

**Virtual School Committee Meeting**

**April 9, 2020**

**6:00 p.m.**

Mrs. Reggio - with the virtual program they will have public forum at the end of the meeting. She appreciates the efforts of everyone and realizes how difficult it is. Everyone is doing their part and she appreciates that. Our district has been the model for many in the State.

**Introduction of Members:**

Jane C. Reggio, Chairperson  
Erin P. Vinacco, Vice Chairperson  
Caryn D. Vernon, District Treasurer  
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary  
Jack R. Keefe, Member  
Sarah E. Williams, Member  
Wendy L. Greenstein, Member  
Tammy A. Lemieux, Member

Also in attendance were Superintendent, Jason DeFalco, EdD and Assistant Superintendent, Matthew J. Ehrenworth.

**Student Representatives**

Jacob Chaplin spoke on the virtual projects that they are doing as a group in STUCO and NHS. They are having a spirit day for autism awareness. The class officers recognized seniors and where they will be going next year. Jacob will be going to the University of Maine and Cassie will be attending Bridgewater State University.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to approve the Warrants and Minutes of March 26, 2020.

Senior updates - Dr. DeFalco- Prom was scheduled for May 1st which will not be able to happen. They are looking into later dates and possibly hold it in the courtyard. They are looking to combine awards night and graduation at a later date and have it outdoors. This is very difficult on the seniors and they want all to know that it may be postponed but it will not be canceled.

Jacob had a question on the 3rd and 4th quarter grading updates sent to parents. He asked that it be sent to the students as well. Dr. DeFalco stated that he would do this.

Mrs. Lemieux - Looking at senior graduation options. She is concerned that graduation would be canceled and is looking into options. They came up with the possibility of doing it at the Mendon Drive-In. This way families stay in their car to watch the event. Mrs. Lemieux reached out to the owner of the drive-in. They said yes to the event and using their venue. He stated the charge would be minimal. It would need to take place during the day. They could use the screen to show students and their accomplishments.

Mrs. Reggio stated another option would be a parade type event in town.

Mrs. Vinacco asked if they should secure the Drive-In to be sure they have the venue on the date they want which would be June 5th, the current graduation ceremony date.

Mrs. Lemieux stated that she will get back to the drive-in owners with their date and time. She does not want to make it too late in the summer to ensure all can attend.

Mrs. Reggio feels this is a very important topic of conversation.

Dr. DeFalco reiterated that they will never cancel graduation.

### **Formative Assessment**

The evidence was submitted at the March meeting. They reviewed the information and they will share it with Dr. DeFalco. Dr. DeFalco is moving in the right direction and progressing.

### **Standard 1**

#### **Instructional Leadership -**

All feel he is progressing nicely through the standard.

Mrs. Lemieux asked that when they go through the next area of curriculum they present with more options and choices of programs.

Mrs. Reggio stated the committee funds the curriculum but they do not develop it.

Mrs. Greenstein feels budgetarily it is important to have two options.

Standard 1B3 - Tracking student progress - meeting with success and progressing in this area. Mrs. Reggio and Mrs. Greenstein both feel there is a great impact on student learning with the addition of the new coaches. They are very happy with this addition.

Professional Culture Standard 4A1 - Progressing nicely.

Standard 4A2 - Mission and Core Value - Moving in the right direction.

Standard 4A3 - progressing nicely.

Mrs. Reggio stated there is one timeline that was changed. The summative review is not until October. We do not know if there will be more Stars testing and the impact this will have.

Dr. DeFalco stated he participated in a literacy lunch today and spoke about the book "Swiss Family Robinson". He may participate in lessons. He loved being in the virtual class and having the opportunity to see remote learning.

Mrs. Greenstein would like to see evidence on the reflective piece in different grade levels and more toward the application piece, takeaways, benefits, struggles.

Dr. DeFalco thanked the Committee for feedback. This is how we continue to grow. He needs to look at how he takes the feedback and look at goals and adapt those and move forward. He is focused on trying to improve.

### **One year contract extension for Unit C**

Unit C entered into contract negotiations and now that came to a halt.

A one year extension to the contract with a 3% salary increase was proposed.

