

March 24, 2020 Meeting Transcribed

Trustee Osmond: To pay such employees an amount in excess of what they would ordinarily have earned during that time period, absent the closing of schools due to the existing declaration of a State of Emergency.

Resolved that pursuant to New York Education Law Section 79, the Board of Education hereby extends paid leave to part-time non-teaching employees were the period March 23, 2020, through April 1, 2020, if such employees work any day during such a period, provided, however, that nothing herein shall either oblige or authorize the district to pay such employees an amount in excess of what they would ordinarily earn during that time period, absence of closing schools due to the existing declaration of a state of emergency.

Employees shall remain available to work during the regular work hours and the district shall retain the sole discretion to directly employees to report to work if determined by the Superintendent of schools to be necessary. We have a first?

Trustee Salem: First.

Trustee Kurnit: Second.

Trustee Osmond: Okay. First is Trustee Salem. Second, is Trustee Kurnit. Any questions or comments. Victoria, did you want to elaborate? I think everyone has been informed.

Victoria McLaren: Sure. I can just reiterate though, this is to pay our part-timers their normal wage. We have a number of part timers working in both the food service and the transportation to get food to our students and we don't want to put them in the situation of having to choose between working a couple of days a week or getting unemployment benefits. We want them to be able to come in and work with us and not suffer for it. We don't know

how long this closure is going to last, but our intention is definitely to not put our employees in a position where they have to make that kind of a choice.

Trustee Osmond: Okay. Any other questions anybody? Okay, all those in favor.

Trustee Salem: Aye.

Trustee Kurnit: Aye.

Trustee Storey: Aye

Trustee Osmond: Dafne, you are an aye?

Trustee DeJesus: [inaudible 0:02:04].

Trustee Osmond: Hold on, hold on one second. [Audio gap 0:02:05 - 0:02:15].

Trustee DeJesus: Sorry.

Trustee Osmond: It's okay. Are you an aye? We just voted on --

Trustee DeJesus: Yes.

Trustee Osmond: -- our part-time employees.

Trustee DeJesus: Yes.

Trustee Osmond: Okay, great.

Trustee DeJesus: Yes, sorry.

Trustee Osmond: All in favor --- approved. Thank you. Um, next agenda item 2.02. Oh, this is an update from Superintendent Victoria MacLaren. Okay.

Victoria McLaren: The first thing I should just touch base with you guys about. There has been a call for supplies for medical professionals in the county. And some of the things they're looking for are -- you know the transparencies that you make transparency?

Trustee Kurnit: Yeah.

Victoria McLaren: The clear plastic pages as well as goggles. And so I have had our staff looking for the transparencies that we might have located down in our storeroom. And I think we found like seven pairs of goggles. If I can figure out a way to work with -- I have a contact at the county and I can figure out where to send them. Is everybody in support of that? And we can take inventory and declare them obsolete for donation at the next time we meet?

Trustee Osmond: Absolutely

Trustee Kurnit: Yeah, sure.

Victoria McLaren: [Inaudible 0:03:27].

Trustee Kurnit: Victoria.

Victoria McLaren: Yes?

Trustee Kurnit: I heard last night through another source that they had said they had a [inaudible 0:03:34] so I just wanted to -- when you, when you contact them, just check, all right?

Victoria McLaren: Yes. Oh, no, I definitely will.

Trustee Kurnit: I don't know if they actually got some supplies from [inaudible 0:03:44] or whether they had enough [inaudible 0:03:46] on these films that they -- because I guess that the idea was that they were going to be making that part that it connects to the printer and I don't know what the capacity [inaudible 0:04:02].

Victoria McLaren: Yeah. No. I'll check. But I just wanted to make sure that everybody was in support of that [inaudible 0:04:06].

Trustee Kurnit: We are.

Trustee DeJesus: Mm-hmm.

Trustee Kurnit: Sure.

Victoria McLaren: Some of the other things that I wanted to just share with you, I know [inaudible 0:04:13] has sent out an update. There is active advocacy happening. And so the [inaudible 0:04:24] guess the city council Superintendence is taking is that for this year at least we would maintain our existing budget voted in May, but do much like they have in New Jersey or the towns where the school board by majority vote can approve the budget as long as it's within the levy limit. And propositions for reserve funds and reverse fund transfers would also be approved in this method, but may require budget votes if the district proposes to exceed the cap.

Trustee Salem: Can I interrupt? Sorry.

Trustee Osmond: Yes, sir.

Trustee Salem: [Inaudible 0:05:04 - 0:05:06] this invitation. Bennet wanted to know if the meeting was still happening. So I don't know [inaudible 0:05:10] if you could send them something quickly because he wants to get on with it.

District Clerk: Oh, I'll send them the email that Victoria is saying, yeah.

Victoria McLaren: You are not muted.

Trustee Osmond: Oh, wait.

Trustee Salem: Did you hear me?

District Clerk: Yes. Yes, I heard you. I'll send him an invitation. I'll send him the e-mail Victoria did.

Trustee Salem: Right.

Victoria McLaren: Okay. Um.

Trustee Salem: Sorry, Victoria.

Victoria McLaren: The other interesting thing about what NYSCAS is promoting is the idea that all existing board trustees would remain in their

seats until the next regularly scheduled election which would create a situation for us in which, I think, next year we would then have five up for election.

Trustee Kurnit: Holly Moly.

Trustee Storey: We did have five up for one year. Is that early on? Because Bobby and I were the only one that weren't up for election that year.

Victoria McLaren: So I'm going add this that may not end up being what happens, but that is what people are discussing. And I know Chuck said that in New Jersey, they actually moved the school board election date to the November election date.

Trustee Kurnit: Right.

Victoria McLaren: And members take office in January and not July, so that could also become a part of this discussion.

Trustee Osmond: Yeah, I would hope that it doesn't just, FYI, I spoke with a board member in Connecticut about six months ago where that is happening. And because the school board elections happen on the November election date, the school board has become incredibly politicized and people are expected to adopt party platforms. And it's made it very, very difficult to frankly, to focus on the kids because people are focusing on parties instead of [inaudible 0:07:03].

Trustee Salem: May I ask you a question?

Victoria McLaren: Yeah.

Trustee Salem: How much control do we have over it? I mean, is this a decision that will be made statewide or is this something we can, uh, make our own decision on?

Victoria McLaren: I believe that this will be a statewide decision.

Trustee Osmond: Yes, because if it's regarding elections, and I've been wondering whether they would be trying to do some sort of delayed date or virtual -- nothing is set up for online voting in this state, so.

Victoria McLaren: Right.

Trustee Kurnit: Um.

Victoria McLaren: Sorry, go ahead.

Trustee Kurnit: No, I just wanted to say, Victoria, have you heard any more, because we keep hearing from different sources that April 2 start up again is not going to happen. And then last night, Mr. Trump was talking about how the country has to get on board again, even though they're vouching and all the medical folks are saying that is the worst thing we can consider right now.

But there seems to be obviously different points of view on how this whole thing is going to play out. I don't know if that's something that educators have been talking about or when they're getting stuff from SEB or anything like that.

Victoria McLaren: So we've certainly been talking about it, but we have not gotten any guidance from the State or the Governor, I mean, from SEB or the governor. I am really hoping that if we are going to continue this closure, they will tell us sooner rather than later. But I do find it hard to imagine that they're going to keep the New York City schools out until April 20, and allow us to go back.

Trustee Osmond: Yeah.

Victoria McLaren: And just a logical fact.

Trustee Storey: [Inaudible 0:08:50] said yesterday in his press conference that he doesn't think schools are going back in duty at all this school year.

Trustee Salem: Yeah, I know Val, that's why I wanted to know whether people were, you know, there's all this stuff being thrown around.

Trustee Storey: Mm-hmm.

Trustee Salem: So.

Trustee Ratcliff: Yeah. Well, I mean, I think it's probably best to assume not the worst. But best to assume that let's just see what would it look like if schools did not go back. What would it look like if testing, grades, the whole thing was awash. I mean, we're talking about online learning. We don't know how successful that even is, you know, how -- we've got slow internet speeds? We've got distracted and upset people. The whole thing is just an experiment.

Trustee Kurnit: That's a question for Jodi DeLucia. Jodi DeLucia?

Jodi DeLucia: Yes.

Trustee Kurnit: So what -- I guess this is a question for everybody. I guess you're going to answer -- what kind of latitude do we have in our local diploma? You know, I know that we have the Regents diploma and the Advanced Regents and that we also have the possibility of local diplomas. Do we have latitude in sort of helping our students in that department?

Jodi DeLucia: We don't have great latitude in our local diploma, and particularly for Seniors who have been working so hard for a Regent Diploma. I would want to do our best and I think everybody would to try to get them that. I don't anticipate that the results of this would cause students not to graduate, I mean, we are working really hard with our students.

They've already basically done away with the 3/3 testing, the [inaudible 0:10:39], the you name it, the [inaudible 0:10:43]. So I would expect that if we're still out come Regents time, that that's going to be taken into consideration. But I also

know that our, our high school teachers are prepared to work with the kids however, they need to work.

I think that the teachers have been absolutely amazing. I think that you're right. I think you're all right. You know, prepare for the worst, hope for the best, I think that's what smart people do. So that's what we'll keep doing, and I'm very, very confident in our community.

We've been on a lot of countywide calls where they are not nearly as prepared as we are. They're not sure what they're going to do for people who don't have Internet and those kinds of things. So we don't have a lot of leeway with local diplomas. They, exist, but they're not like they used to be where you could just get a local diploma.

There's a lot of parameters involved, but there are a lot of safety nets in terms of the Regents diploma that I'm sure that we could employ, and there are a lot of pathways towards the diploma now that I'm sure that we can employ, and that is something that, Mr. [inaudible 0:12:03] is masterful at. He really knows how to get students to diploma. He really understands graduation requirements, and he and I have already had conversations really about what does all of this look like.

I know he's already thinking about what does graduation look like, if we can't be together, what do we do for kids who are missing their prom? All of those things are really on the front of his mind, and he's talking to his staff about that and they're making plans for that. So I feel like we'll be able to get the kids through, I feel like we're putting into place first plan, the second plan, backup plans, extra support.

So we are doing all of that. I don't know if I completely answered your question, but I'd say that our benefits would be

signing athletes to graduation and not necessarily in the local diploma.

Trustee Kurnit: I'm a little bit more concerned about the underclass persons. I'm a little less concerned about this year's Seniors, um, but I'm just wondering how much Juniors in particular, because they're not going to have a lot of time to make stuff up if they want to graduate as they plan to with their cohorts plans, but.

Jodi DeLucia: Yeah, I think that a lot of the things that would normally prevent a child from being able to graduate because they wouldn't be able to make stuff up, include things that we've been given. So we wait for the superintendent discretion on. So for example, working with the teacher because we might have to discuss lab hours, lab hours or something that frequently keep our students being able to graduate and might be difficult for a student to make up. Or, phys ed, where we've implemented, like, okay, well, we can have a phys ed log and you can log for hours. So, the things that kind of lose frequently, hold kids back that would be really difficult to make up. I think we're going to have some leeway. But again, you know, [inaudible 0:14:17].

Trustee Osmond: I've got a question. What if -- and I'm just, you know, hypothetical -- what if the state said, okay, school is going to resume at the end of June?

Jodi DeLucia: Aha.

Trustee Osmond: There have been some conversations with that.

Victoria McLaren: The superintendents have kind of talked about that as one possibility, like, it might actually be structurally sound, if what the state said was this is [inaudible 0:14:47], let's take two months.

Trustee Osmond: Exactly.

Victoria McLaren: Let's take Summer break and let's start even at the beginning of June.

Trustee Osmond: Yes.

Jodi DeLucia: But until they give us more guidance, it's just really hard to know, so we are just planning on moving forward, which is a good segue into tomorrow. We will be distributing Chromebooks to those families that have expressed the need to have additional technology in their homes. So that's something that John and Jody have worked really closely with the principals and our ENL teachers, also to identify those students and those families with real need and we're going to do kind of a drive through system.

So, uh, John is going to go-in in the morning and literally disinfect all of them, the Chromebooks in the course. And then they're going to have a two station drive through. The first station where somebody checks off and confirms the name. And, you know, so we understand who we're giving these things to. And then the second stop, they will be handed a clean and disinfected device and then they will drive out. So very limited contact and exposure, but getting technology into the hands of the people who really need it.

Trustee Osmond: That's great

Trustee Salem: Victoria, do you have a count on who's left over at this point, then, or, you know, how many households do not have viable internet, etcetera, etcetera?

Victoria McLaren: So one of the other things, Jodi DeLucia, do you want to answer since you actually sent that letter out.

Jodi DeLucia: Yes. So, um, so for the families that don't have Internet. I mean, all of the memos and letters that we posted, it said if you lack access please contact, if you lack access please

contact, the real difficulty with that has been, are they getting anything we're sending electronically? So we also send out a phone shout point, [inaudible 0:16:44] because all the High School students have their Chromebooks, and we contacted and had a count in Middle School already for Chromebooks.

