

The Board of Health meeting was held on, Thursday August 19, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mathew Foster, Lisa Lesogor and Rob Lyons via telecommunication.

Staff in attendance: Susan Mulloy, Adm. Asst.

Also in attendance: Liz Legault, Rebecca Johnson, Jim Purcell, Tim Harhen and David Sheedy

***No appointments or hearings scheduled**

REC'D ED TOWN CLERK
21 SEP 9 AM 9:55

4:30 p.m. – Scheduled discussion regarding COVID-19 and specifically the Boards recommendations pertaining to masking in schools. The office has recently received many inquiries from parents with concerns about rising COVID cases and what the school policy would be for the year. Although school policy is set by the School Committee, the community was looking for some guidance from the Board.

Susan gave a brief overview of case counts over the last several weeks.

The Chairman opened the discussion by seeking input from the other two members.

Lisa Lesogor is comfortable with DESE guidance and doesn't feel the Board needs to add anything additional.

Matt Foster feels the recommendations are weak and don't protect the children and staff.

Rob asked if anyone in the room had any questions.

Susan asked Liz about the school's policy. School still has a "mask" policy from last school year in place and attorneys are looking at it to see if it can be amended etc. The school committee hasn't met yet, but they are looking at prek-6 wearing masks and 7-12 and staff optional. (Recommended for unvaccinated students) Liz let the Board know that they had know "outbreaks" last school year or this summer. Mr. Foster asked her if they were wearing masks last year and maybe that's why there were no outbreaks.

Rob asked Heather Doucette, Public Health Nurse what she's been seeing in her investigations. She explained that cases are up and that it seems to be much more contagious at this time. She has seen a lot of breakthrough cases as well as several hospitalizations and is concerned about the trend.

Rob Lyons is concerned about the recent uptick in cases including "breakthrough" cases and feels that everyone should start the year off wearing face coverings. He states that he is leaning toward stronger restrictions to start the year, recommending full masking and thinks we should revisit the topic in 45 days.

The Chair asked the Board to break it down into 3 separate motions for recommendations to School Committee.

M/Lyons, s/Foster a majority vote to recommend masks for all children prek-6th indoors at school. (Lisa Lesogor voting no)

M/Lyons, s/Foster a majority vote to recommend masks for all children in grades 7-12 indoors at school (Lisa Lesogor voting no)

M/Lyons, s/Foster a majority vote to recommend all staff wear masks while indoors at school (Lisa Lesogor voting no)

The Board will meet to reconsider all recommendations in 45 days.

Jim Purcell, Interim Town Admin. asked the Chair for a recommendation regarding municipal buildings.

The Chair will put this item on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

M/Lesogor, s/Foster a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of July 12, 2021 and August 2, 2021

M/Lesogor, s/Foster a unanimous vote to approve Disposal Works Permits for: 115 South Street

M/Foster, s/Lesogor a unanimous vote to pay invoices for: Crystal Rock

M/Lyons, s/Lesogor a unanimous vote to issue an Installers License for: ATL Construction

M/Foster, s/Lesogor a unanimous vote to issue a Food Establishment Permit for Sweeties Shaved Ice

M/Foster, s/Lesogor a unanimous vote to approve the WPAT loan for 40 Water Street.

The Board discussed the vacant Health Agent Position. Both Matt Foster and Lisa Lesogor indicated that they did not see any candidates that met all the qualifications for the job posting in the resume's they reviewed. Rob Lyons indicated that he identified 2 candidates that he would like the Board to interview. Rob asked Mr. Purcell what the process would be from here. He started by stating that he too reviewed the resume's and was on the same page as Matt Foster and felt that the Board could choose not to move forward with the interview process and look at other options. However, if the Board wanted to move forward, they would simply schedule a time for a public meeting and because there were only two then they would be finalists and their names would be placed on the agenda (with their advance knowledge)