

**Watertown Board of Education
Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Meeting Date: July 27, 2020
Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Place: REMOTE MEETING

Members Present: Ms. Leslie Crotty, Chairman
Mr. Tom Lambert, Vice Chairman
Ms. Janelle Wilk, Secretary
Mr. Robert Makowski
Ms. Cathie Rinaldi
Ms. Diane Bristol
Ms. Cindy Eastman
Mr. Jason Malagutti
Ms. Josephine Cavallo-Rosa

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Rydell Harrison –Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Tom DiStasio – Business Manager

- A. Convene Regular Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- B. Salute to the Flag
- C. Roll Call – Ms. Davidson
- D. Minutes

Agenda Item: D.1
Subject: Minutes of the June 22, 2020 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Motion Presented By: Ms. Wilk
Motion Seconded By: Mr. Makowski

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the June 22nd, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented by Ms. Davidson.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion passed

Agenda Item: D.2

Subject: Minutes of the June 16, 2020 Special Board of Education Meeting

Motion Presented By: Ms. Wilk

Motion Seconded By: Ms. Bristol

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the June 16th, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes as presented by Ms. Davidson.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion passed

Agenda Item: D.3

Subject: Minutes of the June 29, 2020 Special Board of Education Meeting

Motion Presented By: Mr. Makowski

Motion Seconded By: Mr. Malagutti

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the June 29th, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes as presented by Ms. Davidson.

Discussion: None

Opposed:	None
Abstained:	Ms. Wilk
Vote:	Motion passed

E. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report

1. Appointments – (Information Only)

Ms. Paulina Auclair to the position of Link Crew Coordinator at Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year at a contractual salary of \$2,113.00.

Ms. Lillian Ayala to the position of Building Substitute for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, hired at a daily rate of \$100.00.

Ms. Sarah Baker to the position of World Language Coordinator for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the WEA stipend amount of \$2,849.00.

Ms. Kristen Bates to the position of SSP Co-Advisor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, being paid half the WEA contractual salary amount of \$1,250.00.

Ms. Leah Bellemare to the position of SSP Co-Advisor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, being paid half the WEA contractual salary amount of \$1,250.00.

Ms. Leah Bellemare to the position of Student Council Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, being paid half the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$1,077.00.

Ms. Leah Bellemare to the position of Sophomore Class Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, being paid half the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$539.50.

Ms. Leah Bellemare to the position of Ninth Grade Team Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, being paid half the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$1,010.50.

Mr. Scott Benjamin to the position of Building Substitute at Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, hired at a daily rate of \$100.00.

Ms. Krisl Beres to the position of Robotics Team Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$1,897.00.

Mr. Alban Blaceri to the position of Temporary Summer Maintenance for Watertown Public Schools, effective July 1, 2020 at an hourly rate of \$12.00.

Mr. Warren Campbell to the position of Distributive Education (D.E.C.A.) Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$1,421.00.

Mr. Warren Campbell to the position of Career Education Coordinator for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$2,849.00.

Mr. Tom DiStasio was reappointed to the position of Business Manager for Watertown Public Schools, effective July 1, 2020 at an annual salary of \$113,322.

Ms. Lisa Fekete was reappointed to the position of Director of Curriculum & Instruction for Watertown Public Schools, effective July 1, 2020 at an annual salary of \$138,744.

Mr. Timothy Fisher to the position of Senior Class Co-Advisor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid half the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$947.00.

Ms. Kathy Gaydosh to the position of Detention Monitor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, at an hourly rate of \$20.09.

Ms. Kathy Gaydosh to the position of Chemical Hygiene Officer at Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$3,428.00.

Mr. Angelo Gizzi Sr., to the position of Temporary Summer Maintenance for Watertown Public Schools, effective July 2, 2020 at an hourly rate of \$12.00.

Ms. Michelle Goldfarb to the position of Junior Class Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid half the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$539.50.

Ms. Laura Grzewinski to the position of Third Grade Teacher at Polk Elementary School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, hired on an annual contractual salary of \$72,400.00 Step 10, Sixth Year, per the Watertown Educational Association Contract.

Ms. Chelsie Guerrero to the position of Freshman Class Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid half the contractual stipend amount of \$539.50.

Ms. Mary Hathaway to the position of Science Coordinator for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$2,849.00.

Ms. Kelly Hynds to the position of Science Teacher at Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, hired on an annual contractual salary of \$51,873.00, Step 4, MA degree,

per the Watertown Educational Association Contract.

Mr. Bret Hodorski to the position of Computer/Technology teacher at Swift Middle School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, hired on an annual contractual salary of \$95,860.00, Step 16, Sixth Year, per the Watertown Educational Association Contract.

Mr. James Kleban to the position of Custodian for Judson & Polk Elementary Schools, effective July 8, 2020. He will be paid an hourly rate of \$22.11 per the Custodial Contract, Local 1049.

Ms. Kristian Kuegler to the position of Interact Club Coordinator at Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$2,308.00.

Ms. Marylou Kuegler to the position of Delta Club Co-Coordinator for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid half the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$769.50.

Ms. Marylou Kuegler to the position of Honors Cohort Team Leader for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$2,021.00.

Ms. Marylou Kuegler to the position of Social Studies Coordinator for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$2,849.00.

Mr. Michael Lewis to the position of Ninth Grade Team Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid half the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$1,010.50.

Mr. Michael Lewis to the position of English Coordinator for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$2,849.00.

Ms. Nicole Lewis to the position of SSP Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid half the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$1,250.00.

Ms. Nicole Lewis to the position of Delta Club Co-Coordinator for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid half the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$769.50.

Ms. Nicole Lewis to the position of Senior Class Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid half the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$947.00.

Ms. Nicole Lewis to the position of Systemwide Alternative Coordinator 9-12 for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$2,849.00.

Ms. Elizabeth Loughlin to the position of Student Council Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid half the WEA stipend amount of \$1,077.00.

Ms. Elizabeth Loughlin to the position of Link Crew Coordinator for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the WEA stipend amount of \$1,057.00.

Mr. Eric Lozaw to the position of Junior Class Co Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend amount of \$539.50.

Ms. Joan Miller to the position of Speech & Language Pathologist for Polk Elementary & John Trumbull Primary Schools, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, hired on an annual contractual salary of \$62,490.00, Step 7, Sixth Year, per the Watertown Educational Association Contract.

Ms. Bryanna Murphy to the position of Sixth Grade Science Teacher at Swift Middle School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, hired on an annual contractual salary of \$49,748.00, Step 3, MA degree, per the Watertown Educational Association Contract.

Ms. Rima Rahal to the position of Art Teacher at Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, hired on an annual contractual salary of \$68,861.00, Step 9, Sixth Year, per the Watertown Educational Association Contract.

Ms. Ashley Pettinato to the position of Best Buddies Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the contract stipend amount of \$2,308.00.

Ms. Ashley Pettinato to the position of SAGA Club Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the contract stipend amount of \$700.00.

Ms. Ashley Pettinato to the position of Systemwide Special Education Coordinator for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the contract stipend amount of \$2,849.00.

Mr. Roberto Rinaldi to the position of Mathematics Coordinator for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid the contract stipend amount of \$2,849.00.

Ms. Christine Sales to the position of SSP Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid half the WEA stipend amount of \$1,250.00.

Ms. Alexandria Sajda to the position of Seventh Grade Language Arts teacher at Swift Middle School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, hired on an annual contractual salary of \$49,748.00, Step 3, MA degree per the Watertown Educational Association Contract.

Officer Chip Schofield was reappointed to the position of School Security/Residency Officer at John Trumbull, Polk and Judson Schools, effective July 1, 2020 at an annual rate of \$45,000.

Mr. Sylvia Sheth to the position of Freshman Class Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid half the WEA stipend amount of \$539.50.

Ms. Sarah Simmons to the position of Systemwide Nurse Coordinator for Watertown Public Schools, effective for the 20-21 school year, to be paid the contract stipend amount of \$2,849.00.

Ms. Susana Simoes to the position of Detention Monitor at Watertown High School, effective for the 20-21 school year, to be paid an hourly rate of \$20.09.

Ms. Danielle Taylor to the position of Third Grade Teacher at Polk Elementary School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, hired on an annual contractual salary of \$61,783.00, Step 8, MA degree, per the Watertown Educational Association Contract.

Ms. Elese Taylor was re-appointed to the position of Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Central Office, effective July 1, 2020 at an annual rate of \$57,743.

Mr. Jeff Turner was reappointed to the position of Director of Technology for Watertown Public Schools, effective July 1, 2020 at an annual salary of \$126,744.

Ms. Elizabeth Veneziano to the position of School Social Worker for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, hired on an annual contractual salary of \$52,580.00, Step 3, Sixth Year, per the Watertown Educational Association Contract.

Mr. Bryan Wosczyzna to the position of Detention Monitor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-21 school year, to be paid an hourly rate of \$20.09.

Ms. Rhoda Zervos to the position of Freshman Class Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid half the contract stipend amount of \$539.50.

Extended School Year Programs at John Trumbull Primary School
Session 1-A – June 29 through July 23, 2020.

The following people have been appointed to paraprofessional positions, session 1-A. This is a sixteen-day program, total of forty-eight hours that will run Monday through Thursday. The salary for this position is per contract rate.

Kimberly Hailstones Jennifer Jalbert Lisa Warner

The following people have been appointed to teaching positions, session 1-A. This is a sixteen-day program, total of forty-eight hours that will run Monday through Thursday, at an hourly rate of \$38.00.

Maria Teixeira Paula Puma

The following person has been appointed to speech & language pathologist for the extended school year program/session 1-A at John Trumbull Primary School. The program will run two

days per week. The salary for this position is \$68.00 per hour.

Patricia Long-Smith

The following person has been appointed to school psychologist for the extended school year program/session 1-A at John Trumbull Primary School. This is a sixteen-day program, total of forty-eight hours, and the salary for this position is \$68.00 per hour.

Catherine Walsh

The following person has been appointed to social worker for the extended school year program/session 1-A at John Trumbull Primary School. This is a sixteen-day program, total of forty-eight hours, and an hourly rate of \$68.00.

Sofia Flamengo

Extended School Year Programs/Session 1-B at John Trumbull Primary School
June 29 through July 23, 2020.

The following people have been appointed to a teaching position, session 1-B. This is a sixteen-day program, total of seventy-two hours, Mondays-Thursday, at an hourly rate of \$38.00.

Michaela Morris

Susan Petrok

The following person has been appointed to the speech & language pathologist, session 1-B at John Trumbull Primary School. This is a sixteen-day program, total of seventy-two hours, Mondays-Thursday, at an hourly rate of \$68.00.

Susan Danaher

Extended School Year Programs/Session 2 at John Trumbull Primary School
August 3, 2020 through August 13, 2020

The following person has been appointed to a teaching position, session 2. This is an eight-day program, total of twenty-four hours Monday through Thursday, at an hourly rate of \$38.00.

Susan Petrok

The following person has been appointed to the speech & language pathologist position, session 2. This is an eight-day program, total of twenty-four hours Monday through Thursday, at an hourly rate of \$68.00. She will also work ten hours during the week of July 20-July 23, 2020.

Rachel Freimuth

The following person has been appointed to the school nurse position, session 2. This is an eight-day program, total of twenty-eight hours Monday through Thursday, at an hourly rate of \$38.00.

Ann Terzigni

2. **Transfers – (Information Only)**

None

3. **Resignations – (Information Only)**

Ms. Donna DeMeis from the position of Paraprofessional at John Trumbull Primary School, effective August 1, 2020 for the purpose of retirement. Ms. DeMeis has worked for the district for twenty-nine years.

Ms. Anna Proto from the position of Biology teacher at Watertown High School, effective June 30, 2020 for the purpose of accepting a position in another school district.

4. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Harrison – Good evening board members. You will see tonight that there are a number of appointments. These appointments are stipend appointments for the beginning of the school year. We also have our appointments for the extended school year for our Special Education students. We have been doing our regular ESY program since the start of the summer, but then we have an in person on Monday, August 3rd and we are very excited for that program to begin under the direction of Annette Dillon, who is our Interim Director of Special Services. Also, you will see a number of new appointments. Along with all of the work to reopen schools in the fall, the administrators and my office have been busy with hiring and bringing on new people to our staff. That is a very exciting time when you meet with professionals who will be directly engaging with our students. That is always moving our District Improvement Plan forward with clear and exciting lessons for students. That hiring process will continue as we move forward towards the start of the year. While we are on the subject of hiring, I do want to say a huge welcome to Kristin Raymond, who is our new principal at Judson Elementary School. This is her first official board meeting and also participating with us. We are excited to have her here and at the helm of Judson. We also have Gino Paiella, who is our new Facilities Manager, and he has jumped in and has been very busy getting up to speed with our district, working with our administrators on a re-entry plan, and also making contact with his many connections from other districts from his time before as a facilities manager. I'm excited to have him onboard and his expertise as we are really unpacking what the fall will look like for our students and staff.

