

Board Meeting. BURLINGTON-EDISON SCHOOL DISTRICT October 12, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Burlington-Edison School District No. 100 met on Monday, October 12, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom meeting due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the extension of the OPMA.

Board Members attended on Zoom Meeting: President, Troy Wright; Vice-President, Roger Howard, Members, Holly Nielsen, David Lowell and Rich Wesen.

Staff members present: Laurel Browning, Superintendent; and Deputy Board Secretary, Jennifer Dalton.

Staff members online: Dr. Bryan Jones, Assistant Superintendent; Director of Finance & Operations, Valori Vargas; Executive Director of Student Support Services, Jeff Brown; Executive Director of Learning & Communications, Todd Setterlund; and Director of Human Resources, Jen Whitney.

Call to Order

President, Troy Wright, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Hybrid Re-opening

Executive Director of Student Support Services, Jeff Brown reviewed the schedule for the re-opening for grades Kindergarten through second. The District used the answers from a K-2 parent survey about how many students would be coming back for Hybrid learning. It turned out to be critical information used to allocate staff, structure the hybrid model of learning and to understand community needs. As COVID numbers fluctuated in the county, so did family decisions on whether or not to send their student back to the classroom. Approximately 85% of families responded to the survey, but the district called families to get answers and were able to achieve 94% family engagement. This information gave the district an idea of how many students per school, per grade would attend in-person instruction, how many students per class, and how to rotate the school schedule.

With the help from union leaders and the survey, the district was able to formulate how many teachers would come back in person, how many needed to stay remote, and how many would be flexible if they needed to change grade bands.

To adequately staff the district for both Hybrid Learning and online instruction has been tricky. Some teachers qualify for medical exemption leaving gaps in staffing through different grade bands. This is the same for classified staff. Eleven percent of the classified staff qualifies for the accommodated COVID-19 medical leave. Again, this leaves gaps in custodial, transportation, and food service staffing. All necessary positions to achieve in-person instruction.

Executive Director of Learning & Communications, Todd Setterlund, acknowledged Nurse Tessa for winning the ward of, "Washington Nurse of the Year." He has been working closely with the school nurses and the local health department around health data and the decision to move forward. He commented on the Town Hall Zoom Meeting and that they were able to answers questions from staff regarding starting back with in the classrooms.

Director of Finance & Operations, Valori Vargas updated the Board on the new food service 7-day meal box with breakfast and lunches. This has garnered positive feedback from the community. The program distributed just a little over a 1,000 boxes last week and just over 1,200 boxes this week. The USDA extended this food program until of end of June 2021.

Superintendent Laurel Browning updated the Board on the COVID athletic outline from WIAA.

Engagement and Observation of Online Learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Bryan Jones, Assistant Superintendent, updated the Board on online learning engagement numbers. He stated that the K-8 schools are achieving high engagement at 98 to 99 percent. The high school was still at approximately 77% engagement for one absence a day, but if there is two or more absences in the day this percentage of engagement gets higher.

The District is working on a plan to bring some people on campus for Student Learning Hubs to help get the assistance needed.

He stated that grades 7 through 8 are facing challenges with engagement. The schools are looking at ways for students to engage and get more contact time with teachers. "Incompletes" are used to identify students with missing or incomplete assignments, but at some point, this "I" will need to be converted to a grade. The District is standing firm on no failing grades because they recognize that many students have a variety of challenges with online learning.

Principals, Kevin Johnson from Lucille Umbarger and Amy Reisner from Bay View, updated the Board on engagement at their schools.

Amy Reisner stated that to some degree her job still feels the same, to provide the best instruction she can do for her children. She has worked closely with staff regarding coming back for in-person instruction. She has shown them the steps taken to keep the staff and students safe. She has also developed a problem solving team to provide feedback and to problem solve issues like non-engagement during the pandemic. Bay View will still be doing their teacher evaluations.

For Kevin Johnson this is his first year as principal. He stated that communication is the paramount thing for his building. He stated that his staff has been working hard on removing roadblocks for any student who might be struggling to engage. He said that over 60% of his staff works out of the school and that the parking lot is almost always full. Even with the struggles of the zoom world, he and his staff have spent a great deal

of time figuring out how to bring back grade bands successfully. He recognized a few staff members as going above and beyond during these uncertain times.

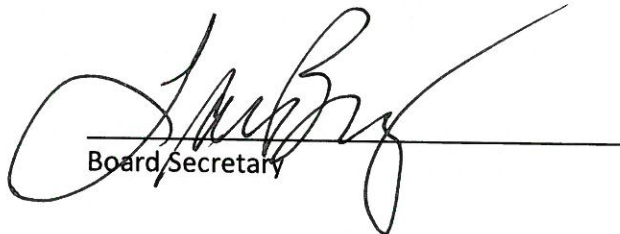
Adjourned

At approximately 5:25 p.m. there being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

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Board President



Board Secretary