

Capital Improvements Subcommittee Minutes
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
4:00 PM-4:45 PM
Remote via Zoom

Capital Improvements Subcommittee Members present: Helen Charlupski (Chair), Andreas Liu, and Mariah Nobrega.

School Staff present: Mary Ellen Normen, Matt Gillis, Michelle McGlone, and Robin Coyne.

Others present: Advisory Committee member Carol Levin, Devotion After School Enrichment Program Director Lauren Bernard, and Brookline Music School Executive Director Betsy Frauenthal.

1) Approval of Minutes

On a motion of Dr. Liu and seconded by Ms. Charlupski, the Capital Improvements Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to approve the April 14, 2021 minutes.

2) 2021-2022 School Year Building Use

Director of Operations Matt Gillis presented his May 10, 2021 memo (Attachment A) regarding 1) the return of After School Partners and Brookline Adult and Community Education, 2) other School rentals, and 3) health and safety protocols.

Mr. Gillis is recommending that the following regular partners be permitted to return to normal school operations during the 2021-2022 School Year: Brookline Music School, Devotion After School Enrichment Program at the Florence Ruffin Ridley School, and Brookline Adult and Community Education. He noted the overall successful return of students, staff, Extended Day, and Brookline High School sports; positive health and vaccination metrics; and revisions to State and Federal restrictions. It would be helpful to the three organizations to be able to plan for the fall.

Subcommittee members expressed support, contingent upon the following: consultation and support from Remote Task Force Panel 4: Public Health, Safety and Logistics, and that the agreements with the programs include language that access to the Schools is conditional and could change due to public health and safety considerations. Members suggested adding PTO After School Programs. Brookline Adult and Community Education Director Michelle McGlone, Devotion After School Enrichment Program Director Lauren Bernard, and Brookline Music School Executive Director Betsy Frauenthal (through the Chat function) thanked the School Department for their support, and agreed with including the above language in agreements. It was suggested that the programs encourage vaccination to the degree possible.

Mr. Gillis requested feedback on allowing other outside groups to begin renting school space on a short-term basis starting in the 2021-2022 School Year. The Subcommittee will consider this issue at a later meeting.

Mr. Gillis reported that on May 14, 2021, he will asking for Remote Task Force Panel 4: Public Health, Safety and Logistics whether members are comfortable eliminating a number of practices

in the schools related to sanitization. Subcommittee members expressed support for asking Panel 4 for guidance.

On a motion of Ms. Charlupski and seconded by Dr. Liu, the Capital Improvements Subcommittee voted unanimously (by roll call) to support Mr. Gillis's recommendation that the following regular partners be permitted to return to normal school operations during the 2021-2022 School Year: Brookline Music School, Devotion After School Enrichment Program at the Florence Ruffin Ridley School, Brookline Adult and Community Education, and PTO After School Programs, contingent upon consultation and support from Remote Task Force Panel 4: Public Health, Safety and Logistics, and that the agreements with the programs include language that access to the Schools is conditional and could change due to public health and safety considerations.

Ms. Charlupski will provide a report to the full School Committee during the May 13, 2021 meeting.

3) New Business

Mr. Gillis reported that bids for the Driscoll project are due on May 13, 2021.

Ms. Charlupski suggested that at the next meeting on June 8, 2021, the Subcommittee discuss 1) the plan for updating the Long-Term Capital Plan and 2) other School rentals during the 2021-2022 School Year.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.



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Memorandum

TO: Capital Subcommittee
Jim Marini
Mary Ellen Normen

FROM: Matthew J. Gillis, Director of Operations & Facilities

RE: Recommend Return of After School Partners and BACE for 2021-22 School Year

DATE: May 10, 2021

First, I am recommending we return to having the following regular partners and return to offering services for the upcoming school year for the following groups:

- Brookline Music School
- Devotion After School Enrichment Program (DASEP at FRR)
- Brookline Adult and Community Education

They need the time to plan and advertise their offerings for after the regular school day is completed. And we need to work them in with the Extended Day Programs in our K-8 buildings.

Second, as we did prior to the pandemic, I am comfortable allowing outside groups back to begin renting space on a short term basis after the next school year begins. We budgeted for the return of some outside groups (youth sports, language schools, religious/church services/meetings.) These groups are prioritized after PSB programs and partners for space. So, the question today, is do we allow outside groups to return in September, or do we want to revisit this question in the summer (post more progress towards, or achieving, herd immunity?)

What reasons are the basis to plan reopen?

- 1.) Students, staff, extended day, and BHS Sports have returned and largely been successful with little to no transmission suspected with school managed activities. [Go to slides 10-14](#) for PSB case data.

- 2.) Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have been steadily declining across the Commonwealth since February 2021. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting# covid-19-interactive-data-dashboard->
- 3.) The number of people getting vaccinated across commonwealth has been steadily proceeding towards herd immunity (75% of the population). As of May 9, using the preliminary census increase to 7.02 Million residents, of the total population, about 2.9 Million (41%) are fully vaccinated and about 3.8 Million (54%) folks have received their first shot. It appears the Commonwealth is on pace to reach herd immunity in the next 3-6 weeks. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates#daily-covid-19-vaccine-report->
- 4.) Commonwealth easing restrictions on [outdoor masking](#) as of 4/30, venue capacity size, and tournaments for [sports for youth and adults](#) are permitted starting today, 5/10/21.
- 5.) CDC eased restrictions on surface cleaning [April 5](#). PSB did not change its disinfecting bathrooms twice daily and surface touchpoints nightly as BHS and then Grades 6-8 were returning that week and the following week. The CDC [conclusion](#) is surface transmission is low risk, surface cleaning and other precautions is sufficient to manage the risk.

Third issue, which will be raised with advisory panel 4 this coming Friday, if they are comfortable with stopping these practices, and unless otherwise directed, we will stop providing the following enhancements we added to manage through the pandemic:

1. Providing alcohol wipes for sanitizing desktop surfaces in between class changes
2. Providing spray disinfectant to non-custodial staff for classroom desktop and common touchpoints.
3. Stopping mid-day disinfecting of multi-stall bathrooms
4. Nightly disinfecting of common touchpoints and desktop surfaces (unless a case is reported)

We will keep providing the following items for the rest of the school year.

- A. Suprox and paper towels for surface cleaning
- B. Masks and Eye protection as we have this year
- C. Hand soap and hand sanitizer in classrooms/offices

In March, we expect to be on the other side of the pandemic for the upcoming school year. So, for FY22, we did not budget for PPE (masks, gloves, face shields, safety glasses) and the same level of hand soap, hand sanitizer, and paper towels that we consumed during this current year. Thankfully, there are reasons to believe we should not need all