The other thing that I wanted to share, was that there was a meeting today from the State Department of Education announcing a partnership with Columbia University's Center for Public Research and Leadership. That organization has been working in collaboration with some Superintendents across the state in connection with some of our teacher professional

unions to develop a remote learning framework. the focus of the remote learning framework is that it is equitable, high quality, and culturally responsive. We had an opportunity as a district to have a sneak peek of that work; I was one of the four Superintendents that had the opportunity to work with some of the folks from Colombia and putting that together. I was able to voice our experiences with distance learning this past spring, talk about some of the challenges, talked about some of the think lessons that we learned, and then it was really exciting to be able to read the draft of these documents to see how Watertown's experience was really directly impacting what that looks like and to know it will be adopted at the state level. We will continue to unpack that, and it will be part of our ongoing work as we are preparing to reopen this fall.

F. Communications – Secretary

Ms. Wilk – Ms. Crotty received a letter to the Board and will now read that into the record for us.

Ms. Crotty – I received a letter from a local group of residents and alumni called the Reflection Zone and it reads as follows:

“Hello all, I hope you and your loved ones are doing well and staying safe.

My name is Jayden Rameikas, I am a Watertown High School Alumni, class of 2018, who grew up in Oakville, and I am now entering my third year at the University of Hartford. I am emailing you on behalf of the Reflection Zone, a group of Watertown High School Alumni and Water-Oak residents who are dedicated to creating a more welcome and inclusive atmosphere in town. Let me first say that I am grateful for the work that each of you do for the students and parents of the Watertown-Oakville School District. That being said, I am reaching out because the members of the Reflection Zone would like to address and work to improve some concerns that myself and other alumni have from experiencing them first hand.

I have attached a list of questions that we have, because we know things may have changed since we graduated. We would also love to be able to meet with any of you, and/or the Board to discuss the answers to the questions. We are more than willing, in fact we are hoping, to work with you to create a more welcoming atmosphere for all of your students. We also know these things take time, and are understanding of that. This is a call to action for the members of this town and our elected officials to be sure that we as Water-Oak are inclusive and accepting of all people, and are willing to do the work to make our town a better place.

Hope to hear from you soon,

Jayden Rameikas

Reflection Zone Co-Executive Director

The questions are as follows: Actionable Steps to Make Our Schools More Inclusive

1. Does the Watertown School System actively and purposely include people of Color and LGBTQ+ people, culture, and history within the curriculum? Examples of this are including events such as Stonewall, the Tulsa Massacre, African history before slavery, and also may include purposely teaching about scientists, musicians, and authors who are of color and/or are LGBTQ+.
2. Do you allow teachers to separate students according to gender? Do you suggest that they

should use something else to group their students?

3. Do you have an available Gender Neutral or All Gender Restroom that is available to Students, Parents, and visitors, in addition to the Men and Women's restrooms?

4. Do you include LGBTQ+ related sex education in the sex education class? Do you include education on the Gender Spectrum?

5. Do you have a course that focuses on the history and culture of marginalized groups?

6. Have you considered changing the 'Indian' mascot to something that is not racially charged?

7. If the answer to any of the above questions is no, when would the board be available to discuss making these concepts a reality?

G. Items of Discussion

A. 2020 – 2021 School Calendar

Dr. Harrison – About a week ago, the Governor changes the regulations for schools' attendance for the year in reducing the requirement from 180 days a year to 177 days. The reduction in the number of days is designed to allow districts additional time to work with and engage their staff in professional learning in regards to the health and safety regulation and expectations for the fall and then also professional learning around instructional delivery and design. My recommendation to the Board is to delay the student start to the school year by three days so that all students in PreK – 9th will begin on September 1st and our 10th – 12th grade students will begin on September 2nd. We feel like this will be a well-used opportunity for our staff and will make our re-entry into the school year even smoother.

B. Watertown Public Schools Fall 2020 Re-Entry Plan Draft

Dr. Harrison - I want to start with a huge thank you. As you can imagine, working on this plan to reopen schools in the fall has been an enormous task that has had a great input from so many people across our community. There have especially been a lot of late nights and early mornings from our administrators and putting all of the ideas together and making sure that we are meeting the guidelines from the Connecticut State Department of Education; we are constantly reviewing the guidelines and recommendations from the CDC and also staying closely connected to our local Health Department, which is the Torrington Area Health District. this plan, which was sent to the state as part of our requirements on Friday, July 24th, and then shared with all of our community and families on Saturday. Just as a reminder, we had three Watertown School re-entry priorities that were developed by our School Re-entry Advisory Council and that was focusing on the health and well-being of our students, making sure that we were aligning logistics and operations to the Federal, State and local health guidelines and then digging into and looking into instructional delivery giving that teaching and learning is obviously the business that we are in and making sure that it is very strong for our students.

We received, at the end of June, guidelines from the State Department of Education and those six are listed here: They are: safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff; allowing all students the opportunity to return to school full time starting in the fall;

monitoring the school, students, and staff and, when necessary, potentially canceling classes in the future to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread; emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students and communities that are emerging from this historic disruption; fostering strong two-way communication with partners such as families, educators, and staff; and factoring into decisions about reopening the challenges to the physical safety, social-emotional well-being, and the mental health needs of our students when they are not in school.

Today, at a press conference, the Governor announced districts to have a little bit more flexibility around determining the best model for their start at the beginning of the school year based on the health data for that area. As it stands for us in Watertown, I will continue to work closely with our local Health Department, but based on where our data is right now, we are continuing to look forward to bring all of our students back in the fall. The way to do that and increase the health and safety of our students and staff is through these recommended safety protocols and mitigation strategies: social distancing, hand washing, all students and staff wearing a mask, advanced cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and spaces, and finally, cohorting are students in PreK through 8th grade.

The first thing that I want to talk about is the voluntary remote learning option. Any of our families who were concerned about starting their students in person in the fall will have the option to utilize this voluntary remote learning framework for their students instead of bringing them in face-to-face. I have put in the plans from things that parents should be thinking about, as this is a temporary option for parents. If a family decides to do remote learning, at the start of the school year, all of those students will be issued a device. We are working through what that instructional model will look like because it will likely be different at different grade levels based on student needs. One of the things that we are seeing, is that there will be some level of live streaming with instructions where students can be watching from home with what is happening in their classrooms and that was a combination of connecting our students to the Connecticut Learning Hub where there will be additional learning resources for students and families to work through. Some of the things that we worked through with guidance from the state and for families to note is that: the nature of the voluntary remote learning programming may not result in matching instructional hours 1:1 with an in-person learning model. Families who decide to opt into voluntary remote learning will also be expected to supervise and engage their children to fully and effectively access the remote learning programming that is offered through the public-school district. Should public health data support a changed approach, the policy directives from CSDE related to the provision of this option may change to determine there is no longer a need for this temporary option. Therefore, this option may not be available for the entire school year. The district will track attendance on a daily basis for students who opt in to remote learning. This tracking will be consistent with the State Board of Education's definition for attendance which states that "A student is considered to be 'in attendance' if present at their assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school for at least half of the regular school day." Students will be expected to access statewide assessments in-person, unless the assessments are available remotely. Overall, we are really encouraging families to let us know well ahead of time if they are interested in choosing this voluntary remote learning option. We will be sending some information home directly from the schools to our students. We were able to get some information from our families who responded to the last survey but, we need a better count as we are approaching the start of the school year.

