

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD EMERGENCY MEETING
Tuesday, September 7, 2021
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.**

The videoconferencing link was published several places including on the meeting agenda.

Present: *Alex LoVerme, Brianne Lavallee, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Dennis Golding, Matt Mannarino, Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Charlie Post and Paul White*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principal Kathleen Chenette and Sarah Edmunds, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Jonathan Bouley, and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman LoVerme called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

II. MASK PROTOCOL

Mr. Vanderhoof expressed that we should start to clarify why we are here. He does not know what the outline is for this meeting. Chairman LoVerme spoke that the emergency meeting is to go over the mask protocol as we had a few kids at FRES test positive, others are being tested and there are students that are quarantining; 13 students in total. He explained we want to get ahead of it. COVID is breaking out in clusters and we are looking to target the cluster areas. There is one class at FRES that has 3 positives and potentially a 4th. We would focus on that class; we also have 3 mothers in that class who are positive. It is “kind of” an outbreak in first grade and that is what we are primarily looking at. The reason I called this emergency meeting is for us to get ahead of it and not have to react to 30 students getting it at FRES or the MS. This is where I am coming from.

The Superintendent spoke that DPH (Department of Public Health) has a decision matrix; we didn’t consider this when we did our Back to School Plan. It is targeted (mask use). It’s not all or nothing. We have either level 1 or 2; the decision matrix tried to obtain a balance with having mask mandates for a period of time. We have 1 positive case at LCS, 3 with potentially a 4th at FRES and 1 at WLC. He noted he was just informed of an additional parent who has tested positive and the student will quarantine as a household contact. We have to find a balance; the argument and issue is important to people and it is important to us. He thinks the approach the DPH took is a good approach. If he was asked for a recommendation he would say we target those kids at FRES, trying to change those numbers; either they stay the same or start to go down. He does not want to say necessarily for the semester or the rest of the year. We are just trying to curb the increase. We have to move forward together and it seems like we should focus the conversation on that, can we come together in the middle.

Mr. Vanderhoof spoke that presenting it as mask or no mask isn’t what we are doing. Nobody said you can’t wear a mask; it is perfectly OK to wear a mask if that is where we are. The plan we set up talks about clusters. We have a plan going and it takes into account that there are clusters coming up. The reason we are here is the plan doesn’t work or to revise it. I don’t know what everyone was expecting. I am sure if you tested everyone in this room, you would end up with a positive. Zero COVID is not a realistic expectation.

Discussion was had that 13 in one week was more than we had all last year. It was noted you are assuming it is a consistent factor. We tried something last year and this year it is not working. It was questioned how you can tell it is not working, you didn’t give it a shot. It was noted everyone was told to do what they

53 want. Discussions continued that included, it is the nature of going back to school, we have to try what we
54 can to protect these kids from COVID and spreading it in the school, we don't know where they are getting
55 it and masking is to help cut down the number of cases in first grade as they have the most cases right now.

56
57 Ms. Lavallee spoke that the difference of mask option and no option is what you are trying to control.
58 Mask not being an option is source control. Mask optional means each person is controlling it entering their
59 own body. Ask what is our purpose on the school board; part of the mission statement is to provide a safe
60 environment, it's safety for all students, staff and community. Having a mask mandate for a period of time
61 is the right thing to do from a public health perspective and if we are doing it based on the entire
62 community and that's our job, to not make emotional decisions, make decisions based on the entire
63 community. We also want to give the Superintendent the authority to say if we have another cluster to go to
64 masks instead of having these emergency meetings. It was noted by Mr. Mannarino that although there is
65 appreciation for what the Superintendent is suggesting, it is reactionary; it is not getting ahead of it.

66
67 Mr. Golding voiced he thinks we need to have a mask mandate to eliminate the problem or to try to control
68 the issue and keep everyone safe, 13 is too many.

69
70 Mr. Post expressed that we have not given this program a chance. We had it set up, he didn't necessarily
71 agree with it but we are 6 days in. He questioned if we know if the transmission happened at school.
72 Superintendent responded we don't know; some are household contacts. Discussion was had regarding if
73 we are saying that if there are 4 positives we are masking, how do we logistically make that work, do you
74 make those kids stay in the classroom and be separate from the school. Members of the public in person
75 and online expressed themselves at times throughout the meeting. Each time, Chairman LoVerme let them
76 know that they will have a chance to speak during public comment.

