

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021, 5:00 PM
ZOOM & WRPS**

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND
JUL 15 '21 PM 3:14

The School Committee met on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at 5:00 PM via Zoom and WRPS. Committee members present were: Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Maroney, Mr. Biggins, Mr. Mills and Mrs. Hennessy. Also present were: Assistant Superintendent Forlizzi, Business Administrator, Ms. Hackett and Mrs. Lamb.

Mrs. Scopelleti-Howes, REA Representative; Mrs. McGonnigal, REA President and citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV were present in the audience.

Nothing to report under the Superintendent's report.

Ms. Hackett shared a PowerPoint with the Committee about the CDC quarantine options. Mrs. Forlizzi explained that on December 8th the CDC came up with three options:

- 7 days of quarantine with release on day 8, test on day 5 and is negative and no symptoms and will still monitor
- 10 days of quarantine with release on day 11, no test and continue to monitor
- 14 days of quarantine with release on day 15, symptoms and negative test

Ms. Hackett explained that the Board of Health recommended a 14 days quarantine for all Town employees and Rockland Public Schools went with that protocol which is higher than the minimum options. Rockland Public Schools meets the requirement protocols of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

There was a discussion about quarantining with the medical team, Board of Health Agent, administration and union. The nurses recommended 10 days quarantine with a negative test result on the 9th day. Release on the 11th day. This is going against the Town's recommendations.

We have the capacity to test everyday. The cost is \$50 per test and we are paying nurses and custodians their hourly rate when buildings are in use over the weekends. We cannot require anyone to test. We have been testing since December break. People can still quarantine for 14 days if they do not want to be tested.

On a motion by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Mills, the move to change the quarantine option to 10 days with testing on the 9th day and return to school on the 11th day was approved. Mrs. Maroney asked for a roll call vote with Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Hennessy, Mr. Biggins, Mr. Mills and Mrs. Maroney voting in favor.

Ms. Hackett shared her screen showing what surrounding towns were doing for their school committee meetings. It was a mix of in-person and remote meetings. The Committee wanted to check with TV Station WRPS to see if there is a hybrid model.

On a motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Biggins, they voted to table the vote and get more information on the in-person, remote or hybrid school committee meetings. Mrs. Maroney asked for a roll call with Mrs. Hennessy, Mrs. Davidson, Mr. Biggins, Mr. Mills and Mrs. Maroney voting to table the vote.

Ms. Hackett told the Committee that they have tested 546 people with 457 negative results and 89 positive results for a 16% positivity rate. The Covid Plymouth County money has been exhausted. Funding is coming out of our operating budget.

This weekend the Town of Rockland will have testing at Rockland High School on Saturday from 8am to 4pm and Sunday from 8 am to 2pm. Any Rockland resident or employee is eligible to be tested.

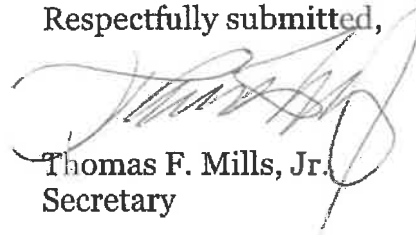
On a motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Davidson, the Town of Rockland testing for covid will be changed from Memorial Park to Rockland High School. Mrs. Maroney polled the committee with Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Hennessy, Mr. Biggins, Mr. Mills and Mrs. Maroney all voting in favor.

Public Service Announcements from the Committee were: Continue to enjoy vacation week; stay safe; see you Monday; Congratulations to the Rockland High School Hockey team for a great season; stay healthy, get homework done.

On a motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Biggins, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 PM.

Mrs. Maroney polled the committee with Mrs. Hennessy, Mrs. Davidson, Mr. Biggins, Mr. Mills and Mrs. Maroney voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas F. Mills, Jr.', is written over the typed name and title.

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary