

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Conducted Remotely  
May 18, 2020

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. via Zoom teleconference call.

Present: Board members Susan Mercik Davis, Jamie Drzyzga, Brian Fry, Melissa Finnigan, Glenn Gazdik, Scott Lingenfelter, Maureen Sattan, Michael Sepko and Debra Dudack; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi, Director of Special Services Diana Kelley, Business Manager Bill Hoff, Gina Olearczyk, Ken Smith, Kris Pryce, and Dianna Kolodziey.

Strategic Plan/Portrait of a Graduate

Board Chair Sue Davis began the meeting, identifying the district need to explore opportunities for the creation of a strategic plan/processes. She introduced Isobel Stevenson from the Connecticut Center for School Change. Superintendent Van Tassel provided some further background information about Dr. Stevenson and the current research she is engaged in with one of his doctoral professors, Jennie Weiner, from the University of Connecticut;

Dr. Stevenson then led a presentation describing her extensive work with district strategic planning, and providing examples from several districts. She believes that the plans that provide the true “North Star” are those that are developed with various stakeholders and are developed with an openness to identify blind spots for each stakeholder group. Creating safe spaces to have these discussions is very important to a successful planning process. Each stakeholder group is responsible for the success of the goals within the plan – as people grow to understand this, the likelihood of the district moving forward together is possible.

Throughout the presentation, Dr. Stevenson provided time for questions. Board members asked a variety of questions regarding how progress would be monitored; how differences in teachers’ skills are handled; can this planning be done on Zoom; how is the community to be engaged; what is the expected timeline; what are the costs and scope.

Superintendent Van Tassel confirmed that no Board action was required at this time regarding the engagement of a consultant to help develop a district plan. He will forward Dr. Stevenson’s slides for further review, and the Board can circle back at a future meeting.

End of Year Board Planning

Board Chair Mercik Davis led a discussion regarding scheduling upcoming Board work regarding the Superintendent’s evaluation, the Board’s self-evaluation, and a goal setting workshop.

Adjournment

Fry moved, Dryzgya seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

*Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of June 1, 2020.*

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sattan  
Secretary