

Board of Education Meeting, Tuesday, September 8, 2020

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Members present

Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidui, Jeff Klein

Meeting called to order at 7:05 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 contractual discussions regarding specific individuals.

3. Return to Public Session

Action: A. Motion to Return to Public Session

Motion to Return to Public Session.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidui, Jeff Klein

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: A. Approve Tonight's Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Joe Alati, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidui, Jeff Klein

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 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 Ghidui, Jeff Klein

Action (Consent), Minutes: B. Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

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 Ghidui, Jeff Klein

Action (Consent): C. Personnel Appointments

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

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 Ghidui, Jeff Klein

Action (Consent): D. CSE & CPSE Recommendations

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

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 Ghidui, Jeff Klein

6. Board President's Remarks

Discussion, Information: A. Board President's Remarks

President Bellavia thanked everyone for the start of school from administrators, teachers, and students.

7. Superintendent's Report

Discussion, Information: A. Announcements - Capital Project Update

Superintendent Mancuso presented a brief update regarding the opening of schools.

Superintendent Mancuso and other members of the administration met with the media at the high school at 6:30 a.m. on opening day. The broadcasts were aired on both local and national news outlets.

Superintendent Mancuso announced that the administrative team has been given the evening off, and will not be joining the board meeting via zoom.

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, Bruce Capron, provided a brief financial update, starting off by stating that it is hard not to recognize and be excited to see the investment from the capital project improvements as well as enjoying seeing everyone else appreciate the new spaces as well. The project continues to wind down and will be coming to a close as final projects are finished.

Dr. Capron highlighted that the overall budget for the remaining project items has been prioritized financially and by the timeline.

Q - When does the first state aid installment come? A - Have already seen the first, will continue to see them all at a reduced rate. 20% reductions appears to be coming. The Governor did mention this today in his address, and suggested increasing taxes to make up the difference.

Q - Dismissal at Manor? A - The Transportation department handled the pick up and drop offs fairly well given that nearly 200-250 vehicles arrived at pick-up time when only 120 were planned for. This was difficult to manage. The teams are working hard to make the communication more clear to plan accordingly.

Students expressed being warm under the masks, however they were thrilled to be back at school.

Superintendent Mancuso announced a new daily student and staff attendance reporting requirement for the Department of Health for both online and in-person student attendance. It was clarified that the District is not an official COVID reporting site, however, this reporting is required daily by 5PM. If there were a positive case in the District, the appropriate county would need to be identified, the Department of Health dashboard will show data, however, names will never be shared of positives.

Q - Are there penalties for Districts testing positive? A - Unsure at this point. There are challenges with multiple sized districts across the state.

SEL updates from staff were provided by Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Assessment, Dr. Renee Williams. Very impressed with all. Principals and staff were very happy to see the kids back in school again. Started the day in Lima and spent some time with first-graders. Very organized and staff was very helpful with assisting the students and staff with understanding each other with masks on. Middle School went well aside from some initial technical glitches. Manor teachers very organized and working at their best. Lots of problem-solving going on all day. The best quote was that it was a "perfectly-imperfect day". All in all, went well. The only mask issue was by some seniors not thrilled with needing to wear them while up and around at lunchtime. Mr. Hassall handled the situation well and students responded accordingly. Very proud of staff.

Q - How did lunches go? A - Day one was about coordination and getting kids to where they needed to go in high school.

Delivering of lunches and establishing new routines was a real focus. Lots of positives about the size of the parking lot. Parking passes seem not to be an issue any longer for student drivers. Hallways are unusually quiet.

C - Electronic parking passes and extra parking sure helped.

Q - How did bathroom use go? A - Surprisingly the one at a time or minimized numbers seemed to go well.

C - Next up is the Community Education Report with Kim Roberts.

Discussion, Information: B. Update on Proposed Action Items

Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Lindsay Ali noted that Nancy Andres has been with the District and Norman Howard as well.

C - How did this set of concerns do for the start of school? A - Given all the moving parts, things went quite well. A few students confused, but very impressed.

Q - Are the rates the same this year for these contracts? A - Would have to double check but if so, nothing out of the ordinary.

Discussion, Information: C. Presentations - Community Education Report; Review of the Opening of Schools

Director of Community Programs, Kim Roberts shared the program report, which is duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet.