So we really didn't have a good handle on who doesn't have Internet or telephone access at all. You know or cell phone access at all, so we sent out a phone only shout point, asking them to call and leave a message on extension 1023 and so hopefully over the course of day, people will be getting that in the memo that the we sent out via shout point.

Probably as we speak. It's also encouraging people like if you know somebody, if you have a friend or colleague that doesn't have Internet, please encourage them to call this number. So we're setting up a system for electronic materials to be sent weekly.

Trustee Osmond: You mean hard copy.

Jodi DeLucia: No electronic materials to be sent to us weekly so that somebody down in central will be able to print those and we can get them to those families. So, if you guys have other ways of getting that information out, but please call that extension, that would be really helpful. I think the trickiest part about finding out who doesn't have access is getting them the message that we need to know if they don't have access.

Trustee Kurnit: I mean, yes, I mean it's happening in various ways. I've heard of some families that have heard about the food program, but don't seem to have it together to actually communicate. And therefore, they're being left out, whether they're marginalized or whether they just are -- I don't know what's going on, but there's a few of them out there, so I was just thinking about that.

And, you know, I think you're probably going to get into this in terms of the stuff you're trying to set up with the staff tomorrow. The meetings that you have set up to try to talk to the program today.

Victoria McLaren: That's this afternoon.

Trustee Kurnit: Okay, this afternoon, sorry. I have something I sent the board. It's from the US Department of Education and is all about protecting the students' rights during COVID-19. Maybe you've seen the document, but from my point of view, just skimming it, it doesn't look to me like they're backing off at all on the [inaudible 0:19:05] and I think the biggest issue is not necessarily the students that are familiar with using Google and using the devices.

All of the younger people and all of the kids that are possibly special ed, etcetera, etcetera. I'm hoping that we're being realistic about what our expectations are and what we hope to accomplish during this -- however long this time would be.

Victoria McLaren: So, Rob.

Trustee Osmond: Go ahead, Victoria.

Victoria McLaren: I was just going to say some of the guidance that has been shared with us from our state level has actually uncharacteristically been kind of recognizing that there are going to be challenges. There are going to be situations in which districts are simply not able to deliver the service to the level that they would want to.

So they're actually already making reference to once this is over we are going to have to reconvene CSEs and if the skills were lost because of an inability to service then what kind of compensatory services will be put in place. So they're actually not, thankfully, just moving forward with blinders on and

saying “everything has to be exactly as it should be in an ideal world”, and they're recognizing that we are going to be in some situations in a catch up position, which I think is pretty amazing that they actually would put that out in writing. But we will do everything we can and I know that [inaudible 0:20:42] and Jodi DeLucia and the teachers are trying to figure out how best to deliver every service we can.

Trustee Kurnit: Sure.

Jodi DeLucia: And I misspoke, Rob. I'm sorry. Hi Bennet

Trustee Ratcliff: Hi.

Jodi DeLucia: I'm sorry you just popped up on my screen. Rob, you're right. I'm meeting with all grade [inaudible 0:20:59] of teachers this afternoon, but I'm meeting with the new related services tomorrow because I literally ran out of slots on my calendar today.

Trustee Kurnit: Yeah, you can only have so many [inaudible 0:21:09] in a day.

Jodi DeLucia: But what I wanted to say this about related services, and I hear you've been asked about it, is that we've also received guidance from the attorney and we're working closely with John about data privacy to figure out the ways that we can implement teleconferencing and that we can provide support services like AIS through like an appointment and face to face system. So we're also working on that. Sorry Bennett, go ahead.

Trustee Ratcliff: No worries. I had a parent contact me there, a long time remote worker, and they also work in the technology industry. Their job is actually based here in Mount Trumper, but the company that they're an executive at is in San Francisco. And they offered to volunteer any time necessary to help do this. Where should I send them? Or should I just say thanks, no,

thanks? I mean, what do I do with that kind of, you know, it's a real offer from a very talented individual.

Victoria McLaren: If you want to direct them to me, Bennett, I can have a conversation and see if there's a way that we can access their skills and their help.

Trustee Ratcliff: Got it.

Victoria McLaren: And there may or may not be. But I'd be happy to talk to them.

Trustee Ratcliff: Terrific. I'll send them your way. I didn't want to do it without asking.

Jodi DeLucia: Yeah. Has been at one of the things that I can think of is that John, myself, a couple of our principles, a couple of our teachers. We're all doing lots of mini trainings for teachers to support them on what it is and what they need to know. But I feel like there could be a need out there that I just don't have the time to fill right now.