The second piece that is really important is that because it is voluntary, even though families chose to start the year that way, that they may want to switch to in person; if that is the case they will notify their principles of the change, but we are also asking them to give us some additional planning time so that we can make sure there is space in a classroom, they have the materials that are needed for those students, and that we are able to have transportation in place.

There are three scenarios that are guiding the opening at the start of the school year. They are based on the spread of the Coronavirus over any particular time. If the risk level is low and low spread, we will begin with the in-person learning model. If it is moderate spread, we will begin in the hybrid learning model and if it is high spread, we will begin remotely. Those three models are not just about how we will begin, but we can move from one model to the next at any point during the school year based on what the health data looks like. Initially, our planning was just to be thinking about everyone across the state starting with the in-person model, but we learned today that districts will have a little bit more flexibility to look at the best model based on the health data related to our specific community. We are continuing to move forward with the plan of going back and green with the full in-person model. That model is a traditional schedule with all of the safety strategies in place; all students attending every day. Learning model for hybrid is where we have 50% of our students in the building at one time, while the other 50% of our students are learning at home with remote learning. We have divided our district into two groups: students are grouped by last name Group A (A-K) Group B (L-Z). Group A will attend M & Tu – In-Person while Group B is learning remotely. Group B will attend Th & Fr while Group A learns remotely and all students will be at home learning remotely on Wednesdays in the hybrid learning model, which will allow for additional time for our custodians to clean and disinfect the buildings between groups. We will repeat that cleaning process on the weekends after one group finishes and the next group starts on Monday. School capacity in the remote learning model shows that all schools are closed at that point. It is very similar in a capacity standpoint with the buses; in the green we are at the bus is being able to operate at full capacity with the implementation of specific safety protocols, in the moderate level, that reduces our capacity to about 50 or 60% with a bus monitor to ensure riders are perfectly spaced and the safety protocols are being implemented, and of course there is no buses with remote learning. One of the things we have is part of our plan at full capacity is to ensure that there are bus monitors in place at the green level as well as the moderate level. That is something that we are working on with First Student regarding some of the details related to that. The other two pieces that I wanted to talk about is that cleaning and sanitizing have been enhanced based on the CDC's guidance and at the moderate level, we will continue that with a deep cleaning on Wednesdays and on the weekend, and then of course on the high, no one is coming into the school. We would continue with the cleaning and sanitizing protocols even though we are not as focused on some of those high-touch areas because people are not in the building. Athletics for all three levels follows recommendations from CIAC related to their restrictions and protocols. Right now, we are planning on indoor and outdoor extracurricular activities to move forward during the low transmission spread. Should there be a need to move to the moderate level, all indoor activities and athletics will be suspended but we will continue with outdoor events, and then if we have to switch to remote learning, all athletics are suspended. The last note here just talks about as of today, June 27th, we are projected to open at the green level and I will

continue to work closely to monitor our infection rate and collaboration with the Torrington Area Health District.

Under health and well-being, there are a number of areas that I would like to talk through tonight to again, paint this picture of the overview of what things will look like. I have already mentioned that we want to have some additional training modules at the start of the school year using those three additional days to work with our staff. We will talk about hygiene protocols, donning and doffing PPE, procedures about reporting illness, social and emotional learning, social distancing, all of those pieces and working with all of our staff and then also doing a lot of training with our students once they come into the building. Things around social distancing, frequent hand washing, and use of face coverings. Teachers are also thinking about ways to share information, particularly with the younger students, ahead of time so that parents can begin reinforcing some of the strategies with their kids prior to the start of the school year. Our process for monitoring symptoms: temperature checks will not be required for students and staff or any approved visitors upon arrival. Instead we are engaging in passive and active screening to monitor symptoms. Passive screening means that students, staff and approved visitors must be screened before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit without having taken fever-reducing medications and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Students, staff and approved visitors should stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID 19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. In addition, schools will screen students, staff and approved visitors as they enter school. Active screening includes visual wellness checks and any necessary follow-up temperature checks with no-touch thermometers checking to ensure temperatures below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit. Students, staff and visitors will also be observed for illnesses including cough or respiratory distress, and may be asked about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test. Our school nurses and administrators will be working with all of our staff to lay out what are the things specifically that we should be looking for as far as any potential symptoms and making sure we are connecting closely with our Medical Advisor who is a local doctor, and our local health district. If there are any symptomatic students, based on the active screening throughout the day, those students will be sent to an isolation room. Each of our schools will be designating an isolation room specifically for students who have symptoms. They will stay there until a parent or guardian arrives to pick them up. Students who are symptomatic throughout the day will not go to the same nurse's office as a student who may have fallen and scraped their knee. The point is to keep them isolated. The person who will be supervising the isolation room will be equipped with the proper PPE and will be logging every person that walks into that room to ensure that we are able to use contact tracing and monitor symptoms going forward. The school nurse will make sure that all staff understands that any student that goes home with covid-19 related symptoms will not be able to return and will have to isolate at home until after 24 hours after the fever has broken with a note from their doctor or a documented negative covid-19 test. This is something we are taking very seriously in order to maintain the health and safety of all students and staff and their families at home as well. In our most recent committee meeting, we talked about increasing the number of nurses at each school so that there are at least two nurses; one nurse to cover the regular nurses office and another nurse that is able to be there to be dedicated for the isolation room so that there is no cross-

contamination. If staff members are any other adults that are in the building are symptomatic while they're in the building they will be asked to go home and follow the same protocol where they shouldn't return until they meet the criteria from the CDC related to home isolation. Any of our symptomatic staff members who have to be out of work because they are self-quarantining; there are additional options for them related to emergency paid sick leave that will not expire until December 31st. I will share additional information with our staff through our HR specialist.

