

Virtual Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee Report  
Monday, January 25, 2021  
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio  
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose of discussing the safety policies as part of the plan for expanding in-person learning and on-going review of the health metrics. This meeting will last no later than 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Member Rojas; Member Fantini; Vice Chair Bowman  
Other present: James Maloney; Dr. Turk

Member Rojas started the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Member Rojas shared the goals of the meeting:

- Discussing safety policies as part of the plan for expanded in-person learning and ongoing review of the health metrics.
- Provide opportunity for community members to ask questions and ideas on these topics to Administration, Scientists and Public Health Representatives.

Member Rojas turned the meeting over to Mr. Maloney for an update. Mr. Maloney provided an update on the status of expanding in-person in March, about the “situation room”, ventilation systems/guidelines. Mr. Maloney shared that there were a number of changes made about masking.

Vice Chair Bowman asked for further clarification about the control rooms and how we are managing the flow of information.

- Mr. Maloney shared the process. Mr. Maloney provided an update about metrics and that they are using the ones from before Thanksgiving. One of the things they saw coming were occasions that we've gone below above or down the metric, wanting to avoid the disruption. They wanted to avoid an in out cycle for students. He provided further information on the collaboration between them and the Public Health Department.

Member Rojas asked for further clarification about ventilation and to further elaborate on what we are using in classrooms that used windows before but they are now closed. Mr. Maloney clarified that their agreement with CEA includes CO2 monitoring and they expect to have to increase the monitoring. Mr. Maloney also shared that they are buying more HEPA filters.

Member Rojas asked for clarification on what the changes were on masks. Mr. Maloney clarified that for students the most important thing is that they are wearing a mask and doesn't matter which one, for staff they are recommending the higher quality masks and have let principals know.

Dr. Crittenden talked about the infection control rooms in each school was a great idea. She wants to make sure that the different schools are communicating.

Dr. Khan clarified masking with young kids. Encouraging high quality mask use by staff are extremely important. She also expressed her concerns of break rooms and where people are going to eat. Her biggest fear is staff to staff transmission

Dr. Lichtenstein talked about different considerations in regards to the CO2 monitors.

Vice Chair Bowman reiterated that Member Rojas wants the administration to do infographics. Vice Chair Bowman talked about how we have conversations with educators to explain our decisions?

- Dan Monahan discussed the importance of clear messaging and monitoring of break rooms. We are holding each other accountable. He talked about the building based meetings.
- Dr. Khan agreed that communication is very important.
- Dr. Dobertein talked about how the numbers state wide are still very high but cautiously optimistic that they are going to come down.

Member Rojas opened the meeting for the questions.

Dan Monahan talked about taking advantage of times when teachers are going to be in the building and the importance of CO2 testing.

A science teacher from CRLS discussed the importance of having students wear high quality masks. Consistency is key. She also expressed her concerns of spacing issues and using other buildings in the spring.

- Mr. Maloney discussed how the high school should have enough space and provided an update on the masking.
- Dr. Lichtenstein provided that they had discussed the model of having surgical masks, if we were to do it in one building. There could be a greeter to hand out masks.
- Dr. Crittendon talked about the most important thing is that they are wearing a mask and that having everyone wear one mask would not be the safest policy.

Guilia Falcui asked for clarification on the number of students that have applied to be in person.

Dr. Litchensein discussed how we are not allowed to require testing for students

Member Rojas adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Attest:



Allison Daley  
Confidential Secretary to the office of the School Committee