Honestly, I mean, you know, right now I am doing 18 or 19 hours. But just to support parents who don't know how to get on the Internet. One of the things, for example, you'll see in my letter is that I remind people like you have to log in as your student because they're trying to log their students using their own passwords and then they're getting frustrated, so we created an email address for them to email and they couldn't log in and things like that. But I feel like maybe some of them aren't [inaudible 0:23:28].

Trustee Ratcliff: His offer is to really be the arms and legs for anything that you need, he understands that the bandwidth is completely challenged. So I'll send them your way, Superintendent, and then you can, you know, if it works out, that's great.

Victoria McLaren: Thank you so much. I dropped out of the meeting for a moment a few minutes ago. I just wanted to ask regarding

Internet access. Are we still reinforcing the Spectrum offer for households who don't have Internet access that they were offering that free 60 days? Is that still? I don't know how well Spectrum is actually responding, but are we sending that information out bilingually?

Jodi DeLucia: I think that the information is going out, the problem really seems to be in these households that they're not able -- you have to be within the catchment area of their Wi-Fi -- I'm going to use the wrong word, but hub like where they're able to send the Wi-Fi out from?

Victoria McLaren: Right.

Jodi DeLucia: Is that the majority of our households that have no access are not in that area. So they don't get cable service.

Trustee Kurnit: They weren't planning on running cable into the houses and putting routers within two miles, correct?

Jodi DeLucia: No, no. It's just that

Trustee Kurnit: Is very marginal [inaudible 0:24:46].

Jodi DeLucia: It's kind of like that idea of Wi-Fi for all where they were going to do kind of big Wi-Fi umbrellas and for all houses within that catchment zone, you can access their Wi-Fi. So it would be like if you were sitting in Starbucks using their Wi-Fi, except it would be, a few mile radius, kind of thing.

So I think that's really our biggest challenge, is that these houses really don't have any type of access, they kind of be in a place where -- which is not something we can help them with, unfortunately, where they could use like satellite internet or something like that, but that's just not suitable for us to support them.

Trustee Kurnit: That's not a secure network either if you're going through that kind of a Wi-Fi point.

Trustee Osmond: If I could chime in for a second, too. We were on a call last week with the business officials in Ulster County and some of them had kind of sent out this whole thing about Spectrum. And unfortunately, they came to find out that signing up is very easy. However, Spectrum is making it very difficult to release people and they've been having issues. So I really hesitate to recommend something that's free only to have our parents struggle with free isn't free.

Victoria McLaren: Right. Okay.

Trustee Osmond: And you know, because unfortunately Spectrum is still trying to make money and while I'm sure their intent is good, it seems like there are some issues on the back end.

Jodi DeLucia: Yeah, because people have to remember after 30 or after 60 days to cancel it and bring their equipment back to the store, and if they don't, they're getting charged for it. That's the big issue there.

Trustee Kurnit: Is Kevin still here?

Trustee Osmond: Yes, he is. He keeps it muted, but I see him.

Trustee Kurnit: I lost the video.

[Inaudible 0:26:59]..Trustee Salem: Yeah, that's unfortunate for you.

Victoria McLaren: Oh no Rob's gone.

Trustee Osmond: Rob has now dropped off.

Trustee Salem: See? See what happens when he can't see me?

Trustee Kurnit: I want to keep that connection.

Trustee Osmond: Yes. Yes. Any other questions or information to share?

Trustee Storey: Something I've read is that they're going to do that online instead of in [inaudible 0:27:26]. I know that's how Sabrina did her placement test for [inaudible 0:27:30]. You had to be in a room with a computer and a video link so they could watch her while they take the test and I think --

Jody: Did you say watch.

Trustee Storey: Yes. I think they place a proctor to watch X amount of kids that are all sitting at home to do the test and that's what they're trying to do with the AP test. And also that they're looking at only asking questions from like the beginning of this school year for content [inaudible 0:28:04 - 0:28:07], so that's something that, you know --

Trustee Ratcliff: So, a question related to what Valerie has [inaudible 0:28:15] then contacted by AP about being an online test site?

Victoria McLaren: So we've gotten kind of a just a -- like an email saying that that is among their intentions. Yes.

Trustee Ratcliff: Got it. So then would you be sending out once you figure out what's going on to all of the people around you, all those students that are taking AP classes, that this is how they're going to be doing that?

Victoria McLaren: Yeah, I would anticipate actually that Mr. Adelman would be doing that along with the guy whose office -- the school, sorry, the school counselors.

