

Apr 08 2022 2:21 pm

Office of the
Board of Health
City Hall
718 Main Street
Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420
978-829-1870

This was a special meeting of the Board of Health held at the Legislative Building at 700 Main Street and recorded by FATV Studios, Fitchburg, on March 17, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bogdasarian.

Present: Stephen Curry, Director, Dr. John Bogdasarian, Chair, Sandra Knipe-member, Ian Murray-member, Jacquelyn Wehtje, Tiffany Michaud, Petitioner, Jean Robbie, Resident, Gina Giacosa, Resident.

Dr. Bogdasarian opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

Dr. Bogdasarian stated this meeting is being held to correct some procedural errors that were made from the March 3, 2022 meeting in regards to testing and vaccination for employees of the Fitchburg Public Schools.

Public Forum:

Ms. Wehtje stated she is speaking on agenda item number four. No one should be forced to undergo mandatory vaccination or testing. Great figures in American history from Emma Lazarus to Martin Luther King to Fannie Lou Hammer speak to the fact that nobody's free until everybody is free. You have said that we need these mandates or the schools will be short staffed but this is the opposite of the truth, if someone gets sick with COVID they are out from 5 to 10 days if they don't come to work in this district because of its restrictions they are out the entire year. These tests are not even that accurate. People are forced to miss work, isolate and quarantine based on unreliable tests. Although you lifted the municipal mask mandate on February 17th, students at Fitchburg state are still required to wear masks by the University similarly if you lift the school employee mandates it will not invalidate collective bargaining agreements but it will put you on the right side of history reports.

Ms. Wehtje stated at the last meeting Mr. Murray was rude to her and he said that the board has heard enough of her. She will continue to speak at every meeting that has a petition such as the one presented today until everybody's free. It's my right to speak and it's your duty to listen.

Mr. Murray stated he never asked Ms. Wehtje to stop speaking and only indicated that she had spoken at every meeting which is totally fine it's her right and he doesn't want her to stop speaking.

Tiffany Michaud stated she is requesting that the test or vaccinate mandate be lifted and made optional for our teachers or any other employee of the city. All the vaccines currently in circulation are Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) the only approved vaccination is Commonality and is currently not in circulation.

The Nuremberg code provides that no human being can be forced to participate in a medical experiment or be forced to use EUA products. COVID tests also fall in the category of EUA products. Mandating teachers to test or vaccinate with EUA products violates the Nuremberg code and our Constitutional rights to bodily autonomy and medical decisions to repeatedly testing a healthy individual for an illness they do not have is abuse.

COVID testing on unvaccinated individuals but not vaccinated individuals is discrimination. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated carry this illness and these mandates are abusive discrimination and violate Constitutional rights and federal law. Teachers in our city are intelligent enough to do the research that they need to do to educate themselves to make their own medical decisions.

Ms. Michaud stated she is requesting that these tests or vaccinate mandates be moved to optional.

Gina Giacosa, Fitchburg resident stated she is in agreement with the last two speakers. Ms. Giacosa passed around undated pictures of individuals with side effects from the vaccine for the Board members to see. Exhibit #1

Testing is still going on in the schools. We were told the schools weren't doing it in the classroom. See Exhibit #2. Testing is supposed to be done in private.

Ms. Giacosa states there are still all these mask requirements signs at the schools. See Exhibit #3.

Dr. Bogdasarian made a motion to lift the mandates and make mask wearing and testing voluntary or optional.

Ms. Michaud asked when the vaccine mandate was lifted.

Ms. Knipe stated Order #4 was not lifted because it was between the teachers union and the school however Ms. Knipe stated she would make a recommendation that the Board of Health is in support of Order #4 and that it be lifted and handed over to the schools for the teachers unions to sort out.

Mr. Curry stated that Order #4 still exists which either mandates a vaccination or a weekly test to employees of the Fitchburg Public Schools.

Order #3 which required testing for extracurricular activity was rescinded at the last meeting. Mr. Curry stated the Board should hold a vote on the matter since there was a communication breakdown in the last meeting and folks didn't understand what happened on the vote. This will hopefully create a clearer picture of communication as well as address the Open Meeting Law complaint that was filed, which is also on the agenda.

Dr. Bogdasarian made a motion to lift the mask mandate and the testing mandate for Fitchburg public schools and for public buildings and leave in place the option for voluntary testing and for voluntary mask wearing in those facilities.

Mr. Curry stated for clarification the Board is amending order number 4. Ms. Knipe stated yes for clarity.

Ms. Wehtje stated this petition has nothing to do with masks as the mask mandate was already rescinded at the February 17 meeting. This petition is to rescind the mandatory testing and vaccinations for the employees of the Fitchburg Public Schools.

Mr. Curry stated at the March 3 meeting the Board voted to rescind Order #3 which required testing for extracurricular activities. Nothing to do with masking.

Mr. Murray made a motion regarding Order # 3 to remove mandate testing for extracurricular activities. Motion was 2nd by Ms. Knipe. All were in favor, motion carries.

Dr. Bogdasarian will allow for Ms. Robbie to speak.

Ms. Robbie stated she is here with her grandson who is in the Fitchburg schools and is against testing and masking.

Dr. Bogdasarian made a motion for the Board of Health to rescind Order# 4 not to mandate vaccination or testing and make it optional. Motion was 2nd by Ms. Knipe. All were in favor, motion carries.

