

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING – ZOOM ONLY
FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2022
4:30 PM**

Michelle Brundrett	Present
Kevin Gregory	Present
Donald Raymond	Present
Warren Steward	Present
Dr. Joshua McNaughton, Superintendent	Present
Jillian Harper, Student Representative	Excused

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Warren Steward, Chairperson.

II. To see if the Board will approve the new COVID Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

The Superintendent reviewed the new SOP proposal to the Board:

Safety	Current Model	NEW SOP
Masking	When students are present Except when outside or eating	When students are present Except when outside or eating
Social Distancing	3'	3'
Assigned Seating	Yes	Yes in school No assigned seats on the bus
Testing	Home test acceptable: No No testing out of quarantine Binex	Home test acceptable: No No testing out of quarantine Binex (same process as now)
Response		
Pool Testing	No	No
Outbreak Status	3+ PCR tests	15% out due to illness (not just COVID). Report in NEO

		Outbreak window: 14 days
Quarantining Period	10 day 90-day exemption for positive cases	5 day unless... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boosted 2. Fully vaccinated 16-17 year old student without the booster 3. If not eligible for booster, but fully vaccinated 4. Completed 2nd does of Pfizer, Moderna vaccine within 6 months or J&J vaccine within 2 months 5. Participate in Pool Testing 6. Universal Masking Policy 7. 90 day exemption (for those who have had COVID) No quarantine for asymptomatic students or staff COVID positive students and staff can return to school after 5 days of quarantine, as long as they are fever free for 24 hrs and their health is improving
Contact Tracing	Within a 6' radius 15 minutes or more	Within a 6' radius 15 minutes or more Students will still be allowed to attend school/school related events/sports but are required to quarantine in the community for 5 days and wear a mask for 10 days
Busing	Masks required Contact Tracing	Masks required No contract tracing
Virtual Instruction	Quarantine and COVID positive students	Quarantine and COVID positive students

Board Discussion:

School Nurse Katie Carr stated she has huge concerns about changing the quarantine time frame. Most staff is vaccinated and they are good about staying home and getting tested, but it is different for students. She does believe we should move forward with the new 5 day quarantine because the main goal is to have students in school.

Kevin Gregory asked about N95 masks. Katie replied they require a fit test. A KN95 is a better option, but we can't get them.

The 15% outbreak status of students and staff would be 70-80 individuals.

Warren Steward asked for clarification why 10 days to 5 is better. Superintendent stated it is because the State believes it keeps the kids in school. We are good at controlling the school environment; we can't control community.

Katie Carr stated we are testing after 72 hours of symptoms. We need to follow that more closely instead of testing too soon. This new variant is much more contagious.

The dates of the upcoming clinics was shared.

Todd Phillips from Millinocket Regional Hospital stated he appreciates the information, but he wondered about pool testing as another tool. The Superintendent stated pool testing is now given the same weight as masking. Also other schools have complained about not getting the results of pool testing back in a timely manner. Mr. Phillips stated he is available at MRH for anyone who would like to reach out to him.

Lindsey Lee is very concerned about sending students back to school after 5 days without a negative test before returning to school. It increases the risk to other students for COVID positive. Students are not diligent maskers. The current SOP leaves a lot of gray area. The more tools we use, the better.

Michelle Brundrett stated she would like to explore pool testing further and Donald Raymond agreed. The Superintendent stated he would pull together that information and get it to the Board.

Motion: To approve the new COVID Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Donald Raymond

Voted: 3 - Yes 1 - No (Warren Steward) 0 - Abs

III. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:14 PM.

Motion by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Donald Raymond

Voted: 4 – Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua McNaughton, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools