

# CHILMARK BOARD OF HEALTH

## Minutes

August 26, 2020,

via zoom

5pm

**Present:**, Matt Poole, Jan Buhrman, Katie Carroll

**Also Present:** Jim Malkin, Warren Doty, Nancy Grundman, Rebekah Thompson, Sarah Davis, Elizabeth Moriarty, Alexandra London-Thomas, Jessica Mason, Margaret Maida, Kathy Buresh, Sarah Z, Susan Stevens

**Chilmark School Reopening:** The Board met in special session on 8/26 to hear from Chilmark School Principle Susan Stevens and Up-Island Regional School District member Robert Lionette about the proposed plan to open the Chilmark School to in-person teaching this fall.

Susan Stevens described the architectural advantages which will allow the Chilmark School to operate with strong COVID precautions, including ample classroom size and separate entrances to all classrooms. The “cohort c” of children who will be allowed to begin in-person learning first is not yet completely defined. Tents could be used outside during the shoulder season, and an isolation space has been set aside where a child can isolate if s/he develops symptoms during the school day.

The school has only been granted a nurse for 40% of operations time. It was generally agreed that a full time nurse is required for the pandemic, especially if the school is able to offer on-site rapid testing for persons who develop symptoms consistent with COVID19. Selectmen attending the meeting noted they would be receptive to considering a plan for a full-time nurse at the school.

The Board also discussed Dr. Zack’s efforts to set up a rapid, on-site testing plan for island schools, whereby students and staff could be tested weekly throughout the school year. The Board emphasized that this testing plan greatly enhances the safety of the proposed phased-in, in-person learning. The Board strongly supported a unified approach to phasing in the grade levels throughout the school system, while accommodating the Chilmark School’s unique multi-grade class structure.

Susan Stevens noted that the pre-school, which has been operating since the shut-down as a specially-licensed day care, has provided an excellent example of safe operations.

**Electronic Signature:** The Board approved the mechanisms developed by the state legislature for allowing for electronic signature of Board documents that are fully binding.

**CCC Tennis Program:** Jan Buhrman asked that the Board consider a proposal to extend the tennis program past the current season, and provide guidance under which provisional approval could be granted. Changes that have been made to the program agreed to by the Board for the summer season are that the fence around the basketball court will be removed to allow the court to be used by the school; courts will be locked when not in use; and staffing for the tennis program will not be maintained during hours when the tennis program is not in session. The Board noted that there is no plan before the Board for approval, and extended its consideration of the item to its regularly scheduled meeting on September 2nd.