

**STRONGSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
JULY 29, 2020
REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Strongsville Board of Education and any other items germane to the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, at the **Administration Building, Meeting Room, 18199 Cook Avenue, Strongsville, Ohio**, by President, Richard O. Micko.

All members of the Board and media were notified of this meeting in compliance with Section 121.22 O.R.C., effective November 28, 1975.

The following Board Members answered Roll Call: Mrs. Bissell, Mrs. Housum, Mrs. Buckner-Sallee, Mr. Micko and Mr. Roberts.

Others present were: Dr. Cameron Ryba, Superintendent; Mr. George Anagnostou, Treasurer; Ms. Jenni Pelko, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Stephen Breckner, Operations Manager; Ms. Erin Green, Director of Curriculum; and Mr. David Binkley, Director of Technology. Mr. Andy Trujillo, Director of Pupil Services, joined the meeting remotely.

This meeting was videotaped and is part of the official minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DISTRICT GOALS

Student Achievement is the District's number one goal and is balanced against Financial Prudence. Helping with both goals is Community Engagement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Julie Lawson asked the School Board to enact a policy requiring the use of facial coverings for all students and staff at all times. She also asked for a thorough restart plan that will provide five days of instruction whether it be in person, remote, or a blend of both. She asked for consistency, structure, and guidelines that will protect students, staff and families.

Fourth grade student, Sawyer Kosek-Wheat, shared that he misses school very much and wants to go back. He asked the Board to please have live teaching.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT

There are two items of discussion on the agenda in regards to the restart plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Much of the restart plan was shared during the Community Conversation last week. Further discussion and decisions need to be made regarding the restart plan and a policy for facial coverings. Dr. Ryba continued the meeting out of order of the agenda starting with item 2. Policy Discussion - Facial Coverings.

2. Policy Discussion – Facial Coverings

Dr. Ryba shared two sample policies on facial coverings with the Board prior to the meeting. Much discussion was had. The Board will be enacting a policy that will require all students, preschool through 12th grade, to wear a facial covering at all times on buses and in schools. Face shields will also be an option for students. The policy will be comprehensive, reasonable, effective and practical. The Board will look to take action on this policy at the August 6th meeting. There is already a state order requiring all school staff to wear facial coverings at all times unless there is a medical reason preventing employees from wearing masks.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (continued)

A. SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

1. 2020-2021 School Year Restart Plan

The Board gave the directive that applicable preschool students and students enrolled in Full Day Kindergarten will only be charged tuition for the days in which they physically attend school. Meaning, parents will not be charged tuition for any days in which students were learning from home in a blended or remote learning structure. The preschool rate will remain the same as last year. Once the tuition is set, the daily rate will be determined and families will be notified of the plans for billing and payment. It was recommended that billing for in-person days be issued three times per year at the end of each trimester. Mr. Roberts asked if a monthly billing could be implemented. Discussion was had. The tuition rate for full day kindergarten may be on the August 6th Work Session agenda for approval.

Although the District issued a temporary hiring freeze, Dr. Ryba explained the need to hire additional custodial staff to implement procedures needed to clean, sanitize, disinfect, etc. The recommendation is 33 additional hours per day of custodial staff which would go to help the preschool and all five elementary schools. At this time, additional staff is not needed at the high school and middle school. Custodial time will be adjusted to offer additional support during the first shift. Dr. Ryba shared which buildings and the times the extra help would be assigned. Discussion was had. Mr. Breckner and Ms. Pelko helped answer questions. The Board is in support of additional staff to keep the District safe for in-person learning. Mr. Micko asked Mr. Breckner to share an overview of what is planned for the additional cleaning. Mr. Breckner shared a detailed, comprehensive cleaning/disinfection plan. The Cleaning/Disinfection Plan along with the chemicals that are used and where they are used can be found on the District's website.

To help with the restart plan, the Directors were in attendance to answer questions. Mr. Trujillo joined the meeting remotely. Much discussion occurred around the county COVID risk levels as it relates to how the Strongsville District will operate schools. There is a clear direction that if Cuyahoga County is in Level 1/Yellow or Level 2/Orange that the district would be open for in person/in building learning for all students every day. There is also clarity that if the county is at Level 4/Purple, schools would be closed and students would participate in Remote Learning 2.0 at home. The Board and district administration are continuing discussions on local metrics that can be utilized at Level 3/Red to determine if it is safe to have schools open for all students or if a blended/remote structure would be implemented. The Cuyahoga County Board of Health has indicated that they may strongly recommend that all school districts in the county start the school year in remote learning. Much discussion was had. Mr. Binkley shared information regarding distribution of Chromebooks. Ms. Pelko spoke on professional development. Ms. Green shared information about the SOLO program. The SOLO curriculum is aligned to the general progression of what's going on in the classroom. Mr. Trujillo gave an overview of challenges and expectations for Special Education. He is working very closely with the parents. The Board and Administration will continue to take all of these factors into consideration as discussion will continue at the August 6th meeting.

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Mr. Micko summarized details of the information shared during the work session.

Mr. Roberts thanked all committee members, Directors, and everyone involved for all their hard work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

20-07-38 Moved by Mr. Roberts to enter into Executive Session to consider the evaluation and employment of a public employee and to consider the discipline of a public employee or official, seconded by Mrs. Buckner-Sallee and approved on a roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Roberts, yes; Mrs. Buckner-Sallee, yes; Mrs. Bissell, yes;
Mrs. Housum, yes; Mr. Micko, yes.
Motion carried 5-0

Entered into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

Resumed public session at 9:59 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

20-07-39 Moved by Mr. Roberts to adjourn the Strongsville Board of Education Regular Work Session, seconded by Mrs. Buckner-Sallee and approved on a roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Roberts, yes; Mrs. Buckner-Sallee, yes; Mrs. Bissell, yes;
Mrs. Housum, yes; Mr. Micko, yes.
Motion carried 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Richard O. Micko, President

George K. Anagnostou, Treasurer