

**Health and Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2020**

Attendance

Larry Davis	Jane Lauria
Jared Pachter	Tricia Cucinello
Nicholas Mancini	Tara Penske
Noreen Killeen	Desiree Hassel
Tricia Koppelman	Stephanie Quigley
Monique Caccavale	Christine Oliva
Doug Cambria	MaryLynn Orgonas
Annalisa Fasano	Jen Lakas
Christine Mangiamele	Seth Lipshie
Beth Bradshaw	Ron Petrie
Hannah Kuemmel	

Mr. Lipshie started the meeting by stating that if any committee members have suggestions, information or potential information, they can email him. The Board of Regents released documents yesterday. More guidance will be disseminated tomorrow.

Department of Health released in person K-12 guidance documents, social distancing and masks. Mr. Lipshie emailed Draft of the Athletic document to be presented by the Athletic Director.

There will be a Steering Committee Meeting tomorrow with the Board of Education to review the first two weeks of the five Committee Meetings suggestions and recommendations.

Mr. Lipshie discussed the **highlights of the Board of Regents Health & Safety document**:

- Slide #5 – Health & Safety Preventative Actions
 - Health Checks
 - Screening
 - Maximizing Social Distancing
 - Person Management
 - Health Hygiene for Staff and Students
 - Ample Supplies
 - PPE, Facemasks
 - DOH guidance of Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Slide #8 – Social and Emotional well being

- Slide #16 – Schedules – each building will have 3 plans for a total of 12 plans to be submitted.
 - In-person instruction
 - Remote instruction
 - Hybrid instruction
- Slide #26 – Timeline
 - Further guidance 7/15/20
 - Portal opens 7/17/20
 - Plans submitted by 7/31/20

On 7/13/2020, the NYSDOH sent out guidelines for in person K-12 setting. Mr. Lipshie highlighted the following:

- Masks
 - Page 2 – All individuals are required to wear facemasks when social distancing cannot be maintained.
 - Remove during meal and instruction while maintaining social distance.
 - Page 8 – If social distancing of 6 feet cannot be maintained, facemasks must be worn.
 - When in common areas, hallways etc.
 - Medical Exemptions.
 - Page 10 – Students with health issues not required to wear facemasks.
- Document regarding social distancing and not wearing masks. If it doesn't encroach on distance, then facemask is not required.
- NYSDOH 6 feet to 12 feet of social distancing.
- Page 2 – maintain 6 feet in all directions
 - Physical barriers
 - School District be able to maintain 6 feet of social distancing
- Distance of 12 feet when exerting activity such as singing, wind instrument or Phys Ed classes.
- The Music Department at the University of Colorado conducted a study of social distancing and recommends 6 to 9 feet.

Committee member asked Mr. Lipshie if classrooms would be cleaned in between classes at the secondary level. Students changing classes. Mr. Lipshie stated that this discussion would continue in the Operations Committee or the Learning Committee. There will be a meeting with Admin and Operations to discuss the daily protocols regarding cleaning during the day (of classrooms, bathrooms etc.).

Committee member asked if there is one guideline that the district needs to follow i.e. the CDC or DOH. Mr. Lipshie stated that they will look at the guidance on the documents, gather information and meet with the Steering Committee with the source. American Academy of Pediatrics data suggests that 3 feet is effective when all wearing masks, not symptoms. There can be exceptions when 3 feet is within parameters of strict protocols.

Committee member asked how are facemasks being approached with reference to music. Mr. Lipshie stated that for Phys Ed and Music classes there will need to be creativity. Weather permitting, classes could be held outside. Everything will look different. The music rooms may not be acceptable space. Masks may be prohibited in different parts of music.

Committee member stated that at times, at the elementary level, there could be about 90 students in the cafeteria. Students will have to be scheduled differently. Committee member asked about Orchestra wearing facemasks. Mr. Lipshie stated facemasks will be worn when you cannot practice social distancing. It is more practical to have PE with in an area where social distancing can be maintained.

Committee member asked about air filtration in the classrooms. Rooms in the high school can be as hot as 90 degrees in September, October, May and June. Mr. Lipshie stated that this will be brought to the Operations Committee. Committee member continued that in the new wing of the high school windows do not open and the rescue window cannot be opened. Committee member mentioned that ventilation and air filtration was discussed in the Operations Committee. HEPA filters are being investigated but they are very expensive. This will be an ongoing discussion.

Committee member stated certain rooms in the high school become hotter than others. Committee member stated that scheduling can be done to avoid using those classrooms. Everything is on the table until we know what guidelines the district will be following i.e. distancing of 3 feet-6feet with masks and how many kids in the classrooms.

Mr. Lipshie stated that how many students in the classroom depends on social distancing at the 6 feet model. Depending on what the Governor decides – Hybrid, Remote, in person. It may be instructional hybrid plan.

Mr. Lipshie moved the discussion to the **NYSDOH guidelines and the Health Office** on Page 20.

- Screening process
 - Positive Screening
 - Temperature over 100.4
 - 3 questions
- Screening Positive – students and staff and how do they return to school

Mr. Lipshie stated that protocols for positive screen would be a discussion with the District’s Chief Medical Officer, School Nurse and NYSDOH.

Committee member stated that in this document it is states that temp over 100 degrees do not send the child for testing. It is not clear if they isolate for 14 days. More guidance and recommendations are needed. Protocol for staying home and returning back.

Mr. Lipshie discussed staff and the **Families First Corona Virus Response Act (FFCRA)**. If yes is answered to any of the three questions or temp above 100.4 degrees, then they need to seek medical diagnosis, get tested and self-quarantine.

