SANDWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
February 16, 2022
SANDWICH TOWN HALL

School Committee Members Present: Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Dr. Miller, Mr.
Fisher, Mr. Pell, Mr. Sareault
Members Absent: none
Administration Present: Dr. Gould, Ms. Wikilund, Ms. Austin
Others: Charlie Holden, Liaison

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER:
Mr. DiGiacomo called the meeting to order at 6:00pm he also stated that you may view the
meeting by live stream at this time on Sandwich Community TV and that this is being recorded.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3) PUBLIC FORUM:
Agenda packets can be found here for review:
https://www.sandwichk12.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=27128483&pageId=2793032

Alexandra Boudrie/E Sandwich

4) Policy EBCFA - Face Coverings
Mr. DiGiacomo said that we rescinded the EBCFA policy to stay compliant with DESE
guidelines. Mr Fischer makes a motion to adopt the new policy/seconded by Ms. Ames.
Mr. Sareault stated that the new policy is supported by him, but we need to make a
commitment for a quality mask that is provided.
Ms. Wikilund stated that the commitment to provide N95 masks is in place and masks
will also be provided for the buses.
Dr. Miller says that we and the public has to be aware that any moment a policy can be
appended by evidence.
Ms. Bader agreed with Mr. Sareault in making sure that the students/parents know that
masks are available for the students.
Ms. Wikilund says that Dr. Gould will be sending out information before the return of
vacation.
Dr. Miller says whatever decision they make to support the policy is also supported by the
experts. DPH and DESE
Motion passes 5-1 Dr. Miller voted Nay

5) Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:
Ms. Ames stated they had a meeting with the SEA to tell us what their requests are. At
first they wanted to stay in masks for two weeks after vacation then they compromised to one
week after school vacation. As a subcommittee they felt that it should be brought to the full school
committee. Mr. DiGiacomo asked if they have recommendations. Ms. Ames says it would’ve been
voted down in executive session. Mr. Fisher wanted the information to be transparent.
Mr. DiGiacomo’s personal opinion is that people are getting together regardless of the
mask mandate. It isn’t going to change. Ms. Ames says that they reiterated that the masks are
optional.
Ms. Ames says if you are in fear of your own health then you should wear the mask.
Mr. DiGiacomo says that it is clear in the policy that if you would like to wear a mask, then wear a mask.

Mr. Fisher is speaking about the lift of the mask mandate in schools after 2/28. We have to be concerned about the social and emotional concerns for the students. Mr. Fisher says that someone is always going to be against unmasking. Let's get this done now.

Dr. Miller says that 2/28 was a “random date”. What we do know from our past experience is that after a break there is a spike in COVID cases. Dr. Miller is in support of a one week delay

Ms.Wiklund says that the date is an arbitrary date that was chosen by the commissioner. What we have done is look at percentages/trends and base their decisions on that information. The idea of the week extension is prudent to relation and prior experience.

Mr. Sareault says masks are optional when we come back. We have the commitment and the means by the school. He thinks that the 28th and the means we have available is what he supports.

Ms. Bader wanted to express that it is frustrating that this is so unpredictable. We need to be realistic with our communication with the public. We are saying that it will be optional to wear a mask and the procedures may be adjusted and to be prepared for that. This is going to be a process and not a one day thing for things to get back to normal.

Mr. Fisher motions to make the policy effective 2/28/seconded by Ms. Ames

Passes 5-1 Dr. Miller voted Nay

6) Public Forum

Alexandra Boudrie/East Sandwich

7) Announcements/Closing Remarks: Mr. DiGiacomo needs to change the next meeting date.

Availability will be made public as soon as they figure it out.

Sub committee will interview all candidates that have been screened
2/24 search closes
Packets will be given 2/25 to look over independently
meet to screen candidates /compare and discuss
first round of interviews the week of 3/7 (in executive session)
finalist will be given to the school committee
finalist will become public
In addition to the interview the finalists will visit the school system the week of 3/28 announcing by 4/6 with a start date of 7/1

When the finalist is determined that is when the references will be checked. Ms. Ames clarified that only 3 of them can go to a school district at a time.

8) Adjournment:

Ms. Ames motions to adjourn the meeting until March 16, 2022 at 6:00pm seconded by Ms. Bader passes 7-0

Meeting is adjourned and the next Regular Business Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 6:00 pm at Sandwich Town Hall.
Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Murphy

Melissa Murphy
School Committee Recording Secretary

DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING:
Face Covering Policy

APPROVED
by SC - 3/16/23