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Memorandum

TO: Capital Subcommittee
Jim Marini
Mary Ellen Normen

FROM: Matthew J. Gillis, Director of Operations & Facilities

RE: Recommend Return of After School Partners and BACE for 2021-22 School Year

DATE: May 10, 2021

First, I am recommending we return to having the following regular partners and return to offering services for the upcoming school year for the following groups:

- Brookline Music School
- Devotion After School Enrichment Program (DASEP at FRR)
- Brookline Adult and Community Education

They need the time to plan and advertise their offerings for after the regular school day is completed. And we need to work them in with the Extended Day Programs in our K-8 buildings.

Second, as we did prior to the pandemic, I am comfortable allowing outside groups back to begin renting space on a short term basis after the next school year begins. We budgeted for the return of some outside groups (youth sports, language schools, religious/church services/meetings.) These groups are prioritized after PSB programs and partners for space. So, the question today, is do we allow outside groups to return in September, or do we want to revisit this question in the summer (post more progress towards, or achieving, herd immunity?)

What reasons are the basis to plan reopen?

- 1.) Students, staff, extended day, and BHS Sports have returned and largely been successful with little to no transmission suspected with school managed activities. [Go to slides 10-14](#) for PSB case data.

- 2.) Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have been steadily declining across the Commonwealth since February 2021. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting#covid-19-interactive-data-dashboard->
- 3.) The number of people getting vaccinated across commonwealth has been steadily proceeding towards herd immunity (75% of the population). As of May 9, using the preliminary census increase to 7.02 Million residents, of the total population, about 2.9 Million (41%) are fully vaccinated and about 3.8 Million (54%) folks have received their first shot. It appears the Commonwealth is on pace to reach herd immunity in the next 3-6 weeks. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates#daily-covid-19-vaccine-report->
- 4.) Commonwealth easing restrictions on [outdoor masking](#) as of 4/30, venue capacity size, and tournaments for [sports for youth and adults](#) are permitted starting today, 5/10/21.
- 5.) CDC eased restrictions on surface cleaning [April 5](#). PSB did not change its disinfecting bathrooms twice daily and surface touchpoints nightly as BHS and then Grades 6-8 were returning that week and the following week. The CDC [conclusion](#) is surface transmission is low risk, surface cleaning and other precautions is sufficient to manage the risk.

Third issue, which will be raised with advisory panel 4 this coming Friday, if they are comfortable with stopping these practices, and unless otherwise directed, we will stop providing the following enhancements we added to manage through the pandemic:

1. Providing alcohol wipes for sanitizing desktop surfaces in between class changes
2. Providing spray disinfectant to non-custodial staff for classroom desktop and common touchpoints.
3. Stopping mid-day disinfecting of multi-stall bathrooms
4. Nightly disinfecting of common touchpoints and desktop surfaces (unless a case is reported)

We will keep providing the following items for the rest of the school year.

- A. Suprox and paper towels for surface cleaning
- B. Masks and Eye protection as we have this year
- C. Hand soap and hand sanitizer in classrooms/offices

In March, we expect to be on the other side of the pandemic for the upcoming school year. So, for FY22, we did not budget for PPE (masks, gloves, face shields, safety glasses) and the same level of hand soap, hand sanitizer, and paper towels that we consumed during this current year. Thankfully, there are reasons to believe we should not need all