BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING (Monday, July 20, 2020)
Generated by Victoria Handy on Thursday, July 23, 2020

Members present
Brian DeSesa, Alex Kriegsman, Sandi Kruel, Susan Schaefer, Jordana Sobey, Chris Tice, Yorgos Tsibiridis (6:33 PM)

Meeting called to order

1. MEETING OPENING

Action: 1.1 Call the Meeting to Order and Roll Call
Motion to call the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

Motion by Chris Tice, second by Jordana Sobey.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: Brian DeSesa, Alex Kriegsman, Sandi Kruel, Susan Schaefer, Jordana Sobey, Chris Tice
Not Present at Vote: Yorgos Tsibiridis

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Presentation: 2.1 Pledge of Allegiance

3. PUBLIC INPUT 1

Information: 3.1 Guidelines for Public Input

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
Discussion: 5.1 COVID Task Force and School Opening
Jeff Nichols, Superintendent, updated the board on changes since the July 7, 2020. The Department of Health issued guidance on July 13, 2020 on the reopening of schools. New York State Education Department released their guidance on July 16, 2020 which the school's attorneys are reviewing. Two Task Force meetings have been held, and they are preparing a survey to gauge what the community's thoughts are regarding re-opening.

Sandi Kruel, Board Member, stated that she believes as a parent the school failed the older children as depression, drinking and drugs will increase. Mrs. Kruel stated that all students deserve in school learning and there are possibilities to a spread out students.

The Task Force, approximately 20 members representing all three schools, created a sub committee consisting of six members of the Task Force who will be charge of a survey which is fluid right now. Nancy Hallock, President of the PTSA, and Chase Mallia, teacher and TASH union representative, spoke on behalf of the sub-committee. The survey, which is short with only nine questions to maximize parent involvement, is designed regardless of how many children in the school each family has. Board member Chris Tice thanked everyone on the Task Force and asked questions regarding the survey and recommended the survey be for each child as each grade level brings different concerns. Mr. Nichols stated if we commit to social distancing, review the square footage of each classroom, that we are looking at 10-12 desks per classroom and therefore all students cannot fit at once. Mr. Nichols feels it will be K-6 every day (elementary) and 7-12 grades will be every other day (middle school/high school). Susan Schaefer, Board Member, thanked the Task Force but stated she feels it should be all students back or none and asked about using the gymnasiums. Alex Kriegsman, Board Member, stated that whatever approach we use, the more students brought into the schools together the more the virus will spread and whatever is done there will be significant downsides. Mr. Kriegsman suggested that when the public speaks at the meeting on the topic of reopening that they not criticize ideas but rather share suggestions instead.

Brian DeSesa, Board President, opened up the discussion to the public:

The following community members spoke about the reopening of schools:

India and Peter Ramundo

Chris Alotta, a member of the Task Force.

Jeffrey Ziglar

Rebecca Indri stated that if there is remote learning in the fall, it needs to be better and other public schools were doing full days and going by the school bell schedule.

Matt Malone, Elementary Principal, and Brittany Carriero, Middle School Principal, answered some questions presented.

Cynthia McKelvey stated they experienced some great interactions with teachers and had some wonderful and positive experiences with distance learning. Mrs. McKelvey asked if the building is being prepared now as good as possible in terms of filters, ventilation, etc. Mr. Nichols replied that machines have been ordered to help filter air as well as inquiries on renting tents.

Sophie Holland asked what does online learning look like for younger students and Mr. Malone spoke on the Elementary learning.

Thomas McErlean stated one of his children had tough time with distance learning due to lack of socialization, however his other child excelled with distance learning. Mr. McErlean asked if there will be increased counseling available for students who are struggling through the pandemic.
Brian DeSesa replied that mental health is a concern, and he asked that be brought back to the Task Force. Nancy Hallock stated that the social and emotional well-being is a concern of the Task Force and is on their radar. Attendance will be mandatory for classes in distance learning and the social and emotional piece is important and also that the logistics of making the in-person schedules work is complicated.

Ledia Dworking spoke on the reopening

Daphne Theotcatos asked how realistic is it to plan a full-time remote learning now just in case we have to transition back to remote learning at some point during the year. Mr. Nichols replied that they are planning for remote learning in case it is needed, and will most likely have to at some point, but it will be better with fewer glitches going forward.

Helen Roussel had sent in a letter to the board stating that the school has done a great job with remote learning, it will take a great deal of

training and social and emotional well-being is a priority. Ms. Roussel also spoke about technology during the pandemic.

Adam Drusell spoke about going back and forth between in person and distance learning, so having flexibility is important in the plan.

Brian DeSesa read the chat comments.

Chris Tice asked if the superintendent or task force could highlight how the Special Education and ENS populations will be supported. Mr. Nichols stated that they prioritize in person instruction for those students, and they can come in to school regularly to receive services.

Sandi Kruel asked if the school is working with TASH on how to improve online learning. Mr. Nichols replied that the Director of Technology has been working on adding items for TASH to use for online learning and the first week of school and may be used for professional development.

