

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
COVID RESPONSE TASK FORCE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE



DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday October 18, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.
Conference Room A, City Hall, 1 Junkins Ave. Portsmouth, NH

Attendees: Kathy Beebe, Will Arvelo, Nancy Brown, Whitney Brown, Amber Buttermore, Abbie Frank, Laurie McIntosh, Molly Wilson, City Manager Karen Conard

Absent: Linda Briolat, Janet Laatsch, Tania Marino, Lori Waltz, Meme Wheeler

Guests: Superintendent Zachary McLaughlin, resident Petra Huda

- I. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Beebe at 12:04 pm.
- II. _____ motioned approval of the minutes from the 10/4/2022 meeting, and _____ seconded. Vote was unanimous.
- III. Dr. McLaughlin gave an update on the School Department's plan and process relative to obligating and expending their ESSER funds, noting an emphasis on one-time funding, non-personnel and non-recurring items. A conversation centered on transportation needs followed, with comments relative to the bus driver shortage and immediate school and after-school unmet needs. The possibility of collaborating with the City's Recreation Department was discussed, including the potential for purchase of a fleet of vans for shared use. The core themes of child care, mental health and transportation were reiterated. Dr. McLaughlin remarked positively at the plethora of partners in our area.
- IV. Under Further Discussion-Needs of the Community, the group continued to advance the conversation around building a timeline for the Task Force's work and report. A conversation about mental health and a City-owned transportation pilot program was had. Ms. Frank volunteered to develop a flow chart from which the group could continue its thought process, with ideas and recommendations to follow.
- V. The group discussed next meeting dates as follows: October 18, November 1, November 15, November 29 and December 13. Future speakers include Seacoast Public Health Network and Health Officer Kim McNamara with an update on the Community Public Health Assessment.
- VI. During the Public Comment Section, resident Petra Huda thanked the Task Force for its work, citing the group is doing a great job.
- VII. Motion to adjourn at 1:01 pm by Ms. Frank, seconded by Ms. McIntosh and unanimously approved.