

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Conducted Remotely
June 15, 2020

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. via Zoom teleconference call and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Board members Susan Mercik Davis, Jamie Drzyzga, Brian Fry, Melissa Finnigan, Glenn Gazdik, Maureen Sattan, Scott Lingenfelter (arrived 6:36pm), and Debra Dudack; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi, Director of Special Services Diana Kelley, and Business Manager Bill Hoff

Absent: Board member Michael Sepko

Approval of Minutes

MOTION #20-66: Finnigan moved to approve the June 1, 2020 Board of Education minutes. Drzyzga seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion carried 7-0.

Consent Agenda

MOTION #20-67: Dudack moved to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

- A. Revisions to Policy #6146 – Graduation Requirements
- B. Revisions to Policy #6159 – Individualized Education/Special Education Program

Fry seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion carried 7-0.

Lingenfelter joined the meeting at 6:36 pm.

Discussion/Action Items

- Overview of the District’s Draft Strategic School Reopening and Sustainment Plan
Mr. Van Tassel said this is a preliminary draft plan, but he wanted to let the Board and families know planning has already begun with the district leadership team to reopen schools in the fall. He added this is a fluid document that will need further revisions since the opening of school is two months away and many things could change between now and then. This plan has been shared with Patrice Sulik, Director of the North Central District Health Department (NCDHD), First Selectwoman Melissa Mack, Police Chief Rick Brown, and town Emergency Management Director John Spencer for their review. Mr. Van Tassel shared the draft document with Board members. The plan includes eight core functions: health services, finance and facilities, technology, human resources, school operations, curriculum and instruction, special services, and communication. For each core function, sustainment initiatives have been identified. The individual sustainment initiatives include a description, collaborators that will be involved in the sustainment initiative, and metrics identified to achieve the initiatives. Board members asked questions relative to logistics related to child care support for parents, plans for distance learning and assessments for students in the fall if needed, guidance from other area school districts, and consideration for students in the same families to be on the same school schedule if there is a hybrid model. The administration is

looking at a partnership with the town Parks and Recreation department as a potential source for child care if a hybrid or distance learning model is in place in the fall. Distance learning plans have already been created for the fall if they are needed, and an assessment calendar has been developed for both in school and distance learning models. Superintendent Van Tassel is in regular communication with area superintendents and the NCDHD is scheduling weekly conference calls with superintendents to plan for school reopening. Superintendent Van Tassel said if a hybrid model will be in place in the fall, the administration discussed scheduling students alphabetically by last name to ensure students in the same family are on the same schedule. Board member Lingenfelter said the district should not wait for guidance from the state but should take the lead in getting children back to school. Distance learning is not the education they deserve. Board members thanked the administration for being proactive in creating this initial document. Many expressed they were in agreement that students need to be back in school but consideration needs to be taken to ensure the health and safety of all, especially those who are immune-compromised.

Adjournment

Dudack moved, Finnigan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of July 20, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sattan
Secretary