

DISCLAIMER: *This is a summary of the referenced meeting of the Hamilton School District Board of Trustees (“the Board”) and is based on the written notes and memory of individuals in attendance. The notes are intended to capture only the main points made during the meeting and they reflect a subjective work-in-progress. The notes do not imply a specific opinion or commitment on the part of any individual or organization represented at the meeting. This summary is neither an official transcript, nor should it be relied upon for any official purpose. This summary is not intended to replace, or in any way affect, the official Minutes of the Board.*

**Special Board Meeting
Notes on Agenda Items
September 7, 2021**

Board Members Present:

Heidi Apedaile
Tim Campbell
Drew Blankenbaker
Patrick Hanley
Jeni Seifert
Rebekah Stamp
Seth Gale Wyrick

Board Members Not Present:

District Business:

1. Reports:

None at this time.

2. Consent Agenda:

None at this time.

3. Old Business:

None at this time.

4. New Business:

A. Recommendation to Pay Teachers an Additional Hourly Amount at Curriculum Rate to Substitute During Their Preparation Period (Action)

Superintendent Korst reported to the Board that he has been working with the certified union to identify a creative solution for the substitute shortage. He recommended that the

Board table this item until a thoroughly vetted plan can be presented. There was no public comment. The Board tabled this Action item for consideration at a later date.

B. Review and Consider Revisions of COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies for District Re-Opening Plan (Action)

Superintendent Korst reviewed the District's COVID-19 mitigation strategies during the 2020-2021 academic years, which included: cohorting, temperature checks, universal masking, limiting events, prohibiting visitors, contact tracing, hand washing, and cleaning protocols. Superintendent Korst stated that strategies have changed this year, partly due to the fact that schools no longer have a Governor's mandate on masking. Superintendent Korst also noted that DPHHS, County Health, the State Superintendent of Schools, and the Governor currently recommend individual choice for masking. Superintendent Korst explained that District staff are concerned about the educational restrictions that can result from masking and that administrators are concerned about their ability to enforce a strict masking policy. Superintendent Korst reported that local hospital capacity is currently within the "green" margin. For the foregoing reasons, Superintendent Korst recommended remaining with the District's current COVID-19 mitigation strategy.

Board Chair Hanley stated that the Board will establish a subcommittee to address COVID-19 mitigation strategies and will include Board members Seifert, Stamp, and Apedaile. Board Chair Hanley indicated that the committee will also consider input from District administrators and community members.

Board discussion was opened and in response to Board Vice Chair Blankenbaker's question, Superintendent Korst stated that the District has created a FAQ page on its website to provide community members with as much information as possible. Superintendent Korst explained that due to federal privacy law, COVID-19 case data can only be shared at the grade level. Superintendent Korst also advised the Board that because the County Health Department is not providing the District with complete information on COVID-19 cases this year, any information the District provides will likely be incomplete. Board member Apedaile said that K-5 parents may share their own student's COVID-19 positive status with members of their own classrooms via Google Classroom.

Public Comment included community members sharing views which ranged from those supporting mandatory masking to those supporting individual masking choice. A community member reported that some route bus drivers have been observed without masks. Superintendent Korst stated that he would speak with the District's route bus contractor about this. Another community member suggested that the District look into how students are doing emotionally in light of national reports which indicate that youth are struggling during the pandemic. Superintendent Korst advised that the District does work with data from the State Youth Behavior Risk Survey and is currently working to find a solution for how to bring CSCT services back into District buildings.

Board Vice Chair Blankenbaker asked Superintendent Korst to provide the number of staff absences that would cause the District to close schools. Superintendent Korst responded that there are multiple factors, including staff absences, that affect the District's decision to close a building. Superintendent Korst stated that he would coordinate with the building principals and provide the Board with specific information on this issue. The Board took no action on this item.

C. Recommendation to Approve Contract for Services Between Firms Qualified Through the IDIQ Process (Action)

Superintendent Korst recommended that the Board approve contracts for the IDIQ contractors that can perform our HVAC upgrades so that we can rapidly deploy them. There was no public comment. The Board approved this Action item.

D. Facility Planning Timeline (Information)

Superintendent Korst reported that the District is concentrating on evaluating renovation and/or relocation options for the Hamilton Middle School. Superintendent Korst stated that the timeline for this process is likely next fall. Board Chair Hanley asked whether the District's architects have a timeline for engaging public opinion on the project. Superintendent Korst stated that the architects are working with a committee and will schedule working sessions with the public as soon as January 2022. Board Chair Hanley explained that Hamilton Middle School is the last facility in the District that has identified deficiencies and that while the District is not running a bond now, he would like to make sure that we are in a good position to present information to the public. There was no public comment. The Board took no action on this item.

E. District Direction and Priorities (Information)

Board Chair Hanley requested that Superintendent Korst provide an update on the District's direction and priorities. Superintendent Korst advised the Board that the District is finalizing its ESSER funding budget and is working with the Office of Public Instruction for the budget's approval. Superintendent Korst added that the District's administration is looking forward to returning their focus to education and academic success. Board Chair Hanley noted that the Board's committees will be meeting soon. There was no public comment. The Board took no action on this item.

5. Policies and Procedures:

None at this time.

Public Comment:

There was no additional public comment.

The next regular Board Meeting will be held on September 14, 2021.