

BOARD OF EDUCATION - SPECIAL MEETING (Monday, March 9, 2020)

Generated by Victoria Handy on Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Members present

Diana Kolhoff, Jordana Sobey, Brian DeSesa, Alex Kriegsman, Chris Tice, Yorgos Tsibiridis

Meeting called to order**1. MEETING OPENING**

Action: 1.1 Call the Meeting to order and Roll Call

Motion to call the Business Meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Motion by Diana Kolhoff, second by Yorgos Tsibiridis.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Diana Kolhoff, Jordana Sobey, Brian DeSesa, Yorgos Tsibiridis

Not Present at Vote: Alex Kriegsman, Chris Tice

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Presentation: 2.1 Pledge of Allegiance

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Information: 3.1 Guidelines for Public Input

Sandi Krueel asked if the Board will be coming out of executive session and voting on any resolutions. Jordan Sobey, Board President, responded that there is nothing to her knowledge that will require coming out of executive session and voting on a resolution.

Larry Baltz stated that although he realizes this meeting was put together quickly, Coronavirus was the topic of discussion and hopes the Board discussions it in public. Mr. Baltz also stated that when the Board calls the executive session that they state specifically why they are going into executive session.

Jordana Sobey thanked everyone for their comments and hopes they stick around for the rest of the meeting. Neither community member stayed.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:30 PM

Action: 4.1 Convene into Executive Session

Motion to convene into executive session at 7:40 p.m.

Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the Sag Harbor UFSD shall enter into executive session in order to discuss (i) a matter involving a particular student, (ii) a matter concerning the employment of a particular person, and (iii) collective negotiations, and (iv) a matter, which if disclosed, could imperil public safety.

Motion by Diana Kolhoff, second by Alex Kriegsman.

Chris Tice, Board Member, stated they are doing this wrong if the Board is discussing the virus and safety issues after executive session because the public will be waiting in the hallway without knowing what time executive session will be finished. Ms. Tice also stated that what was outlined in the motion to convene into executive session is different from what was posted earlier on the website and although not deliberate, it does not seem transparent.

Jordana Sobey, Board President, replied that if this wasn't such a rapidly flowing situation that was developing so quickly she would have loved to have taken more time and have spent days planning a perfect meeting but that is not the case. Mrs. Sobey stated that while she respects Ms. Tice's thoughts, she respectfully disagrees with her.

Alex Kriegsman, Board Vice President, stated this is a public health situation, he appreciates Jordana Sobey calling this meeting on short notice to address this, and he understands they are proceeding under the advice of council. This is something very public, the Board wants to hear from the public, they have a responsibility to communicate with the public, but there are aspects of this that necessarily be discussed in executive session. The Board is proceeding as advised under council and stated we should not lose sight of the forest through the trees. Mr. Kriegsman stated he appreciates Ms. Tice's comments but the Board's primary function is to look out for the safety of the students and people who work in the school and that the Board needs to stay focused and proceed as advised by the School Attorney.

Interim Superintendent Eleanor Tritt stated they will go over some items in public but things are coming in rapidly and hopes that people will understand the school is addressing the issue as quickly as possible.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Diana Kolhoff, Jordana Sobey, Brian DeSesa, Alex Kriegsman, Chris Tice, Yorgos Tsibiridis

Pierson High School Principal Jeff Nichols, Pierson Middle School Principal Brittany Carriero, Sag Harbor Elementary School Principal Matt Malone, Director of Technology Scott Fisher, and District Clerk Victoria Handy were in attendance during the executive session.

Jim Kinnier, Teacher and Union President of the Teachers Association of Sag Harbor (TASH), was invited into executive session at 8:10 PM.

Action: 4.2 Adjourn from Executive Session

Motion to adjourn from Executive Session 8:26 PM.

Motion by Diana Kolhoff, second by Chris Tice.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Diana Kolhoff, Jordana Sobey, Brian DeSesa, Alex Kriegsman, Chris Tice, Yorgos Tsibiridis

January Kerr was in attendance of the Public Session.

5. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Interim Superintendent Eleanor Tritt stated in less than 24 hours the school has received six updated documents on the coronavirus, which has been shared publicly. The custodial staff is constantly cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, nurses are ordering the supplies they feel they may need, and administrators are discussing what activities may need to be canceled. Parents should keep students home if they are not well and absences will not be counted against students' attendance records. The Superintendents Association is awaiting guidance on school closings and ongoing issues. Superintendents and the Health Department discussed self-quarantining and a hotline. Four district have closed so far but it is unclear for how long. Information is on the main page of the school's website and is being updated as new information is received. Mr. Nichols stated they have to decide soon if they are canceling activities with other schools to limit exposure. Eric Bramoff stated there are no varsity or junior varsity contests scheduled for the next ten to twelve days. Superintendent Tritt stated that the Robotics competition was canceled by the organization itself. Mr. Nichols said everyone is in a holding pattern because we have never been in a situation like this before, and we have to take the information and make the best decisions we can. Ms. Carriero is concerned about the Math North Shore Math tournament because our students travel far, work closely with other students, and although it is a great opportunity, she has concerns over it. Mr. Nichols stated that he wants to limit putting our students in harms way. Right now the situation is very fluid and more cases out there every day, and he is therefore

inclined to cancel activities on the side of caution. Mr. Malone stated that Morning Program is a big part of the Elementary School's day, but for now they can proceed without it. The Board discussed if the school were to close, how they would provide instruction and share information on the website. Scott Fisher, Director of Technology, added a link on the school's website for community members who do not have children in the schools but want to be added to our communications list. Mr. Fisher also discussed technology the teachers and students can use if the school closes and how the school would address students that may need a computer and internet. Mr. Fisher then spoke about data privacy laws. Superintendent Tritt thanked the Administrators and staff for going above and beyond during this uncertain situation. Ms. Tice requested an update on the coronavirus be on the Board of Education Meeting agenda on March 16, 2020.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Action: 6.1 Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:56 p.m.


Motion by Alex Kriegsman, second by Diana Kolhoff.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Diana Kolhoff, Jordana Sobey, Brian DeSesa, Alex Kriegsman, Chris Tice, Yorgos Tsiibiridis

AFFIRMATION: I, Victoria Handy, District Clerk of the Sag Harbor Union Free School District, do hereby affirm that the minutes of this meeting are true and accurate statements of the proceedings.

Dated: March 9, 2020



Victoria Handy, District Clerk