Trustee Ratcliff: So one sort of heads up there about missing people is that I think that there are some students -- I mean, I know one in particular in my household, who would then want to register at Onteora to take the AP test. How are we going to be able to catch every [inaudible 0:29:21]?

Trustee Storey: I got it. Can you clarify that because the [inaudible 0:29:28].

Trustee Ratcliff: I think I can -- let me give it to you specifically. So my daughter takes -- is taking 3 AP tests and was notified by AP that there'll be a local testing site that is up and that she could register there for the test. Of course my daughter doesn't receive any information from Onteora because she doesn't go to school here, but she's a student that Onteora's responsible for by state law. How are we going to figure out how to catch all of those other students?

Trustee Storey: Victoria, normally the students have to pay for their AP exams and [Inaudible 0:30:09] was like in January, so they can order the exam

Trustee Ratcliff: So the idea that she has paid for the AP exams and she's getting refunded for the money because the AP testing site in Madrid is not going to be where she takes the test and they've directed her to the local testing site, which will be up and running the AP exam.

Victoria McLaren: So since this is very new, I can't really answer all of your questions, Bennett, I'm anticipating if it's online, it's going to be a whole different situation and I don't know if that -- I can't answer it right now.

Trustee Osmond: That request for information if the information is available.

Trustee Ratcliff: I'm just thinking that if she's -- if it's for this one student, there's obviously other students as well. Yeah, I definitely think [inaudible 0:31:03].

Trustee Salem: Bennet brings up a good point in terms of our responsibility to help school kids and kids that go to private schools. What's the outreach been like there?

Victoria McLaren: We have not had time to even contemplate outreach there.

Trustee Osmond: Have any of the headmasters of the private school contacted you?

Victoria McLaren: No, the Woodstock State School headmaster has been on a few of our superintendents calls. I don't think he has in the past few days.

Trustee Osmond: Okay.

Victoria McLaren: And he never really -- during those calls, he didn't offer much information in terms of what they were doing. He was just sort of listening in and seeing what we were doing.

Trustee Osmond: Okay. Other questions for our superintendent or assistant superintendents?

Trustee Kurnit: Yes. Sorry, I didn't know my mic was off. I have two. Number one, is this the platform that teachers are going to be using when they're trying to connect to students? Because I'm sitting right next to my router, I got [inaudible 0:32:17] MacBook and I just got dropped again, so I'm wondering whether this technology is something that we can depend on.

Victoria McLaren: I think every school district in the state is going to be wondering something very similar. And I don't know that our statewide infrastructure is going to be dependable either.

Trustee Osmond: Right.

Jodi DeLucia: Yeah. We tested a bunch of different tools. They're all having the same issues right now, as do Google Hangout. We have to use a platform that is [inaudible 0:32:50] be compliant in terms of data and security, which limits the platform that we can use. This is a very reliable platform. Unfortunately, every single home in the US and every single child in the US does not usually try to access the Internet.

What we're doing to work with the teachers that prepare for that is running mini lessons on how they can record their sessions. We're also looking to work with them to space out if they are going to live when they're going live so that they're

not all going live at the same time, but then again, I think that is right down the road going live. Maybe we can give them a platform [inaudible 0:33:30] bandwidth.

[Inaudible 0:33:33] show them how to record videos and post them. So, for example, for the little guys, it might be a video of a teacher doing a read aloud that they watch and then access the comprehension questions separately? So we're trying to take that into consideration. What do we do if people are popping on and off? What do we do if people have bad access? Right now it's a country-wide problem. It's not our servers and it's our technology. So we're trying to address that..

That's why in my first, like that's why in the letter and the shout point that this went out, I say this is week one, we're going to take it slow. It's not going to be like, you know, we're very -- for the little guys, particularly actually through K8. You're not going to have to get every single lesson, I don't need 120 minutes of ELA happening. That's not what we want to do. Let's start slow, let's do it together, let's do it right and let's help people learn how to use the technology.

Trustee Kurnit: That's good. Is there a way to send that to the board members that are not the [inaudible 0:34:46]?

Jodi DeLucia: You can -- probably just got it. It just literally at 8:34 hit my phone.

Trustee Osmond: Continue, Jody, if they would not have gotten it. I will forward it.

Trustee Kurnit: Victoria, what happened yesterday? You had said you had a nine o'clock meeting with the rest of the superintendents in the counties, is that correct?

Victoria McLaren: Yeah, we pretty much do -- I would say at least three days a week, we've got into a daily meeting, but there are things that come up, other conflicts and other meetings.

