



Board of Education Special Meeting

August 10, 2020 7:00 PM

Via Zoom Teleconference

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:

Present Board Members:

Erica Gelven
Jason Adler
Michael Hornyak
Kimberly Russo
Catherine Staunton

Absent Board Members:

Omar Francis
Christopher Passante

1. Opening Exercises

1.A. Roll call

Discussion:

Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, and Business Manager Carolyn Dickey.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

All stood for the pledge.

2. Discussion re: Reopening of School in Hybrid Model

Discussion:

M. O'Donnell discussed her proposal regarding reopening school using a hybrid model. The state revised its original reopening guidelines/mandates to provide districts with more flexibility and allow superintendents to determine the best model for reopening schools based on their local conditions and ability to implement mitigation strategies. M. O'Donnell reviewed the information used to make her proposal. After considering leading and secondary public health metrics such as new cases in CT and the number of new hospital admissions, and the implementation of mitigation strategies such as masks, social distancing, cleaning, and ventilation, the Superintendent proposed opening school in a phase-in transition plan using the following model: Students with last names A-K will attend school in person on Mondays and Tuesdays and distance learning on Wednesdays through Fridays. Students with last names L-Z will attend school in person on Thursdays and Fridays while learning via distance Mondays through Wednesdays.

Facemasks will be required for all students and staff when indoors. Distancing guidelines will be maintained. Hygiene practices will be strongly promoted and stringent cleaning practices will be implemented Health and Wellness screens, school ventilation, and other needs were discussed.

The hybrid model would be employed for approximately four weeks in order to transition safely to full-time in-school instruction. The 4-week period would allow a slower transition period back into school, provide time to adjust to mask wearing, provide for maximum social distancing, and provide more 1:1 interaction between students and teachers in the classroom.

By October 5, the potential for full, in-person learning is expected but will be based on careful evaluation and consideration of public health metrics, the success of mitigation strategy implementation and consistency of protocols. The impact of returning to school will be examined for each school. The process will be thoughtful and cautious, working with local public health officials to monitor conditions. If all protocols are followed and implemented correctly, the likelihood of staying in school longer increases.

The Board members followed up with questions of their own and from the public. Discussion covered subjects including childcare, building trust within the community, communication to parents, parent/staff surveys, the communication of presumptive/confirmed cases, distance learning, the interaction of paraprofessionals and interventionists with students, regionalization, and staffing concerns. Sports participation is still evolving and guidance from the CIAC will be reviewed.

3. First Reading of Policies: COVID-19 Temporary Policies

Discussion:

The Board had a first reading of additions to several existing policies that were provided by Shipman and Goodwin policy services. The changes would remain in place until the end of the school year, June 30, 2021. M. O'Donnell provided a summary and overview of the revisions. Board members were reminded that the revisions would be up for a second reading and adoption at the next Board meeting.

4. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 7:29 p.m. 8:36 PM passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Jason Adler.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Erica Gelven	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Omar Francis	Absent
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Christopher Passante	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes

Michael Hornyak, Secretary of the Board

Allison Friday, Clerk of the Board