77
78 Superintendent spoke that if we have masks he recommends we do it for FRES. Discussion was had
79 regarding how this would be implemented. Superintendent spoke that we have a cluster that puts us at
80 medium for level of school impact. In terms of overall impact, it is still low. The community transmission
81 is substantial and that is tricky data. The PCR test positivity rate, taking out Nashua and Manchester is 6%
82 and still puts us at medium to moderate. The idea for decision matrix for masks is that if we can target that
83 and change or mandate masks for a period of time it will improve. If we continue with level 1 and go to
84 level 2, we are mandating masks for everyone. We don't have any impact at the HS except 1 in quarantine
85 from a household contact. He notes he is trying to wrap his brain around what is reasonable. Chairman
86 spoke that he sees targeting clusters, seeing the Superintendent making the call on mask mandate and
87 probably for a certain amount of time. If you keep getting clusters for every 5 days, it will extend the
88 cluster. If you do it for 2 weeks from the last day of the cluster and not just an individual case. We
89 wouldn't target a student in a class; it would be for a cluster. Ms. Lavallee spoke of her concerns. It was
90 suggested to talk about the number of days. It was expressed that the number of days depends if you are
91 positive, have symptoms and if it is a household contact it is different. They discussed the number of days.
92 Principal Chenette noted the problem is it rolls, if you have one it is 10 days and if you another, it is
93 another 10 days. It was suggested that everyone wants to know the number of clusters and when you would
94 mask them. Superintendent spoke that it is arbitrary, the percentage is pretty high to get to the absentee
95 rate, 15% is pretty high. A cluster is 3 or more in a related group. He adds that Mr. Vanderhoof is right
96 when he says it is hard to implement masking one class like that and how do you manage it and not create
97 more problems for the students. He sees this as a whole school. It is the most reasonable way to help
98 mitigate it. He thinks we pick a date because we meet twice a month and should look at the data every time.
99 He doesn't know if we can keep having these emergency meetings. He spoke about one criteria being the
100 strain on staff, 80% are vaccinated but it doesn't mean they won't get it. We struggled last year with having
101 to move classes to the gym. We are not necessarily anticipating that. We can look at the state trending data,
102 which is going up. We need to look at it locally; we have 10 active cases in Wilton, 37 in Milford, none in
103 Lyndeborough. He notes we are not Nashua or Manchester, for us it is different. The discussion is a little
104 more nuance where we are a small school. He thinks masking them now and look at the data again. A

