

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Well-Being Committee met in regular session on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at Middlefield Memorial School.

BOE/committee members present: Mr. Moore Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Olszewski, Mrs. Caramanello (via Google Meet), Dr. Friedrich (via Google Meet) and Mr. Roraback (via Google Meet)

BOE/committee members absent: None

Student advisors present: Nora O'Connell and Gage Rovelli

Teacher advisor present: Mrs. Schaefer

Administration present: Dr. Serino and Mr. Petronio

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hick made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Moore made a motion to amend the agenda by moving Sports Update to Item 5 and moving Equity and Addressing Systemic Racism to the next meeting. Dr. Friedrich seconded the motion to amend the agenda.

In favor of approving the agenda as amended: Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore and Mr. Roraback. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich to approve the minutes of May 26, 2020, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes as presented: Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore and Mr. Roraback. Motion carried.

Sports/after school activities/clubs

No clubs are meeting in-person at this time. Some clubs at the high school have begun to meet remotely. Mr. Petronio gave an update of current athletic status. Since the pandemic impact in March, athletic activity was on hold until July. In July, a conditioning program began which involved the majority of our fall teams including football, boys' soccer, boys' and girls' cross country and volleyball. All of the conditioning was held on campus, outdoors. Our indoor buildings were closed. Athletic activity remained in the conditioning phase until mid-August. In early September (September 5th – 8th), all of our fall teams resumed practicing in cohorts outdoors on our campus. Teams progressed to full team practices in or around September 21st and the first athletic contests began last Thursday, on October 1st. Student athletes are very excited to have their sports season underway. All student athletes have been very compliant with new regulations and are eager to regain a sense of normalcy.

Student/staff well-being

Gage and Nora talked about being back in school and how students are doing. Both students reported what a relief it is to have mask breaks, but that they do not always get mask breaks in their AP classes. They are able to take a break on their own if they need to. They also talked about how good it is to be back in school and be with their friends again. They find that they have a lot of homework and are often up late at night finishing their homework especially since the time for submission was moved from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The lack of activities has made school somewhat boring in the fact that it is very predictable and not a lot of fun things happening. Nora created a proposal for a spirit week during the week of October 26th including Hat Day, Sports Day, Twin Day, District Colors Day and Halloween Costume Day. Dr. Serino asked Nora to share the information with other principals so that we could have a district-wide spirit week.

Mrs. Schaeffer shared the experience of being back in school and how the experience of taking classes out for masks breaks actually gives students and teachers a chance to connect in a different more relaxed way. One student even commented to her that she had never taken a walk outside with a teacher before. Mrs. Schaefer also reviewed that Strong School's Advisory period now meets the first period and each student is asked to do a check-in and rate on a scale of 1-3 how they are feeling. Any student who indicates they are a 3 has a check-in with a school counselor to make sure they are ok. Mrs. Schaeffer commented on the importance of staff supporting each other as this is a very challenging time for all staff and students. Mrs. Olszewski commented on the challenge of remote learning and discussed the differences between her two children and how distance learning can be much more challenging and less beneficial for some children more than others. She also commented on the challenges that distance learning presents for parents in several areas including supporting children with their academics as well as managing work life balance. Support for students with special needs has been exceptional as many parents have reported. Parents need and appreciate any feedback teachers can provide them in assisting their children at home.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Mr. Roraback made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks to adjourn the meeting.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore and Mr. Roraback. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.