

WEATHERSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

May 11, 2021

Approved Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/PLEDGE

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Board Chair, Annemarie Redmond.

Those present were: Annemarie Redmond, Jacqui Antonivich, Kristen Bruso, Mark Yuengling, Jaimie Turner, JeanMarie Oakman, David Baker, Angie LeDeau, Lizzy Craig, Ethan McNaughton, Annete Jennings, Brooke Breit, Carrie Jewell, Christine Bourne, Colleen DeShamp, Diana Stillson, Emily Stevens, Jackie L, Jaime Richardson, Jeff Vandimere, Jennifer Aldrich, Jennifer Durham, Jennifer Rouse, Jessica Kischko, Jessica Lawler, Jessica Wilmot, Julian Villa, Julie Russell, Karli Nissenbaum, Kate Ryan, Katie Ahern, Kirby Webster, Kristen McNamara, Kristina Hughes, Laura Berry, Leanna Robinson, Lora Powers, Lori Small, Mavis Shand, Meredith Kelly, Michella Pardis, Nathan McNaughton, Paul Doiren, Star Eitapence, Susan Brown, Tara Smith, Tim Knapp, Zachary Shambo, SAPA recording and Becky Chrisinger. The flag was pledged

II. CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - NONE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

April 20, 2021

Annemarie Redmond made some changes to the minutes from the previous meeting. Annemarie asked for a motion about the minutes from 4/20/2021. Kristen Bruso made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. Mark Yuengling seconded this motion. NFD. Four ayes and one abstention. This motion was approved.

IV, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ethan McNaughton said he has concerns about getting back to a pre-COVID schedule. Ethan also has concerns around not having our own summer program this year as it has always worked well for students. Ethan also expressed concerns about consolidations within the SU.

JeanMarie Oakman explained that summer school had to be cut from the budget this year to help the budget to pass. We no longer receive summer school funding based on poverty rate as our poverty rate has gone down. There were several needs and reasons around the decision to consolidate summer school this summer as a SU.

Jessica Kischko explained some of the reasons for combining sports teams with other towns this year for the 5-8 grade students. Nate McNaughton said we lost quite a few of our athletes due to combining with other towns and the transportation issues this presented. Ethan McNaughton said there were no sign ups till after the decision to combine with the other towns in the SU was made. JeanMarie Oakman said she did go to the students in those grades and ask about participation and there weren't enough students to field teams at our school. Ethan McNaughton said the school board needs to make these decisions.

JeanMarie Oakman said that in the future we hope to have summer school at our school again. By merging with other towns this year, we were able to provide our students with summer school.

Summer school was for specific students who met the criteria but can be added to as space allows.

Jacqui Antonivich mentioned the possibility that numbers of students playing sports could be down due to Covid and suggested that we should be grateful that students were given an opportunity to play sports since we are still in a pandemic.

There were questions around specials being consolidated in the SU. David Baker said there are no plans to consolidate specials as an SU. There have been schools that have shared teachers in the past when the teacher doesn't work full time at one school.

V. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - JeanMarie Oakman

JeanMarie Oakman asked if June's meeting could be at 7PM as graduation is the same day. The Board said this would be fine with them. They are having a meeting in the morning to discuss the awards and graduation ceremony. The graduation is at 4PM and if it is inside there will be limited attendance. Four to six family members can attend if it is outside. Track My Progress results are on the agenda so will be talked about later.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - David Baker

David Baker said the legislative year is wrapping up. The good news is that we can have an in person graduation inside or outside. We still don't have all the updated regulations.

VII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. COVID-19 Updates

We have been able to lessen some restrictions and have more freedom. David Baker said we have a great group of nurses that have helped us tremendously. David and Jean Marie Oakman said hats off to the nurse this year. We haven't mixed pods a lot at this time and we are staying cautious. We are still being careful about what we do.

B. COVID Stress - Angie LeDeau

Angie LeDeau reported that less and less people have been reporting via the surveys. We will use the data to support staff.

C. Recovery Plan

Annemarie Redmond asked if the Board could get a spreadsheet about how the funds are being spent that have been received due to Covid. Angie LeDeau will share a presentation at the SU Board. The SU had to complete a needs assessment which was submitted and then the actual plan will be submitted as well. The plan is to add interventionists at all the schools as well as to reduce class size so the funds are mostly being spent on personnel. JeanMarie Oakman mentioned that we were able to reduce the class size in third grade by using these funds to hire another third grade teacher. The need for another teacher in 7th grade was discussed as well as the scheduling issues that would arise from hiring another teacher. There will be a large class size in this grade. There was a lot of discussion around hiring another seventh grade teacher. At this time, this teacher isn't in the recovery plan. JeanMarie asked for direction from the Board about hiring for this position. Middle school

teachers gave input that they had a wish for a reading teacher but they also didn't want to put a financial burden on the school and create a deficit. There was a lot of discussion around this teacher position and questions surrounding the recovery plan. JeanMarie Oakman mentioned that if we hired another teacher, we wouldn't need the regular education paraprofessional for this class. Some people expressed thanks to the middle school teachers for their attitude and agreed that we need to keep the budget as it has been approved. Annemarie Redmond asked David Baker if there is possible funding from the COVID funds. Angie LeDeau said she believes that we could consider adding this position to the plan and this will be looked into.

Mark Yuengling brought up the lack of clarity with this funding. Annemarie Redmond said she'd like to see these funds be looked into. There was a lot more discussion. There was clarification around the fact that these funds are not community based or local Board driven but by the direction of the AOE they are directed by the SU. Mark Yuengling asked if the school board members could be given copies of the recovery plan and spreadsheets. These will be sent to all of the board members in all of the towns.

D. Graduation

It will take place on June 8, 2021 at 4PM. Pods will be marked outside so families can be together.

E. Review of Test Scores - JeanMarie Oakman

JeanMarie Oakman went over the test scores in detail and explained them. By and large, we did very well as a school on these tests. When reviewing these scores, JeanMarie also sees where the needs are by reviewing these scores.

F. Scheduling Restrictions

David Baker said that 22 staff members including administrators were on the scheduling task force. Some of the things that were put into the schedule for next year were less transitions, lunches in the classroom, instructional blocks and taking time each day for training. David Baker believes the task force did a great job. We have to have a unified school day.

Annemarie Redmond said a lot of people are concerned about the shortened day when we are trying to catch students up.

There was discussion around the actual school day and David Baker said this is done at the building level for each school. Several teachers expressed concerns around this schedule as far as teaching time, after school time with students and other concerns. Parents also expressed concerns around this schedule.

There was a lot of discussion around the need for after school time with students. Some teachers expressed concerns about having time for after school help via having to always be in training after school. There are still days built in the school year for training time.

Parents expressed how much they appreciate after school programs and homework help for students.

There was also discussion around the school opening up early in the morning which Weathersified has done historical. It is not believed that early drop off can be in place again.

JeanMarie said that this schedule is excellent and will allow for project based learning.

VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION - None

IX. SETTING THE NEXT AGENDA

NOTE: Time Change to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

- A. Consolidation Concerns
- B. Scheduling and Restrictions
- C. COVID Updates
- D. Recovery Plan
- E. Sports Update

X. TENTATIVE EXECUTIVE SESSION - TSA.11 Section 313

Annemarie Redmond mentioned a need for a short Executive Session. Kristen Brusco made a motion to go into Executive Session. Jacqui Antonivich second this motion. NFD. All in favor. The Board went into Executive Session at 10:15PM. At 10:20PM, Mark Yuengling moved to come out of Executive Session. Jacqui Antonivich second. NFD. All in favor. The Board came out of Executive Session and no action was taken.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Yuengling moved to adjourn the meeting. Jaimie Turner second this motion. NFD. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:21PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Chrisinger