Public Schools of Brookline


Final minutes of meeting (conducted via Zoom): July 2, 2020 6:00-7:30 pm

Panel members present: Lan Dennie, RN, BSN, CMAC; Ben Linas, MD; Boris Perlovsky; Nira Pollock, MD, PhD; Serena Rajabiun, MA, MPH, PhD; Vishakha Sabharwal, MD; Benjamin Sommers, MD, PhD; Lakshmana Swamy, MD, MBA; Elena Savoia, MD, MPH (co-chair); Dave Gacioch (co-chair)

Panel members not present: Jenny Tam, PhD

PSB senior staff members present: none

School Committee members present: Susan Wolf Ditkoff; Mariah Nobrega, Sharon Abramowitz, Andy Liu

1. Draft minutes of 6/26/2020 were approved as final, without edits.

2. Summary of communication sub-group meeting from Drs. Savoia and Swamy, and Mr. Perlovsky, with discussion:
   a. Consider a living document of received and anticipated questions from stakeholders.
   b. Survey of parents and teachers should be completed in August to gauge trends close to the school year.
      i. However, parents should be notified sooner about the upcoming plans to disseminate a survey and open lines of communication.
   c. Establishing weekly communication is important so that the community is comfortable and prepared to access information.
   d. Ideally, a public document outlining current and upcoming plans (in plain language) could be created for all to access.

3. Evidence Review of Reopening Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic by Dr. Sommers -- please see summary document for details.

4. Further discussion of DESE guidance to identify areas of focus for ongoing panel work.
5. Further discussion of testing options follow-up steps the panel might recommend.
   a. Dr. Pollock noted that different plans have drastically different budgets.

6. Plan for 7/10/2020 meeting with incoming Interim Superintendent Dr. Marini, plus hopefully Public Health Commissioner Dr. Jett.
   a. High priority topics include: testing, communication
   b. Dr. Pollock to lead testing efforts
   c. Dr. Savoia to lead communication efforts
   d. A google doc to be made available to track individual questions (not threads of comments and responses) about DESE guidelines

7. Adjournment