

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Regular Meeting
HS Cafeteria
August 5, 2020

Present: Mr. Aaron Lounsbury, Member
Dr. Abram Nichols, Member (arrived at 6:28; left at 8:15)
Mrs. Cathi Root, President
Mr. Gregory Schweiger, Member
Mr. Scot Taylor, Member
Mr. Joshua Whitmore, Member
Mrs. Pamela Zwierlein, Vice-President (via Zoom)

Adm./Others: Mrs. Michelle Bombard, Principal
Mr. Willard Cook, Principal
Dr. David Hamilton, Superintendent
Mrs. Kathleen Keene, Dir. of Instruction
Mrs. Meredith Meister, Dir. Of Pupil Services
Mr. Joshua Roe, Principal

Others: Mrs. Kristy Robertson, Food Service
Mr. Dave Keene, Maintenance
Mrs. Kendra Seaver, Treasurer
Mr. David VanDusen, Transportation
Mrs. Desiree' Ford, Mr. David Reese, Teachers' Union

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Root called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the HS Cafeteria.

2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve Board Minutes dated July 22, 2020 for the Regular Meeting as presented.

4. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Cook reported they are working on plans for re-opening in September; MS is still missing 4/5 Chromebooks.

Mr. Roe is working on the master schedule and adjusting for next school year; over 90% of this classes are at 16 or under; some courses have larger number and may have to create more

sections; we may have to do away with AIS to help with class sizes; some typical 4 section classes may have to go to 5 sections.

Mrs. Bombard stated that the elementary has screened about 46 kindergarten students and will have more to do, there is roughly 66 students in that cohort; UPK will be screened the last week in August; Dave Keene and his crew have been working in the elementary making the classrooms "work," a lot of credit goes out to Dave and his team!

Mrs. Keene stated that the safety plan was on the agenda to be adopted tonight after being posted to the website for 30 days with no comments received; fire and other emergency drills must go on this year while wearing masks.

Mrs. Meister reported that all of her end of the year data has been submitted; they are looking to purchase some facemasks with a panel for hearing disabled and speech students; she added that she had looked into shields but they are hard for the little kids to wear and also have to wear a mask underneath.

Dr. Hamilton started his report with a slide presentation. He stated that the re-opening plan had to be submitted to the state and is now on the website for review. Our #1 priority is safety first, if we go over the 5% rate, we will have to go all remote learning. We will need to choose one of the following plans: in-person plan (4 days a week with Wednesdays as remote learning for everyone); hybrid plan (50% in school M/Th and the other 50% in school T/F along with remote learning on the other days); or the all remote plan (all students will be remote learning).

No matter what plan is chosen, when students are on campus, masks must be worn everywhere except in their established personal space, also looking at the possibility of outdoor mask breaks.

Students and staff are required to screen at home every day before leaving for school; students will have a ticket filled out by the parent to hand off to the bus driver or school personnel before allowed to proceed. All visitors will be screened prior to entering the district; the school district is required to maintain a log of staff and visitor screenings.

After a re-opening plan has been agreed upon, buildings will begin to contact parents individually to find out details of each child's attendance plans, this will help the district plan better for the September start date.

Dr. Nichols arrived at 6:28 pm.

There was lengthy conversation about the best plan to go with and there is much concern amongst the Board and Administration regarding in-person vs remote. They agree that in-person learning is the best possible option, however, parents still need to be able to make a choice based on their feelings and individual circumstances. Remote learning is not ideal for most students and it is predicted that approximately 75% will fail as there will be far more work and commitment involved than in the Spring. Mrs. Bombard added, how do you teach kids to read remotely? In the end, it was agreed to go with the 4-day in person plan and that if parents want to opt for remote learning to begin the school year, they may, and the district will evaluate their progress at 5-weeks.

Dr. Nichols left at 8:15 pm.

Dr. Hamilton went over details regarding the added costs of re-opening during the COVID pandemic. He also stated that we have heard nothing yet regarding potential cuts to education.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Board asked what the responsibility of each music teacher was and Mr. Roe informed them of all duties required of each of the teachers.

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 5-0, to approve the \$100 book donation for Tioga Elementary School to be received from the Ehresman Family.

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Aaron Lounsbury, and carried by a vote of 5-0, to approve the 2020-21 District-Wide Safety Plan as presented.

6. FINANCIAL

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the *Financial Consent Agenda* items as follows:

June 2020 Financial Report
School Tax Warrant for tax collection

7. PERSONNEL

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the *Personnel Consent Agenda* items as follows:

Resignation received from Kristin Kyzmir-Martin from Math position 8/31/2020
Resignation received from Carmen VanNess from Spanish position 8/31/2020
Resignation received from Erin Sweeney from Math position 8/4/2020
Resignation received from Rose Shapiro from Special Ed position 8/31/2020
Addition of Lynda Lynch to 2020-21 Instructional Staff Sub List

8. CSE/CPSE/504 RECOMMENDATIONS

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Aaron Lounsbury, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve CSE, CPSE, or 504 recommendations as presented.

9. VOICE OF THE PUBLIC

There were two questions/comments from the public. One regarding what consideration has been given and what accommodations have been made regarding child care for households with working parents if the children are only going to attend class onsite for part of the week, and the other regarding the audio problems during the Zoom meetings.

10. ADJOURN

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Jill Reese
Clerk