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Town of North Reading
Massachusetts

Board of Health

**North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2020
Teleconference/Virtual**

Members Present: Gary Hunt, Chairman
Karen Martin
Pamela Vath

Others Present: Robert Bracey, Health Agent North Reading
Amy DiChiara
Lauren Gulbicki
Abigail Hurlburt
Dr. Patrick Daley – Superintendent of Schools

8:00 PM

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting.

Minutes

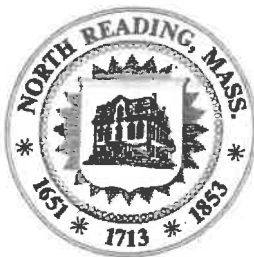
Minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

New Business:

School Reopening

The school dept. has developed and submitted a plan to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The plan that they submitted is a hybrid plan. Students will be six feet apart in all classrooms. The hybrid model that was submitted and the district plans to use will be a two days on, two days off model where students returning in person are divided into two cohorts, A and B. Additionally, cohort C will include students who are high priority who would attend in person on most days. Cohort D will include students who elect for full remote learning.

The school committee has approved a tentative calendar change that will allow for all students to return and the hybrid model to begin fully for students on September 17, 2020. Teachers will begin on September 1, 2020 to allow for all the additional training and set up.



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Dr. Daley did state that he will be recommending to the school committee that students and staff in all grades K through 12 be required to wear masks. Dr. Daley stated it is important for all students to feel included and they will handle cases of students not being able to wear masks on individual basis due to medical waivers or notes from doctors.

Gary raised concern of the air filtration systems at the schools. Dr. Daley stated that they are testing all the mechanics of the systems at each school. They are looking to purchase different filters to help the HVAC systems to be able to work at their best.

There will be designated spaces for students that show symptoms while in school. The schools will continue more than ever the importance of staying home when not feeling well.

Pam Vath stated that it will be important to interface the Public Health Nurse (PHN) with the school nurses. There will be a tremendous amount of additional work this year and it is important that they work together.

Dr. Daley stated that the school department is in the process of hiring an additional full time floater nurse to help at all schools.

Pam stressed that she feels it is important to follow guidance from the CDC and MADPH.

Mary stressed that she is very concerned that the town is without a PHN at this time due to Pam Vath's retirement.

Bob informed the board that there is a PHN candidate and they will be interviewing soon.

Karen asked how the Board of Health plans to respond to in school transmission.

Patrick Daley suggested that a sub group be formed to address this situation. Karen Martin will begin to work on developing that group and plan.



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The next BOH meeting will be held Wednesday August 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Gary noted that he would like the school reopening to be part of that agenda as well as a update on an action plan on how the Board of Health and Schools will work together when or if a positive case is found in the school community.

Pam Vath motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm.
Motion seconded by Karen Martin.
All members voted unanimously in favor.

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Gary Hunt

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Pamela Vath

DocuSigned by:

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Karen Martin