Committee member asked is the district responsible to come up with an action plan for positive COVID-19 in the classroom. Referenced a July 4th party where 30 percent of the people tested positive. Mr. Lipshie stated that positive COVID-19 test is reported to the NYSDOH. It is recommended to close the school for 2-5 days based on CDC guidelines. Questionable effectiveness. Tracing path and contact tracing. CDC also recommends 2-5 days school closing. The district must develop and have on hand COVID-19 Reopening School Plan.

Committee member asked if a student with a fever is automatically tested for COVID-19 or do they have to have fever and COVID-19 symptoms. Committee member answered that every symptom could be COVID-19. You can have Strep with COVID-19. If presumed positive, return 3 days after symptom free or 14 days not tested. Committee member stated that DOH cleaning and disinfecting following suspected or positive case and close area for 7 days.

Mr. Lipshie stated if you answer yes to any of the three questions or fever above 100.4 cannot attend school. He stated there is not a lot of wiggle room with the fever. Symptoms are far more subjective.

Committee member stated that not all Kindergarten rooms are the same size. Some are bigger than others with small group tables. Mr. Lipshie took note of classroom sizes. Horseshoe desks may shift to desks. Committee member stated they do small group instruction for guided reading.

Mr. Lipshie moved the discussion to **Work Spaces**. The district is looking at dividers and signage for flow of traffic and posters with the DOH guidelines to be followed by students, staff and visitors. Deep cleaning will take place afterschool and clubs. At the secondary level facemasks in hallway until they get to class, use of bathrooms to prevent students from going to the nurse. Cafeteria use – ability to clean effectively in between lunch periods or use half the cafeteria. Effect on Mental Health when staying in one area for 7 hours. Manage cleaning. Minimize what things can be brought in from home not to infringe on space. Reconfigure space audit. Outdoor classrooms. Get students in other areas. Tents for outside classroom use. Mr. Lipshie asked if one had any suggestions.

Committee member stated with reference with the teachers office upstairs in the high school. There is a lot of traffic coming and going and not enough space.

Mr. Lipshie stated that the number of staff using equipment should be limited. Designate one staff member to use equipment and wipe down equipment after each use. Mr. Lipshie will discuss with the principals regarding high traffic staff areas and socially distancing.

Committee member asked if teachers could work in shifts to prepare for September in advance and reduce amount of staff members in at one time.

Committee member suggested in regards to open space, the courtyard and the senior courtyard in the high school can be used. Committee member stated that this was discussed at the Operations committee and will be brought to the Steering Committee. Mr. Lipshie commented that this could be another place to capture as an instructional area.

Committee member asked about shared items between classes (elementary). Mr. Lipshie stated that the Learning Committee would be discussing this. We will have to be creative and look at new avenues with regards to Phys Ed, Labs, Art and Music classes. Creative instruction.

Committee member asked about late students and signing in. There could be as many students coming in at one time. Can they be moved to the front desk other than the main office. Committee member asked if rooms will have contactless hand sanitizer dispensers like the the Senior Lounge. Committee member asked about automatic open and close garbage cans or relocate garbage cans outside of the classrooms. Mr. Lipshie will look into these suggestions.

Mr. Lipshie directed the next topic to **Mental Health – Staff and Students**.

Mr. Lipshie mentioned the available resources and referrals for staff. Students mental health will be discussed at the Learning Committee. Prolonged orientation prior to delivery of content to re-orient staff and their wellbeing. NYS DOH guidelines for mental health support is discussed on Page 5. It talks about identifying signs and offering PD for all staff.

Committee member stated PD for staff on recognizing signs and symptoms, PD on support strategies to get through the day, self-care for teachers, crisis intervention for anxiety (PTSD), depression with regards to COVID-19, mindfulness strategies. Suggestion was made to have substitute teachers available throughout the day to give teachers a 10-15 minute break. Mr. Lipshie talked about the districts EAP program for staff members dealing with family members and COVID-19. He stated that the Teachers Union has information from the State Committee specific to this. Mr. Lipshie will get that information. Mr. Lipshie stated that there would be PD's for support staff as well.

Mr. Lipshie moved to the next topic of **Athletics and Clubs**. Mr. Lipshie mentioned the importance of activities outside the classroom. The district is looking at a safeway to do this i.e. virtually, if in-person capacity and cleaning.

The Athletic Director presented the MPUFSD draft Athletic Reopening Plan. He stated that the governor has not talked about athletics. Clubs could follow a similar plan. This plan is for outdoor athletics. Practices would be with teammates. There is no benefit to practicing in small numbers. Social distancing is not possible in teams sports but there

would be certain considerations to distancing. Try to get as close as we can. The district ordered infrareds for temperature checks. For positive screening, the same protocol would be followed as in school. He stated that PE classes may not be changing clothes but they would need to wear appropriate footwear. Athletic transportation would follow the same protocol and transportation to school. To be discussed at Operations Committee.

Committee member asked if spectators would be allowed at games. The Athletic Director stated that the district will follow guidance from NFHS. No one has said sports without spectators. Our district has the ability to live stream. Committee member asked if we were collaborating with other districts regarding athletics to reduce noise/conflicts among communities (local school districts). Question was also asked if competitions are not allowed, would there be scrimmages. Mr. Lipshie and the Athletic Director agreed if competitions are not there would be some form of intramural sports. Governor stated opening would transcend into regional approach. Nassau and Suffolk would be treated as one region.

Committee member asked about outside use of facilities. Access restricted to interscholastic sports but not informal outside groups. Schools would have to be cleaned before use and after use.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 21, 2020.