

The Special meeting of the Canandaigua City School District Board of Education was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. via a Zoom meeting, President Grimm presiding. This meeting was posted live on YouTube was open to the public to watch.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeanie Grimm, Cheryl Bix, Milton Johnson, Julianne Miller, Michelle Pedzich, Megan Personale, John Polimeni, Jen Schneider, Beth Thomas

LEADERSHIP TEAM PRESENT: Jamie Farr, Matt Fitch, Brian Nolan, Matt Schrage

BOARD DISTRICT CLERK: Deborah Sundlov

OTHERS PRESENT: Zoom Webinar live feed on YouTube

Executive Session

Upon a motion made Mrs. Pedzich, seconded Mrs. Personale, with all present voting yes, the Board of Education approved calling an Executive Session at 4:00 p.m. for the purposes of matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed.

Return to Open Session

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Personale, seconded by Dr. Schneider, with all present voting yes, the Board of Education returned to Open Session at 4:28 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mrs. Grimm called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President's Comments

Mrs. Grimm made the following statement:

“Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you to all of the folks from the public who are joining us today. Thank you to my board colleagues for adding this meeting. Thank you especially for the absolutely incredible team we have – our extended administrative cabinet, our union leaders and members, and the people in our community who provide and help to interpret the guidance and directives we receive. Thank you also to the deeply worried and thoughtful and kind and devoted faculty and staff members who anxiously await what feels like marching orders and thank you to the members of our community who feel like their lives are in limbo.

We, all of us who choose public education, have made a choice to serve. Our mission is to provide the single greatest form of access to equity that exists, in the form of excellent public education, to be “One Community, Transforming Lives”. To that end, we know the decisions we make, on individual and global levels, are not always pleasing to all. I only need mention Evans Field or Pinnacle North, or including the word “love” in our vision and mission statements and we all know that there are many opinions – and that’s just amongst board members. But we have also felt that we can - and we do - do right by our students and for the greater good - until this.

*The board will have a chance to discuss the opening of schools plans- and by plans, I mean the best possible response we can devise based on the constantly changing requirements that are often in conflict with one another, depending on the source, and also changing constantly - to discuss tonight the plans that have been shared in yesterday’s forums. You may hear opposing opinions, you may hear frustration at the ineptitude and ignorance at the federal level that landed us here, at the continued defiance of the scientific process and the lack of trust in expertise - you **will** hear our*



immense gratitude for our people and their tireless work. All of this could make anyone angry, cranky, depressed, and downright unpleasant – but our leaders are not. For the first time, we know that any direction we go in, whether mandated or, within the narrow confines of a mandate, chosen, will make at least one third of people unhappy and put them in untenable positions - where their comfort levels around exposure are burst, their children are in need of child care, their family finances are stressed, their patience, once tenuous, now snapped. From our surveys, we know these great disparities exist. We cannot bridge the divides or adequately meet all needs. We simply cannot.

And so, we are going to humbly issue a daunting request - we are asking for everyone to extend to one another the deepest degree of grace you can summon. When our administrators have worked 14 hour days to recreate the plans they just created days before, because the word “should” got changed to “must,” they deserve grace. When you burst into tears because a hybrid plan neither meets the needs of your child nor your own work schedule, you deserve grace. When you are terrified to return to an environment where students don’t follow the rules all the time when it’s not a pandemic, but you also can’t imagine not seeing your students, you deserve grace. When you feel the weight on your shoulders of the health and education and welfare of close to 4,000 Braves as you make or carry out decisions others make, you deserve grace.

With thanks to each and every member of our Braves family, I will turn things over to Jamie.”

Superintendent’s Report

2020-2021 School Year- Opening

Superintendent Farr noted this is the most challenging times for educators. The only thing to make us (administrators) happy would be for all student and staff to be back. But, unfortunately that is not possible with the current COVID situation.

Our reopening plan is currently in draft form. This plan will be submitted to the State Education Department on July 31. Superintendent Farr reviewed the presentation with the Board that was presented to staff and community on July 27. In reality the plan will not advise the community of what they wish to know. It is a very general plan. What the District is working on is a handbook that will show students, parents, and staff what a typical day would look like. The goal is to have this issued on Friday of this week. Next week parents would then receive a survey for their school choice.

The district has conducted many community options for feedback. A ThoughtExchange survey was sent out to parents and completed by over 1,000 regarding the 2019-2020 school year shut down on what went well, what was challenging, and ideas for the future during the shutdown. The district met with union leadership, Board, forums with parents, staff, students, and community members.

A parent survey was conducted last week with about 2,700 responses with questions about internet service, if given choice of in person return, remote, or hybrid where you would want to be, and those who rode the bus last year, who would need transportation this year.

