

**Health and Safety Committee Minutes**  
**July 28, 2020**

**Attendance:**

Bradshaw, Elizabeth	Lambo, Lauren
Caccavale, Monique	Lauria, Jane
Cambria, Doug	Mangiamele, Christine
Cartisano, Marianne	Moy, Maureen
Cucinello, Tricia	Oliva, Christine
Dammenberg, Tabitha	Pachter, Jarid
Davis, Larry	Penske, Tara
Fasano, Fasano	Petrie, Ron
Hoenderdos (Snijders), Annelies	Quigley, Stephanie
Killeen, Killeen	Shanks, Desiree
Koppelman, Tricia	Sookhdeo, Sharda
Kuemmel, Hannah	Warsaw, Dennis
Lakas, Jen	White, Debra

**Agenda:**

- Hybrid Plan
- Emails
- Masks
- Reopening Plan Submission
- Meeting Steering Committee

Mr. Lipshie started the meeting with a recap of the draft hybrid plan. The hybrid plan has shifted to a Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday cohort and Wednesday virtual. The shift was made so that they students would have consecutive learning days. This is not for Health and Safety, I wanted to update you. This was discussed at Learning and Instruction Committee.

**Question:** Committee member asked how that the students will be split. Mr. Lipshie stated that the students will split by Alphabetically A-L and M-Z.

**Question:** Committee member asked how many holidays fall on Mondays? Mr. Lipshie stated this came up at the Learning and Instruction Committee. There are 12 holidays that fall on Monday/Tuesday and 12 holidays that fall on Thursday/Friday.

**Question:** Committee member asked if teachers are required to be in school on Wednesdays. Mr. Lipshie stated that the teachers are expected to be on campus on Wednesdays.

Mr. Lipshie reviewed emails received from committee members. Discussion regarding the nurses office, isolation room and suspected COVID positive Staff member or student and look at the reasons why the students frequently visit the nurse Health Office.

The School Nurse submitted an email to Mr. Lipshie with items for review. Mr. Lipshie and the School Nurses will meet to review and create classroom protocols for teachers to limit student visits to the Health Offices. This would include teaching teachers how to manage requests (i.e. paper cuts, Vaseline for chapped lips, loose tooth not active bleeding, minor clothing issues, parent phone calls, mental health break) to go to the Health Office in the classroom. Mr. Lipshie stated that the School Nurse has been very thorough reviewing the guidelines from the CDC and Department of Health. Mr. Lipshie stated at the suggestion of the School Nurse, 8 new cots have been ordered for a second Health Office. These cots are easy to clean.

The School Nurses would like to meet with Mr. Lipshie regarding. The new two health office system. Discussion continued regarding designating ne health office to handle students coming in for meds. The School Nurse stated that all complaints would need to be sent to the isolation room. Student complaints need to be vetted to determine if the student is really sick or just needs a break or rest. There needs to be a sick office and an office for minor complaints. or dispensing medicine. Mr. Lipshie stated that there will be professional development to teach staff the signs and symptoms. Mr. Lipshie stated that there will be ongoing educating of staff, students and parents regarding recognizing signs and symptoms. The school nurse continued the discussion regarding students home. Before COVID-19 students seen with complaint of a sore throat, the nurse would look at their throat and take their temperature. If their throat is not red or no temp, the student would be sent back to class. Do we send those students home? Mr. Lipshie stated that they will consult with the District's Chief Medical Officer to develop a protocol. Let parents know to have their children be more articulate about their symptoms.

Committee member stated that this is a different situation. If students are not feeling well, they should be sent home. Parents will appreciate re-opening school with strict guidelines. Doctor's offices decide if you will be seen in their office based on your symptoms.

