HAC MEMBERS:
Anthony Barber  
Anthony J. Terzo, Commissioner  
Brenda Galie  
Delvin M. Thomas  
Dr. Alina Alonso  
Dr. Belma Andric  
Dr. Charmaine Chibar  
Dr. Jean Friedland Malecki  
Dr. Leslie Diaz  
Dr. Martha M. Rodriguez

Dr. Masha Fishbane  
Dr. Myriam Glemaud  
Dr. Olayemi Osiyemi  
Dr. Tommy Schechtman  
Matt Willhite  
Randy Scheid  
Seth Bernstein  
Stacy Volnick  
Thamarva Mitchell

STAFF:
Cleopatra Ortiz  
Dr. Merris Smith  
Ed Tierney  
Glenda Sheffield, Ed.D.  
Gonzalo LaCava  
Jay Boggess  
Joelle Cody  
Kathleen Villavicencio

Keith Oswald  
Kevin McCormick  
Michelle Fleming  
Mike Burke  
Ofelia B. Chacon, M.D., Ph.D.  
Paula Triana  
Wanda Paul

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:
Debra Robinson, M.D

PRESENTERS:
Dr. Alina Alonso  
Dr. Belma Andric  
Jay Boggess

ABSENT:
Anthony J. Terzo, Commissioner  
Delvin M. Thomas  
Dr. Charmaine Chibar  
Dr. Leslie Diaz  
Dr. Myriam Glemaud  
Dr. Olayemi Osiyemi  
Matt Willhite  
Seth Bernstein  
Stacy Volnick  
Thamarva Mitchell

PUBLIC NON-MEMBERS:
The public has live access by Phone Bridge
Meeting began at 6:00 pm – Jay Boggess, Assistant Superintendent, Choice & Innovation

Jay Boggess- This meeting is now being recorded. Requested all participants type their name in the chat box for record keeping purposes. Proceeded to present his screen with today’s agenda.

Purpose and Intent

Reopening of PBC Schools
The first group coming will be September 16 ESE Cluster sites and September 21st all schools.
We have a variety of presentations including a collaboration video between the Health Care District and the Department of Health. Before we begin, I’d like to welcome Dr. Fennoy.

Dr. Fennoy- Good evening everyone, this is a little different because we are alone here in the Board Room. Thanked everyone for their participation up to this point, this particular committee has informed a lot of our decisions for this semester ending in January. All children and staff are following the protocols and procedures in place. As you have seen and heard, COVID cases would be in our buildings but we have not had to close any schools in Palm Beach County. Recognized this is due to the collaboration of the HealthCare District and the Department of Health, we just finished Thanks Giving and rolling into the winter season, you will hear messages about being more diligent with the return of more parents into brick & mortar. There’s still a lot to discuss and figure out as we move forward and we are ready, willing and able to do so. Back to Jay

Jay Boggess- Thanked Dr. Fennoy and turned over to Dr. Alonso for her Department of Health update.

Dr. A. Alonso- Happy holidays everyone. There is a light at the end of the tunnel but please maintain you masks and distance, wash your hands and be careful when bringing friends and relatives over this holiday. Florida has seen a new number of cases today 13.148 which puts Florida at 1,168,483 an additional 322 hospitalizations in the State and 101 more deaths. For Palm Beach County, we have a new high today of 701 new cases, we’ve hired more contact tracers and believe these numbers will continue going up. The total count for Palm Beach County is 74,789 with 18 new hospitalizations and 8 deaths. On Wednesday, the State of Florida had that daily positivity which is that number we’re interested in being below 5 for the State and it was 8.84% and the total positivity is up to 14.47%. There are 3 components of the vaccine in Palm Beach County; the first one is the hospital/healthcare workers. Palm Beach County hospitals are expected to get Maderna the state will show a dashboard showing the vaccines coming into the hospitals, they will self-administer and vaccinate any healthcare associate. Another piece is nursing homes. At the board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, we mentioned having teams come in to do nursing homes, that plan has been scrapped because CVS and Walgreens assured us they are able to execute the contract as exclusive providers for nursing homes and long term care facilities with sufficient staff and allocations. The part we’ve been charged with and will be prioritizing is Fire Rescue, EMS Paramedics, Health Department front line staff and Healthcare workers. The important part for schools is that this vaccine will allow us to get to the point of immunity, I emphasize that large gatherings is where we’re becoming positive, not at schools. Dr. Alonso wished everyone Happy Holidays and disconnected from the meeting.

Jay Boggess- Moving forward to the next agenda item we have Dr. Belma Andric. We communicated to the community we have Binox Now rapid testing over 13,000 test and 176 school sites with the opportunity to have the test in their clinics.

Dr. B. Andric-Still at work and can hear the meeting but cannot see it so Mr. Boggess showed her presentation and Dr. Andric explained it. Discussed the data on the presentation. At the end of the slides she asked if there were any questions.

Jay Boggess- Opened up for questions. Hearing none at this time, we will reserve five minutes at the end if necessary. Next on the agenda COVID-19 testing and consent presented by Dr. Merris Smith and Attorney Anna Morales.
Dr. M. Smith- Regarding students, the school health partners collaborated in creating a student consent form that all partners agreed on. That form was sent to parents prior to leaving on Thanksgiving break, we are still receiving them back from parents. We reiterate the importance of getting the forms back. Attorney Morales can provide details on staff consent forms and testing.