question was raised if he thinks we have enough students at FRES to mask. The Superintendent spoke about being concerned about a trend, if we meet again and the trend is going down we walk that back. He was at FRES this morning and didn't count but would say it was about 50/50 of those masked and those not. Parents masked their kids in that particular classroom, we opened windows and moved desks around and did everything we can. If we go to a target mask mandate, he thinks more parents will choose the option to wear masks. A question was raised how many faculty are masking. Principal Chenette noted today most were masked. Ms. Lavallee was in the schools today and noted many teachers said they didn't last week but are masking today. It was noted Nashua is big and we can't put us in the same category. We need to look at our local numbers. It was noted we do have parents that work outside the state and towns but it a parent responsibility to what they want and keep them home if they are sick. You can't send them and potentially make other kids sick. It was questioned what are we proposing. We have a policy in place now. Chairman LoVerme spoke the proposal is to give the Superintendent the authority to go to mask and unmasked when the numbers hit instead of doing emergency meetings. It was expressed we have a protocol in place now where the Superintendent does make the call but you want to change it and that is the purpose of the emergency meeting, right? Superintendent spoke that he does have the authority based on the matrix they decided but the thresholds are so high and even though it's below what the state recommends, he is concerned they are going up and up and do we do a short target period to try to rest it. Ms. Lavallee voiced that she will make a motion to adjust the plan we have in place but wants to hear from the public prior to voting on it. Under level 1, face coverings it should include targeted facemask use per the toolkit from the Dept. of Education and Dept. of Health. It was questioned how many cases or do you want the Superintendent to make the decision. Superintendent spoke if we use this single cluster and community spread; we are in substantial. He is looking to use the matrix. Ms. Lavallee spoke that in level 1 it would allow us to use targeted facemasks. Superintendent added if we pass this single cluster and have no more; we are looking to go to optional again according to the matrix. According to the matrix, he is recommending targeted mask use. It was questioned if he is recommending reassessing it at every school board meeting. He responds he would recommend doing that, looking at it every 2 weeks. If it is going up, we need to talk about it and if it is going down, we need to talk about it. This decision matrix wasn't included in the plan we have and if he could do it over, he wishes he brought it up. We learn from our mistakes and here we are talking about targeting. It was questioned, in this threshold what is the number and what is the duration. Ms. Lavallee spoke, if you look at the decision matrix, a single cluster that is 3 students. We have that now and minimal to moderate community transmission. If it goes to substantial, they recommend universal mask use. Our duration is we visit it every 2 weeks. It was noted, the thought was it for 10 days. Ms. Lavallee responded it depends on is happening with the data. It was asked for a show of hands who understands when it starts and stops. Is it 3 cases and the entire school gets masked. Superintendent responded 3 cases in a group, a cluster. We have a single cluster; community transmission is moderate according to this matrix. The other piece of the data for community is we are at 5.8%, we are kind of moderate, substantial with community and it puts us at targeted, not for the entire district. We do not have a cluster at LCS or WLC. According to this matrix, we would target FRES. He would like to say just in one grade but it is difficult to implement it in 1 class and 1 teacher. He believes it is easier to do it in the whole building and meet in 2 weeks. We could go substantial in the community and that puts us in level 2. At this point if we can get past the cluster, it is then optional and we have to make that decision as a group. He can make it alone but feels it is important we talk about it. We have 70 people online and a bunch here and he thinks we have to talk about it and express opinions on either side of the issue, not just about COVID but everything. In this case, it is targeted mask use. It was noted sometime you will have to make a decision at the drop of a hat. He understands this. If we have 4 kids in a 6th grade class she doesn't know how long we wait to make decision. At the HS, it is harder to segregate a grade if we have to. At the HS level it is difficult to start splitting that up. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke, you are asking us to work together and make a choice. Superintendent responds we have 14, 8 in quarantine and 6 positive; he worries. Discussion continued including that a targeted mask approach for FRES sounds like it makes sense. If there is a cluster and we have to go to mandate masks in 5 days, and there is another, we will have to continue with masks. A question was raised what is the date of the last cluster to mask. Mr. White responded, from the last known cluster it is roughly 10 days, that is what they are suggesting. Ms. Cloutier-

Cabral questioned to clarify, so 10 days with no clusters is that right. Ms. Lavallee agreed we could do that. A question was raised, what is the scope, is it the building, or the team, the class, what is the scope of it. Superintendent responded my scope is the school. Discussion was had if a sports team gets it, is it the whole school. Superintendent responded it depends and gave examples. He noted just because there is a case in a class they may just be monitoring but if symptoms they will quarantine. A question was raised, the scope is the school, if you get a cluster, the entire school goes with masks for 10 days. Response was 10 days from the last case. It was questioned, a cluster is 3 and in contact with each other. Superintendent responded that in this case he doesn't know if that decision is so clear-cut. For a team it can be a cluster in a related group but does it have a relation to the class. This was discussed. Mr. Vanderhoof expressed you are chasing it forever. Optional works, you just said people are masking in the last few days they are making their own decision. You can mask FRES but I have a kid in this building and that building, they will play with each other and a lot of others are like this. He adds you need to trust the people have enough information and just because you think they will make the wrong decision for our family, you should let them make their own decision. Disagreement was noted.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Kevin Boette thanked the Board for letting the public have the opportunity to speak. There is a lot of passion on both sides. It is all going to the health and mental health for kids. We had a plan in place; it is only 5 days and have not really tested the plan. We have this quick cluster that popped up. He wants us to think about testing the plan and see where it goes in the next few days. If we do need to have a limit, it needs to be 10 days. It's a minority of the community; people have the option for vaccination. He spoke of his own situation; he wears a mask when he sees his mom and the risk is high. You have the choice to get vaccinated. He asks the Board to please consider these things if you let kids out to recess and you leave, and say it's up to you if you wear it. He guarantees they won't wear it.

