MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
Zoom Remote Meeting
October 16, 2020

PRESENT: Jessica Reilly - Chair
Leo Brehm - Vice Chair
Timothy Knight - Recording Secretary
Meghan Glenn - Financial Secretary
Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - Member at Large

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Marsden - Superintendent of Schools
Michael LaFrancesca - Director of Finance and Operations
Christine Power – Director of Innovation and Instruction
Andrea Moores – Secretary

The School Committee Workshop was called to order at 8:57 am.

A Roll Call was taken to open the workshop:

- Leo Brehm- yes
- Timothy Knight- yes
- Meghan Glenn -yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke- yes
- Jessica Reilly- yes

This workshop was held for the School Committee to discuss the School Reopening Plan.

The following topics were discussed:

Dr. Jeffrey Marsden informed the committee about the new Medfield COVID Dashboard that has been developed. He reviewed the criteria and clarified the dashboard indicators. Dr. Marsden explained the importance of including contiguous town data and how that data impacts Medfield. The Medfield Board of Health is in support of the dashboard and it will be posted to www.medfield.net soon and updated every Wednesday.

Dr. Marsden shared with the committee how positive cases in the district would be communicated to the families and staff within the district. Dr. Marsden explained that names of students or staff cannot be shared but he will indicate the school, whether it is a staff member or student, and if the person was in-school during the contagious period determined by the DPH/CDC.

The School Committee discussed reporting presumptive, potential, and cumulative cases of COVID-19 and how that information gets to the district and the challenges pertaining to the reporting time of positive cases to the district. Dr. Marsden stated that the goal is to communicate positive cases to families being as transparent as possible without violating HIPPA.

Dr. Marsden shared the draft v2 of the potential School Re-Opening Plan and reviewed the following metrics and considerations with the committee:

- Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents
- Moving Out of a Hybrid Model - Full In-Person or Full Remote
    - Medfield Indicators
    - Non- Medfield Indicators (Secondary Indicators)

- Criteria for pivot to Full In Person
- Priorities For Full Time In-Person Learning
    - Medfield Indicators
    - Non- Medfield Indicators (Secondary Indicators)
    - Key Dates for Data Review

Dr. Marsden informed the committee that once the data shows that students can return to in-person it won't be able to happen overnight. There will need to be some lead time to get the schools and staff ready to bring students back full in-person or increased time in a hybrid model.

The School Committee members shared the following thoughts and comments regarding the school reopening metrics and considerations presentations:

Ms. Meghan Glenn inquired if it would be possible to have a member of the Board of Health attend future School Committee meetings. Dr. Marsden stated that Ms. Kathy Thompson, Medfield Nurse Leader, is now a part of the Board of Health and will be the district's liaison. Dr. Marsden stated that Ms. Reilly could reach out to the Board of Health with the request as the School Committee Chair.

Mr. Leo Brehm inquired about which testing metric will be used and asked if there was a possibility to increase Cohort C eligibility. Dr. Marsden explained that this wouldn't be a possibility due to staffing needs and space constraints but explained that a hybrid scenario being considered for the future may address this.

Mr. Timothy Knight asked if the Board of Health would be maintaining the dashboard. Dr. Marsden explained that the Town and the School Department will be responsible for the dashboard.

Dr. Marsden stated the district is working on a plan to increase the hybrid model for grades K-5 because remote learning is most challenging for younger age students with middle and high school after that. Dr. Marsden stated if the physical distancing goes beneath 6 feet it would open up more possibilities for more in-person learning. At this time 60% of staff are not comfortable teaching at less than 6 feet of physical distance, 25% would consider and 15% are unsure at this time.

Ms. Jessica Reilly expressed her concerns that teachers are not feeling supported and the importance of respectful communication when speaking with school employees as well as treating them as the professionals that they are.

Dr. Marsden acknowledged the frustrations around getting students back to school and stressed that the goal is to get students back in school. The district is continuing to assess the protocols in place and making improvements and adjustments as needed. He also stated that teachers are working tirelessly in these unprecedented times to teach the students in Medfield. Dr. Marsden explained that teachers want nothing more to be in person and to have their students in front of them. The district is assessing the current protocols regularly and making improvements that are best for kids.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke inquired about the possibility of bringing testing into the schools. Dr. Marsden shared that he has been looking at this possibility and working with other districts to secure testing but cannot commit until there is an understanding of the cost implications. The initial information that has come in has shown that it is cost prohibitive. Dr. Marsden explained that the state has 2 million Abbott rapid tests that they will release to schools in the state soon but he is unsure how many tests Medfield will receive at this time.

Ms. Reilly asked the committee if there were any more questions at this time, noting that there is a School

Committee meeting scheduled for October 22nd. Dr. Marsden asked the committee to share feedback prior to the upcoming weekend so that he can fine tune the document to be ready for the October 22nd meeting.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke left the meeting at 10:09 am due to scheduling conflict.

A motion was made by Mr. Timothy Knight and seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm to adjourn the workshop.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to adjourn the workshop.

- Leo Brehm-yes
- Timothy Knight-yes
- Meghan Glenn-yes
- Jessica Reilly-yes

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 am.

Minutes Approved by School Committee: March 11, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary