

Farouk Rajab, Board Chairman called the special virtual meeting to order at 5:30p.m. Members present were Heidi Simmons, Secretary, Craig Esposito, Daniel Kelley, Kevin Agnello, and Sara Baker. Also present were Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent, Student Government Representative Kyle Lowry and members of the administration staff. Late Arrival - Christopher Donahue - 6:08pm

Executive Closed Session: Discussion concerning strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the four AFSCME collective bargaining units, the teachers unit, and the administrators unit.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Heidi Simmons:

Motion 1: To move into Executive Closed Session and invite Mary Anne Butler, Van Riley and Nick Grello.

All: Aye – Motion Passes

The Board entered into Executive Session at: 5:35p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at: 6:05p.m.

No action was taken.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Items on the Agenda

There were no comments from citizens relative to items on the agenda.

COVID-19 Discussion

Dr. Riley commented on the bus hubs, while noting these are needed in order to keep school open. Dr. Riley and Peter Anderson, have been working on two groups, which include Town workers who currently drive the highway trucks to fill in temporarily at the bus company. These individuals are close to finishing their bus driver license to fill in temporarily. Dr. Riley also spoke on the upcoming mask mandates and COVID-19 testing for staff members. He noted it may be up to the towns to make a decision on masks. If that is the case the Board will need a special meeting and will be gathering information to make that decision. Craig Esposito asked about the new referral program and the increase sub pay and if those have had a positive response. Farouk Rajab, Chair reported he had a conversation with Greg Howard recently suggesting that elementary schools open 30-45 minutes earlier to help with drop off. Chair Rajab also spoke to Peter Anderson who reported the middle school is also problematic. Chair Rajab would love to consider this proposal but understood if we cannot do it due to staffing. Dr. Riley to look into this further. He noted while speaking to elementary and middle school principals, they feel this is not an issue in the morning because they already have staff coming in early, but that the afternoon is the issue. Dr. Riley will look at extending it at both ends and will let the Board know. Sara Baker asked if there has been a discussion of bringing lockers back into the student experience. Dr. Riley will find out and let the Board know. Dan Kelley asked what the District has done to promote the fact that we are paying \$150 for daily subs and asked if we have advertised this. Dr. Riley noted we have done as much advertising as we possibly could. We have also sent out the reward program information to all employees. Craig Esposito noted it was in the New London Day and feels it is very well known out there. Mr. Kelley asked how long it takes to get a sub off the street with background checks. Dr. Riley explained a lot of the paperwork is completed from home and the background portion can be done in a week or two, much quicker than it used to be.