Kyle DuBreuil, Lyndeborough spoke. He has 2 students at FRES. Today they went for a COVID test, which was fun. His kids are too young they can't be vaccinated. Hopefully, his son is fine and all the kids are. We are up to 17 including parents in 5 days. How many in total last year he asks and now we are up to 17 directly connected to the school. He is asking, he thinks the idea of just isolating FRES; you have the matrix and the description. We are at the criteria, let's go out in 10 days and if another cluster, do it again until the numbers go down. Hopefully not till the end of school year and if you have a mask and my kid is wearing a mask, hopefully we won't have any. He thinks it is time for masks, his kids are masked, they don't mind. Let's just mask.

Jamie Morris, Wilton voiced, we like numbers right. How many kids have died in the whole entire US? He gave some statistics. It was noted, we don't want one here. Mr. Morris spoke you are asking them to wear a mask and they are about 10% effective. You have kids when wearing it; it affects their development as they are learning to speak. They are not seeing the mouth move and it will hurt them later in life while in school. Learning how to read, they go off the face of the teacher and if they can't see. Ninety percent of masks are not effective. To be effective it has to be medical grade. He travels all over NE. He expressed he can be standing here fine with no symptoms but has it, you can't track that. If you want to wear it, it is up to the parents. That is the way it should be. His kid is vaccinated and doesn't think she should have to wear it at all.

Shane Meltzer, Lyndeborough spoke of having a daughter in 3rd grade and son in 5th. He has every intention of masking his kids because of what has cropped up recently but notes who am I to say others have to mask their children. He has friends here who don't agree with him. He is asking his kids to because he thinks it is the best opportunity to protect them from the Coronavirus. He put masks on his kids because he doesn't want them to get it. He is not relying on it for anyone else to mask them. He doesn't want to hear the political jargon. If you are wearing it to protect from things coming and if you are wearing it to protect yourself, if we are asking for a mandate, what are we saying we don't trust our friends and neighbors to do what is best for their children.

207

208 Caitlin Maki, Wilton spoke. She is not for or against it. She doesn't know if they work or not. She didn't have her kid
209 in a mask last week but did today. She asked and he said it's fine. Does he wear it outside of school, no. We have a
210 responsibility today to keep our schools safe. She likes the addition of targeted mask wearing within the guidelines.
211 We can't help what people are doing outside of the school. If they want to gather with friends. She works in Nashua
212 and is socially distanced because of the size of it. She knows she can bring something home to them. It will prevent
213 the kids from spreading it to one another. It makes her nervous knowing her kid is in there. She knows there is talk
214 they don't wear it, right, most kids are doing the same thing. They model after the adults and if the adults tell them
215 the reason is important they will do the same thing.

216

217 Lisa Post, Lyndeborough, wanted to ask 2 things. She asked if we can have a microphone that gets the information to
218 the back of the room as they are not hearing you. She questioned what the plan is for the kids that are out of school,
219 quarantining for 10 days and perhaps another 10 days. What plans are in place for their education from day 1. What
220 are they getting for an education? She wants to know and families want to know. Are they out with any help now? It
221 would make people feel more comfortable about the decisions that are being made tonight.

222

223 Eric Abasciano spoke of having a daughter in the 4th grade. They recently moved here and are in their 2nd year. He
224 thanked all the teachers and all who are here. He came from Worcester, MA where they make you do everything. He
225 thanked them for last year having school in general. Now that we know more about how the effectiveness of masks,
226 we don't know the long-term affect and the effect of wearing them. You will make a decision one way or another and
227 he will live with it but thinks it is up to the parents to make decisions about everything. It should be decided by the
228 parents to make the right decision for their child. He appreciates the schools being open and believes you are doing a
229 good job. He questions if the COVID tests are being followed up on by the schools. He had 2 false positives and
230 questions if anyone follows up on that to see if it is a false positive. He knows many who have positives. Does the
231 parent give a note or a note from the pharmacy? It was noted that the documentation varies depending on where they
232 are tested. She adds we follow guidelines of the Department of Public Health (DPH) and are required to report to
233 them if we have a positive case and they follow up. If a child is symptomatic, we do testing, the child gets tested and
234 we ask for the result positive or negative. The school doesn't do any testing and nor is there a requirement to follow
235 up. The parent can do that but DPH doesn't require it. She believes it is more likely to give a false negative than a
236 false positive but notes it does happen. It is not our job at the school level.

237

238 Darlene Anzalone, Lyndeborough asked for clarification regarding the number of cases. How many positive and in
239 what grades, she noted quarantines were also mentioned. She questions if you are trying to tie this to the first week of
240 school. Superintendent reviewed the numbers and grades. There are 6 positive, 8 quarantining for total of 14. Ms.
241 Anzalone spoke as a parent, what is the number and how do you make the decision. Where is the cluster? If you
242 know it's a certain grade, maybe they should wear a mask for a set number of days. As a parent, I would like to know
243 what is a cluster and if it's 3, shouldn't it be for that grade or class. She questions if it was a soccer team it sounds
244 like it would be looked at differently, more closely. She agrees with Mr. Vanderhoof, if our kids are sick, we won't
245 send them to school. She will not be an irresponsible parent and trusts other parents to make the best decision for
246 their kids.

247

248 Jon Lavoie, Lyndeborough questioned if any of the positive cases are siblings. Superintendent responded he does not
249 want to go into that level of detail with families etc. It is for privacy and the deeper we go into it identifying the
250 kids... He was interrupted by a member of the public and did not finish his sentence. Mr. Lavoie questioned if you
251 are going to put masks on the kids you will expect them to wear them, right. You can't expect a 1st or 3rd grader to do
252 anything without being on top of them. It won't work. He spoke of his personal experience "back in the day" when I
253 went to school if you got the flu you stayed home. We didn't quarantine them or call it a cluster we just send them
254 home. He reported some statistics on flu deaths and COVID statistics noting no children died of COVID. He
255 questions if he came to the Board in 2016-17 and said we need to mask kids because they are dying of flu and

pneumonia... I am telling you it's zero percent and you would call me crazy because I want to keep it optional. Zero percent and I am told I need to mask my kids, they are in danger. What statistics Mr. Weaver are you using to say they are in danger? They were in danger more in 2017 and no one said it then. He thanked the parents who said it was the parents who should make the choice. Don't tell other people what they have to do with their own lives.

Ben Hostettler spoke of having children at FRES and LCS. He questioned how many flu cases we had this year. He asked if anyone has that data. Response, flu season has not started yet. He spoke of one or two people having masks on and we are debating masking 300-400 kids. It was clarified that it would be FRES only. Mr. Hostettler continued acknowledging that it is about 200 kids then. He spoke of his personal work conditions. He expressed that it is proven and documented that having children masked for any level of time drops that oxygen below 100 parts per million.

Alex Rand, Wilton spoke and has a 5 year old child at LCS. He spoke of getting students to listen on any day is difficult. He questioned what the protocol is if his child is crying, do we have to pick him up; does he go to the nurse's office? Chairman LoVerme responded teachers do the best they can to work with the children. It was noted it went well last year for the most part. Chairman LoVerme noted we are not going to send him home; we would keep working with him. Mr. Rand questioned what the overall plan is if it is not being enforced. Ms. Lavallee does not recall our Superintendent bringing up a related issue to this. Mr. Rand asked what if his child has a bad day. Chairman LoVerme responded the teacher will work with him and we understand the masks will be taken on and off, he is 5 years old.

A member of the public expressed to the Chairman that he had had is mask down 10 times since he has been here. Chairman voiced that it is to allow those to hear him when he is speaking.

Brian Fey spoke noting he is new to town and doesn't know any of you. He doesn't know if this is the first emergency meeting had or first ever. He expressed that it seems odd that you sit here in your comfortable chairs and you make others come up here to speak instead of making them feel comfortable to speak from their seats. Chairman responded that it is allow those online to hear them. Mr. Fey asked who made the matrix. Ms. Lavallee responded it is from the Department of Health and it for schools and daycares to use. Mr. Fey questioned if we have any members of the Board that are doctors. No, OK are these meetings recorded. Mr. Post acknowledged they are. Mr. Fey expressed when Mr. Weaver was talking you went to moderate and substantial and he feels people are all over the place and that was why he was asking about the recording. He notes he is not a teacher or a doctor, just a parent. He adds "you guys" are using terms like targeting and then you say ask your principal when the masks should end. He questions if she is a doctor, he doesn't believe so. You are throwing percentages around, PCR tests and a young lady said 13 cases and 8 positives. We are all over the place. Go back to the decision matrix. He heard a couple of people say the decision matrix and he would have to review it to make it out. We have to start thinking about this state and country that is built on freedom. He spoke about this and quoted a patriotic speech. He is not saying throw out medical advice. He equated it to using chicken wire to stop mesquites. You are only stopping people from breathing. He knows of a lot of people have not worn masks and they didn't get it. If we forget what this state is built on...there were a lot braver men than me and they believed in freedom. He feels they have to find their NH accessorial roots and believe in freedom.