Trustee Kurnit: Yeah.

Victoria McLaren: We kind of go around and talk about what we're dealing with and what issues we're having and what our plans are.

Trustee Kurnit: So it's not like a somebody's come up with [inaudible 0:35:33] everybody is in the same boat, etcetera, etcetera?

Victoria McLaren: Everyone's in the same boat, and you know, everybody has similar issues and it's just sort of the degree of the issues depending on their individual districts. I know that Ellenville in particular, is incredibly concerned with access to technology and Internet, [inaudible 0:35:59] as well. Different districts have different methods of dealing with food.

Kingston has a food pick in central location. But, for us, that's just not feasible because of our remote geography and a lot of people inability's to access transportation. So, we're kind of just going around and talking about the issues that we're seeing. And then also any information that one of us gets from the state or a different state organization, we share it with everybody just to make sure that everybody is getting all that same information.

Trustee Ratcliff: You know, you bring up a point about the different districts having different questions. Is it possible that maybe [inaudible 0:36:46] could put together some sort of, I don't know, advertisements that could go in either newspapers and on the radio? That directs people, if you have a question about, you're getting food to your child and you haven't.

That would direct them to call a specific number that you could get [inaudible 0:37:13] or access the Internet or for local

access to a computer. You were saying that you didn't know if some of the parents had gotten these kind of things or for access to testing. I mean, these are sort of three access questions that have come up here and about how parents are being reached. Maybe advertising on radio and local newspapers is a way to do it. Let's do it collectively and through [inaudible 0:37:38] for all the districts around.

Victoria McLaren: I can certainly bring that up, Bennett.

Trustee Kurnit: Victoria, was there any discussion yesterday or has it been about CTE program, what's going to happen [inaudible 0:37:52], what's happening with their budget as a result of this next year, etcetera, etcetera? Is that too much getting into the weeds this morning or --

Victoria McLaren: You're welcome to wade into the weeds Rob, I don't think they have a lot of answers yet. Chuck is doing work similar to what's happening to [inaudible 0:38:12] in terms of meeting with teachers, trying to figure out what services they can still deliver? They, actually did mention that they're trying to cut their budgets for next year if they [inaudible 0:38:28]. There wasn't a reason for me to start with, but they are working on that.

They are very concerned about this right here. I think for now, all of the districts are continuing to pay their bills so that they remain operational, but if for some reason the state budget takes a turn and districts don't get their Spring aid payments, it's going to be a concern about whether districts can continue to fill their contractual obligation to pay [inaudible 0:38:57] when we're not necessarily receiving all of the services.

Trustee Kurnit: Right, yeah. I know he's going to ahead with the April 1 meeting where you usually -- that would have been the meeting where everyone was invited to come to for you to

have a dinner prepared by the culinary students and usually -- the [inaudible 0:39:18] budget is laid out by Chuck at that point. So he's planning on doing that online, as far as I know through a Zoom meeting, I think.

Victoria McLaren: Yeah, they're using the Zoom platform.

Trustee Osmond: Victoria, I was just thinking, in terms of communication, if it would be helpful I could reach out to WDST if you ever had any announcements that you wanted to send out. You know? They'll do things like obviously [inaudible 0:39:46] closures and things like that, but we can utilize them too.

Victoria McLaren: That's a great idea, Laurie.

Trustee Osmond: Yeah. Gary's a friend of mine, so I can talk to him.

Victoria McLaren: Okay.

Jodi DeLucia: I made a note there before to say this then we switched topics, but we're really fortunate to have our ELL teachers. Literally, literally that translation came to me from our ELL teachers at 11 o'clock last night. It was quite a long and lengthy letter that needed to be translated and they're willing to step up. But between our Ls and also Louise [inaudible 0:40:20] I think that, even if they couldn't get in touch with the family, if they knew it was a family that needed something or does not have Internet, we did include those people in our list.

So it's just another way that we've been able to access and to reach out and to find people. So, luckily, a lot of the teachers, do know, individually like the students that doesn't have, you know, at home. So you're not to going to be able to contact them this way. I mean, luckily, it's not September 1, right. So they've spent the year with them in their class and they do know.

So I think we have found a lot of people, but any way that you can think of will help us reach people -- please keep sending them. I think that we mean that when we send out our letters, every single person who sends us something has really shaped what we've done. We have made substantial changes, we've thought about it differently, we've considered [inaudible 0:41:18] different services.

