

Approved: K.K.  
01/03/2022

TOWN OF WINCHENDON  
EMERGENCY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2021

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK  
RCUD JAN 24 2022 PM5:00

Present: Chairman Keith Kent, Lionel Cloutier, Garret Wante, and Tina Santos

Absent: Edward Bond

Also Present: Health Agent James Abare and Interim Superintendent of Schools Thad King

List of Documents:

- Agenda for December 14, 2021

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There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.

Pledge

**Discussion regarding the Covid 19 numbers in the High School and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recommendations and Board of Health concurrence**

Chairman Kent said he was contacted by the Health Agent and the Superintendent of Schools due to a high outbreak of Covid at the high school.

Thad King, Interim Superintendent of Schools said due to a large spike of active covid cases in the high school he has been in contact with DESE and they have some recommendations. He said he is here today to see if the Board of Health is in concurrence or not with them.

Superintendent King gave an overview of the current situation and the details of the events. He said prior to yesterday there were around thirty cases of covid in the high school. Yesterday there was an additional twenty-one cases. He said he spoke to DESE, and they tested all remaining students in the building. DESE supplied additional nurses and tests. They tested an additional 157 students in the gym, and they had around twenty students absent. There were ten additional cases of covid.

Superintendent King said at the present time there are around one hundred students either positive or in quarantine. The enrollment is 262 students. He said two hundred students out of the 262 students are in the covid protocol. There were no cases of positive faculty today. Prior to this there are five in the district. He said we had students who tested negative yesterday and today they are testing positive.

Superintendent King said their recommendations are to quarantine just the high school and go remote until the winter break is over. The middle school would stay in the building. He said he is requesting to get the support of the Board of Health.

Chairman Kent asked about the sports program and if it would be suspended during the closure. Superintendent King said he would suspend all activities for the high school.

Superintendent King said going remote would-be effective tomorrow.

Tina Santos asked if there was any relation to connect certain period of time since they were closed around the same time last year. Superintendent King said they were closed due to fixing the ventilation last year.

Lionel Cloutier asked if they would also be taking the same precautions if the middle school positive cases started to climb. Superintendent King said it is a case-by-case scenario. He said we will monitor and take appropriate action if needed.

Garrett Wante asked about the positive cases at Memorial School. Superintendent King said parents of younger children are hesitant to do nasal swabs. Parents keep students' home that are asymptomatic.

**Garrett Wante made a motion to give the support of the Board of Health for the temporary closure of the High School only and to have online learning until the reopening on the first day after the school break. Lionel Cloutier seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll Call Vote: Lionel Cloutier yes, Garrett Wante yes, Tina Santos yes, and Keith Kent yes.**

Chairman Kent told the Superintendent Tad King to thank the School Nurses for their commitment to the children and thanked Superintendent King.

### **Adjourn**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Garrett Wante and seconded by Lionel Cloutier. No discussion. Roll Call Vote: Tina Santos yes, Lionel Cloutier yes, Garrett Wante yes, and Keith Kent yes.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:08PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Dennis, Recording Secretary

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Chairman Keith Kent

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Lionel Cloutier  
Lionel Cloutier

Edward Bond  
Edward Bond

Garrett Wante  
Tina Santos

Keith Dent