

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES: Monday, July 25, 2022
Greenfield MA**

Note: This meeting was held fully remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §20.

Present: Elizabeth Deneve (ED); Glenn Johnson-Mussad (GJM); Kathryn Martini (KM); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW)

Absent: Susan Eckstrom (SE); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Jennifer Hoffman, Greenfield Health Director; Jack Sullivan, Regional Epidemiologist; Megan Tudryn, Greenfield Public Health Nurse

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (ED, GJM, KM, AP, JW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Health update from DPH regarding COVID-19

Presentation by Jack Sullivan, Regional Epidemiologist:

- Cycle of spread: school -- families -- work -- community -- social -- school etc.
- Case study of infection started with football team, showing exponential spread
- Additional prevention measures may be needed during outbreak
- Importance of notification & testing, including "Test & Stay"
- Consider role of families in outbreaks
- New variants of concern
- Increase in school absences 2021-March 2022
- Menu of mitigation strategies
 - set data triggers to launch mitigation measures
 - education/awareness, including with vaccine-hesitant/unvaccinated people
 - pooled testing; make at-home test kits available
 - partner with other groups re: best practices
 - system to self-report home test results
- Lessons learned
 - undercounting; actual positive cases higher
 - new variants are highly transmissible
 - 4-5 month cycle of surges
 - surges linked to holidays, special events, social gatherings
 - region's testing lacks sequencing data to identify variants
 - vaccines reduce severity; masks reduce spread
 - Reduction in flu transmission show effectiveness of Covid-19 prevention strategies

Discussion:

- Specifying level-of-infection triggers is difficult because data are limited
- Advocate for pooled testing to continue in schools
- Jennifer Hoffman, Greenfield Health Director, to meet with Dr. DeBarge to identify strategies to bring to School Committee

- Greenfield, Montague, Deerfield, Sunderland cooperating as public health consortium; Shutesbury, Leverett to join
- Differing recommendations from DESE vs. Dept. of Public Health
- Chronic absenteeism primarily due to Covid; consider other factors such as poverty, homelessness
- Wastewater treatment infection data posted on Greenfield website

IV. Adjournment

KM moved to adjourn. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

Agenda: July 25, 2022