Each school will have a containment plan and will establish a containment response team. That team should include the school nurse, the school principal, the district compliance liaison, who is Tom DiStasio. He will also participate as a member of those teams to make sure that there is good communication at the district level. At our committee meeting, we discussed that each school already has a crisis response team and that team also includes the same people but also includes the school counselor, social worker psychologist... and we felt for our district that for the containment response team and the crisis response team should be the same people. The team is focused on decreasing the risk of the spreading virus and helping with communication. Should there be any members of that school community who is displaying any symptoms oh, they will communicate that through the district. I will work directly with the Torrington Health District on contact tracing and determining scope of that concern and whatever the next steps are. That is if a student or staff member has a confirmed diagnosis. There is a mechanism in place to make sure there is good communication from the school to the district and in the district to the health department. The decision to suspend or close a school, or the entire school district, will be made by the Superintendent based on information and recommendations from Torrington Area Health District, the Medical Advisor and CDC guidance. If necessary, I will communicate with all staff and families, as well as to local and state officials that a school or the school district is shutting down for a time period (to be determined). One huge piece of keeping our students and staff safe is very simple. That is staying at home when you are sick. We are strongly encouraging our staff and students that if you are experiencing any of the symptoms located on this slide, it is important to stay home until you are asymptomatic or if you can confirm that you are not covid-19 positive. We do have a specific plan that we are working through with our high-risk employees. We did a survey to see, based on a number of categories, if they would be unable to return in the fall. We have that additional survey and then we will work with those individual people with the help of our HR specialist to talk about what other possibilities or accommodations that can be made for some of those high-risk employees. Will respond to each of those concerns on an individual basis and will be kept confidential. Tomorrow night's meeting we'll have comments and questions from the community and then I will be repeating a process with the staff on Monday and a virtual meeting so that they can ask any specific stop further questions as well. Each school building currently has at least one dedicated building substitute. When we start in the fall, each school will have at least two dedicated building substitutes in anticipation of but there might be more staff members who have to be out because they might be symptomatic or be required to self-quarantine. In addition to those building substitutes, we will also be working with our regular list of substitutes to make sure but all of them have the same training the all of our teachers have had around health and safety, and if they are clearly communicated and adhered to. Additionally, several of our schools have interns from local universities. We will also make sure that those people are trained. When necessary, we will use our

paraprofessionals and they will receive compensation at the rate that is indicated and their contract. Our goal is to limit, unless absolutely necessary, combining groups of students, particularly at the grade levels where we are working really hard to keep students in cohorts throughout the day. We want to make sure we are not mixing groups of students. Free and reduced lunch eligibility does not carry over from one school year to the next. Free and reduced lunch applications will be reviewed by the Food Services department and student eligibility will be updated in the point of sale system. The students who temporarily opt into voluntary remote learning in the fall who are in need of food service will receive breakfast and lunch via grab and go method. The meals will be provided at Watertown High School at a designated time. Should there be extended cancellation of school, Watertown Student Lunch will start the emergency feeding program and will serve breakfast and lunch to families daily.

Shifting to logistics and operations, I mentioned a compliance liaison. Based on the state guidelines, every district has to designate a compliance liaison and ours is Tom DiStasio, who is our Business Manager. He will work alongside our building administrators, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and the superintendent to address any issues or questions or concerns that come from families, staff and then also maintaining for ensuring that all the safety programs that we have in place are being followed and adhere to and working with our administrators to address any issues if they are not. We have designated a specific email so that if families or staff need to reach Tom directly and that is compliance@watertownps.org. I have already mentioned the shift in school days based on the governor's change from 180 to 177 which will give us three full days for PD at the start of the school year. As I mentioned, students will either start back on September 1st or September 2nd, with our teachers reporting back on August 24th. This is all pending Board approval. In order to accommodate transportation needs, such as the addition of buses to achieve social distancing and the increase in volume of student drop-off and pick-up due to COVID-19, school start and end times may be temporarily adjusted. Any changes to start and end times will be communicated well before the start of the school year to ensure staff members and families have ample time to prepare. I am looking to have a start and end times out to families next week.

Staff and student attendance and reasons for absences will be actively monitored and tracked in order to identify any trends that would suggest spread of illness, such as COVID-19. Watertown's current coding system for absenteeism in our student information system platform, Powerschool, will be modified and will include a code for COVID-19. Each building administrator along with the school's Containment Response Team will frequently review attendance data to identify students who are missing too much school in order to determine root causes for absenteeism and reverse the pattern of absenteeism. Attendance will be monitored across the three return to school scenarios: In-Person, Hybrid and Remote Learning Models. In the spring, we look at attendance based on student participation; should we have to shift remote learning going forward, attendants will be monitored a little bit more traditionally where students are marked present either for the day, or per class. So, jumping into masks and face coverings, all students and staff must wear a cloth, paper or disposable mask/face covering that covers the nose and mouth when inside the school building, with the exception of anyone that has a medical reason making it unsafe to wear a face covering. Students should plan to bring their own mask to school. In the event that a mask is lost or forgotten, the school will provide a disposable mask for that day. We will also

make sure that masks are available on the buses so that before a student enters the bus, they will be required to have a mask. If they don't already have one, they will be given one either the monitor or the driver. Students who have a documented illness that would impact their ability to wear a mask will be required to submit a doctor's note to the nurse's office. Additional information will be shared directly from each school. We would like a doctor's note because, for instance, we know that we have students that have asthma, but may not have had to use their inhaler in five years. Just because a student has asthma doesn't mean that it equates to not being held to the expectation of wearing a mask. Essentially, we will work closely with each of our families in order to work out the details of students who cannot wear a mask and then also putting some additional precautionary measures in place for students who may be in the same classroom as the student who does not have a mask on. I have been asked if a face shield qualifies as a mask oh, but it is clear in the guidelines from the state, that a face shield or face mask does not equivalent to wearing a mask. So there may be some students who may need to wear a face shield come or staff that may need to wear a face shield for instructional purposes, like a speech teacher so a student can see the teachers mouth, or if a teacher has on a face shield in addition to a mask, but it is important to note that they are not interchangeable so that our families are clear with what the expectation is for students. Masks/face coverings must: Be cloth, paper or disposable and can include multiple layers of fabric; cover the nose and mouth when inside the school building; fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; be secured with ties or ear loops, allow for breathing without restriction, be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape. Parents should have their child get used to wearing a mask prior to the start of the school year. We also get questions on mask breaks. Students will be provided with at minimum one five-minute mask break per class period. Classroom teachers will develop age/grade appropriate practices that ensure the following: students are facing the same direction; students are not engaged in discourse during a mask break; students are six feet apart from any other student also taking a mask break; masks will not need to be worn outside, when eating or when participating in PE. Social distancing will be increased during these times.

I have talked a little bit about bus expectations already but, just as a reminder all students and drivers must wear face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth while entering, exiting and riding the bus. Upon entering the bus, students will fill seats from the back row to the front. Upon exiting, students must unload from the front to the back. Procedures will be explicitly taught and reinforced with students. Drivers have been trained in health, safety and sanitizing protocols. Bus drivers will sanitize all seats and high touch areas between runs in accordance with the CDC Guidelines for Disinfecting Transport Vehicles. Our principals will be sending out instructions on the buses of loading and unloading very soon. You will receive a survey about buses as well and it is important that you respond to it as soon as possible. The more information that our administrators have, the more explicit their plans can be and the safer they can be to prepare for students. One of the mitigating factors we've already talked about is cohorts. In accordance with state requirements, elementary and middle school students have been assigned to specific cohorts, or groups of students. A cohort is a stable group of students and educators with consistent members that stay together throughout the school day to help mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. The classroom cohort will spend as much of the day together as a group as possible with a single teacher or with teachers of different subject areas meeting

the cohort in the cohort's assigned classrooms. In elementary school, each student's classroom or homeroom is their cohort and students will remain with this group for the day. Small group or individual pull out instruction will be permissible for services and/or intervention with appropriate sanitizing between groups and adherence to social distancing guidelines. Logs for pull out instruction will be maintained for the purposes of contact tracing. In the middle school, each grade level team has been divided into five cohorts and students will remain with this group for the day. In some instances, students may belong to a second cohort for Unified Arts. When possible, teachers will switch classrooms versus students. Small group or individual pull out instruction will be permissible for services and/or intervention with appropriate sanitizing between groups and adherence to social distancing guidelines. Logs for pull out instruction will be maintained for the purposes of contact tracing. Lastly, at the high school level, while cohorting is not feasible at the high school level because of the variety of classes students take, the daily schedules will reduce the number of times students move around the school. Classrooms and all other instructional spaces across all PreK-12 schools have been redesigned to maximize social distancing between desks, work stations and teacher proximity to students in accordance with the guidance provided by the CSDE. Additionally, some spaces within the school, including areas outdoors, weather permitting, have been repurposed for instruction. Administrators are looking to see what furniture needs to be pulled out of the classrooms to allow for more space, in some cases to bring in new students seating, or to reconfigure current students seating, to allow for more space. In the high school level, given that students will be shifting from classroom to classroom, they're working to fill time into the schedule to allow for some cleaning to happen between student groups so that students can assist with wiping down the desks before the new group comes in. We are also looking at creative outdoor usage of space, including tends to increase spacing and capacity, to using some of our larger common areas like the auditoriums to allow for more space for some of our larger classrooms or even our instrumental classrooms in case they need more space for wind instruments, for instance, or student singing. One thing we will not be doing, is any kind of map of our buildings or what the spacing looks like. That is to maintain the safety of our students and staff. We realize we are not just dealing with a global pandemic, but the world we are living in post Newtown, we want to make sure we are not providing any public floor plans to people outside of our school district.

Each school has developed a master schedule that maximizes social distancing, allows for frequent hand washing/sanitizing protocols and the disinfecting of shared spaces, equipment and materials. Each school building has floor markings to limit face to face passing in the hallways. Additionally, specific doors have been designated for entering and exiting. Hallway supervision has been increased to assist with keeping traffic moving in the hallways. Bathroom assignments have been designated in all schools based on proximity to instruction and cohorts, when applicable. Additionally, plans have been put into place to maximize social distancing, including signs and floor markings. A specific bathroom has been designated for the sole purpose of use by any staff or student sent to the Isolation Room due to the onset of COVID-19 like symptoms within the course of the school day. School principals in collaboration with the Director of Food Services have developed school-based plans for age and school appropriate meal distribution based on social distancing, physical location, student traffic and space availability. Several options have been explored and utilized dependent upon these considerations. These include but are not limited to:

keeping students in cohorts for lunch in Grades K-8; additional lunch waves to separate classroom cohorts; staggering cafeteria use throughout the late morning/early afternoon, increasing the number of meal service access points, serving meals in cafeteria and then returning to classrooms or alternate locations, serving meals in classrooms and alternate locations; separating cohorts from each other in the cafeteria or other spaces. School cafeteria and meal service plans will be adjusted based on level of concern of transmission. There will be no self-service buffets for food and condiments. Food service staff will wear face masks and face shields. Tables will be sanitized between lunch waves in accordance with CDC cleaning protocols. If meals are provided in classrooms or alternate locations, sufficient trash removal and cleaning will be in place. Each school principal has created a schedule for recess that includes supervision and ensures physical distancing to the highest extent possible. Recess equipment will be sanitized prior to recess waves and students will wash or sanitize hands before and after recess.

It is really good having Gino on board as our facilities manager. He has jumped right in and gotten up to speed on all of the CDC and Health Department guidelines related to cleaning and disinfecting the schools and then working with Tom on ordering the right equipment and materials and products that are needed and I'm working with principals to identify our high-touch services and making sure we have a plan in place for additional cleaning throughout the day. We are anticipating bringing on some additional custodians or anticipating overtime because they are playing a critical role in the safety of our entire community. We want to make sure we are in a position where we are not compromising the safety of our families, students and staff because of not having the right personnel. We are making sure that this is happening and that if there are any changes that we get from the state regarding cleaning expectations that we are able to implement them quickly to make sure to meet the needs of each of our schools. There is a list of green cleaning products and we're making sure that we are in compliance with the green cleaning law as well. We have talked about hand washing and we will have those protocols and place in addition to sanitizing stations around the buildings. The frequency is something we will be sharing with our staff at the training at the beginning of the year and with our students and it is based on CDC recommendations which are before, during, and after preparing food; caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea; before eating food, before and after treating a cut or wound, after using the toilet; changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste; handling pet food or pet treats; touching garbage. We took this language directly from the CDC and not that we expect to have students touching animals or feeding animals or handling animal waste, but we wanted to be sure to be consistent with that language from the CDC regarding the frequency of hand-washing. In communicating positive cases, it is hugely important and I know, at the top of everyone's minds. If we are notified that a student, faculty or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 who has been in a school previous to testing positive, we will notify members of the school community, engage with the Torrington Area Health District in contact tracing and quarantine individuals as necessary. Additionally, we may implement a short-term closure which could be 2 to 5 days. That allows for a deep cleaning if needed and a required consultation with the Health Department, for them to see the scope of the case and the potential impact and then gives us time to make a decision about that school or all schools as to when they will resume. I have received a question that if there is a positive case within

a cohort would we just close school for that cohort? Out of an abundance of caution, it would make much more sense not to close a small amount of children but to make sure we are taking the right precautions at the school level and then at the district level. I don't anticipate closing classes for just one cohort but looking at the totality of what the impact would be across the district. We want to make sure that we have open communication from our families to our schools, so in the same way that we have commitment to notify our families immediately if there is a positive case, we want our families to notify the schools if any students have come in contact with someone who is positive or that they have tested positive. That will allow us to work with the health department to determine any information or any recommendations around quarantining or closing schools and of course, it is important to note that we will maintain confidentiality and follow all of our HIPAA policies.

Access to the buildings by visitors/families will be extremely limited and only for specific educational purposes. Visitors with prior approval to enter the building will be instructed to self-screen before entering the school by checking to ensure temperatures below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent COVID-19. Examples of someone who is approved would be someone who had to come in for their child's PPT meeting and we would already know that that parent is coming in. If parents needed to drop things off for their students, we will have a process in place for each of our schools to limit the number of outside people who are coming inside the building and each school's main office will maintain a log for those visitors allowed into the building to facilitate contact tracing. The Superintendent or designee will review all requests for use of the schools – before and after school. There will be limited access to outside organizations' use of school sites and schools' resources after school hours to allow adequate time for cleaning and sanitizing. Community organizations (including those that sponsor before- or after-school childcare) that are allowed use of the facilities will be required to follow the district's health and safety plans, as well as the expectations of local health officials.

The last piece I want to talk about is related to instructional delivery. We have a four-step process for assessing students as they are coming back at the start of the school year. It is a good way to build on the knowledge some students in this past year to really prioritize connecting with students, building community with them, so you won't really expect to see any diagnostic testing happening school-wide on the first week of school. While we know there will be gaps and we want to work efficiently from an instructional standpoint to address those issues, we want to have a good balance between assessment and supporting our students mental and social/emotional well-being as well. Lisa Fekete will be working with all of our teams on laying out our instructional delivery plans and developing our professional learning for staff. We will continue with our focus on social/emotional learning and moving forward with our adoption of RULER as our structured framework around managing emotions, positive goals and feelings, and showing empathy for others. Teachers will begin the year with a focus on establishing classroom communities through the creation of a Charter. This was our pre covid-19 plan for the following this year so we're able to move forward with the focus on social/ emotional learning. Students with disabilities will be included in all re-entry plans and will have access to intervention and recovery learning opportunities afforded to students without disabilities as appropriate. We are being very careful to follow state and federal guidelines around students with disabilities to ensure we are maintaining and offering a free and appropriate public education.

I mentioned remote learning and adopting a remote learning framework. We will be developing our framework in collaboration with the state's partnership with Columbia University's research project that I mentioned. We will also use the lessons we learned during distance learning and learning from the things that went well and learning from the things that we want to improve upon. Our remote learning framework will increase the amount of live instruction for students; we will have sample schedules available for our teachers and our students to ensure we are engaging with students in a synchronous learning environment for approximately 75% of the day. This model will have some Flex time for staff to use to do small groups, to meet with students or even just providing some feedback, but we feel like the more we can communicate on the front end what the expectations are and what the framework looks like, it will positively impact our students and our staff as well.

Prior to the start of the year, each student will have a device I will be utilized for instruction in all three of the models. Of course, you see where technology comes into play with both the hybrid and remote, but we also envision increased use of instructional technology in the classrooms. This is so they can collaborate with each other virtually without having to be in close proximity to each other physically. We will be using technology as a way to achieve those goals. You will receive information on the distribution of the devices and expectation of the device use prior to the start of the school year. Just as a reminder, the decision to shift to remote learning will be made by the Superintendent in coordination with the Torrington Area Health District based on relevant health data.

Finally, our plan lays out the students' responsibilities and staff responsibilities... just simple reminders that will continue to drive home with all of our students and their families and with all of our staff... both lists are very similar: stay home if you're feeling ill; morning self-screening is required; making sure that you are wearing your mask and are adhering to expectations for mask breaks; maintaining social distancing; following the frequent hand-washing and hand sanitizing guidelines; and finally, one piece on transportation, students will not be allowed to switch buses. They may not switch from their assigned bus; in other words, if 2 students were planning on going to one house after school, in the past that student would be able to bring in a note from a parent, but that will not be allowed this year to make sure that our capacity on each bus is maintained.

H. Public Participation (Please state name, address and topic of discussion)

Kelly – via text – her question is regarding the buses being loaded back to front and then unloading front to back – has a concern that her children can't be seen if they are in the back of the bus. **A.** – That is something we will work through with our bus monitors, but also, as a reminder, if we normally would have K students in the front and they are now in the back, they will double check that no one has fallen asleep, that will be part of the protocols. The driver will also be moving about the bus throughout the routes to sanitize, which will assist with that as well.

Will cohorting affect busing as well if someone tests positive in a particular cohort? **A.** The cohorting is less about the closures and more about the contact tracing. We will maintain our bus lists to be able to include that in the work of contact tracing.

Teresa Baldwin – 91 Lexington Drive, WTN – Regarding passive screening, will families and parents be asked to sign an agreement that they will in fact be doing that so that it can be effective? **A.** Prior to the start of the year, we will be communicating with families with what the expectation are for the screening at home. We are also doing some work to make sure that any families that don't have access to a thermometer; we will try to assist with getting them one so they can screen at home. The logistics associated with filling out a daily form would potentially clog up the nurse's office or main office. It would not have the right outcome.

I. Covid – 19 Temporary Board Policy Changes – First Reading

New Policies

Policy Concerning Temporary Policies and Regulations Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic -

This new, temporary policy serves to explain the process of implementing and repealing temporary policies and identifies the requirement of the school district to comply with federal and state laws, regulations and guidance as related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Policy Concerning Health and Safety Protocols Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic - This new, temporary policy authorizes the administration to develop appropriate health and safety protocols to safeguard the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Importantly, the policy requires the administration to provide appropriate and clear notice of these protocols to students and staff.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) – NEW - This new policy tracks the requirements of the FFCRA concerning employee leave for reasons relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy will sunset on December 31, 2020, in accordance with federal law.

Temporary Policy Changes

Green Cleaning Programs - The temporary revision clarifies that disinfectants and sanitizer may be used by the schools in accordance with the green cleaning statute and a recent memorandum from the Department of Administrative Services.