Chairman called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Misty Gauthier, Lyndeborough spoke that she has two boys in 1st grade. Last year they went to kindergarten and didn't require masks. She asked them to wear them as needed. Teachers and staff were wearing them. She drove up and dropped the kids off, it is optional. Not one staff member had a mask on so of course they won't wear it. Moving forward today, they are wearing them. We are required to teach them, they are not upset about masks. They don't have a choice to get vaccinated. We don't have issues at WLC and doesn't know how many are vaccinated but they

305 have a choice. We have a responsibility as parents and community to watch over our kids. Now today, when I drop
306 my kids off, teachers had masks and I was OK with it. She spoke of her child being sent home and was negative;
307 every child with a cough will have to go home. This is not a popularity contest; they don't have a choice right now.
308 She spoke of chicken pox and vaccinating her children but she doesn't have a choice now. She thinks it should be a
309 choice but the responsible thing to do now is better safe than sorry.

310
311 Geoff Allen, Lyndeborough spoke about having a child in 5th grade and he wanted to speak to a person who
312 commented earlier. He notes he is not a doctor or a chemist or knows what goes through the mask or not. He is just a
313 dad trying to do the best for his kids. He hears the passion and he appreciate that. He reiterates to the Board that it is
314 his job as a father to look after his kids. He doesn't know if the kids were masked or unmasked but all have the
315 option to wear it. He thanked the Board for their attention and consideration. It doesn't matter what side you are on,
316 you will hear about it from someone. He thinks Mr. Weaver is a breath of fresh air in this climate. He is so tempered
317 and passionate. He cares about what the community wants and what is best for kids. I thank you for the job that you
318 do.

319
320 Chris Gordon spoke of having a child in 3rd and 1st grade. This is the first school board meeting he has attended, it
321 seemed important. Overall, it sounds like the plan is to mask if you feel that is what will protect kids, and quarantine
322 if you are in contact with a positive case. He questioned if he is wrong about that. Ms. Lavallee spoke that at this
323 point, you quarantine if you have a household contact. Mr. Gordon asked if a household contact and a kid at the
324 school is the same thing. Ms. Lavallee responded no. Mr. Gordon questioned so if they come in direct contact they
325 don't need to quarantine. Ms. Lavallee spoke that at this time it is the household contacts the Dept. of Health is
326 monitoring. Mr. Gordon questioned if that is the CDC. Ms. Lavallee responded it is the Department of Public Health.
327 Mr. Gordon questioned if it is not the requirement of the CDC, he agrees it should be the parent's decision to mask or
328 not. He spoke of needing to get a hold of these cases but it is also the parent's responsibility to protect those kids and
329 schools. It should be left up to the parents to decide if they want to mask or not.

330
331 Jeff Jones commented he thinks the Board is right. We need to use common sense and can't overthink it. We can
332 continue to debate the efficacy of masks and what is a reasonable thing to do. Masking at FRES is very reasonable.
333 He asks parents who say it is their right to make the decision. If he had COVID and coughed in your face, 3 feet
334 apart, he thinks they would say no. He respects it's their right but it is also our right to protect all the kids. He spoke
335 of his neighbor getting COVID, the whole family, and his neighbor was 59 years old and passed away. He doesn't
336 want that to happen to anyone. He questions what is the best for the community. He loves the passion and outreach;
337 let's continue that and come to a school budget, board or PTO meeting. Let's extend it for something good. Let's
338 keep it rolling.

