

Bryan County Schools

Board of Education

Regular Board Meeting

Location: Richmond Hill High School – East Cafeteria
1 Wildcat Drive
Richmond Hill, GA

Date: July 23, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM

I. Call to Order

- All members present.

II. Moment of Quiet Reflection – Karen Krupp

III. Pledge of Allegiance – Pamela Gunter

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Dennis Seger Second: David Schwartz Action: Unanimous

V. Superintendent Updates – Dr. Brooksher

- Our website has changed recently with many updates.
- Dates for the public hearings for the board called work session have been sent out via e-mail. Public hearings will be held so we can listen to any public input regarding the proposed FY2021 budget.
- GHSA lifted their student number requirements for participation and this will continue to be monitored.

VI. Approval of Minutes

a. June 18, 2020 – Called Work Session (Attachment #1)

Motion: Dennis Seger Second: David Schwartz Action: Unanimous

- b. June 25, 2020 – Regular Board Meeting (Attachment #2)

Motion: Dennis Seger Second: David Schwartz Action: Unanimous

VII. Administration

- a. Approval of the Interim June 2020 Financial Report

Motion: Pamela Gunter Second: A.D. Smith Action: Unanimous

- b. Approval of the FY2021 Tentative Budget

Motion: Pamela Gunter Second: A.D. Smith Action: Unanimous

- c. Approval of the FY 2020 Budget Amendment

Motion: David Schwartz Second: Pamela Gunter Action: Unanimous

- d. Approval of the Spending Resolution for August 2020

Motion: A.D. Smith Second: David Schwartz Action: Unanimous

- e. Adoption of the Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar

Motion: Dennis Seger Second: Karen Krupp Action: Unanimous

- f. Approve the following donations to Frances Meeks Elementary School:

i. From the Randy Bocook Real Estate Team - \$1,000.00

ii. From Mr. Brian Barrett - \$1,000.00

iii. From the Coastal GA Real Estate/Teresa Cowart Team - \$250.00

iv. From Niki Midgett with The Wellspring Group - \$250.00

v. From Amy Eubank with Fathom Realty - \$250.00

- vi. From Melanie Kramer with Kramer Consulting Group - \$250.00
- vii. From Linda Woods with PAGE - \$100.00 VISA Giftcard
- viii. From The Hupman Real Estate Group – \$250.00
- g. Approve a donation to Ms. Tawauna Dixon and Bryan County High School from Donor's Choose - \$968.00

Motion: Dennis Seger Second: Marianne Smith Action: Unanimous

VIII. Personnel Agenda

Motion: Dennis Seger Second: David Schwartz Action: Unanimous

IX. Bryan County Schools Reopening Plan Update

- Dr. Brooksher updated the board on the reopening plan with highlights as follows:
 - We feel like offering a choice to our parents is important.
 - Our budget is meeting a 6 million dollar deficit from state funds.
Because of this, we are unable to hire additional teachers for e-Learning purposes. We will be working with our current teachers to fill these e-Learning teaching positions.
 - A fast turnaround for e-Learning registration was necessary because of the impact it will have on school schedules. However, a recommendation was made to the board to extend the registration deadline for e-Learning to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, July 26th.

- Because we are in a pandemic, it is not reasonable to believe we will be able to meet every parent's individual expectation for their child.
- We posted reopening FAQ's to our website that helps answer many of the questions being asked.
- We've had many students transitioning from e-Learning to face-to-face instruction.
- Once decided if a student is going to return to school as an e-Learner or face-to-face, they will be required to stay as enrolled for a semester at a time.
- We have registered approximately 1,329 students for e-Learning.
- We are one of eight school systems in the First District RESA who are not allowing extracurricular activities for e-Learning students.
- The e-Learning option was created for students whose parents have safety concerns for their child. This is one of the factors that impacted why e-Learning students should not participate in extracurricular activities and once school begins, mitigating safety measures for these activities will be at a minimal. Athletes will be in an unrestricted setting in close contact with other students.
- Local school boards have the authority to decide who is able to participate in extracurricular activities and GHSA does not require e-Learning students to participate.

- We received a little over \$700,000.00 in funds from the CARES act to off-set our \$6 million dollar deficit, with an increase in spending for items necessary to have during the pandemic.
- We feel the right thing to do to keep our staff and students safe is to require everyone to wear masks in schools. We will be asking teachers to take mask breaks with their students when social distancing is an option. We are asking parents to help support this effort of their child wearing masks. It is essential for our staff to stay safe and healthy.
- Advanced content and STEM are not required services, however, we will be asking teachers to help enrich their classroom environments to help meet expectations of an advanced content or STEM model.
- Gifted services are looking at being provided because this is a required service. This service could look different for e-Learners.
- AP classes for our high school students will be an option. For honors courses; we have to wait to see how many students are signed up for honors courses to determine how those will be offered.
- Counselors will make sure they are helping our students earn credits needed towards graduation. If it is a CTAE pathway for example, we may need to adjust a student's schedule.
- For our parents present, all of our principals are on site to help answer any questions you may have.

- Thank you to all of our parents for their patience and partnership. If we do not partner in this together, our school system will be difficult to open and to continue staying open.

X. Listen to Public Comment

- Ms. Kejo Bryan Carby spoke concerning the general process of our schools re-opening.
- Ms. Erin Mungo spoke concerning e-Learning students being excluded from extra-curricular activities.
- Mr. Edward Fulford spoke concerning the e-Learning class format and if it is going to be live, interactive or lecture. Also how AP and Honors courses will be handled.
- Ms. Alicia Lee spoke on the benefits of allowing parents to decide if their child should wear a mask and not be required to do so.
- Ms. Marianne McGinnity spoke concerning general re-opening guidelines regarding SEEK, gifted, and STEM courses.
- Ms. Marjorie Solomon spoke concerning the parameters of symptoms and at what point should you keep your child home.
- Ms. Katie Peltier spoke concerning e-Learning students being excluded from extra-curricular activities.
- Ms. Kristal Pfeiffer spoke concerning athletics and STEM program offerings.
- Ms. Venus Guess spoke concerning e-Learning students being excluded from extra-curricular activities.

- Mr. Chris Samuels asked the question of how we would evaluate new cases per day and at what point it would impact schools staying open.
- Ms. Candace Randolph spoke concerning testing for students and transportation.
- Ms. Francisca Dearman spoke concerning e-Learning students being excluded from extra-curricular activities.

XI. Board Member Comments

- Immediately following, the board will transition into Executive Session.

There are no other items on the agenda and the board does not intend to take any additional action tonight; they will only return to adjourn the meeting.
- Additional questions can be answered by our principals on site following the meeting.
- Ms. Amy Murphy read a prepared statement on behalf of the board.

XII. Executive Session – Personnel

Motion: Dennis Seger Second: David Schwartz Action: Unanimous

Motion: Dennis Seger Second: David Schwartz Action: Unanimous

XIII. Adjourn

Motion: Dennis Seger Second: David Schwartz Action: Unanimous

Signed:



Paul T. Brooksher, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Approved:



Amy Murphy
Board Chairman