Patricia Morales- Gave thanks to the HealthCare District and the Department of Health for all the effort and collaboration with the School District. School based employees have started testing, we post alerts on testing sites and the releases in order to obtain their results.

Jay Boggess- There is a pre and post-test phone call and a consent form must be on file. A parent will be on campus while testing for K through 2nd grade, parent not required for testing 3rd through 12th grade students. Testing is for symptomatic individuals that started only with students and now encompasses school based employees as well. I open up for any questions regarding testing or consent at this time.... None

Moving on to survey results, we put out 5 questions to the Health Advisory Committee (presented the list on the screen.)

1. Are you in support of the District providing antigen test?
2. Should we pursue symptomatic and asymptomatic students?
3. Is around athletics and extracurricular activities, what are our thoughts towards holding or not?
4. Should students engaged in athletics and test positive for COVID be required to have specific medical clearance before resuming activities.
5. Are there any specific safety measures you would like for us to further consider?

Dr. Smith, could you lead us through the trending responses?

Dr. M. Smith- Responses to question # 1, the majority are in support of antigen testing. The rational is to identify those exposed and expediting measures to control and prevent further infection. Question # 2 most responses were no, most felt this could be challenging, disruptive or unnecessary. Question # 3, majority feel the District should continue to offer extracurricular activities. Question # 4, majority of responses were yes, leaving the clearance for return up to the physician/pediatrician. Question # 5, I was very happy to see everyone said no, everyone feels the District has implemented many policies to mitigate transmission.

Jay Boggess- I open the floor again to our HAC members and medical professional for any comments.

Dr. Rodriguez- I want to congratulate the District on a job well done. I believe kids will do better in a controlled environment.

Mat Willhite- I have concern about question 4. Leaving it up to the pediatrician to decide if and when a student athlete should come back. Every other aspect in the county is requiring one or two negative COVID test to come back, it doesn’t sound like we are asking for that, is that correct?

Jay Boggess- Our current policy 5.32 does not warrant a negative test, it requires a 10-day sit-out.

Dr. Fennoy- That is an area we will bring back to the board. Specially with CDC guidelines changing, the challenge is student records because we don’t have a process to collect test data from parents right now.

Mat Willhite- So, although the norm is 10 days sit out, there is still a possibility the student can be positive after 10 days. Couldn’t we require them to prove their negative to return?

Dr. Fennoy- Right now the information we get is volunteered from the families so everyone has been forthcoming and we have had to cancel 15 – 20 games thus far so we haven’t had an issue with that.

Jay Boggess- I think the intent of this question was, after the incubation period of 10 days, studies now show COVID-19 has long lasting impact and could have even greater impact on student athletes.
Brenda Galie- Because we know COVID-19 has had an impact on the cardiovascular system we require to be cleared by their physician to make sure they don’t need further cardiac evaluations.

Dr. M. Fishbaine- I look at this as an opportunity for student athletes with the physical. What is the District’s responsibility about those? Are we athletes require to have those submitted before participating in sports?

Dr. Fennoy- Yes, for legal reasons they can-not be on the field unless all documentation, physical forms and pediatrician notices are in hand as part of their eligibility process. Also, now that we have testing in the building, any child experiencing symptoms will be tested, this has provided a level of comfort for parents.

Jay Boggess- Any last comments around our survey questions? Going into the last 15 minutes, this is the time for our COVID-19 from our school health partners, Ms. Galie is there anything further you would like to add that maybe Dr. Alonso didn’t go over?

Brenda Galie- I don’t have more information unless anyone has questions...

Jay Boggess- The only thing I would say is the questions Rep. Whillhite presented are incredibly timely given last week’s conversation about potential return to play form. The cardiovascular aspects reiterate some of the pieces we have as a tri-partnership

Brenda Galie- Last week, Dr. Alonso and I spoke with Jay and Valerie Miyares to discuss the recommendations to return to play around COVID-19; the concern is myocarditis that can be caused by this virus. We discussed creating collaborative forms given to student athletes that were positive to take to their physician to be cleared to return to sports as well as close contact of individuals that didn’t test positive because we’ve seen football teams with multiple players that tested positive but are asymptomatic

Jay Boggess- Thank you Ms. Galie for the FDOH update.

Brenda Galie- We shared a presentation from the Nemours Children’s Hospital in Orlando who presented on the subject at the State level.

Jay Boggess- We may have lost Dr. Andric but Dr. Smith, anything you would like to add before closing today?

Dr. Smith- No sir, just that all three ESE service clinics have testing kits and I am happy to report they have not had to use them yet.

Jay Boggess- Thank you Dr. Smith. I will turn it now to Dr. Fennoy.

Closing remarks - Dr. Fennoy- I want to thank everybody. Once we get through the holidays we will schedule another meeting probably in February to see what happens during the Holiday season. I want to make sure everyone follows guidelines and don’t get complacent. I wish everyone Happy Holidays and if it wasn’t for everyone’s collaboration, we wouldn’t be in the great place we are.

Jay Boggess- Wishing you all a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year remember the best place to live is Palm Beach County.

Be well.

Meeting Adjourned 6:54 pm