So any time we can think of the way that we can reach people and of course, people, it's really helpful in terms of helping us shape what we're doing. I suspect that will change things after the first week.

Trustee Osmond: Okay.

Jodi DeLucia: Because we'll learn what works and what doesn't work.

Trustee Osmond: Right. I was also thinking of [inaudible 0:41:35] with Radio Kingston and Antonio Flores Lopez, who works with him at Radio Kingston and also coordinates with [inaudible 0:41:42]. So I can reach out to all three of them.

[Audio gap 0:41:46 - 0:41:50].

Trustee Osmond: Share information.

Victoria McLaren: Could you, would you reach out to them Laurie and then --

Trustee Osmond: CC you.

Victoria McLaren: Yeah. So that I can contact them directly.

Trustee Osmond: Will do.

Victoria McLaren: Thank you.

Trustee Osmond: You're welcome. Any other questions or requests for information at this point?

Trustee Kurnit: Well my question is --

Trustee Osmond: [Inaudible 0:42:11] We had tried to make this for 15 minutes over and I don't want to cut anyone short. But I also realized that our superintendent and assistant superintendent have a very busy day ahead of them.

Trustee Kurnit: Well, I'm just curious we're -- how we are moving ahead with the board, in terms of whether we're planning on having actual meetings rather these short ones [inaudible 0:42:36 - 0:42:38].

Trustee Osmond: My answer would be no, we're not planning on having actual meetings. I think that would be going against the guidelines for social distancing and requiring personnel to come in and set up our target.

Trustee Kurnit: No, I'm not talking about those meetings, I'm talking about these meetings, talking about what we're doing right now and whether we're going to be tackling -- once things get straightened out or if they don't do or if they? Are we going to have actual meetings again?

Trustee Osmond: My proposal would be that we continue to have these special meetings as needed, as requested by the superintendent and we stick to our meet schedule. But also try to really just be dealing with the most pressing issues. Feedback for that, anybody?

District Clerk: We do have a meeting scheduled for the 31, and I have a bunch of things on my list in the office that need to be on that meeting.

Trustee Osmond: Mm-hmm.

Trustee Storey: So I assume that we were moving forward with a full meeting on the 31.

Trustee Osmond: Yeah, I assume that, too.

Trustee Storey: I thought that's what Rob's question was.

Trustee Kurnit: We need to think about the timing and etcetera, etcetera, or is the assumption that it would be happening [inaudible 0:43:57]?

Trustee Osmond: Well, that's up for discussion, because if we're doing things virtually, I would assume that we want to have as many people there as possible and so that we can call board members and administration to see what time works best for them and then further notice that is needed.

Trustee Kurnit: Right, that's what I asked.

Trustee Osmond: That's a good question.

Trustee Kurnit: So, will you ask for them to do that?

Trustee Storey: So you what.

Trustee Storey: I know, I know. I know, I know. You want me to poll the administrators and see what a good time is, on the 31st?

Trustee Osmond: I would say that you know, we can send out an e-mail saying that we're planning on holding a virtual meeting on the 31. Does the regularly schedule time of 6:00 p.m. work for people or would people prefer to, let's say, do a morning meeting? I understand that certain people cannot do that. So why don't we all respond to that via e-mail? Does that sound like a good idea?

Trustee Storey: Okay.

Trustee Storey: That sounds like a good idea. The one thing that I have noticed, like when I'm at my house, my internet in the evening goes down a lot, so that's, you know, where people are not ready. A lot of time around at night when we get home from work or whatever that might.

Victoria McLaren: Well, the day time might become pretty busy too now.

District Clerk: Right. Just the board. You do only court care about the board. What time? Right? I thought you said the administration.

District Clerk: Okay, okay. That's what I thought. Okay. All right. I'll send that out.

Trustee Kurnit: Any administrators that are interested [inaudible 0:45:53 - 0:45:55].

District Clerk: Okay.

Trustee Osmond: Okay. Any other questions or requests for information? Okay. We'll be doing this again soon. I am sure. Motion to adjourn -- may we have a first?

Trustee Salem: First

Trustee Osmond: Salem, Second? Just raise hand if you're muted, Trustee Ratcliff. All in favor?

Trustee Kurnit: Aye.

Trustee Salem: Aye.

Trustee Osmond: Okay. We are adjourned. Thank you, everyone, for what you're doing. And we'll talk soon.

Victoria McLaren: Thank you, everyone.

Jodi DeLucia: Bye everyone.

Trustee Osmond: Bye.