

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
JOINT MEETING WITH POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
REMOTE MEETING
September 30, 2021

Present: Ms. Kate Bowen, Policy Subcommittee Chair
Ms. Amy Checkoway, SC Chair present until 4 pm
Ms. Meghan Moriarty, Secretary
Mr. Michael Crowley
Mr. Jamal Saeh
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent

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DATE: November 1, 2021
TIME: 3:18 PM

1. Call to order
Amy Chekcoway called the School Committee to order at 3:01 pm. Catherine Bowen called the Policy subcommittee to order at 3:01 pm.
2. Extracurricular Activities Vaccine Policy
Bowen briefly summarized the considerations the subcommittee had taken in revising the initial draft of the policy, 5005-B. Aspects still outstanding included the timing of implementation and in-school testing. Consideration for supporting individuals to obtain the vaccine were discussed. The overall goal is to increase the vaccination rate to provide for a safer environment that supports the success of the regular school day for all students.

Discussion of language to check on with legal counsel, including “pool testing,” full approval by the FDA, emergency use authorization, and MA authorizations for vaccinations. Counsel confirmed the legality of both full FDA and EUA vaccination requirements. “Rostered activities” was also discussed, and Phelan noted that the School Department would be able to generate the needed lists of students over the coming weeks. Equity considerations in the policy were discussed, and support for students who may be impacted negatively. The infrastructure for in-school testing is expected to be operational by December 1st. The committee determined that December 1st would also be appropriate for the implementation of the policy, allowing for adequate notices to families and full efficacy for those anticipating the requirement to vaccinate within the coming two weeks.

Michael Crowley moved: that the effective date for full vaccination under the proposed policy for vaccine requirements should be Dec 1; Motion passed 3-0

The policy draft will be revised with counsel and shared at the next full School Committee meeting for vote. Consensus was formed for requiring age-eligible students for FDA-approved vaccines separately from age-eligible for FDA-approved vaccine under FDA-approved Emergency Use Authorization, noting however that the American Academy of Pediatrics does not have differing recommendations for the two eligibility groups.

Michael Crowley moved: to work with the attorney to include language that reflects that we use FDA approved language, and pooled testing under Emergency Use for others in rostered activities. Motion passed, 3-0

3. Norms and Protocols

Bowen reviewed the Norms and Protocols guidance provided by the MASC prior to the meeting, and provided the guidance list for the subcommittee to review briefly on areas that had a known policy or practice, and any that were of greater importance than others at this time. This information will help to create the draft document for the full committee.

4. Minutes – as needed

The subcommittee minutes of September 15, 2021 were approved, 2-0-1.

5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by:


Catherine Bowen