

School Board of Directors Meeting

May 7, 2020

School Board Committee Meetings

Minutes

Committee Meetings of the Columbia Borough School Board of Directors, which was properly advertised in the LNP Lancaster Newspaper, was held virtually due to the closing of school buildings because of COVID-19 on Thursday, May 7, 2020 immediately following the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

President Leader called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Board Members in attendance: Sandra Duncan, Devon Fisher, Kathleen Hohenadel, Kate Keyser, Robert Misciagna, Lauren VonStetten, Rebecca Young, and Charles Leader

Board Members not in attendance: Cole Knighton

District Administration in attendance: Tom Strickler, Keith Ramsey, and Gregg McGough

3. Extra-Curricular Committee (Mrs. VonStetten, Chair)

a. Information Item - Review of current plans for year-end Senior activities

Mr. Strickler shared that at this point nothing has been cancelled, but it does look like we will be cancelling the Senior Awards Night. We were going to video or live stream the awards, but the seniors asked that we not do it. They would like to be notified if they received an award prior to Commencement so they can use the award towards their college tuition; therefore, we will be including the awards on the Commencement brochure and announcing during Commencement. May Day is organized by an outside organization, so they continue to plan and are looking at holding the event in July. Prom is hopefully going to occur in July as well. Bachelorette will hopefully be held prior to commencement. Of course, this is all contingent on what color Lancaster County is in the Governor's reopening phases.

Mrs. Young asked about social distancing for the prom and if seniors are okay with that. Mr. Strickler shared that seniors don't want the prom if social distancing is required, so the seniors are asking the Administration to wait until mid-July to make the call for the prom.

Mrs. Young also asked if the same social distancing is being discussed with May Day. Mr. Strickler said that the Administration has been meeting on a weekly basis with all senior activity organizations and a group of seniors together so that everyone is on the same page.

4. Curriculum & Instruction Committee (Mrs. Fisher – Chair)

a. Commencement: Thoughts & Discussion (Mr. Strickler)

In discussing with the seniors, we have 3 options (options are listed in order of seniors' preference):

1. Live on the stadium and limiting tickets to 2 tickets per senior (4 tickets with split families). One concern with this option is the controlling of families leaving the stadium; therefore, students suggested that they would remain in their seat until the parents are out of the stadium.
2. Live on the stadium with just seniors, District Administration, and no one else. District would set up student chairs on the field to ensure social distancing.
3. Virtual Graduation (Can be done at any time)

Miss Hohenadel asked about the logistics for students to receive their diploma. Mr. Strickler shared that the District would provide cinch bags with the student's name on the outside that we would put the diplomas in. Several bags would be put on the table at a time to ensure no bags are touching and the individual placing the bags on the table would be wearing gloves. Local businesses have offered to assist in purchasing the bags. Miss Hohenadel suggested that President Leader be the individual putting the diplomas on the table.

Mrs. Fisher suggested something that her District is doing for seniors. Her District is providing designated times for families to come individually and take pictures of their student receiving their diploma which will be turned into a slide show.

There will be 3 dates scheduled for graduation to accommodate for weather.

b. PDE Updates Concerning the Pandemic School Closures (Mr. Strickler)

Mr. Strickler asked the Board if they would like to stay with the Governor's order that school buildings remain closed until the last day of school which is June 8th for CBSD or would you like to extend the closing until June 30th.

After some discussion, the Board would like to make the decision at the Committee of the Whole meeting on June 4th when we have more information on which phase Lancaster County is on the Governor's reopening plan.

c. Floating Calendar (Mr. Strickler)

Mr. Strickler reviewed the calendar for 2020-21. As of today, PDE thinks that we will be good to go in August. However, the conversation this week between the Secretary of Education and the House of Representatives is that they think we will be good to go right after Labor Day, which isn't August. This is more information for the Board as things are constantly changing and the impact on professional development and student education.

d. 2019-2020 Calendar Review (Mr. Strickler)

Mr. Strickler shared the updated 2019-20 calendar and noted that we had to extend the teacher year 4 days for professional development days. These days will be virtual and developed based on a teacher needs survey.

Discussion was centered around whether the teachers need to make up the additional 4 days to acknowledge the work that they have done. It was decided that the Superintendent should speak with Columbia Education Association (CEA) to develop an MOU to forgive the additional 4 days for 2019-20 and possibly adjust the beginning of 2020-21 teacher year should education be virtual in the beginning.

e. Shift from Remote Learning to Personalize Learning (Dr. McGough)

Dr. McGough shared that on March 13, 2020 at 2:00 pm, Governor Wolf closed schools for 2 weeks, which will always be the line of demarcation between pre and post pandemic education and everything seems to be pointing in the direction that education next year will not look anything like pre pandemic education.

Dr. McGough shared that what we are doing this year was more of an "emergency remote learning" model and what he has been working on with teachers for next year is to shift to a more "personalized learning" model and the model that we are looking at is a hybrid Learning model. A hybrid learning model provides direct instruction, independent learning, and a collaboration piece, which will put students on their own path and allow them to progress at their level.

Dr. McGough shared what he is doing to assist teachers in this transition, as follows:

- Daily virtual office hours
- Guerilla PD (i.e. Just in Time Professional Development) to train staff on making the transition to personalized learning

Dr. McGough reviewed the updated CBSD Virtual Learning page on the District's website and explained how the hybrid learning model would work.

f. Learn From Home Resources - Collaboration with the North Museum of Nature & Science (Dr. McGough)

Dr. McGough reviewed the CBSD Learn From Home Resources that are on the District's website as well as the resources that are available to CBSD students at no cost because of his partnership with the North Museum of Nature & Science and other organizations.

g. Candidates for 2020 Graduation


Mr. Strickler shared that the list of candidates for 2020 graduation will be approved at the May 18, 2020 Board Meeting.

h. IU 13 contract

Mr. Strickler shared that the IU 13 contract for services for 2020-21 will be approved at the May 18, 2020 Board Meeting.

5. Adjournment

President Leader adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.



Keith D. Ramsey
School Board Secretary