



**Minutes from MSAA Vocational Administrators meeting through Zoom by Karen Guenette on March. 18, 2021, from 9 – 10:20 a.m.**

***In attendance:*** Rich Kelly (MSAA), Karen Guenette (Bristol-Plymouth), Kathy Duff (Newton), Mark Hollick (Assabet), Chris Laganas (Whittier Tech), Brian Spadafino (Franklin Tech), Eric Duda/Carrie Auffrey (Pathfinder), Tom Browne (Monty Tech), Anthony Steele (BVT), Shannon Snow (Keefe Tech), Mark Wood (Tantasqua), Geoff Zini (Blue Hills), Kevin Braga (Bristol-Aggie), Andrew Rebello (Diman), Billy Terranova (CCT), Ron Driskoll (Norfolk-Aggie), Joe Bianca (Smith Aggie), Alan Gates (Holyoke), Jessica Cook (Shawsheen), Brian Spadafino (Franklin Tech), Justin Krantz (McCann), Mike Procaccini (TriCounty), and Chad Falcon (?).

The meeting began at 9 a.m. Discussion points included the following:

- DESE's official dates for April 5<sup>th</sup> for elementary and April 28<sup>th</sup> for middle schools for full in-person learning; date to be determined for high schools; most principals are thinking the middle of May with seniors either already done or almost done for the school year. Some high schools are keeping the same timeline as the middle schools in the state, especially if they are a 7-12 building with same transportation, etc.
- School districts have sent surveys out to parents to gather data for in-person or remote learning for their children; most school awaiting results for planning schedules; some high schools are planning on the waiver process if cannot safely fit 100% of students in our schools.
- Discussion about plexiglass table dividers in the lunchrooms and the new DESE guidance that came out this week (Mark Hollick will forward to the group); some school have purchased these to divide the café tables, but DESE said no barriers in this recent guidance; work with boards of health on some of this to see if OK at the local level or not; some boards of health have been contacted and prefer not to endorse the dividers and stated that the dividers cut down on the droplets, but not really maintaining the 6' distance when students are 3' or less from each other with the dividers and no masks on.
- It was noted that a sending district school is dismissing students every day without serving lunch for 100% participation and students going home for lunch and to complete the afternoon online until the end of the school day; some districts getting creative in working around meeting the 100% in-person mandate.
- Discussion about the DESE document on the air flow study on bus transportation with only conducting two tests and not having enough accurate data to offer guidance on safety (our opinions).
- Discussion about purchasing or renting tents to extend learning outside or for additional lunch capabilities; getting expensive and becoming scarce; Monty, Keefe, Tantasqua are all looking into these options

- Discussions about extending lunch shifts, eating in classrooms and other spaces to maintain a 6' distance from each other, outside dining options, etc.
- Discussion about material and supply costs increasing for vocational schools, i.e. culinary, carpentry, etc.
- Discussion about DESE's SEL students' needs met with full in-person learning and further pressures DESE is under and states teen suicide rates are high, but no shared data to support this statement.
- Discussion about remote-only seniors and whether shop diploma or attainment certificates are being issued this year if students haven't mastered the competencies; some schools offering post-graduation opportunities; a booster program; NOCTI assessments <https://www.nocti.org/> to identify which students might need summer school; April vacation for shop make-up; seniors assisting in summer programs and work with shop instructor on meeting competencies; pulling some students out of shop time for academic failures and offering extra assistance during the school day.
- SOA additional funding and upcoming deadline was discussed; can't change what was previously identified for goals but can submit for expansion of goals for up to \$500,000 and has to align with what was identified as priorities; some schools are applying for this additional money
- Remote-only teacher discussion; some schools have given deadlines and return dates if going to 100% in-person; other schools are allowing this option to continue; other schools are in the process of surveying their remote-only teachers about returning to school and meeting their needs; some schools are continuing to livestream and others will only offer asynchronous learning for remote-only students due to MOA agreements and not offering both in-person and livestream teaching at the same time.
- Discussion about what happened to the state giving local control? We all figured it out, are working within our own capacities and now that is being taken away.
- Discussion about not all schools can open at 100% capacity (BVT 50% on Monday); (Keefe 50% on April 5<sup>th</sup> and were fully remote for so long that this will already be a big transition for students and then will wait for DESE's high school return date for full in-person); (Monty Tech – 1<sup>st</sup> week of May); (TriCounty – 75% on April 5 and 100% after April vacation); (Pathfinder – 75% on April 5<sup>th</sup>); (Shawsheen – 100% on May 3) and other schools gave dates of April 5, April 12, April 28<sup>th</sup> with some being able to be 100% capacity safely and other cannot with DESE's 3' edge of seat to 3' to the edge of the next seat in the recent guidance that came out.
- No other school is doing pool testing except Tantasqua, and Mark said it's voluntary for anyone to test at school; further discussion about surveying staff for vaccinations ensued with the majority of principals reporting that, overall, approximately 30% of their staff are not taking the vaccine.
- Additional discussions on the following topics were also addressed:
  - Responses from recent commissioner's meeting with superintendent's and MSAA
  - Exchange of ideas to have full time in person school attendance
  - Questions as to dates when full time high school attendance is expected
  - Impact of seniors leaving mid-May

- Ongoing discussion of having students back full time ...various scenarios, ideas, suggestions
- Mark asked if principals would like to continue to meet every other week at this time, rather than once a month, and everyone agreed to this timeline. Mark will send out the next meeting date and link to the group for continued and ongoing discussions for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. There was no discussion about MCAS, prom, or graduation plans at this meeting, but these are further future topics.

