

CPS SC Meeting Notes

February 17, 2022

Packet found here:

<https://chelmsfordschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Agenda-2.14.22-Regular-Session-1.pdf>

Recording found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siEfHEFrZ68>

NOTE: The slides presented ARE NOT part of the SC packet

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIR OPENING STATEMENT

Dr. Lang is absent from meeting but Linda Hirsch is present as is Peggy Gump from health services.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The School Committee will hear from members of the public on items listed under New Business on the posted agenda.

1. Linda Moran - parent - spoke in favor of lifting mask mandate
2. Katie Sullivan - remember staff and students who are immunocompromised in making your decision tonight
3. Melissa McDonald - parent and teacher in another district. In favor of lifting mask policy
4. Ann Marie Hogan - parent - remove mask
5. Lisa Ternien - remove mask mandate

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review and Consideration of School Committee Policy EBCFA – Face Coverings

- Linda Hirsch

- Current SHARED Vax rate
 - CHS 96%
 - Parker 69%
 - McCarthy 72%
 - Byam 58%
 - Center 63%
 - Harrington 53%
 - South Row 57%
- BoH and School health - aligned and support DESE.
- BoH Recommend lifting mask mandate on 3/14 after breaks
- Transportation mask mandate stays in place until lifted by the CDC

- Face coverings in health office required
- Distanced when feasible in buildings
- Provide additional deep cleaning of schools
- Bi-weekly at home antigen test kits sent home to those who sign up for them
- Pool testing weekly and vaccination clinics offered
- Dashboards will remain in place
- Bordering town mask action:
 - Carlisle voting 2/17/22
 - Billerica - lifting 2/28
 - Tyngsborough - lifting 2/28
 - Lowell - 3/7 lifting
 - Westford - 3/7 lifting
 - Andover - voting March 3
 - Bedford, Burlington, Dracut, Tewksbury - lifted 2/28

Questions for Linda/Peggy

- Maria - close contact notification to families. Peggy: No, however, if a medical arrangement was made with the family, yes, they would be notified of a close contact..

Donna - much input for and against mask wearing moving forward. Dr Hirsch - what do lawyers think of mandating pool testing. Linda: lawyer and DESE stated you can't mandate only encourage.

Maria - repercussion who received negative comments wearing or not wearing masks? Linda- CPS policy for inclusion would be enforced.

Discussion:

Donna - Donna is dismayed that town people do not feel SC members do not take their duty of making policy seriously. Feels they have no choice but to follow the state lifting. Unfortunately, the state chose a bad date. Asks masks are made optional and encourage empathy and support for those who wear masks especially being mindful of staff members making the choice to continue to wear a mask.

Jeff - all communication pro and con has been respectful and thought out.

John - supports a Feb 28 withdrawal of masking

Maria - would like mask optional with a 7 day wait after February break

Dennis - supports lifting mask requirement but people still have the option to wear a mask. CPS will be supportive of the choice families make.

Peggy - throughout the pandemic CPS has remained a safe place for staff and students. One can not think mask off means all is well, pool testing and home test kit will still be continued. Promote the inclusivity of all who wear a mask.

Dennis - CHIPS policy - not affected by this policy. Peggy strongly encourages mask wearing with this population as there is no vaccine

Decision: NEW Updated EBCFA Policy effective February 28, 2022 5-0 vote will Read

The _____ District is committed to providing a safe environment in schools during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Maintaining a safe environment is critical to the District's ability to ensure students remain in a full-time classroom learning environment.

According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks or face coverings. Therefore, in accordance with guidance and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the following requirements are in place until further notice.

A face covering that covers the nose and mouth is strongly recommended to be worn by individuals who remain unvaccinated or are otherwise immunocompromised in school buildings, and on school grounds, even when social distancing is observed. Individuals who are vaccinated are not required to wear a mask, but may do so if desired.

Students and staff returning from 5 day quarantine following a positive COVID test must follow strict mask use, other than when eating, drinking, or outside, and conduct active monitoring for symptoms, through day 10 of exposure.

Masks will be required in all school health offices. By federal public health order, all students and staff are required to wear a mask on school buses.

Guidance Statements: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements> -

maskrequirements-in-certain-locations<https://search.mass.gov/?q=school+health+offices> Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools Updated January 13, 2022.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Fall 2021 Covid-19 Guidance Updated February 9, 2022

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2022-0209mask-requirementupdate.pdf>

SOURCE: MASC – February 10, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The School Committee will hear from members of the public on general matters of education interest.

ADJOURNMENT:

Not part of SC Meeting. Record of all open positions from School Spring

	Nov. 2, 2021	Nov. 16, 2021	Dec 7, 2021	Dec. 21, 2021	Jan. 6, 2022	Jan. 18, 2022	Feb. 1, 2022	Feb. 17, 2022
Teacher	0	0	1	2	2	4	2	3
Para	7	7	7	3	4	10	11	11
ABA	4	7	4	3	5	4	7	7
Recess/ Lunch Aid	8	4	5	2	0	0	5	5
Secretary	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Temp. Adm. Asst.						1	1	1
Interim & Long Term Teacher	5	8	5	4	5	6	4	5
HR Position	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interim Para	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Term ABA	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Math Intervention ists	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	1
Reading Intervention ists	7	3	4	4	0	0	0	0
Food Services	6	7	7	7	7	7	8	7
Nurses	2	2	3	3	2	2	0	0
Nutri. Leader								1
Speech Path.								1
Total Openings	44	41	40	32	29	39	44	44

