

Minutes of Meeting
September 10, 2020
Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School
6:00 p.m.

Introduction of Members:

Jane C Reggio, Chairperson
Erin P. Vinacco, Vice Chairperson
Caryn D. Vernon, District Treasurer
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary
Sarah E. Williams, Member
Keri Gaudette, Member
Tammy A. Lemieux, Member
Jack R. Keefe, Member

Also in attendance were Jason DeFalco, EdD, Superintendent of Schools and Matthew J. Ehrenworth, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of August 6, 2020 and August 20, 2020 meetings.

There were no items for public forum

Report of Superintendent
Jason DeFalco, EdD

Update on school reopening plans.

Dr. DeFalco gave a shout out to our staff. Proud to say everyone is working really hard. We just concluded day 7 of staff development. Everyone has continued to deliver.

They have had multiple conversations in moving the work forward to prepare for opening day.

Everyone can't wait to have the kids back. Our staff are super committed. We are trying really hard.

Information release on Tuesday. Shared cohort groups, busing, teams, etc. There was some confusion but things have been rectified.

Mr. Ehrenworth sent out a technology survey to our remote families. Please complete this survey. Want to be sure full remote families get what they need.

We received an extended waiver for no cost breakfast and lunch for all of our students. Our food service dept. is working to be sure we can feed all families. We will make sure we are well prepared. It looks like it is also for people in the community from age 0-21. The pickup for full remote families will be on Wednesdays at the Middle School.

Interesting new add for food service. Gave out 120 boxes of fresh produce. It was a huge box of produce. They had plenty.

The Boys and Girls Club - They have so many interested students. They will confirm with families. The service begins on Sept. 21st. The hours will be from 8 -2. They will have one of their LPN's helping out. They will look for partner teachers that will work there. They are confirming lists and will be in touch with families between tomorrow and Monday.

Staffing - SRO's are all in place. There are 4, one for each school. Interviews for additional staff have been met with some success. They are using the Dept. of Education grant to cover the cost of this.

They ordered 4 tents per school. They are in and being set up.

Early next week they will walk the buildings with the Board's of Health to make sure all are comfortable and on the same page.

There are 2 LPN"s now and they need 2 more. They need the HS nurse position as well with 1 or 2 finalists.

Mike Dudek - Advanced Placement

HS has a mindfulness break and added a Q&A to ease anxiety and talk about all the different scenarios. He is amazed at the energy level.

In terms of A.P. he will present a quick presentation of the exam results.

It's not what you do but how you do it!

Advanced Placement Defined

A university level freshman course that you take in HS.

There is a national exam at the end of the course. It is the same for all students in America.

Score on the exam is 1-5 with 5 being the best.

With a score of 3 or higher you can earn college credit while still in school.

This allows you to compete for College Admission with students from all over the country.

Goals

Increase participation: greater student participation in Mathematics, Science and English AP courses.

Increase Performance more qualifying scores (3/4/5) on AP examinations

Increase College Success: More students matriculating to and graduating from college.

Mr. Dudek showed a summary of AP Scores. How do we continue to increase the courses?

Mr. Dudek shared a five year score summary. They had a 68% passing rate which is an increase from 2019 at 47%. They had 73 students. They had 60 students with scores of 3 or higher. Very nice accomplishment.

29 students with fee reduction scored 3.24

No fee reduction students scored 2.88

AP Biology mean score has increased throughout the last 5 years.

AP Language and AP Lit increased mean average.

71% passing rate in Computer Science

76% passing rate in English Language

93% passing rate in World History

Areas of Focus:

Increase enrollment numbers in AP - there was a drop from 2019 to 2020 from 100 to 73.

AP Statistics, Calculus and Chemistry mean scores are below state average.

Continued efforts to close achievement gaps with enrollment and academic progress

Mrs. Lemieux - What has been done from last year to this year as far as looking at certain exams that have been low every year? What will be put into place for the upcoming year? They are doing Saturday sessions as a one week virtual session. He has had teachers do observations in other schools. He is looking at the micro but now needs to look at the macro level.

Statistics is important for some majors. They hope to figure it out. It is part of common core so they should be looking at it before 12th grade.

Mrs. Lemieux is very impressed with computer science scores on a new offering.

Mrs. Reggio feels that families may not really know exactly what AP means. It has potential college credits.

Athletic Director

Robert McNulty hired as Athletic Director. He had everything they were looking for. Served in the role for quite sometime. He understands coaching and is very passionate about what he does.

It is tough to recruit for this position. They had 2 finalists for this. He will sub at the HS.

MIAA modified high school sports

Fall season Sept. 18 - Nov. 2: Cross Country boys and girls, Field Hockey and Soccer boys and girls.

Winter Season Nov. 30 - Feb. 21: Basketball boys and girls, Indoor Track boys and girls, Ice Hockey boys and girls and Winter Cheerleading

Fall Season II February 22 - April 25: Fall Cheerleading, Football, and Volleyball girls.

Spring Season April 26 - June 30: Baseball, Lacrosse boys and girls, Outdoor Track boys and girls and Softball

School districts can request a change of season start and end date with approval of the school's district athletic committee (DAC).

Schools will not see traditional schedules based on league affiliation, but rather opponents based on geographic location.

We are in a different geographic pod. We may have 10 to 12 games in a season.

Limiting busing to 25 individuals.

They need to work on crowd control.

Each sport has been adjusted by MIAA to meet guidelines.

Shortened practices on a limited basis with a max of 1.5 hours.

September 18 first day of tryouts.

First day of competition on October 2nd.

There will be safety precautions. All players, coaches, etc. must be masked at all times. No sharing of anything. Building access limited to staff only with facilities outside.

Spectators limited to 50 total spectators.

