

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Virtual Meeting
September 11, 2020

Called to Order at 2:00 p.m. with Robyn Provost Carlson, Gloria Cronin Fisher, and Brian De Vriese and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator, in attendance.

Other Attendees: See attendance sheet.

School Remote Learning Centers: Superintendent Sheryl Stanton and Hawlemont Principal Lindsay Rodriguez took part in the discussion. Sheryl remarked that the outpouring of support from the Heath community was amazing and one of the bright spots in putting together a remote learning plan. Lindsay stated that she did not know if they can fit everyone into Hawlemont. Currently there are 19 Heath students from 12 families that need internet access from the school's PreK through fifth grade students. There may be an even bigger need that they are not aware of because of low band width with DSL. There seems to be interest in both locations by Heath families and the Community Hall may suit some with transportation needs.

Learning pods in Hawlemont consist of a table and chairs in a 10-foot square. Supervision must come from parents. A high school student may apply to get MTRS credit to supervise younger siblings. Not every IEP student qualifies for the high-needs in-person status; there may be some students with IEPs in remote learning. SPED teachers will be doing the lessons, but the parents must provide the supervision. Paraprofessionals will be doing their work remotely except for the few high-needs students.

For middle and high school students the district is working with each family to see what hub is more convenient. Devices are on back order, but they are trying to find equipment for each student. Because the older students do not need parental supervision, it will be the district tracking students' presence in classes and attendance issues will be dealt with by school officials.

When who would pay for maintenance and custodial costs were questioned, the Superintendent said that there may be funds in different grants that the district had received. There may be a problem with justifying funds for two separate buildings. It was suggested that the town put together a list of costs including utilities and additional personnel. The district may be able to pay a percentage of the additional costs.

The intent of MTRSD administration was to have all students begin on Wednesday, September 16th, but there may be problems that will need to be worked out. The Board stated that they hope to have the hubs up and running by Wednesday. Robyn stated that the purpose of reopening buildings would be for educational purposes. According to Brian construction in the Community Hall needs to begin when it is approved. Since the beginning of constructions is unknown, Gloria commented that both buildings could be opened now.

The district will provide oversight at the hubs, but parents will do the supervision of their own children; there will be no general supervision. Their approach is that every child and every family are to be involved. Susan Gruen said she had seven volunteers who had been CORI-ed. Pam Porter had stated that there 15 volunteers willing to help at the former school building. She also asked what

support MTRSD would give to help with the set-up. It was unclear except that the district would supply headphones for each student.

The elementary students will have synchronous learning between 8:15—12:30 while the middle and high school students have class 10:00 to 3:00. Hubs will be open 8:00—3:00 each school day. The Board agreed that pods would first be placed in the gym. Tape is needed for marking off the ten-foot square spaces on the floor.

On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve reopening the former elementary school building and the Community Hall for educational purposes only.

Waiver and release forms for both the students and the volunteers need to be finalized. Brian said he will modify the hub designs to comply with the needed spacing. Someone in the district will notify families that space is available in Heath. Susan Gruen offered to get volunteers to clean although the Board decided that cleaning needed to wait until Monday when it could be overseen by Tim Lively. Susan also said she would coordinate with the town nurse to determine how students in the Community Hall could go downstairs when the nurse had office hours. Volunteers are to do any additional cleaning, tape floors and move necessary furniture at both sites.

The Board agreed that that their office would remain the central location for all information and questions. It was stressed that this was a service that was being run by the Board and not by any separate individuals.

Buildings reopening protocol needs to include the self-certification checklist, educational and safety posters, bathroom protocol and bathroom cleaning checklists. There also needs to be a sign-in process at each building.

Broadband Construction: Gloria remotely attended the kick-off meeting. TriWire asked if they could park four work trucks and an equipment trailer at the school campus during off hours. They will work a four-day workweek. The Board agreed that there was room in the parking area for the trucks.

Mail:

- RPC & S. Stanton re: remote learning needs
- RPC & L. Rodriguez re: remote learning needs
- M. Reich re: Legal requirements for workers with children
- MIIA re: insurance coverage and waiver forms
- D. Porter re: building analysis—to be discussed at a future meeting.
- L & E Fuller re: learning concerns with Comm. Hall
- C. Johnson & B. Rode re: remote learning
- S. Lively re: remote learning
- D. Purington & L. Fuller re: learning & school library
- C. Freeman re: using internet at 18 JR
- RPC, HAS, J. O’Neill, J. Day re: borrowing picnic tables
- S. Weaver re: town email boxes, tax collector dilemma—Robyn and Hilma will speak with someone at Northeast IT.
- V. Gary, K. Dragon re: #9 Rd dog issue
- M. Cahill re: Animal Inspector—the Board needs to find someone to fill this position.

- MassDOT re: Bridge inspection, Branch Brook & Rte. 8A
- RPC re: mask memo to Highway and Fire
- FCSWMD re: recycling check
- D. Freeman re: comment on J. Gran's fiscal document
- M. Freeman re: congratulations for grant
- W. Emmet, D. Briggs re: congratulations for grant
- R. Dane re: dismay over Recorder article
- C. Luis-Schultz re: comments on town buildings
- B. Kovacs re: assessing TFTF report
- OnSolve re: proposed adjusted contract for CodeRED—The Board will discuss on Tuesday.
- B. Litchfield re: Learning hubs
- M. Freeman re: educational concerns for Heath students
- L. O'Dea re: internet needs
- Reopening 18 JR document (7/1/20)
- Requirements for 18 JR use (10/15/19)
- Building Use policy (12/3/19)
- 18 JR schematic for 10 ft. internet cubes
- S. Gruen re: Letter for Comm. Hall learning center
- S. Gruen re: Second letter for CH learning center plans`

On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator