

School Committee Meeting
December 22, 2021

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

In attendance: SusanMary Redinger, Sharlene Cronin, Shannon Molloy, Abby Besse, and Suzanne Allen.

Others in attendance: Dr. Linda Dwight, Ingrid Nilsson, and Mary Zadroga

Dr. Dwight led the discussion to help the School Committee make a decision about having January 3rd as a COVID testing day and have students return from break on Tuesday, January 4th. The administration and HTA are in favor of taking January 3rd as a testing day instead of a school day.

Dr. Dwight explained that the nursing staff is recommending this approach in light of the new Covid variant and increase in COVID cases.

Dr. Dwight discussed how the students would be tested prior to 10 a.m. and the hope is to have the test results in time to identify students so that they will not attend school on Tuesday. Family and community members will be offered the testing as well. Dr. Dwight said she needs to trust the nursing staff on this call.

There is concern that the participation rate on this day may be lower than if there was school and testing was done in school. There is also concern that students will be together on the Monday day off and may spread the virus outside of school versus inside school where things are safer.

This approach would be favored by some as a way to err on the side of caution and give some assurance to families.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to move to approve the day of for testing on January 3 as presented by Dr. Dwight.

VOTE: Allen (Nay), Besse (Nay), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye)

SusanMary Redinger added that we appreciate that this may cause a hardship for families but appreciates that families will continue to work in partnership with the schools.

Enjoy a safe holiday.

Adjourned

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mary Zadroga