

## Fwd: Nursing concerns

1 message

**Cindy Sharkey** <csharkey@hbschools.org>  
To: Greg Hobaugh <hobaughg@hbschools.org>  
Cc: Caryn Rinehart <rinehartc@hbschools.org>, John Jennings <jenningsj@hbschools.org>

Fri, Jun 3, 2022 at 7:39 AM

Please add to official correspondence for Monday

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nicole Cahill** <cahilln@hbschools.org>  
Date: Thu, Jun 2, 2022 at 4:43 PM  
Subject: Nursing concerns  
To: Greg Hobaugh <hobaughg@hbschools.org>  
CC: Cindy Sharkey <csharkey@hbschools.org>

Greg,

Since the MS nurse position has been approved as only part time, I would like to put some of my questions and concerns in writing.

1. I am having difficulty understanding how the lack of nursing coverage at the MS is only considered 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon. As I am sure you are aware, there are staff and students in the building before 8:30 am and after 3:12 pm and that the contract times for full time teaching staff (and in this case, the nurse is considered teaching staff) is 8:15 am to 3:30 pm. According to the hours of the part time position given at the BOE meeting, this would mean that I would be the only Certified School Nurse in the District during school hours for 45 minutes in the morning and 45 minutes in the afternoon. Since there is such difficulty getting substitute coverage, there is also a significant likelihood that there would be no nursing coverage in the district at all during that time if I am absent. Since State law requires a district to have a CSN during school hours and history shows that a nurse has been needed during these times, how will the medical needs of the district be met at these times? I realize that 1.5 hours does not seem like a lot of time, but when a medical emergency occurs during that time, or you are the person who must try to be in 2 places at once, it doesn't matter how short of a time period without a nurse each day actually is, the consequences can still be devastating.
2. I am concerned about the plan given by you to the BOE to "call 911 if a student has a seizure" while there is no nurse on duty at the MS. Most student seizures do not require a call to 911. Having a non-medical professional determine that 911 needs to be called for a seizure would not only cause unnecessary use of emergency services, but also cause undue stress and inconvenience to the student and parents.
3. With the COVID guidelines that are supposed to be followed by schools and now adding the "Test to Stay" protocols, there has been a significant increase in responsibilities and workload of the school nurse and no indication that this will change for the next school year. Contact tracing and clearance of students and staff to return to school happens mostly at the end and beginning of the day when there will be no nurse on duty to address these medical issues. Who will now be responsible for doing this for the MS on a daily basis?
4. Since the restraint report requires a nurse to examine a student and notify the parent if a restraint is used, who would assess the student, complete the form and notify the parent if a restraint is required after the part time nurse's hours? I am frequently called to assess students in the behavioral disabilities class at the end of the day. With the number of students with behavioral disabilities moving to the MS and our recent increase in behavioral issues, this is very likely to occur.
5. Because the nurse is only part time, is there a limit on hours she can be paid to work outside of her regular hours? If so, how will the needs of MS students requiring a nurse to be present during extracurricular activities be met?
6. There are many times that I walk to work, so I do not have a car at work. I have always tried to make sure I did have a car if I knew I was going to have to cover both schools. Since, this is a likelihood every day now, what arrangements would be made if I needed to get to the MS for a medical situation and I did not have my own car?

I thank you for your consideration of these important issues and look forward to hearing from you regarding plans to maintain the health and safety of the students and staff and protect the District from any liability issues.

-Nicole

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Cindy Sharkey  
High Bridge School Board