There were 77 Support Staff union members who voted yes.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Keefe and voted 7 in favor, 1 abstain Mrs. Greenstein to accept the MOA to extend the Unit C support staff contract for the FY21 school year with a 3% salary increase.

## Report of the Superintendent

Dr. DeFalco spoke on the Unit A MOA for the remote learning plan.

He feels the work by the planning board has been excellent. They could not move forward in the direction they are without their partnerships.

They have a common understanding around how they would work. They have a strong learning plan and revised calendar.

Unit A took a vote and ratified the learning plan. 84 members voted in favor and 1 member voted against.

They now need the vote of the Committee.

Dr. DeFalco wants to put to rest the strange notion that the staff are not working full time. He wants to state that they are working as hard as they ever have.

Mrs. Greenstein stated that learning is happening and teachers are working hard.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to accept the MOA for the remote learning plan for Unit A.

Mrs. Greenstein did not see anything in the plan if a staff member gets Covid-19.

Dr. DeFalco stated that the legislature just passed that we would pay the staff member  $\frac{2}{3}$  of their pay and the other  $\frac{1}{3}$  would come from their sick time if they need to recover from Covid-19.

Mrs. Vinacco wants to be sure that if this continues to the last days of school that consistency is followed.

Dr. DeFalco stated if there is another announcement they would get back together and review it. They would make sure they have regular check-ins to change the calendar if this continues. Having 5 straight days of posting assignments is tough on kids.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to shift the school calendar to remove the April vacation as it is and

replace it with individualized learning days as follows: April 13, April 20, April 21 and May 1st and change the last day of school to June 17th.

In the survey that was taken 91.6% of the 658 persons who took the survey voted in favor, 5.9% voted against and 16 persons said we trust whatever you decide to do.

Mrs. Vinacco stated if you were one of the families that voted against this please take the time you need and make arrangements with teachers and principals.

Mrs. Reggio stated we need to be flexible in times of uncertainty. We are all doing the best we can.

Dr. DeFalco spoke on where we are in terms of Covid 19 response. We offer as much support as we can in all ways. They are helping by putting out 4000 meals per week and starting the weekend meal service. They are feeding about 400 kids per week.

They have been writing grants. The EOS foundation wants to do a case study on BMRSD. We have the largest percentage of students being fed. The cafeteria ladies are the best. They want to speak to other Districts to get more people on board.

Dr. DeFalco said they are speaking now on the Return and Recovery phase of this. How to get the doors of our schools open again.

Please reach out to us if you have questions.

Mr. Ehrenworth stated they can feed anyone aged 0-21. They want to feed all that need it.

It is helpful if they notify us but anyone can show up and will not be turned away if they are between 0-21 years old.

They are aggressively pursuing grants for food service.

### **Report of the Assistant Superintendent Financial Report**

Mr. Ehrenworth stated that the financial report is coming in as expected.

He stated that we may fall short on some user fees but they will be offset by other costs.

No stipends are being paid for activities that are not going on.

The transportation contracts are being worked on and they are looking at savings there.

The Out of District transportation may be a large savings. We have not been paying this cost.

It looks like a shortfall in salaries due to the increase in Unit A salaries being larger than anticipated. However, the bottom line still looks to be in a good place.

### **Facilities Report**

They are looking to put the roof work out to bid.

HS Vestibule - awarded the work but the company is not able to get the materials due to Covid-19. It looks like this will be a summer project.

Capital Planning - still hard at work on this. They will analyze expenditures and get community feedback.

MES Project - The OPM is going through the bids.

### **School Committee Forum**

Mrs. Vinacco - She would like to get lawn signs for each school saying thank you to health care workers and essential workers. Mr. Ehrenworth said they can make this happen.

Mrs. Greenstein - Would like to celebrate the Middle School. They are sending information to students and parents to let them know how they are doing.

Mrs. Lemieux - There are signs to support our seniors. Thanks to all those who are reaching out. This goes a long way.

Mrs. Reggio - can't express enough the importance of the students seeing their teacher's faces each day.

May 14th is the next meeting to be held at 4:30 p.m.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary

