

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Board members present: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino

Board members absent:

Administration present: Dr. Serino, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Approval of Agenda**

*Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the agenda, as presented.*

*In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.*

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **A. Board of Education regular session meeting June 10, 2020**

*Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2020 meeting.*

It was noted that Jason Stone and Kirstin Olszewski's names were spelled wrong. Mr. Hicks accepted the corrections.

*In favor of approving the minutes of the June 10, 2020 meeting, as amended: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried, with Mrs. Geraci abstaining.*

### **Next Board Meeting - July 1, 2020 at 6:00 PM**

### **Strategic Plan for Reopening and Recovery Update**

Dr. Serino stated that the summer school plan remains unchanged as of now. She will be on a call tomorrow morning with Commissioner Cardona when he will review the update on the reopening guidelines for the fall. They anticipate the written document with guidelines next Monday. Dr. Serino felt that some of the original expectations will be somewhat relaxed for the fall reopening. As soon as she has definite information, she will share it with the Board of Education via a conference call.

Dr. Serino also noted that she was on a conference call this evening with Governor Lamont when he thanked the citizens of Connecticut for their efforts. There was conversation about the upcoming travel advisory and quarantining which can impact employees of RSD 13.

Dr. Serino reported that they have received feedback from 477 parents via the survey and people understand that things will continue to change. The majority of parents want to know that the school district is following all CDC guidelines, though comments range from not being comfortable sending children back to school until there is a vaccine to following all safety precautions. Other parents do not want their child to have to wear a mask all day and follow health and safety protocols that could be anxiety-producing. Dr. Serino will continue to update the board on the need for child care.

A confidential survey went out to all staff members on Monday to get a sense of how they feel in terms of returning. Dr. Serino also reported that 500 Chromebooks will be delivered tomorrow which means that every child from K-12 will have a Chromebook. Meal distribution has been approved through the summer and includes a sixth meal for the weekend. They continue to partner with the local food pantries as well.

Reviewing the six priority areas, Dr. Serino began with well-being and they have started to address the needs that students may have upon their return to school. They are partnering with Durham-Middlefield Youth and Family Services to provide greater support for parents and families. At the high school, they will focus on students through their advisory and health classes. They are looking at a program called Purposeful Play as a way to get students to socially reconnect, problem solve and develop a stronger school community. Surveys and focus groups are being done. The district continues to work with blumshapiro on the re-entry planning.

PPE has all been ordered and a sneeze guard has been installed in all of the offices. A flexed phase-in program has begun with bringing 12-month employees back into the office. Training videos were also included in a memo to 12-month employees. They continue to look at custodial hours and how cleaning and sanitation will be done.

Dr. Taylor had a question at the last meeting about MOUs and Dr. Serino hopes to get guidance on that from the Commissioner tomorrow. She also reported that meals will be delivered to the classrooms rather than have students go to the cafeteria. They continue to work on entry protocols for any visitors to the buildings. Dr. Serino explained that they will try to minimize movement throughout the building and are working on different schedules and ways to manage that.

Feedback has also been received from parents with regard to transportation. The FEMA reimbursement documentation is well underway as well. Communication protocols will be followed that began in March. Teaching and learning loss mitigation will be a big focus. They have also been working on a hybrid plan to include distance and in-person learning.

The next area of focus is contingency planning for a second wave closing and the state will provide guidelines on that as well. Dr. Serino explained that she and Ms. Keane have worked on doing some live instruction with students during the summer and potential testing for students who need to be evaluated. Those plans will be submitted to the Health Director for review. Dr. Serino also felt that it would be a benefit to staff as well as students. She also added that Dolphin Days will be submitting an application to the state for an additional setting at Brewster School and they will look specifically at what area would be available. Dr. Serino explained that staff will need to verify that anyone entering district buildings is symptom-free.

Dr. Taylor felt that the board will need to continue to meet over the summer due to the current situation. Dr. Serino felt that the board could have weekly meetings on Wednesdays throughout the summer via Zoom. She hoped to have a plan available by next week for the board to review.

### **End of Year Celebrations: CRHS, MTA and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Step-Up**

Dr. Serino had sent videos out to everyone and hoped they enjoyed them. Mr. Moore thanked all of the people that worked on the graduations.

### **Vote to establish executive level search committee**

*Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to establish an executive level search committee and that the 10 members of the Board of Education be that committee.*

*In favor of establishing an executive level search committee and that the 10 members of the Board of Education be that committee: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.*

### **Motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of confidential search consultant interviews**

*Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to enter into executive session for the purpose of confidential search consultant interviews.*

*In favor of entering into executive session for the purpose of confidential search consultant interviews: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.*

### **Adjournment**

*Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Booth, to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Education.*

*In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried unanimously.*

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz  
Alwaz First