Chris Tice asked how classes requiring more hands on work, such as science labs, will be addressed. Mr. Nichols replied that New York State came out with guidance with ongoing flexibility, and we will have to work within the guidelines with the state.

Brian DeSesa read the online questions:

Allison Corcoran asked with the influx of community residents do you see any issue with capacity?. Mr. Nichols stated that we have had an influx of 27-28 families as of Friday, and they are new residence to the Sag Harbor District. The second group is those expressing interested in paying tuition and is between 30-40 families. The Board of Education will have to decide what to do with the tuition payers within the next few weeks.

Jordana Sobey, Board Vice President, stated that we have to be flexible and parents can make their own personal decisions.

Jenny Princer asked if there is an across the board standard for each grade and teacher in terms of zoom classes, curriculum, and daily schedule because the distance learning this past spring was very inconsistent.

Amy and Peter Ramundo asked if face shields will be allowed.

Allison Yarrow inquired about the survey timeline.

Diane Wayne stated that the survey questions should be more detailed about masks.

Allison Corcoran asked if we can use the gym for classrooms.

Wendy Flanagan inquired about alternative days.

Jeffrey Ziglar spoke on reopening.

Rebecca Indri commented on reopening.

Nancy Hallock inquired how will remote learning look differently?

Helen Roussel inquired about HEPA filters. If not, people outside could breathe the unfiltered exhaust and only HEPA filters would work and believes that is what is recommended by Albany.

Diane Wayne inquired when will the survey come out.

Marie Weller inquired about back to in-person schooling and what happens if students are absent due to Covid symptoms, how do they make up the work?

Mr. Nichols stated it is appropriate to put the expectation on families to check daily and the school's responsibility is to set up a questionnaire.

Chris Tice spoke about the current hiring process. Mr. Nichols has not thought about reclassifying the positions and will have to think on doing that and the board will probably have to meet again to decide before July 31, hopefully the survey will go out tomorrow and come back in a few days.

Discussion: 5.2 Board Goals
Mr. Nichols identified 3 tentative goals for 2020-2021 and they are:
1) Covid 19: Planning for all the scenarios, reopening, contingency plans, improved remote learning, and meeting students' needs both socially and emotionally.
2) Diversity and Educational practices.
3) The Sag Harbor Learning Center. Retaining Wall is under construction now, and we will be able to use the Learning Center for use for social distancing and keep the facility in focus.

Discussion of District Goals:
Helen Roussel (very inaudible input) suggested there should be a committee to set academic goal for the school district during Covid. Jeff Nichols responded that academic goals are already established under the New York State guidelines, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement and other agencies that we work under despite Covid 19.

Board comments and thoughts on District Goals Setting input:
Chris Tice asked if there will be a specific board setting goals meeting and Brian DeSesa said there will be a board setting goals meeting.

Jordana likes the simplicity of having 3 straight forward goals with what is going on right now.

Discussion: 5.3 Board Committees
Brian DeSesa stated that committees will not be chosen tonight that it was just a discussion. Mr. Nichols stated that he looked at the committees and after careful review he did not come up with any consolidation ideas given the scope and task of each committee, and he recommended the board tighten up the attendance of the committees and adhering to the charters. Formalize the taking and posting of the notes to the clerical unit and have clericals be compensated for the task. Brian DeSesa stated for importance of consistence to get the minutes up and posted to the website and would be supportive of the idea, if there is an efficient way to do that, and he is stilling waiting to hear what committees the board members want to join. Susan Schaefer and Chris Tice stated they support the recommendation of the superintendent regarding committees. Ms. Tice stated that some committees may be less relevant right now and recommends they focus more on the matters at hand right now. Brian DeSesa stated that getting the information out there is important and have the superintendent have the clericals do the notes and minutes. Jordana Sobey agreed with the committees and minutes and also stated that there are four members are on the audit committee meeting and therefore form a quorum when they meet and all audit committee meetings be posted on Boarddocs. Alex Kriegsman agreed with minutes and

had no comments on committees. Yorgos Tsibiridis and Sandi Kruel agreed with minutes and committees comments.

Discussion: 5.4 Future Scheduled Board Meetings
Brian DeSesa discussed with the board when to host a one-day Board Retreat and either do it virtually in August or wait and possibly do it in person in September. Yorgos Tsibiridis stated he was open to either. Sandi Kruel stated that she really believes it should be in person and the board meetings should also be in person, and she would rather have a quality retreat in person in September. Mrs. Kruel also stated that several board members will be taking their children to college and may need to quarantine upon their return. Mrs. Kruel would like to see the school get back to Educational Meetings that are strictly for education information and presentations.
Alex Kriegsman feels any meeting in person right now would be a bad idea. This is better for the public with the comments for them to participate via zoom, and he would hate to bring administrators into the school and risk them getting sick. The board retreat is person isn't as bad but a board meeting in person is not good.
Susan Schaefer is for having meetings in person giving social distance would love to have the retreat in person. This meeting was great with the public but is great doing in person. Ms. Schaefer is in favor of having public meetings.
Chris Tice stated that if we return to the library with a hybrid situation. Admins are in the building every day, and we have a library is large enough to accommodate the board members and many administrations. If we are having kids and students going in the building then we should be able to go into the school for meetings. The retreat in person will be much more impactful than having it remotely. Yorgos Tsibiridis understands the value of meeting in person, and they will follow social distancing and feels it would be more productive in person but would wait it out and see how things go. Jordana Sobey stated she is fine doing a retreat at any point and if it is in person she would prefer that it be outside. Mrs. Sobey stated that she does not plan on attending a board meeting in person any time soon. Jeff Nichols shared his thoughts and stated that there is a significant difference between the return to school vs in person board meeting is a significant difference. Return to school is not best practices for protecting everyone. We are doing it out of a necessity and recognize that kids suffer from remote learning socially and emotionally because we think it is necessary. To go from a remote board meeting to in person meeting he does not see the same correlating benefit that justifies going back to warrant the switch to in person meetings at this time. The remote meeting tonight had great participation.