Kim highlighted the numbers in the programs, as well as community ed numbers. She spoke about the cancellation of Cougar Care during the pandemic closures. Some parents used these credits toward the current school year. GRACE. Oct. 5 programs have been delayed and many/most programs will now be available virtually. Other challenges are staffing the pool. Still seeking pool lifeguards. Thanked the board for continued support. And refunds for other programs that didn't run.

Q - Shortages of lifeguards? A - Some did not want to follow new COVID protocols, others went to college, a variety of problems.

C - Appreciate the flexibility of the program.

8. Board of Education - Action Items

Action: A. Second Review/Approval Board of Education Code of Ethics

Motion to approve the Board of Education Code of Ethics for 2020-21, as presented.

Motion by Amy West, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Discussion:

Change the upper case Honest to the honest, in the last bullet.

Q - Work collaboratively with no surprises rule - is this codified anywhere? A - Board and stakeholders open and honest with no surprises.

Board members exchanged in debate about this. The Superintendent shared that this rule is also included in his contract and is commonly used as a best practice. Perhaps adding a footnote to a more clearly defined reference. The Governance Committee work may work to better define the no surprises rule.

Motion to table approval of this document until the document is redefined.

Motion by Dave Ghidiu, second by Joe Alati to table this item until more fully defined.

Final Resolution: Motion approved by the majority.

The Governance Committee will work to add the definition and bring back to the board at the next meeting.

Action: B. District Agreement with the Norman Howard School for the 2020-21 School Year
Motion to approve the District Agreement with the Norman Howard School for the 2020-21 School Year, 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 Ghidui, Jeff Klein

Action: C. Special Education Consultant Services Contract for 2020-21 School Year, Nancy Andres, MS. Ed. SDA

Motion to approve the Special Education Consultant Services Contract for 2020-21 School Year, Nancy Andres, MS. Ed. SDA

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidui, Jeff Klein

Action: D. Gift to the School - Music Department, Yamaha Flute

Motion to approve a Gift to the School, to the Music Department of a Yamaha Flute, as presented.

Motion by Caralyn Ross, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidui, Jeff Klein

Action: E. Gift to the School - Music Department, Alto Saxophone

9. Board President's Update

Discussion, Information: A. Board President's Update

President Bellavia spoke about the survey for MCSBA Committee Meetings, asking board members to complete by early next week so that she may submit by end of next week.

The NYSSBA Convention information is also in the packet under committee updates for further information.

10. Board of Education - Review Only Items

Discussion, Information: A. First Review Erie I Quarterly Policy Recommendations

Policy Committee Chairperson, Stephanie Templeton provided the background on the first review by the committee of the policies on the docket for this evening. All recommendations are duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet.

Title I Parent Engagement policy is being presented to add to the agenda, while it may be amended in the near future as laws change.

Discussion, Information: B. Update on Committee Meetings

ILC Meeting was last week - S. Templeton and D. Ghidui attended. It was a reopening meeting of sorts. The committee appreciated Mrs. Templeton speaking from the board.

The superintendent reminded the board that the board calendar is a guidance document, however, it is a working document and will do our best to keep it updated.

For the Legislative Committee - they are seeking to understand where monies should be spent. Tax cap is a top one. Federal lawmakers funding. Daily reporting mandate and any unfunded mandates and anything that does not seem to help kids. This reporting can be of concern if there are concerns of skewed data. There was discussion about quarantine guidelines.

COVID flow chart defines 14-days for a multitude of symptoms. Dr. Mendoza, along with multiple others disagree but new rules are not released yet. Third week of November timeline. Superintendent Mancuso indicated that closures are more likely to be from a lack of staff versus an influx of the COVID virus. The District is overstaffed at the moment, and attempting to further this effort to remain well positioned to absorb a certain amount of absence. The same rules apply to all educational institutions.

11. Questions from the Audience

Discussion, Information: A. Questions from the Audience - Click for contact information

D. Bassette - Comments on the new cafeteria space. Wearing of masks changes the way people behave. Losing facial expression is a loss for all.

12. Adjournment

Action: A. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:09 pm

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting.

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidui, Jeff Klein