

Board of Education Meeting, Tuesday, April 14, 2020

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Members present

Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidiu, Chris Neff

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM

1. Meeting Called to Order

Action, Procedural: A. Call to Order

Procedural: B. Account for Absences

2. Proposed Executive Session, subject to Board Approval

Action: A. It is anticipated that the Board will act upon a resolution to convene an executive session for discussions regarding collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law; Tenure Matrix and Recommendations.

3. Return to Public Session

Action, Procedural: A. Motion to Return to Public Session
Motion to return to Public Session.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidiu, Chris Neff

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: A. Approve Tonight's Agenda
Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by David Francis, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidiu, Chris Neff

5. Approval of Consensus Agenda Items

Action (Consent): A. MOTION for Approval of Consensus Agenda Items
Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Abstain: Dave Ghidiu

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Chris Neff

Action (Consent), Minutes: B. Board Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Abstain: Dave Ghidiu

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Chris Neff

Action (Consent): C. Personnel Appointments
Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Abstain: Dave Ghidiu

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Chris Neff

Action (Consent): D. CSE & CPSE Recommendations
Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Abstain: Dave Ghidiu

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Chris Neff

6. Board President's Remarks

Discussion, Information: A. Board President's Remarks

7. Superintendent's Report

Discussion, Information: A. Announcements – Capital Project Update

Superintendent Mancuso reported on the positive support the District is receiving for actions taken in response to the COVID-19 school closure.

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, Bruce Capron reported on the food services that are being provided to families during the closure. Double meals were served last Thursday due to the holiday on Friday. Food service staff and others then worked around the wind storm over the weekend, securing tents and really rising to the challenge. Dana Boldt echoed her appreciation of these efforts, and extra thanks were extended to Manor School Assistant Principal, Joelle Weaver for her contributions, often dressing in costume to bring comfort to families. Joey shared the emotions that families are expressing, and the appreciation for working with such dedicated staff. Board President Bellavia and Vice President Francis thanked everyone for their daily contributions during this difficult time.

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Dr. Bruce Capron, Director of Facilities Bob Fussa, and Interim Co-Director of Facilities/Director of Technology Cindy Gorley reported on the progress of the cleaning procedures during the closure. Mr. Fussa indicated that re-entry into some areas has required a duplicate process of disinfecting, and has really been a continuous process.

Dr. Capron reminded board members that the resolution approved at the last meeting approved that essential workers may continue.

Mrs. Gorley reported that weekly meetings are continuing with project foremen. The facilities building is now demolished and the cafeteria and lobby are looking great at the high school.

Mr. Fussa reported that the robotics room is also coming along and the project is full steam ahead.

Dr. Capron concluded by suggesting that anything that can be done now, will be advantageous.

Superintendent Mancuso turned things over to Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Renee Williams regarding the At Home Learning pieces.

Dr. Williams reported that student participation in online learning is 99-100% in some buildings. Working now on consistency and keeping the families and students in the forefront, and keeping all situations in perspective. Great team work amongst principals for consistency in messaging.

Q - What does a classroom look like? A - There are office hours, the recently passed Teachers MOA was not for synchronous learning. The most synchronous time is for class meetings to support the social emotional piece. Zoom meetings are providing a real learning opportunity.

Building Principals each reported on highlights for their buildings:

Principal of the Lima Primary School, Allison Cimmerer reported that things are going well with teaching staff, paras and nurses all doing great, meeting the needs of students and providing supports. Mrs. Cimmerer has been stepping into class meetings with great reactions to this surprise appearance by students. Continuing to work with the transportation department to get hands on learning-materials into the hands of students. Kindergarten registration packets went out today with help from the transportation department. PTA meeting coming up this week to brainstorm welcoming of brand new students.

Principal of the Manor School, Jeanine Lupisella reported that she and her staff are getting more prepared on instructional work after focusing on prep work and focus areas. Some teachers are doing class meetings, some paras and special ed teachers are joining in. Focusing on getting 100% involvement. Accessing counselors to help problem-solve. Creating plans to address any situations. Working hard to reach families and students. Also emphasizing fun and play as well, getting outside as often as possible. Attempting to get chorus, math, and others involved, including some you-tube presentations for students. Lots of creativity occurring.

Principal of the Middle School, Shawn Williams reported that it has been an interesting exercise, working as a team and then addressing structural challenges. Getting grade levels together seems to be flowing well. The challenge has been assignment completion ratios while maintaining differentiation. Some reluctant learners are requiring additional supports from counseling staff. Finding a flow and gaining a rhythm. A-synchronous instruction with teacher voices may help to enhance and will be next steps to strive for.

Principal of the High School, David Roth reported that the high school is going smoothly after a couple of weeks into online instruction, with direction becoming more clear. Regents is providing confirmation that these exams will not take place this year and will not negatively impact students. College-level courses are a challenge as some colleges have canceled some courses and exams. Staff is getting a better handle on using Schoology and attempting to focus on consistency. The recent faculty meeting was collaborative in nature. Virtually at 99% participation rate for students aside from 6-students who are not connecting.

Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Lindsay Ali reported that she is impressed with how many parents are willing to shift to online and as a result, the department is operating as close to business as usual, possible. Staff is working exceptionally hard to make it all happen. At home therapies are occurring for about 60%, another 20% have not responded, and 20% have opted out. Therapists are getting creative with use of ipads and zoom and overall, successful with everyone doing the best they can. Doing a great job.

Q - Some students still don't have connectivity at the high school? A - Dr. Williams explained that all students do have technology available at this point. The connectivity issue is that a very small percentage of students are not engaging for whatever reason. The district has provided the connectivity and devices. The technology department has gone above and beyond to make this all happen. Thanks were expressed to Cindy Gorley and her team.

C - Glad to hear that connectivity is not the issue and opportunities are there when students begin to engage. Happy to hear that PTA meeting will go on at Lima, which is a nice normal routine.

Q - Spec Ed is all virtual at this point? A - Yes, to the best of our ability. Everyone from related service providers to paras to teachers are assisting in phenomenal ways. Following up with everyone regularly - staff and students are hanging in there and giving it a great shot.

Q - High School, where are kids on AP exams? How might this impact college for AP courses? A - 254 students are currently signed up for AP exams, students want to continue. A 45-minute exam will occur online in May. Students must score a 3, 4 or 5. It will be up to the college to determine if they accept this or not. The biggest difference is that the exam will now be 45-minutes versus 2-hours and instead of multiple choice, it will be all open-ended or essay. Students will receive the same amount of credit as they would have for the traditional exam.

Q - Student placement for Lima and Manor? What might this process look like? A - Collecting parental input electronically. Working with teams and will then placing students. Manor and Lima schools are being consistent with this process.

Director of Health and Athletics, Brian Donohue reported that long-term HF-L teacher and coach, Bernie Gardner lost his mom last week. Board member Templeton coordinated a drive-by of Mr. Gardner's home to show support. Consistent messages from coaches that everyone misses the kids. That is consistent among all staff. Continuing with hope in these troubling times.

Superintendent Mancuso opened the capital project update. Board members, Gary Stottler and Dave Francis each spoke about some concerns expressed prior to the board meeting. Responses were provided as part of the board packet. Both were satisfied with the District's responses. Dr. Capron emphasized that all pennies are being watched carefully, and with the unstable soil in the high school parking lot, there is also an incidental budget in place. Members expressed that they were pleased with the fact that there are even further remaining balances available than initially thought.

As the project moves further and further toward completion, the chances are reduced to uncover major items. Appreciated seeing the drawing in the packet. Dr. Capron reminded members that the charging station is in the design and in the budget. Mr. Mancuso suggested that the parking lot has been an issue for some time, and is proving to be more of a challenge than anticipated.

Discussion, Information: B. Update on Proposed Action Items

Discussion, Information: C. Presentations

8. Board of Education - Action Items

Action: A. Teacher Does NOT Accept Position from Preferred Eligibility List (PEL)

Q - Please remind us of the process. Where does this leave this person. A - When given the opportunity, this staff member has declined. This removes them from further eligibility. This was a 7-year list that is now exhausted for future openings in that certification area.

Motion to approve resolution establishing that, Teacher Does NOT Accept Position from Preferred Eligibility List (PEL), as presented.

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidiu, Chris Neff

Action: B. Second Review/Approval BOCES Administrative Budget and BOCES Board of Education Seats

Motion to Approve the 2020-2021 BOCES Administrative Budget and BOCES Board of Education Seats, as presented.

Motion by Amy West, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidiu, Chris Neff

9. Board President's Update

Discussion, Information: A. Board President's Update

No update from Mrs. Bellavia.

10. Board of Education - Review Only Items

Discussion, Information, Procedural: A. Informational Item re Approving Hourly Pay

Superintendent Mancuso updated the board that the resolution only approved closure through the 15th, and assigned superintendent's discretion to move the date according to any future additional executive orders.

Tonight's update acknowledges the closure and approval of additional pay during this period through April 30th until the next date is provided by executive order.

Discussion, Information: B. Change to Conference Day Schedules for 2020-2021

The Superintendent clarified that legal language has been changed regarding initial requirements to provide time off to staff to vote. Therefore, the initial day lost was added back into the schedule. This works out better for a conference day on the traditional Veterans Day holiday. This is simply a change within the calendar and does not impact the 1st or last day of school.

11. Questions from the Audience

Discussion, Information: A. Questions from the Audience

No questions

12. Adjournment

Action: A. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 7:54

Kudos to all from Mr. Ghidiu for the great work.

Motion to adjourn the Meeting

Motion by Amy West, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidiu, Chris Neff