



Board of School Directors Special Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, July 20, 2020

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Friday, July 24, 2020

Members present: Courtney Barbieri, Nicholas Braccio, Bill Brong, Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Ken Keith, Tom Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren

Others present: Renai Cardillo, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Brian Pawling, Megan Zweiback

1. Education-Personnel Committee

Education Personnel Chairperson Mr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Kwiatkowski stated that there were two items on the agenda, each seeking review prior to Board Action and approval on July 23, 2020.

1.1 SASD Phased School Reopening Health & Safety Plan

Superintendent Gallagher read a statement acknowledging the stressful conditions that students, staff and families were experiencing during the global pandemic. Dr. Gallagher noted that similar to school districts around the country, the SASD has been receiving, reviewing and examining data from various sources in an effort to make the best decision possible about reopening of schools. Dr. Gallagher said that the Health & Safety Plan that is being presented tonight incorporates that data as well as a common sense approach for our community.

Dr. Gallagher expressed frustration on the lack of communication from the PA Department of Health on several issues critical to reopening and commented that the school district will continue to pursue answers and remain current and up to date on all guidance and direction.

Dr. Gallagher thanked parents and guardians for their response to the surveys, indicating that the questions, comments and feedback were an important part of this evening's presentation. The information has been collated and organized with the goal of providing answers to parent questions and concerns. Dr. Gallagher stated that a FAQ (Frequently Asked Question) section would be added to the district website and would be updated frequently, in an effort to provide consistent communication about the reopening plan.

Dr. Gallagher also expressed that it is the desire of the administration and the Board of School Directors, to return all students to in-person classroom instruction in the safest manner possible. The Health & Safety Plan being presented this evening outlines those details.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Hey thanked the public for their comments and a slide was shown that listed the comments and questions that were submitted. Questions included facilities cleaning and sanitation tasks, COVID positive protocol, transportation, lunch planning, the wearing of masks, virtual learning, handling of clubs, activities and fall sports. Dr. Hey read the list of names that submitted questions:

Lorina Hunsberger	Jane & Bruce Hagan	Laura Kline
Tracy Cassel	Kimberly Bolczuk	Frances Garner
Mitch Rothholz	Danille Mazza	Kelly Paturzo
Sarah Drumm	Natalie K	Edward Panzeter III
Peggy Niemeyer	Dawn Beers	Deb Schoen
Daniva Ahmad	Erin Tynebor	Anita Mallott
Chele Hannum	Alexander Manning	Kelly Mowert
Alicia Shenko	Renee Miller	Hannah Randall
Colleen Slade		

Dr. Gallagher introduced the School Reopening Plan presentation and its agenda:

- Objective and Goal
- Health And Safety Plans
- Educational Options
- Reopening Plans
- Next Steps

This presentation is available for viewing on the school district website at the following link: https://www.soudertonsd.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_94298/File/2020-2021school-year/SASD-Reopening-Plan-Board-Committee-Presentation-07-20-2020.pdf.

Dr. Gallagher reviewed the parent survey responses which categorized school choice and transportation by elementary, middle and high school. Survey comments reflected the reoccurring theme of opening schools full time for in person instruction, offering a district on line option, masks, hybrid learning, quarantining, contract tracing and socialization.

Dr. Hey reviewed in specific detail Cleaning and Sanitizing protocols. Director of Pupil Services, Mrs. Zweiback reviewed Social Distancing practices, Student and Staff Health procedures, COVID-19 protocols, Classroom Strategies and Transportation. Dr. Hey reviewed School Nutrition Services.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Dr. Kennedy-Reilly presented the Education Plan which included two options; in-person and online Academy. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly outlined the 1:1 device environment and technology supports. Dr. Gallagher reiterated that the goal remains for all students to receive in-person instruction. He also stated that the school district is fortunate in the size of its buildings, which will easily lend themselves to social distancing. Dr. Gallagher also stated that at this time the district is not presenting a hybrid plan. However, if future mandates require, it would be developed.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly outlined the traditional in-person instruction model supported by the Schoology learning platform. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly introduced the Souderton Area Online Academy stating that it was a program being taught by Souderton teachers and that curriculum would align to our brick and mortar program. She noted that it would be a blend of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed the slide detailing the Online Academy including student expectations, small-group instruction, IEPs, 504 Plans and at home support.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that enrollment information for the Online Academy along with additional information would be made available on the school district website. An individual email link will also be posted for questions specifically related to the Online Academy. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that North Montco Technical Career Center will open for any enrolled student to attend on any day. A full virtual program is not available due to the hand-on nature of the CTE program.

Mrs. Zweiback spoke about the Special Education program and the delivery of support and related services. Mrs. Zweiback noted that Special Education Supervisors will be working with individual families to develop these protocols. Mrs. Zweiback also noted that IEP meetings would be held virtually for the 2020-2021 school year.

Mrs. Zweiback also noted that we are prepared to deliver our Social-emotional learning and mental health supports. In addition to offering programs for Gifted and English Language Learners. Mrs. Zweiback said that it is the desire to hold extra-curricular activities and athletics as guidance permits. Extended School Care (YMCA Kids Kare) is scheduled to operate.

Dr. Gallagher thanked the administrative team, the school board and the various committees that assisted in the preparation and planning of the School Reopening Plan.

Mr. Kwiatkowski began the E-P Committee discussion with questions regarding the ability to switch between in-school and online instruction. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly said the desire of the school district is for families to select their option by trimester or semester. Dr. Gallagher answered questions about attendance, curriculum, quarantine protocols, and implementation of the Health & Safety Plan to students and staff. Several Board members expressed their support for the time and effort spent in creating the School Reopening Plan.

Board President Mr. Keith thanked everyone for their comments. He expressed the need for version control of the Plan in an environment where information is changing so rapidly. Mr. Keith also thanked the public for their comments and interest in the school district operations. He stressed that it was the duty of the Board of School Directors to provide a safe environment for students and staff while being mindful and respectful of the taxpayer. Mr. Keith cautioned against politicizing the pandemic; and reminded that the using science as a tool, coupled with observance of laws and thoughtful discussion, that all decisions would be made with the best interest of our students.

Mr. Keith also acknowledged the stress that this situation has placed not only on our community, but our nation. He noted his understanding of conflicting information and asked for accountability and respect of each other in an effort to maintain the integrity of our community.

Mr. Kwiatkowski thanked Mr. Keith for his comments and asked the Committee for approval to move the item forward for approval and Board action on July 23, 2020. The Committee and Board unanimously agreed to move forward.

1.2 SASD Flexible Instructional Day Application

Dr. Gallagher introduced the agenda item as a formality to PDE which would allow the school district to provide alternate instruction (including virtual) in the event of a school closure.

Dr. Hey commented that the program will allow the District to employ alternate approaches for delivering instruction if a circumstance arises that prevents instruction in the customary manner. He offered the background information of Act 64 of 2019 which permits a public school district to develop an FID (Flexible Instruction Day) program to meet the 180 instructional day requirement of the School Code.

The FID program may be online, offline, or a combination of the two. Act 64 was intended to allow schools to teach students virtually on a "snow day" rather than have to make up the day later in the year.

The Committee did not have any questions on the FID application and agreed to move forward for approval and Board action on July 23, 2020.

Mr. Kwiatkowski thanked the community for their support.

Mr. Kwiatkowski adjourned the meeting at 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Pawling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Brian R. Pawling
Board Secretary/Director of Business Affairs