

**Weston Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2021
4:03pm-5:53pm
Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9328937943>

Meeting ID: 932 893 7943

Present: Laura Azzam, Chair
Dr. David Kominz, Member
Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro, Member
Wendy Diotalevi, R.S., Public Health Director
Beth Ann Boles, R.S., Health Agent
Michele Schuckel, R.N., COVID-19 Response Team Public Health Nurse

Others: Amy Conner, Resident

I. Residents' Concerns

Weston resident Amy Connor had some questions about the upcoming plan that the schools are proposing in regards to getting the kids back to full in-person learning at the WPS. The concern is the distance between the kids/desks in the classroom and contact tracing. Ms. Conner was informed to stay on the meeting as this would be discussed. Ms. Connor thanked the Board of Health for all the work that has been done over the year.

II. Approval of Board of Health Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2020, December 16, 2020, January 12, 2021, January 26, 2021, February 9, 2021

- Dr. David Kominz made a motion to approve the December 16, 2020, January 12, 2021, and January 26, 2021 Board of Health Meeting Minutes. Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro second the motion. Vote unanimous. Motion carries.
- Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro made a motion to approve the October 26, 2020 and February 9, 2021 Board of Health Meeting Minutes. Dr. David Kominz second the motion. Vote unanimous. Motion carries.

III. Chair Laura Azzam's Thank you Statement

Thank you to the WPS administration, teachers, & staff as well as the Weston Public Health Team, LEMT. Since last March, they have tackled the pandemic head-on - safely and proactively - to ensure our schools and other community operations are safe and continue to function as much as possible. There has been incredible dedication and efforts of numerous individuals working together for the sake of our town. WPS started off slowly in September, in a hybrid model, giving everyone a chance to adapt to the new procedures and policies.

The community stepped up, and I thank the community and kids for keeping us safe. People in Weston are willing to wear masks, quarantining and isolating when sick or deemed a "close contact", and testing when asked. Lately, there's been a great amount of educating each other. Lots of sacrifices were made, and we have to appreciate all of these efforts.

IV. **Director's Report & COVID-19 Updates**

The Board reviewed the proposal of the Weston Public Schools to accommodate Middle and High School students for in-person learning from 8:30am-1pm five days a week starting March 15, 2021 without lunch. The proposal provided a distance of 4.5-5ft between students and 6-8ft between students and teachers. There is still discussion about planning around mask breaks indoors when weather does not allow for outdoor breaks. A walkthrough of the proposed spacing at the High School is planned for later this week with administration and teachers, and another site walk with Wendy Diotalevi, Chief Soar and Nurse Michele Schuckel. In advance of this meeting, the Board was provided recent DESE guidance on transportation, expanding in-person learning and additional safety guidance.

The Board of Health is in support of the proposed plan with the following recommendations:

- Provide clear education to families that sending children back to school under this proposal could mean increased incidence of quarantine and that their compliance is mandatory per Mass DPH regulations. As close contact (<6 feet for 15 minutes over 24 hours with a COVID-19 positive person) is more likely in the proposed spacing at the Middle and High Schools children who are identified as close contacts will be required to quarantine with Public Health support.
- Parents should sign up/increase participation in testing.
- The importance of continue family/adult vigilance should be stressed. The Board reviewed case-data for the schools noting that there is a greater incidence of students being quarantined because their parents were positive for COVID-19 (the adults are getting COVID, not the kids). Similarly, we've seen more faculty/staff positive, having gotten the virus outside of school. Continued public health education on adherence to hand washing, mask wearing, maintaining 6-foot distancing with people not in your own household whenever possible (ex. avoid carpooling and social gatherings when distancing not possible), appropriate surface cleaning of high-contact surfaces, staying home when sick, participating in testing, and seeking vaccination when it's your turn.
- The Board stressed continued attention to case, testing and positivity rates with particular attention to positivity rate changes within the community. It was noted that the Weston Public Schools will likely take appropriate action on their own and Public Health in Weston remains appreciative of their ongoing vigilance, and our open and communicative relationship. Working together we are keeping Weston healthier.

- The Board is supportive of the continued offering of in-person and Remote Learning Academy options to accommodate the personal needs of students/faculty/staff.

V. **BOH Director Report**

Public Health Director Wendy Diotalevi informed the Board that Boards of Health are no longer eligible to get further COVID-19 vaccine. She has reached out to Waltham, Natick and Wellesley to partner for 2nd dose clinics. Natick is interested in partnering. We would each do our own clinics but use one town as a depot for the vaccine. We have not received our vaccine for the second dose clinics yet and PrepMod is not working efficiently as it continues to crash during the day. The State was contacted and we should know by Friday if vaccine will be delivered to finish the 200 second dose clinics next week.

Summer Camps will be up and running this season. Wendy is looking for a part-time nurse to assist with the COVID-19 plan reviews. The Board agrees to use extra money to seek extra help with camps/COVID.

VI. **New Hauler Regulations**

Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro would like to discuss the proposed private trash hauler regulations next meeting as the Pay-As-You-Throw Committee recommendations will be proposed sometime in April. Would like to included compost haulers within the regulations.

VII. **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 4:00PM (Zoom Meeting)

VIII. **Meeting Adjourned**