

HARRISVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Jan Mosher, Cory Bearor, Denise Avallone, Parish Atkinson, Kathy Felio, Heidi McIntosh and Tennille Schmitt

Also Present: Robert Finster, Superintendent; Eric Luther, 6-12 Principal and Jolie Snider, District Clerk.

1.0 Jan Mosher called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2.0 Reopening Plan for 2021-2022 – Mr. Finster thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and discussed how the recommendations and regulations are changing daily. Currently, there is no State of Emergency in New York State. Mr. Finster stated he was notified today from our Insurance Company that it is their strong recommendation that we follow CDC guidelines, which is to wear masks. Mr. Finster has been involved with four zoom telephone calls (2 with St. Lawrence County Public Health and 2 with Lewis County Public Health). It is both Public Health's recommendation that masks are to be worn in schools.

Mr. Luther stated the currently recommendations for sports is to wear masks inside but at this not they are not recommended outside.

It was asked if a student if fully vaccinated, will they still need to wear a mask? Yes, they will still need to wear a mask; however, the difference is if they are fully vaccinated and come into contact with a positive person, they will only need to quarantine if they are showing symptoms themselves.

It was asked what happens if a student needs to get on the bus at one address and off at another address? This will not be an issue with a note from a parent or guardian. Students riding the buses will be required to wear masks, at all times, while on the bus.

It was asked why we are starting on Friday, September 3rd, since Gouverneur Central School is not. Mr. Finster stated BOCES starts on Friday, September 3rd so we decided to start this day so our junior and senior students that attend BOCES will not miss the first day. There are many schools within the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES system that are starting on September 3rd also.

It was asked if we have enough PPE supplies. Mr. Finster stated yes, we have the PPE supplies on hand that we need.

It was asked whether the School Nurse knows who is vaccinated or not as it pertains to who gets quarantined if there is a positive case. Mr. Finster stated yes the School Nurse has access to vaccination records through New York State.

A community member stated they felt it should be left up to a parent whether their child is to wear a mask or not.

Mr. Finster stated the students and staff were amazing last year with keeping the masks on when required and keeping the building clean and safe for all students and staff. He also stated Public Health is looking to set-up a vaccination clinic within the school for students and the public.

Mr. Finster stated his number one priority is to keep the students and staff safe. Our Insurance Company and the State Education Department are strongly recommending that all schools follow the CDC Guidelines, which is to require wearing a mask.

Mr. Finster stated it is the goal to keep students in the building five days per week and keep students and staff safe. Therefore, he recommended to the Board the following for the Reopening of the 2021-2022 school year.

- Students and Staff will need to wear masks while in the building and are in transit. Once they are at their seats, the masks can be removed.
- Desks will be 3 ft. apart in the classrooms.
- The building will be fogged every night school is in session.
- There will be two cleaners wiping down doorknobs and frequently touched surfaces all day each day school is in session.

- UV lights have been purchased and will be rolled into the classrooms while students are in specials or at lunch. The UV lights will be placed in the room for ten minutes and will kill any virus or bacteria in the room. This will be able to be done more than once a day.
- There will be NO virtual option for students this year. The student will either be required to attend school in person or will need to be homeschooled.

Mrs. Mosher agreed with Mr. Finster with the recommendations that he has outlined for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Mosher stated if they do not follow the current CDC guidelines they would be remiss in their duties as Board members.

Mr. Finster stated he will record a video with this information to be put on the School's Website and Facebook page.

This is subject to change based on new mandates from the Governor.

3.0 Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Motion made by:	Cory Bearor	Seconded by:	Denise Avallone
Voting Results:	YES: 7	NO: 0	ABSTAIN: 0
J. Mosher	Yes	K. Felio	Yes
C. Bearor	Yes	H. McIntosh	Yes
P. Atkinson	Yes	T. Schmitt	Yes
D. Avallone	Yes		

Respectfully submitted,

Jolie Snider
Board of Education Clerk