

To: Hope School Committee
From: Kathryn Clark, Superintendent

Re: Emergency School Committee Meeting, Thursday, November 4th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom:
<https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/87658918996>

Minutes (revised 11/16/21)

In attendance: Tim Lock, Chair; Emily Burgess, Vice Chair; Jude Masseur; Jacob Eichenlaub; and Crystal Robinson. Also in attendance: Kate Clark, Superintendent; Danielle Fagonde, Principal; Reagan Thomason, School Nurse; members of the public, those of whom identified themselves during public comment listed below.

1. Tim Lock called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Tim Lock opened the meeting by stating that it was not clear that the Board was required to vote on the vaccination clinics.
2. Public Comment:
 - a. Elizabeth Borch, Hope resident and registered nurse, commented that when she was previously on the CSD Fivetowns Board, there was a Board conversation about giving the flu vaccine in the school and she was opposed to that idea and encouraged the Board not to offer the Covid vaccine clinic due to liability concerns.
 - b. Chris Robinson, Hope resident, expressed surprise that the clinic was scheduled on picture day, does not think it is right because families may want to keep students home because of the vaccine clinic and those students may miss picture day. Families should decide whether or not to give the vaccine.
 - c. Crystal Robinson, Hope resident, objects to the vaccine clinic because this is an important decision and parents should be given time to make this decision. Feels that it is unconstitutional for schools to offer any medical services and that there will be inequities created by this situation.
 - d. John Sylvester, Hope resident, agreed that the vaccinations are controversial and that having vaccine clinics in the school will create a situation where some students are treated differently because of their vaccination status.
 - e. Emily Burgess, Hope resident, shared that after the last clinic, her child was singled out and criticized by his peers and felt that he had to defend his family's decision.
3. Review of permissions and procedures for upcoming COVID 19 vaccination clinics: Tim Lock clarified that school staff is not administering the vaccines and the service, provided by PenBay, was scheduled by PenBay. The dates and times were finalized yesterday (November 3rd). Permission form that was sent home to parents from PenBay and Waldo General. Express parent/guardian permission is required for any child to be vaccinated and the vaccines are in no way mandatory.

Danielle Fagonde shared that two forms of parental/guardian permission is required for a student to be vaccinated. PenBay staff are present and students are called out of class to receive the vaccination and are then monitored for 15 minutes. Last year, the vaccination clinics went very smoothly and did not take long.

There was some discussion about other services (picture and dental) that are also scheduled for November 9th.

Crystal Robinson expressed that she does not think that fluoride and dental services should be offered either.

Tim Lock shared that the Dental services is another opportunity for families to make a choice about whether or not they want to participate, but we are providing services for families who do not have the time or resources to get these services otherwise. In his opinion, offering the options promotes equity.

Jude Masseur agrees it is important to support families who may need help to access services, she also reiterated Mrs. Fagonde's contention that the teachers and other adults in the building need to work to mitigate peer to peer comments and any feelings of being singled out for any difference.

Jacob Eichenlaub asks that the teachers and school staff be conscious of students' differences and mitigate any issues.

Emily Burgess asked if the vaccination clinic could happen after school. Mrs. Clark stated that PenBay will work with us on the timing, but that the school did not see any operational reason to move the clinic later in the day. Tim Lock shared moving the timing of the vaccination clinics outside of the school day would be an indication that the Board does not trust Mrs. Fagonde and her staff to mitigate the possible social difficulties arising from discussion of vaccinations among students.

Emily Burgess does not see medical services as part of the role of the school and wonders about the programming that is being interrupted due to the clinics.

Tim Lock shared that historically, vaccinations have been given at schools for decades.

Tim Lock shared that the purview of the Board is really organizational and Emily Burgess asked what the day will look like. Mrs. Fagonde shared that pictures would take about 15 minutes per class. The dental clinic and the vaccination clinics would be more individualized but do not take much time either. Students will miss important content if they were absent from school for the whole day.

Emily Burgess questioned again whether or not the meeting and a vote was required.

Tim Lock moved to agree to host the Covid 19 clinic on Tuesday November 9th starting At 11:30 with express permission from parents/guardians, seconded by Jacob Eichenlaub. Vote: 3 in favor, 2 opposed, motion passed.

4. Jude Masseur moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jacob Eichenlaub. Vote: 5-0 in favor, motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

