the committee:

- *CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President's Plan for Opening America Up Again and*
- *Capital Region BOCES.*

Mr. Lipshie also emailed the following additional resources to the committee:

- Newsday article: *A How-to on Mask Wearing*
- CDC Guidelines
  - If I Think I Had or I Had COVID-19
  - Staff or Student Has COVID-19
- CDC Posters
  - School Decision Tree
  - How to Protect Yourself and Others
  - Handwashing – Germs are All Around You
  - How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering

Mr. Lipshie stated that Governor Cuomo has not given a date for school districts to submit a reopening plan. Starting on Monday, July 13, 2020, all MPUFSD employees

will be asked 3 basic questions and required to perform self-temperature checks. If they have a temperature of 100.4 or above, they will be required to stay at home.

Mr. Lipshie opened the discussion regarding the following items with reference to the **Health Office**:

- Office set-up
- Shared equipment
- Medicine Distribution
- Isolation of sick students and staff
- Isolation coordinator in each building
- Transport sick student or staff out of the buildings

The following suggestions were discussed:

Create two health sites in each building: One for isolation room and one for general health issues.

Meds distribution concerns – nurse cannot be in two places at one time.

Student late arrivals – sign-in through nurse’s office at LADSBS. Move attendance from Health Office.

Nurses see a high number of students who are not sick i.e. meds, abrasion, chapped lips.

Out of 4-5 students seen, maybe 3 are sent home.

Are we tracking student absences? Are we asking parents reason for absence?

Gym classes, library classes and cafeteria use LADSBS Health Office bathrooms. Only students treated by the nurse should be permitted to use bathrooms in the Health Office.

Discussion of number of students in bathrooms at one time. Bathroom policy at the HS is 1 in 1 out.

Triage sick in another location to separate from healthy students.

Suggestion to use LADSBS room 116 near grade 4/5 wing – make another secure vestibule.

One health care practitioner in each building – need RN to dispense meds.

Move attendance out of Nurses Office – attendance office is in the main office of the HS.

Well student area and sick student area. It will come down to space and resources

**SL** – We will have to look at financial costs, staffing and each building layout. Look at two different traffic paths. Quick exit. Reduce traffic to nurse’s office.

Question was asked for access to the floor plans of each building to figure out capacities with reference to social distancing. Look at rooms that can be used to quarantine.

**SL** – With regards to releasing building plans, we have to balance health and safety.

Building capacities will be an ongoing conversation. Utilization of permanent sub nurses to increase the amount of Health Care Professionals in the buildings to separate out two types of students.

Committee member asked about regulating opening and closing of doors to limit touching of door handles. Suggestion was made to use doorstops that are removable.

**SL** – Operations Committee to review door stops as it relates to fire codes.

Committee member asked - What is the protocol for contact tracing and cleaning if you have a COVID-19 positive student or staff member.

Comment was made that cleaning is highly ineffective against virus. Documents from the American Academy of Pediatrics will be sent to Mr. Lipshie.

**SL** – Protocol of 2-5 days of closing building for a confirmed case based on CDC “School Decisions Tree.” The School has to report positive cases to County Health Department and will receive guidance from County Health Department. With regards to tracking students and staff, we look for attendance patterns with staff that trigger FMLA. Staff is then required to see a Health Care Provider for diagnosis and they can use accrued sick time.

Main concerns – divert traffic, use of other bathrooms rather than health office, dispensing meds and assistance for nurses. Look at each building individually.

Committee member asked about staff swabbing.

**SL** – Staff testing for COVID-19 is too invasive for staff– legal decision. Discussion regarding Professional Development for staff and teaching students how to recognize signs, symptoms, PPE i.e. correct way to put on and remove PPE. Documents that were emailed to the committee members discuss PPE.

**Masks and PPE.** Discussion regarding staff wearing masks – ADA requires reasonable accommodations and physicians review. Can employee perform job? What is the impact on others? Looking at it case by case with legal guidance. For students it would be 504 specific.

The facemask discussion continued making the following points:

- Masks and students with anxiety and asthma.
- Personal issues need to be examined at length.
- Student required to wear masks.
- More compliance in classroom. In group settings wear masks. Concern about temperature. Hot days impossible to breath.
- Mandating to wear masks in the classroom is too tough.
- To appeal to younger children, they are wearing facemasks with different designs etc.
- Either social distance or masks. 3 feet social distancing is acceptable in pediatric population. 6 feet apart challenging; majority will not.

Committee member asked if a student forgets their facemask, do we supply them.

**SL** – We have to have masks available for students and staff.

Mr. Lipshie ended the discussion regarding facemasks with the following comments:

- CDC recommendation to wear masks based on socially distance restraints.
- Masks off in the classroom; leave the classroom mask on; flow of traffic – set-up dividers just for traffic.
- No definite answer yet on facemask mandate.
- Look at restrictions for adults in the building. Enforcing masks with students.

Committee member asked a question regarding transportation. Operations committee will be dealing with transportation.

Next discussion was regarding **Employee Workspace** –

Mr. Lipshie opened the discussion regarding types of workspace - Office Space and Teachers Classroom.

- Spacing and traffic
- Reduce Number of non-essential employees
- Reduce personal belongings
- Labeling property
- Storage
- Athletics
- Equipment limiting sharing
- Sanitizers
- Large number people and use of floor markers – maintain social distance
- Limit outside groups
- Deep clean buildings each evening
- Limit items kept in classrooms
- Modify workspace
- Control possible Movement of students and teachers
- Split sessions

Committee member indicated that social distancing depends on width and depth of a person to understand how many people you can fit in employee workspace. Other items for consideration:

- Travel paths
- Work with facilities regarding entrances – open different entrances
- Eat at desks
- Use gym as extension to cafeteria
- Cafeteria capacity
- Staff – breaks/lunch

**SL** – Looking at eating in classrooms. Regarding multiple entrances, there needs to be a balance of health and safety. Dismissal and arrival handled differently.

Committee member expressed the following with reference to mental health and eating at desks vs cafeteria:

- For some student lunch is a stress reliever
- Need to take a break away from classroom
- Change of scenery
- Once or twice a week in a different environment

Committee member commented that based on the guidance of social distancing 6 feet vs 3 feet:

- Eat at Desk vs cafeteria
- Guidance from Health officials regarding number of COVID cases in the area
- Mental health and getting back to normalcy
- Consider phases

**SL** – The committees will make recommendations to the Steering Committee

- Try to balance having students and staff return

Committee member asked – Do we have a date that the Governor will pass guidance?

**SL** – Contacted legal; no due date for NYS. Board of Regents to give guidance to SED and Governor on 7/13.

Committee member stated - too wide of options. Standards to agree upon – social distancing, nurses office not large enough. List of high-level standards.

Committee member asked about fire drills and social distancing?

**SL** – Fire drills will be vetted out at the Operations Committee

Committee member to email to Mr. Lipshie documents from the American Academy of Pediatrics

Committee member to email to Mr. Lipshie guidelines regarding capacity and space.

**Next Meeting Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 4 PM**