339
340 Robert Maciorowski, Lyndeborough spoke and has one student at LCS. He spoke of having a senior last year who
341 spent the whole year remote. They stayed healthy but it took one meeting with a family member and we all got
342 COVID and thankfully got over it. He shares the concern about the learning quality and students wearing masks. He
343 has children with learning disabilities with speech and it is helpful to visualize the speech. Parents should make the
344 decision for their children. If they mask for 2 weeks and it becomes a standing thing, it can affect their learning long-
345 term. He thinks parents should make the best decision for their children.

346
347 Melodie Jones, Wilton spoke that she does not have any children in the school but has a grandson. She expressed she
348 is talking to the parents who got up here and said there are no deaths in Wilton here and there is flu but only one
349 person in so many years... When you are the one parent who has to bury your child because of the virus, it is not easy
350 to deal with. She prays no one has to do this in this district ever again. Keep that in mind when "you guys" get up
351 and start talking. Thank you.

352
353 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Post to adjourn.**

A member of the public asked if you are going to make a decision.

**Voting: two ayes; five nays from Mr. White, Ms. Lavallee, Mr. Golding, Mr. Mannarino, and Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion did not pass.*

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to edit the plan in place and add to level 1, under face coverings, targeted mask use in line with the State of NH mask decision matrix.***

Mr. Post expressed concern that he does not see where that delineates the decision, it's too big. Chairman asked if there is a timeline in there. Ms. Lavallee responded if you do it using that matrix then if the cluster is over, it stops so it would be 10 days. Mr. Vanderhoof commented that a couple of years ago we had an emergency meeting for roughly \$200,000 and the Board sat up there and listened to everyone say nope, you need to try and get through this and work through what you asked for. You totally ignored what people said, and you took the money from taxpayers and they cut our budget by \$400,000 and we could have easily gotten through. We can ignore this and the overwhelming majority to not do this. Ms. Lavallee spoke that she wanted to go on record of hearing from 13 community members who spoke to have it in place and a number specifically stated they didn't want to get up and speak because they felt intimidated by the crowd. Members of the public voiced their disagreement commenting they should be here. Mr. Post spoke that Mr. Vanderhoof makes a good point, if we ignore, we can talk about the mystery 13 people who didn't show up. The first 2 meetings they wanted masks optional. The survey was overwhelming optional. We heard from both sides but the majority here and online want masks optional. If you make the decision to do it, you are going against the public. Mr. Mannarino also received 2 emails from community members who want their voices heard but didn't want the backlash. Jon Lavoie commented that he didn't insult anybody.

Mr. Mannarino spoke regarding a couple observations. First targeted masks are consistent with the matrix. He supports this. Second, every student at FRES is not old enough to get vaccinated. Just because some won't doesn't mean we shouldn't mandate it. Someone on Facebook said more children die in auto accidents; we don't expect seatbelts to save every child. He would like them to cite their sources as he has one from the CDC that says masks do help in prevention; he read a portion. The American Academy of Pediatrics also has an article regarding how it relates to kids with masks.

A member of the public expressed he wants board members individually to declare how they are voting. The members did so including towns they live in.

***Voting: five ayes; two nays from Mr. Vanderhoof and Mr. Post, one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Post to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:05pm.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*

2. Promote vaccination against COVID-19

- ☐ Promote vaccination and help communicate about the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines in preventing infection, preventing spread of COVID-19 between people, and limiting the seriousness and duration of illness for people who develop COVID-19
- ☐ Highlight your town-level COVID-19 vaccination rates when communicating with staff, students, and families about the importance of achieving the highest levels of vaccination possible (see town-level data on the NH [Vaccination Data Dashboard](#))
- ☐ Work with your local Regional Public Health Network (see [contact list](#)) and/or with a local healthcare partner to set up school-specific clinics to offer vaccination to your community