Dr. Bogdasarian stated in regards to the Open Meeting Law complaint, Dr. Bogdasarian feels we've addressed that and Ms. Wehtje has suggested that he be replaced as Chairman or that he be removed from the Board of Health. Dr. Bogdasarian stated, in his own defense he is not an attorney but is a Physician and makes decisions based on his medical experience and medical training and the time spent in practice. He admits he has made mistakes when it comes to the legal transactions but will say that if the Attorney General, Board of Registration in Medicine and Nursing or the media or to whom you've (Ms. Wehtje) written to, or about a review for regarding discrimination or if they (any of the above agencies) come to the conclusion that we've acted improperly or that we've in some way knowingly or purposely discriminated or

done something incorrect and if they (above agencies) determine that's the case, he (Dr. Bogdasarian) will step down and remove himself from the Board of Health.

Dr. Bogdasarian stated he tried to make the best decisions on a whole and made them on a medical basis perhaps not always on a correct legal basis but he has done his best. He will respect the opinions of those who make decisions about who can sit here and if it's determined that he is not capable or not appropriate then by all means he will step down and someone more capable and more appropriate can take his place.

Ms. Wehtje stated some of examples she feels he is not a good chair are on February 3rd you thought there was a state mask mandate and it had been repealed the previous May. You thought the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education mandate expired the end of March it was actually the end of February. You were asking Ms. Knipe who was sitting next to you what are we voting on. At the March 3rd meeting you kept talking about masks, you didn't seem to remember that the mask mandate was rescinded at the previous meeting. You listened at the February 17th meeting for almost two hours of testimony of the harms to children caused by masks including special needs and disabled students and yet at a subsequent meeting you had the nerve to say that masks don't cause any harm. It seems like you're completely incapable of comprehending what the public is telling you in responding appropriately and also with the last meeting you said as you say at every meeting, thank you for your research, if you were really thankful for our research you would have listened to our public comment before you made your votes instead of after.

Dr. Bogdasarian stated he does appreciate your comments and as he said before he is not an attorney and admits that perhaps making some logistical or procedural errors along the way and it's nice that he has someone like Ms. Wehtje to straighten him out. Dr. B stated again that he has made decisions based on medical knowledge and with the best interest of Fitchburg.

Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Knipe made a motion to table the March 3, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion was 2nd by Mr. Murray. All were in favor, motion carries.

Variance Requests:

- 17 Eureka St – to replace an existing tub with a walk-in shower.

Mr. Curry stated this is a variance requests for 17 Eureka Street to replace an existing tub with a walk in shower. This is a Plumbing Regulation and they will also have to apply to the State Plumbing Board, for said variance. The contractor is unable to put a 2 inch drain in the shower so they are going to install a four inch threshold pan and a 2.5 gallon per minute shower head to help with the flow so that the drain would be adequate for the shower. A similar request will go to the State Plumbing Board. Mr. Curry also state that neither the Plumbing Inspector nor the Building Commissioner have a problem with this request.

Dr. Bogdasarian made a motion to allow those changes to be made so that the conversion to the appropriate drain size could be made with the shower head flow reduction in place and to grant the variance request. Ms. Knipe 2nd the motion. All were in favor, motion carries.

Announcements:

Mr. Curry stated the City of Fitchburg Health Department will be offering a Narcan Training on March 24 at 6:30 PM in the Legislative Building. All are welcome and no registration is required.

On Saturday April 30th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at City Hall, 718 Main St the Health Department will offer a Medication Take Back Event for all unused and unwanted medications.

Mr. Murray made a motion to adjourn. Motion was 2nd by Ms. Knipe. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

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initially and then soon ulcerated, spent 6 days in hospital, also had clotting in the lungs and is now on daily heart medication ongoing. Of course the doctors haven't admitted it to be caused by AZ, but they don't have an alternative diagnosis to offer either. She was 100 percent pro-vax before this happened and wouldn't listen to any non government aligned advice, but now she is 0 percent pro-vax and angry. She has asked me to share this to help warn others against getting the jab or boosters.....

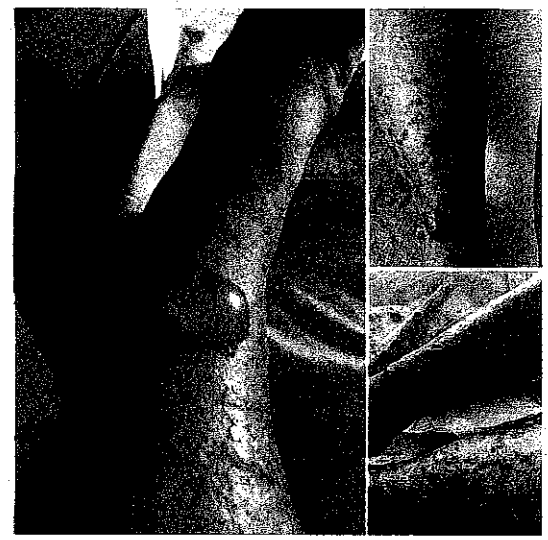


Exhibit 1



Exhibit 2



COVID-19 Tests Every Tuesday

SEAS Fitchburg Public Schools offers FREE COVID testing for students if you want your free
 shot at this program fill out the form by scanning the QR code or clicking <https://www.seas.k12.vt.us/healthservices/>

FREE PCR COVID TEST

EVERY TUESDAY

Always wear your mask and stay 6 feet apart at the testing site.



**EVERY TUESDAY
 FITCHBURGO PUBLIC
 SCHOOLS OFFERS FREE
 COVID PCR TESTING
 FOR STUDENTS.
 IF YOU WANT YOUR
 CHILD TO PARTICIPATE
 IN THIS PROGRAM, FILL
 OUT THE FORM BY
 SCANNING THE QR
 CODE OR GOING TO
<https://www.seas.k12.vt.us/healthservices/>**





Report
to Main Office



Exhibit 3