

Education Committee Minutes

Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 6:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Mark Guzzi, Robin McNeil, Chad Stratton, Jenny Watson

Members Absent: Etna vacancy, David Cameron, Ryan Parker (excused), Kathy Neil (excused)

Others Present: Lori Merrow, Maxine Pare, Mike Hammer, Ellen Surprenant, Liz Mares, Angela Brown, Jane Stork, Mary Nadeau, Laura Donahue, Lyndsay Wood

I. Public Comment - None

- II. Writing and Art Presentation** - Lyndsay Wood, a fourth grade teacher from Somerset, provided a presentation on the impact Art may have on the writing process. Lyndsay took a class herself and this topic was the subject of her research. Lyndsay provided pre test, mid point, and post test writing and drawing data regarding her students. Visual processing is said to be very influential for all learners young and old. The board saw the transformation in the writing and drawing of students as they practiced them in connection throughout the unit. It was evident that this project increased awareness, engagement, and the skill level in writing and drawing.
- III. Remote Learning Criteria for the 2021-22 School Year** - Mr. Hammer reviewed the draft document that will be sent out to parents informing them of the conditions that will be in place for students to participate in remote learning for next year.

There needs to be a platform for remote learning although it will not be like it has been for the last year or so. The conditions discussed and that are recommended: 1. *Students must be meeting or demonstrating consistent progress towards meeting District instructional standards (passing classes), 2. Attendance at or above 90% as determined by the remote teacher, (RSU 19 will have teachers teaching remote students only. Remote students will not be associated with a class that is participating in person), 3. Engagement by parent*

and/or student in ongoing communication with the remote teacher, 4. Medical documentation(diagnosis) from a licensed practitioner for a medical exception; the District may have this on file for some students The approved providers for Medical Exemptions from Immunizations are MD/DO/NP/PA.

A diagnosis of an Autoimmune Disease, recent organ transplantation, cancer treatment, major surgery, etc., would support a request for remote learning.

Documentation from a Behavioral Health specialist who works with the prescribing provider and meets with the student for counseling, as that professional would be familiar with the student's needs.

Commitment of a half year or semester (timeframe TBD). A parent indicating that they are waiting for their child to be vaccinated or the 30 day waiting period could lessen the commitment of a half year.

IV. Other - Having Lori Merrow reducing her work load to focus on grant compliance due to the large amounts of funds in the CRF/ESSER/ARA grants. Also to have a district stipend position, within the present budget, to support continuing curriculum initiatives.

V. Future Agenda Items - Cara Flannery and Extended Learning Opportunities, summer school and afterschool programs within the grant projects

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Hammer, Superintendent