**Question:** Committee member asked about the absence policy and if students will be penalized for going home too often? Committee member asked if NYS changed the attendance requirements. Mr. Lipshie stated the current attendance policy is 14 absences for half-year classes and 27 absences for full year classes. If extenuating circumstances exist the student can go through the appeals process. There will have to be a case by case evaluation unless NYS revises their policy. Mr. Lipshie said that students who are absent due to an illness for an extended period of time would receive homebound instruction.

The School Nurse stated that all protocols will have to be the same for all buildings based on guidance from the District's Chief Medical Officer. Mr. Lipshie stated that the district will need to be consistent with following protocols from the DOH and the District's Chief Medical Officer. The district will err on the side of caution.

**Question:** The school nurse asked if a student is sent home with a sore throat, stomachache or is vomiting, when can they return to school? If they have not documentation do they have to be home for 10 days? Do they have to see a doctor to return to school? Mr. Lipshie stated for COVID-19 symptoms and positive COVID-19 cases the district will rely on the SC DOH and the District's Chief Medical Officer for guidance on returning to school.

Committee member stated that for the safety of the teachers and other students, although there are privacy laws, if a student is absent a letter should be sent out to the class notifying parents that Student X is out sick. Committee member continued that parents should police each other about wearing facemasks. Committee member asked if there is a school safe venue that parents can express concerns about seeing students out without a mask. If a student is seen without a mask and then the student is out 7 days later with a sore throat, the classmates and teachers should be placed on high alert. Mr. Lipshie stated that there are student privacy limitations. The district has a safe school hotline for anonymous calls. The calls need to be verified for proof of allegation and the impact on the school setting.

**Question:** Committee member asked if notifying class about a positive case has been vetted through legal? The committee member continued that they may see 125 students a day. It is beyond a notification of a student having lice. Mr. Lipshie stated contact tracing would be done and information released to the extent possible.

**Question:** Committee member asked if when students enter the building, will there be staff on hand to check to see if they are wearing masks and will they be distributed? Mr. Lipshie stated that when social distancing cannot be maintained masks should be worn. There will be a section added to the Code of Conduct regarding wearing masks. If a student does not comply, Administration will have to get involved.

**Question:** Committee member asked about ventilation in the classrooms? Mr. Lipshie stated that operations is conducting an assessment all of classrooms in all buildings and adjustments will be made as needed.

Mr. Lipshie stated that the district is moving behind the scenes. The following items have been ordered prior to school reopening:

- 300,000 masks for students and staff
- 1,000 desk shields for elementary school students. There was a recommendation for more desk shields for teachers. Portable desk shields for teachers will be reviewed at the operation committee.
- 275 Hand Sanitizer Dispensers
- 10 Portable Sinks (Cafeteria, Nurses Office, Isolation Room)

Parents are required to take temperature of their children prior to sending their children on the bus. Staff will be required to self-report daily temperature and complete a health questionnaire prior to coming to work.

**Question:** Committee member stated asked about secondary level students who may forge parents signature. Mr. Lipshie stated the district will address students forging signatures when it is found. The district will educate parents - when in doubt don't send your child to school. Parents should also reinforce to their children that masks are an important tool and that it protects others.

**Question:** Committee member asked about having thermometers available as students, staff and visitors walk-in to the building. Mr. Lipshie stated that visitors will have their temperature check and attest to having not symptoms. Mr. Lipshie stated that the district looked into scanners. The cost for a scanner is about \$30,000. Temperature check required for students before entering a building would create a long line and time consuming.

**Question:** Committee member asked about individuals who have a higher or lower body temperature. Committee member answered that 100°F or higher the individual should not report to school. If a student consistently has a lower body temperature or high body temperature, they should have Doctor's note indicating their normal body temperature. Students will be sent home with a temperature of 100°F or above. Students may have increased temperatures when they get off the bus or after gym.

**Question:** Committee member asked if the district was looking into plexiglass for teachers and if they would consider guidance counselors and school psychologists. Mr. Lipshie stated that the district ordered face shield as added protection when in close proximity. And he would forward the request for plexiglass for teachers.

Mr. Lipshie stated that at the Special Education Subcommittee they discussed travelling out of NYS and self-reporting. Parents will be educated that if they travel out of NYS they would be required to self-quarantine. Mr. Lipshie stated that the law requires you to self-quarantine if you are in there for 24 hours or more, if you travel by bus, plane or by car and stop at rest stops.

**Question:** Committee member asked if the district looked into capturing more space using portable classrooms or trailers. Mr. Lipshie stated that the district is not robust with space or land. Dr. Cartisano stated that building codes and SED codes change. Dr. Cartisano also discussed that there is not enough space for foundations. Due to social distance requirements, a trailer would only accommodate six students. Running water and power becomes an issue. There is not enough land space at Andrew Muller Primary School.

Dr. Cartisano continued a discussion regarding submitting the plan to be approved. There are 20 Health and Safety areas that require a plan and assurances. Dr. Cartisano stated that the assurances are tied to her certification. The district will pivot many times. Other districts have space in their community such as a library, more school buildings, community centers, Houses of Worship, YMCA. Miller Place has limited options. The

plan will be posted Friday night. It details notification of positive COVID, follow protocol by the SC DOH – close class, wing, building, and district. Suffolk County Superintendents me to try to work out details.

Committee member suggested a FAQ on the website to manage emails from the community.

Mr. Lipshie reiterated the mask plan. Masks are required when social distancing cannot be maintained. The district may require the wearing of masks during instruction. Masks will not be worn at meals and during instruction breaks. A determination will be made on Friday.

**Question:** Committee member asked if the district would consider not wearing masks all day and take into consideration how hot it gets in the classrooms.

**Question:** Committee member asked about carpeting in the classrooms and how carpets are cleaned and sanitized. Dr. Cartisano stated that specials are going to be held in the classrooms. Committee member stated that the Operations staff is removing or rolling up and storing carpets. There is a specific sanitizing for carpets.

**Question:** Committee member asked about sanitizing and use of harsher chemicals to contain the spread. She stated that the flu last year was awful. Dr. Cartisano stated that there will be a detailed protocol for cleaning and sanitizing. The use of bleach is not permitted in schools.

**Question:** Committee member asked about attendance for staff or student who travels out of state. Mr. Lipshie stated that the absence for staff falls under the FFCRA self-quarantine. Once they have exhausted the FFCRA then they would use accrued sick time. The Instruction and Learning committee will discuss how to handle students. Dr. Cartisano stated that staff could be reassigned work remotely.

Committee member stated regarding masks and students coughing and sneezing. Arbitrary wearing is not a good message about wearing masks. Is there an area far back in the classroom that 2-3 students could be moved to? Mr. Lipshie stated that if there is a way to safely rotate students in blocks more often to give them a break from wearing masks that would be considered.

**Question:** Committee member asked if teachers are recorded or live stream with reference to the Hybrid plan. Dr. Cartisano stated that this will be worked out.

**Question:** Committee member asked about virtual PD before school and how will information regarding recognizing signs and symptoms be dispensed to families. Dr. Cartisano stated that there would be a page for remote learning, distance learning and resources and a page for Special Education. In order to educate parents, Connect Ed messages will be posted on the website as well as district newsletters. Parents can contact the nurse's office with questions.

**Question:** Committee member asked about the impact on recess and lunch. Mr. Lipshie stated there will be no movement of K-5 students. Dr. Cartisano continued that recess will not be a traditional recess. There will be no playgrounds. Recess will be outside for fresh air when temperature is above 40° . Students cannot go into the cafeteria. Food service will be meals on wheels – cold lunch. Food Service and transportation are large undertakings. Dr. Cartisano stated that she purchased 4 wedding size tents with sides to capture more space outdoor weather permitting, for Specials i.e. music, phys ed and art.

Mr. Lipshie ended the meeting by reiterating that the plans will be submitted on Friday, July 31 and posted to the districts website.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2020.**