3. Use face masks wisely

- ☐ Communicate with your community about the two different important purposes of face masks, including to
 1. Protect the person wearing the face mask, and
 2. Prevent spread of COVID-19 from the person wearing a face mask to others (i.e., “source control”)
- ☐ Schools and childcare programs can recommend or require facemasks. Decide with your community how to implement face masks to prevent introduction and spread of COVID-19 based on:
 1. [Level of NH community transmission](#) (reported at the County level with the cities of Manchester and Nashua separated out)
 2. Number of cases of COVID-19 occurring within your school or childcare facility, and the presence of [clusters/outbreaks](#)
 3. Your ability to implement other prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, cohorting, etc.). For example if you can separate children who are indoors by 6 feet, or activities are outdoors, masks may not be as important
 4. Level of COVID-19 vaccination within your school population, or within the surrounding town/city (see [Vaccination Data Dashboard](#)) – we recommend a goal of *at least* 80% of the population fully vaccinated
- ☐ Face masks are not recommended in most outdoor locations, but can be considered for high-risk situations or activities (e.g., close/physical contact sports)
- ☐ Recommended face masks for anybody who desires maximal protection for themselves or others, including people who:
 1. Have not been fully vaccinated
 2. Have a weakened immune system that makes them more susceptible to COVID-19, even after vaccination
 3. Wants to protect a household member who may be medically vulnerable or unvaccinated (i.e., to prevent the person wearing the face mask from picking up COVID-19 and bringing it home)
- ☐ Face masks are required to be worn on school buses and other forms of public transportation under the federal [CDC Order](#)

- ☐ NH public health recommends the following as one approach to implementing face masks. Face masks are recommended for everybody (universally) when any of the following criteria are met (see also the **Decision Matrix** table below):
1. Level of NH community transmission reaches “substantial” in the region where the school or childcare program is operating
 2. Facility transmission is identified leading to a cluster of infections and multiple potential exposures within a classroom – face masks can be targeted and time limited if the cluster/outbreak is small and confined, but facilities should work with public health to investigate and control any cluster or outbreak
 3. Multiple clusters occur, or there is a larger facility outbreak

Decision Matrix: Recommendations for use of facemasks indoors based on the level of community transmission and COVID-19 transmission within a facility

		Level of Community Transmission		
		Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
Cases Within Facility	Sporadic cases without evidence of facility transmission	Optional*	Optional*	Universal [†]
	Single Cluster	Targeted	Targeted	Universal [†]
	Multiple clusters or a larger outbreak	Universal [†]	Universal [†]	Universal [†]

* Face masks still recommended for people who want maximal protection for themselves or others (e.g., a household member who is unvaccinated or medically vulnerable)

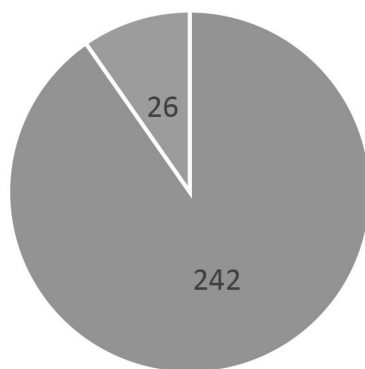
† Exceptions can be made for classrooms/schools that have achieved a high vaccination rate (e.g., high-school), or where other prevention measures can be strictly implemented (e.g., 6 feet of physical distancing)

4. Maximize Physical distancing

- ☐ Maximize physical distance between students, children, and staff – the goal is at least 3 feet of separation, although more is better, especially if face masks are not used
- ☐ Maximize physical distance between students and children during lunch time – physical barriers such as Plexiglas in place of physical distancing are no longer recommended by CDC as a prevention strategy
- ☐ Increase physical distance between people in situations where there may be increased risk of respiratory aerosol production; 8-10 feet of physical separation between people is suggested during group activities that involve forced and heavy breathing indoors (e.g., indoor group fitness classes), singing (chorus/choir), or wind instrument playing (band performances); alternatively consider face mask use for people engaged in higher risk activities indoors if physical distancing is not possible

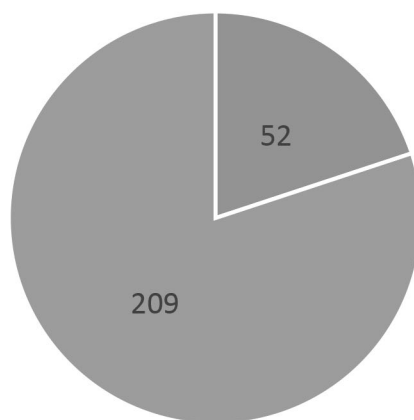
RESPONSES FOR QUESTIONS #2 and #4

2. If facemasks are optional at the start of the school year, will your student(s) attend as in-person learners?



■ YES ■ NO

4. If facemasks are mandatory at the start of the school year, will your student(s) remain at home to learn?



■ YES ■ NO