

Virtual Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee Report  
Thursday, December 2, 2021  
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio  
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose of starting discussions on the health & safety protocols as it appears that we will not eradicate COVID-19 and we are unlikely to eliminate it.

Members present: Member Rojas, Chair; Member Fantini

Others present: Mayor Siddiqui; Member Wilson; James Maloney; Vedad Konjic

Chair Rojas started the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Chair Rojas read the call of the meeting and shared the goal of providing opportunity for community members to ask questions and ideas on these topics to the administration, the health & safety working group and others.

Chair Rojas shared the following community question to help guide the discussion:

- What do you think of considering opening our schools to third-party after school programs that focus on math, literacy and sports, assuming they adhere to CPSD's health & safety protocols.
- What other parameters should we be looking at instead of focusing on cases when considering changes to health & safety protocols.
- How should we consider the seasonality patterns of COVID-19 in our region?
- How are we preparing for Omicron?

Mr. Maloney provided background on the current surge. He discussed how there is a connection between vaccination and low numbers, the current surge is happening to elementary students. He discussed how they plan on revisiting the mask mandate.

- Dr. Dobberteen talked about how this an endemic instead of a pandemic
- Dr. Jenkins discussed how this was not going to be eradicated
- Dr. Aryee asked the question was when do we pull back on mitigation, what should be the trigger for reducing mitigations
- Dr. Dobberteen discussed how because of omicron/children not being vaccinated, it does not feel like the right time to stop other mitigation efforts.
- Mayor Siddiqui discussed the importance of planning ahead

Mayor Siddiqui touched base upon seeing whether booster shots could be a requirement.

Discussion centered around the omicron variant.

Ms. Cranton discussed how in the CEA agreement there is a requirement for boosters once it's recommended by the CDC.

Member Fantini asked for a status update of winter sports, use of buildings by third parties, the noise of amplifiers, and the need for increased health services.

- Mr. Maloney shared a positive report of compliance, that use of buildings by third parties to start hopefully by mid-January.
- Member Rojas asked for further clarification on building use by third parties. Mr. Maloney talked about DHSP have been using the building.

Member Wilson advocated for targeted educational campaigns and the use of anonymous surveys to understand why people aren't getting vaccinated.

The discussion turned to the differences between a pandemic and endemic and how the schools should be prepared.

Ms. Beatty advocated for long-term solutions in regards to ventilation.

- Chair Rojas asked if that is part of the RFP, Mr. Maloney confirmed that it is.
- Mr. Maloney touched upon the difficulty of replacing HVAC systems in compliance with the City ordinances.

Chair Rojas summarized the meeting and shared that the discussion will continue after the holidays. Chair Rojas adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.