

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2021, 4:00 pm
William Belden Training Room, Emergency Services Building

Present: Robert Osley, Chair, Elizabeth Kugler and Jeff Zgrodnik

Also present: Select Board Member Brian Moriarty; Fire Chief Flaherty; Police Chief Dekoschak; Town Administrator Marlene Michonski; Claudie Sarti COVID Coordinator; Health Agent Charlie Kaniecki; Jean Hobbie, School Nurse; Interim Supt. Michael Wood; HES Principal Connor Driscoll

Others present: Parents of the School Community; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Representatives (DESE)

Selectman Moriarty opened the discussion with introductions of the COVID Committee. Interim School Supt Michael Wood and School Nurse Jean Hobbie were invited to attend. As a result of COVID cases at the Elementary School, he felt it was important to meet and look at a way forward, and hear from the Board of Health, Health Agents and the School.

Board of Health Chair Bob Osley explained that reporting is two different levels, 1) cases from individual towns that report School Choice students who live outside of Hatfield and 2) Hatfield residents. Offering how data is reported in the MAVEN system, Mr. Moriarty said that trying to facilitate process to explain actual numbers of cases so that facts are accurate.

Due to students testing positive, HES Principal Connor Driscoll reported that over 100 students were tested that morning and efforts made to narrow down contacts. Volunteers from the community have assisted with testing. Interim Supt. Michael reported that there are no positive cases at Smith Academy.

Discussion followed about who should be doing the contact tracing for the School including a need to have a plan that is more efficient and communicating it.

Mr. Driscoll stated that positive cases are over three different grades. According to Nurse Jean Hobbie, testing started November 5th. Discussion of implementing "double swab" would reduce time, however the School does not have the resources. Mr. Wood inquired with DESE about transitioning to double swab testing. A representative from DESE will be in touch with the School to make that happen. Approximately 272 students and staff enrolled in weekly pooled testing.

Board of Health is working on administering vaccine.

A recap for reporting purposes, number of students and staff outside of Hatfield will be added to reporting. School will update weekly statistics in School District. Weekly report will be adjusted to reflect Hatfield cases and School District.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully,

Marlene Michonski
Town Administrator