The Canandaigua Teachers’ Association also completed a survey from their unit membership on their whether they felt comfortable going back to the classroom. Over half of the respondents feel fairly comfortable. Some of their comments were: for everyone is to wear a mask, maintain 6’ of distancing, classes at 50% capacity, dedicated staff for virtual and remote learning, and sufficient supply of PPE.

There are two draft options for parents to chose from.

Option #1 is Virtual Learning through the end of the first semester (January 29, 2021). With full expectations for assignments, deadlines, authentic grading, and assessments that will align with in-person instruction.

Option #2 is In-person option. This would more than likely take place as UPK-12 Hybrid Learning with students with the last name A-K in-person Monday and Tuesday, remote Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Students with the last name L-Z in-person Thursday and Friday, remote Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. But if the infection rate continues to rise, this group would shift to all remote learning. It would look different than Option 1, Option 2 would be more flexible.

Students and staff would need to complete a health screening and temperature check each day. It is recommended that this is completed prior to coming to school. The District is looking at products where this can be completed easily.

Superintendent Farr then opened the meeting to Board members for any questions, concerns they may have.

Daycare will be a big challenge for both community (families) and staff. Is there anything being worked on with local daycare centers? Superintendent Farr noted that he has recently met with the YMCA and Coordinated Child Development Program, Inc. (CCDP) to partner with them. He will also be reaching out to other agencies and this information will then be communicated to families.

Are there options for barriers to be used like in higher education and change in ventilation and/or filters? The district has increased the air intake on ventilation in the buildings from 26 to 40 percent. The filters have been changed but we are uncertain if the suggested filters will work with our systems. We have many PPE's ordered.

How often with the restrooms be cleaned and how will water fountains be handled? Is there any coordinating between neighboring districts? What guidance has been received regarding sports? Restroom will be cleaned three times a day. Signage will be placed inside and outside stressing hygiene. Water fountains have been disabled, but the water bottle fillers will remain in use. Coordinating with local districts is not easy. Canandaigua is one of the largest so for us to do similar as others is difficult. Currently fall sports have been delayed until September 21.

What would the handbook include? It will outline the expectations for any level of opening. It will contain links to various resources. It will mostly be about academics, but will also include health and safety.

Will additional time be needed between the morning and afternoon UPK classes? There could be, but currently there is time for a planning period and teacher lunch, this may be sufficient amount of time for cleaning.

Concerns about livestreaming and what could be seen if a student is being disciplined. There has been much discussion with CTA and administrative team. This has also been discussed with our legal counsel.

Will teachers be handing out materials, papers and books? We have the technology to switch to electronic. The hope would be no handouts.

With all the terms; virtual, remote, hybrid learning, asynchronous, and synchronous, we should have a definition sheet. We have created a visual that explains the learning and are working on this.

Will BOCES be releasing their own guidance? BOCES programs will serve students with IEP's daily. Vocational education at this point will be running daily. This year students with the approval of parents and the district will be able to transport themselves.

Will UPK students receive technology? Would their schedule be the same? We have discussed providing them iPads or Chromebooks. They will also follow the Monday-Tuesday or Thursday-Friday schedule.

What if a student or teacher tests positive for COVID? There is protocol based on CDC guidance. Anyone in close proximate contact with the person- less than 6 feet without a mask for 10 consecutive minutes. We would vacate the space for 24 hours, clean and then return. For staff if they need to be quarantined or sick

from COVID they will receive 14 days that would not count against their sick time. We are still waiting for further guidance on students.

What type of budgetary hit will the District be taking with all the extra measures? We currently don't have a grasp on this. We also do not know what budget cuts we may receive from the state.

Mrs. Thomas was offline from 5:58-6:01p.m.

When will families know what courses may or may not be offered in the fall? We will try to off all.

Where will there be hand sanitizers? We will have them in each room and at each entrance.

Will we be allowed visitors or parents to be in the building? We will try to keep all visitors to a minimum.

Closing Remarks

Superintendent Farr noted how proud he is of the Administrative team, Board, staff, and community. These are very difficult times, but everyone is coming together. During the community forum several asked how they can help their neighbors.

Watch, Thursday, July 30 at 7:00 p.m. on our YouTube channel, our commencement video. It is amazing.

Upcoming Events

- August 31- Regular Board Meeting
- September 7- Labor Day
- September 8- Superintendent Conference Day
- September 9- First day of school
- September 14- Regular Board Meeting

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Pedzich, seconded Dr. Schneider, with all present voting yes, the Board of Education approved the adjournment of the Special meeting at 6:12 p.m. The next Regular meeting will be on August 3, 2020 as a Zoom meeting streamed live on YouTube at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sundlov
District Clerk