They can livestream on video if they need to.

Familyid link for fall online registration. Must be registered by Sept. 14th.

Fees are \$200 - \$325 depending on the sport.

They will get the information out online and have Zoom meetings.

Parents can be role models and embrace the change.

Be patient and supportive.

Be health care workers and ambassadors for our Towns.

MIAA voted to eliminate a statewide post season tournament but possible to have a local or regional post season tournament.

Update from Nurse Karen Young
Revisions to Covid 19 Handbook

There were revisions to the Table of Contents on pages 1 and 2, elevator and Flu Clinic.

Under Cafeteria there were changes on Page 4 and under Classroom Procedures/Protocols (cleaning of desks).

Under Science courses and Lab Work on Page 9

Under COVID 19 Exposure or Positive Test Pages 10, 11, 13

Under student or staff tests positive for Covid 19

Under Entry/Dismissal Page 16

Under Face Coverings Page 18-19

Under Flue Clinic/Immunization Requirements - Schools/Towns Page 22

Under Health Office Visits Page 25

Under Healthcare Provider Symptomatic Letter Page 27

Under Home Monitoring Illness Page 28, Page 29, Page 30, Page 32

Under Medical Waiting Room/Isolation Room Protocol Page 34, 35,

Under Out of State Country Travel for Families and Staff Page 36

Under Pre-screening checklist for Students and Staff Page 41, Page 42

Under Recess Page 45

Under Sick Child/Staff Page 47, Page 48

Under COVID-19 Parent/Guardian Agreement Page 59

They need to sign an agreement that they will be checking their child.

The mobile rapid response testing is for students who are not symptomatic.

You need to go to your healthcare provider if you are showing symptoms.

If a student is quarantined for 14 days without symptoms they will join a remote class. If they are sick they need to take a sick day.

All grade levels must wear a multi layer mask that completely covers their nose and mouth. They cannot do open bandanas.

Mrs. Young will add that bandanas are not allowed.

No one should wear a face shield without a mask.

They frown upon wearing gaiter coverings. Mrs. Young said if you double the gaiter it does provide adequate protection.

They don't want out of a matter of convenience that staff and students will not be as healthy as they could be.

It is not just about the safety of your child but about everyone in the school.

Since we bought 24,000 face masks can we just issue them to the students?

Unfortunately there is not a lot of scientific study in this area.

Mrs. Reggio stated that mouth and nose are securely covered and maybe have protocols that will define this further and make it very clear on what their child can walk through the door wearing.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Williams, second by Mr. Keefe to prohibit gaiters.

The issue is that if the virus is aerosol born the gaiter seems to be spreading it more.

Most people will not be wearing a fleece gaiter. They could wear nylon which could be less effective than fleece.

Mrs. Young said there are issues with the Duke study as far as wearing the gaiter. She only thinks they can be beneficial if they are multi-layered.

Both CDC and DPH have not had a position on types of face masks.

People will argue the opening on the side could be larger than a gaiter opening.

It's hard to enforce if someone has a mask with 2 layers.

If you have a face covering let's focus on teaching and learning. We want kids here as much as possible. If everything is covered and you are not wearing the fishnet mask you are much better than not having a mask at all.

The motion will include multi-layer solid weave and bandanas are not permitted.

Mrs. Williams and Mr. Keefe withdrew their motion.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Williams and unanimously voted to approve the amendments to the Covid 19 Handbook.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent - Mr. Ehrenworth

Revenue Report

They may need to make adjustments due to the grant covid funding coming in.

Blackstone and Millville have paid their first assessments.

The first Chapter 70 funds did come in.

Received Charter School reimbursements.

The grant funding is coming in slowly.

Hope the October report will show a more consistent revenue stream.

Expenditure Report

We need to do adjustments on some of the staffing encumbrances.

We have spent and encumbered over \$100,000 in Covid expenses which we hope are reimbursed.

He will put together a better analysis of the Covid funding stream. We are still submitting the grants.

Dr. DeFalco stated we are still operating on the notion that we are in a 10% reduction in State aid. We do not know what the long term fiscal State picture will look like so we are being conservative in our approach. They also want to be sure the kids are getting what they need.

The grant is paying for the temporary long term subs in the District.

We are trying to fill all our needs.

Mrs. Reggio is thrilled to see the number of men on the sheet.

Facilities Update

The move went very well to the new Business Office.

At the HS the new security vestibule is complete. Blends right in and is very secure.

Central Office was moved to make space for nursing suite. This has been renovated.

Eventually the Guidance Suite will be able to take over a part of the nursing suite once they do not need as much room.

The boiler tank at MES should be up and running at the end of the month and things wrapped up in October.

The water pressure and tank dropping to low levels at MES. An underground pipe ruptured and is leaking. We are going to shift some P.D. scheduled for tomorrow. The repair will take place tomorrow or Saturday.

The capital planning project has been moving along despite of Covid. The data has been compiled and they have reports in draft form. The hope is to have it move forward so that any capital requests that come from this report can be taken care of sooner than later.

Servepro clean up cost for High School and Complex

Remediation of mold took place at HS and Complex. Unions are aware of what is happening. It is very expensive to take care of this. It cost approximately \$170,000. Mr. Ehrenworth was able to reduce the bill by approximately \$37,000.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to pay the Servpro remediation bill of \$170,000 from E & D funds.

There were no items for School Committee Forum

They have decided to continue meetings in live format but certain presenters should not come into the building for their presentations. Now that the schools are in session there is talk as to whether or not the meetings should be on Zoom. They don't have the in depth conversations and don't get the involvement as much on Zoom. They had good attendance for the Zoom meetings and it may work better. If they continue live they will need to have the custodians disinfect the area. They have decided to go back to Zoom.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: 
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary