

mously voted to direct MA administration to see what funds might be available in the general fund and to set up a subcommittee to explore asking parents to contribute via the PTO.

Lunch seating and quarantine risk

Herrera noted that there is a risk of having to quarantine from 50% to 75% of a grade level if they have a positive case due to lunch seating. One solution might be to provide greater distancing for the students. However, they might need to buy more tables and/or lunch equipment for which they don't have the budget. Also, they could assign seats and lunch mates but feel that socialization is vitally important to mental health. The board discussed how lunch co-horting might work, what constitutes a true contact, and the impact of changing mandates. The current state represents the original approved plan and risk acceptance. If the board decides it is no longer comfortable with the risk, it will have to weigh in on any changes.

At the Oct. 15 special meeting, Principal Julie Seymour also expressed concern about lunch and quarantine. McCuen said she didn't think a seating chart would provide sufficient benefits and that parents would be upset. Seymour said they have divided the commons into five spaces for lunch and they are capped at the number of people they have for supervisions unless they ask teachers to miss lunch and have

kids sit in their rooms. St. Aubyn said in her opinion the school is doing a good job and that the quarantine might be bigger but that the school is equipped to go online. She thought the school should stay the course.

Reconsidering learning options

At the Oct. 8 meeting, Strop asked if the board could reconsider asynchronous and synchronous learning, having heard feedback that it is a burden for teachers. She asked if it is required, and Herrera replied that it was not a simple yes or no answer. She raised

the concern that parent visitors in an online environment are very different than parent visitors at school with expectations and rule enforcement being difficult to manage. She offered to work with the principals to learn where there were burdens. Teacher representative Christin Patterson reported that things

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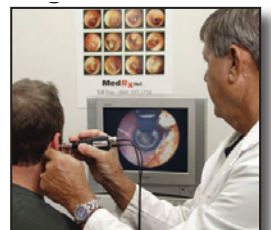
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