Use of School Facilities - In accordance with the recent state guidance, the temporary revisions provide flexibility to the administration to limit or restrict the use of school facilities by private and community organizations. These revisions also require compliance with health and safety protocols by any private or community organization that is permitted to use school facilities.

Visitors - The temporary revisions allow the administration flexibility to limit or restrict non-essential visitors into the school buildings, and require any visitors to comply with the school's health and safety protocols.

Volunteers - The temporary revisions allow the administration flexibility to limit or restrict non-essential volunteers into the school buildings, and require any volunteers to comply with the school's health and safety protocols.

Employment Checks - The policy was revised to indicate that timelines regarding state and national criminal record checks may be modified by the district in accordance with any executive order issued by the Governor or any order issued by the Commissioner of Education that is related to the COVID-19 pandemic or public health emergency.

Use of District Computer Systems - The policy and regulations were revised to clarify the board's responsibility relative to computer systems. Specifically, the revisions clarify that the board has installed computers and a computer network (including Internet access) on board premises and may provide other electronic devices that can access the network, but does not necessarily provide computers and Internet access in locations other than the board premises. The regulations and notice regarding electronic monitoring were also revised to specify that employees are expected to exercise appropriate judgment and may be monitored electronically when engaged in remote teaching or use of a digital teaching platform.

Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism - The temporary revisions to this policy require schools to actively monitor student absences and collect data concerning medical absences to allow the district to identify trends that would suggest the spread of illness, such as COVID-19, in accordance with state guidance. Note that we anticipate receiving additional guidance from the State Department of Education concerning attendance and students who do not attend school during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health Assessments - The Health Assessments policy has been temporarily revised to address recent Department of Public Health guidance. Specifically, the revisions implement flexibilities in the timing for required health assessments upon initial entry to school, in either 6th or 7th grade, and in either 9th or 10th grade. Of note, the Department of Public Health has not at this time relaxed or otherwise amended the immunization requirements for school attendance.

Student Discipline - The temporary revisions to this policy clarify that students may be disciplined, including suspended or expelled, for failing to comply with the school's health and safety protocols developed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The revisions further provide that expulsion hearings may be held virtually if physical presence in school is limited or restricted.

Transportation - This policy was temporarily revised to provide that the district will request that parents volunteer to transport their children to school, in accordance with state guidance. The revisions further clarify that parents are responsible for the safety of their children while walking to and at the bus stop, which includes following health and safety rules.

Use of District Computer Systems - The policy and regulations were revised to clarify the board's responsibility relative to computer systems. Specifically, the revisions clarify that the board has installed computers and a computer network (including Internet access) on board premises and may provide other electronic devices that can access the network, but does not necessarily provide computers and Internet access in locations other than the board premises. Similarly, the policy was amended to clarify that the board will implement technology protection measures (e.g., filtering technology) for board-owned computers or devices and board-provided Internet access, to the extent practicable. Finally, the regulations were amended to reflect current federal and state statutory definitions unrelated to COVID-19.

Use of Privately Owned Technological Devices by Students - The policy was revised to reflect that privately owned technological devices, including desktop computers, may be used during instructional time if specifically permitted by instructional staff or necessary to access a digital learning platform or remote learning. The policy was also revised to reflect that the improper use of such technology is prohibited when utilized for school or at a school-sponsored activity, that searches of privately owned devices can only occur if such devices are on school property, and that reports of theft, loss or damage to such devices can be made if the suspected incident occurred on school property or at a school-sponsored activity.

Meeting Conduct - This bylaw has been temporarily revised to permit a board of education to

convene virtually and to limit or restrict public comment during virtual board meetings.

Model Annual Notifications - The annual notifications document was revised to include temporary changes to the student discipline notice and the employee notice of electronic monitoring. The annual notification document was further revised to include the required employee notice under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFRCA).

J. Committee Reports:

Curriculum and Instruction Committee, Ms. Cathie Rinaldi, Chair - No
Policy and Labor Committee, Ms. Janelle Wilk, Chair – Yes

We just reviewed the Covid-19 temporary policies. Board members are asked to review them over the next two weeks and we will vote at our next meeting.

Budget and Finance Committee, Ms. Diane Bristol, Chair – No
Facilities/PBC/Operations Committee, Mr. Thomas Lambert, Chair – No
Governance and Community Engagement Committee, Mr. Robert Makowski, Chair – Yes

Just a reminder that there is a special meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. will Dr. Harrison and the Board will be talking in more detail about the re entry plan as we know it. We encourage parents to join to stay up to date on what we know and what Dr. Harrison and his team are doing.

K. Report from the Board Chair

Ms. Crotty – I just want to mention that CAFE is hosting the 10th Annual CAFE Summer Leadership Conference for Superintendents and Board Members. If you are interested, please contact me. There are six sessions. I am attending all six over the next two weeks. They are 75 minutes, three days a week, for two weeks. Tomorrow we have the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Education joining us. I also want to send out a thank you.... we tend to make sure that the staff know, cabinet members, the Superintendent and everyone at Munson House know how much we appreciate the work that they are doing and we try to do that often and with sincerity. I don't know how to do that even bigger now. The work that our Superintendent and his cabinet and the principals have been doing in preparation for the state mandated report that had to be in last week, and then continuing to prepare for re entry in September and also for our teachers in August, has been extraordinary. I don't think any of us could even imagine the number of things that are being thought about or planed or implemented on a level that has never, ever, been expected of Superintendents and teachers and administrators and paraprofessionals and cafeteria workers and custodians. It is just exceptional. On behalf of the Board, I just want to thank you for the work that you are doing and you continue to do, and know that you have all of our support.

L. Action Items – Adoption of Items to be Approved by Consent

Agenda Item: L.1
Subject: Consideration to Approve a Change to the 2020-2021 Watertown Public Schools Calendar Regarding the First day of School for Watertown Students

Motion Presented By: Ms. Rinaldi
Motion Seconded By: Ms. Rosa

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the updated 2020/2021 School Year Calendar that includes three covid-19 related professional development days and student start date of September 1, 2020, as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion Passes

M. Future Agenda Items and Board Members Comments

Ms. Rinaldi – Asked for an update on the turf fields to be given at the next meeting.

N. Public Participation (Please state name, address and topic of discussion)

None

O. Adjournment

Agenda Item: O.1
Subject: To adjourn the meeting

Motion Presented By: Mr. Makowski
Motion Seconded By: Ms. Bristol

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that we adjourn.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindi Davidson
Recording Secretary

Janelle Wilk
Secretary of the Board