Discussion: 5.5 FOIL-Communications with Syntax-notice procedures
Sandi Kruel stated the Committee for Communication was dissolved about two or three years ago because we were told the committee was not necessary. Mrs. Tritt had informed the board that Syntax was not receiving as much information as other schools were receiving. The more information we get out to the public the less work to have to answer later. Brian DeSesa stated getting information out on a quicker basis helps out and the board members were in agreement to get as much information out as quick as possible.

6. PUBLIC INPUT II
Information: 6.1 Guidelines for Public Input II
Brian DeSesa, Board President, read the following emails:

Good morning all.

I have been meaning to write and then this article popped up spurring me to do so.

There has been this amazing architectural workshop via Peter Solow and Architect Maziar Behrooz. They have been meeting since the fall and still working now to re-image the courtyard. I think they are close to building a model. I have seen some students work. It's great.

Is there any chance we can have a courtyard ready in the fall? So far Peter has kept it all in the Reutershan trust budget.

Now more than ever it feels important to have that space ready. My family would be happy to donate tall grasses if that works into the plan. And of course a tree or 2 or we can discuss what is needed in that department.

I just wanted to check in with everyone on that.

Thank you so much.

Jill Musnicki.

Hello everyone.
Thank you, Jill, for putting discussion of the Courtyard on the table.I think it's an outdoor resource that if developed effectively could greatly benefit our district as we try to address the challenges of the pandemic.It's a very large space . There are both short terms and long term solutions for development of the space.
Maziar and the kids are in the process of creating a design for the long term development of the Courtyard.We worked on this throughout the time we were teaching at a distance.It envisions a multipurpose space with designated functions in different areas. I've attached several illustrations of our work in progress.We're having an architectural model of our foundational design made this summer to use in our continued design development . Again this is a long term solution.It was not specifically created to address the needs of the school associated with our current situation but strangely is somewhat applicable.I have also included several pictures of the existing Courtyard.

Importantly, short term, I believe at minimal expense, we could develop a short term plan to use at least a significant portion of the courtyard (two/three areas) for instruction and other purposes in line with CDC guidelines (physical distancing etc.). They are segregated from each other. If we move quickly the short term plan could be in place by September.
Again please look at the attached photos and designs and illustrations.
If I can be of any help please let me know.
Thanks,
Peter
(Peter Solow)

Brian DeSesa asked Jeff Nichols to look into this. Jeff Nichols spoke to Peter Solow and Jeff just needs to know whether there are any permitting issues and the scope of the maintenance.

Mr. DeSesa asked for any more comments. There were none.

7. POTENTIAL ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED
Action: 7.1 TABLED: Approve settlement, supplemental agreement and contract extension with Montauk Bus Services Inc.
Be it Resolved that the Board of Education tables the following resolution to an upcoming meeting: Be it Resolved that the Board of Education approves the settlement, supplemental agreement and contract extension with Montauk Bus Company.

Motion by Sandi Kruel, second by Chris Tice.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: Brian DeSesa, Alex Kriegsman, Sandi Kruel, Susan Schaefer, Jordana Sobey, Chris Tice, Yorgos Tsibiridis

8. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION
Action: 8.1 Convene into Proposed Executive Session
Motion to convene into a proposed executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment of a particular employee and discussion of a contract 9:13 p.m.

Motion by Jordana Sobey, second by Chris Tice.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: Brian DeSesa, Sandi Kruel, Susan Schaefer, Jordana Sobey, Chris Tice

Action: 8.2 Adjourn from Executive Session
Motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 10:15 PM.

Motion by Sandi Kruel, second by Chris Tice.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: Brian DeSesa, Alex Kriegsman, Sandi Kruel, Susan Schaefer, Jordana Sobey, Chris Tice, Yorgos Tsibiridis

9. ADJOURNMENT
Action: 9.1 Adjourn Meeting
Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:16 PM.

Motion by Sandi Kruel, second by Jordana Sobey.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: Brian DeSesa, Alex Kriegsman, Sandi Kruel, Susan Schaefer, Jordana Sobey, Chris Tice, Yorgos Tsibiridis

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: July 23, 2020

Victoria Handy, District Clerk