

DECEMBER 2, 2020 CONNEAUT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

12/2/2020 [7:00PM-9:00PM] @ Alice Schafer Annex Cafeteria

- CONNEAUT SCHOOL DIST PUBLIC WS AGENDA -

1. Call to Order

Minutes

Mrs. Luckock opened the meeting at 7:16 pm.

It is noted the following Board members and Administration were present;

Board Members-

Mr. Burnham Mr. Ellis Mr. Hall Mr. Hornstein

Mrs. Klink Mrs. Luckock Mr. McGuirk

Mr. McQuiston Mrs. Miller

Administrators-

Mr. Sperry, Superintendent; Ms. Dressel, Director of Student Services;

Mr. Mayle, Business Manager; Mrs. Kantz, Curriculum Director;

Mr. Kimmel, Bldgs & Grounds Director; Mr. Kelly, Technology Director;

Mr. Joseph, District Solicitor

Building Principals present-

Mr. Parks, Mr. Maskrey, Mr. Burns, Mr. Hans, Mr. Jardina, Mr. Hines

a. Moment of Silence

b. Salute the Flag Ceremony

2. VISITOR RECOGNITION

1. Visitor Recognition *

*Per Policy 903 – Public Participation in Board Meetings

All visitors who are recognized during the Visitor Recognition are allotted a maximum of five (5) minutes to address matters of their concern, unless otherwise determined by the Board President. Visitor recognition is to be limited to thirty (30) minutes unless otherwise decided by the Board.

Minutes

Mr. Thomas addressed the Board- He is the head boys varsity basketball coach at CASH. His topic concerns basketball season. In talking to other coaches and athletic directors he suggests anything except shutting down sports. Some schools have not shut down and are still holding practices, this includes Iroquois, Northeast, and Northwestern. They are still holding practices even though school is virtual. He would like to continue with practice even with virtual learning for varsity if we can. One idea, in Mercer the only level that is practicing is the varsity level, both girls and boys teams. Sharpville just approved suspending until December 28 and they continue to do practices. Please take into consideration if we forfeit play offs and just play student athletics final senior year. He also believes a board just approved in Erie to move on and continue sports even though the school is virtual. He confirmed it was Erie City Schools.

3. Discussion Items

a. Auditors Presentation... Mr. Mayle

Minutes

Mr. Bruce Lawrence and Mr. Scott Timko here from McGill, Power and Associates presented the brief audit review ending with a good overview of audit.

b. Athletic Equipment Bid...Mr. Mayle

Minutes

Mr. Mayle opened the discussion noting he wanted to be proactive with this topic to make sure we are all on same page and doing what the Board wishes. It is time to send out bids for athletic equipment and in remembering some discussion last year about how the bid went out in regards to the discussion of brands. He also recalled some concern from administration on quality which is a concern if a brand is left out. Mr. Mayle feels it is a good idea to discuss tonight. Mrs. Luckock said if we want to void name brands or has that already been smoothed out. Mr. Acklin, CASH Athletic Director approached the podium to add feedback. The issue last year made the process go a few extra months. It came up in a late discussion to not use brand name, and issues with past history and representation with that vendor. Mr. Acklin is not sure if the Board has changed ideas since last year. Mr. Acklin noted since last summer with representation of minorities used by a specific company, he went ahead and asked his 16 athletic head coaches to provide a list of items. Of which, most have turned in their budgets/orders with a very small amount involve that company in question from last year.

Mr. Acklin added that last year's football shoe order just came in, after this year's football season but thankfully the team had shoes and this year was a low uniform year. Last year was the first year of a new set of football uniforms, and since we are on a 2 year rotation, football shoes do usually come from the same company. But again, he noted there are a very few items selected from that company for this year.

Mr. McQuiston asked for a list before going out to bid; Mr. Mayle can email it to the Board. Mrs. Miller commented that if we can pull a comparable, it is important to be careful to not create the controversy we had last year, Mrs. Miller does not want to know what brand, she noted if she knows we ordered football shoes that is all I need to know.

Mrs. Luckock asked about quality, Mr. Acklin said we have not had any issues, and if we did have any issues about anything such as equipment falling apart, i.e., soccer goalie gloves and girls lacrosse gloves wear out is all. In every case they send a replacement or we go to a different model and they don't charge us more, they take care of you. Mr. Ellis asked that Mr. Acklin mentioned matching shoes, in all our sports we don't have matching, why in football. Mr. Acklin replied that was a general statement, example there are two different styles we use for football.

Mr. McQuiston wanted to make it clear, he just wants to see how the bids go out, he does this every day in my job and just wants to see it before we send it out, how it is worded.

Mrs. Miller asked when we vote on the athletic bids, does it show the name brands. Mr. Mayle answered no, just the vendor and the dollar amount. The attachment placed on Agenda Manager would have more detail, each bid and the amount, etc. from his perspective it is good for the board to have and he is hesitant to not include that attachment.

c. Update on COVID - 19 Guidelines...Mr. Sperry

Minutes

Mr. Sperry updated the Board noting he and the other two Superintendents check in multiple times a day and look at data across the state, sometimes the nation and especially Crawford County. Everything seemed to move along through spring and summer and even in the fall but then a month ago it started to pick up. Currently in

Pennsylvania, depending on site, but in Pennsylvania Cameron is the only county not in substantial, the rest are substantial. Last week there were four to five not in substantial.

Also last week, the Governor came out with attestation form and all districts have submitted, either commit to guidelines staying open in some form or you go full virtual if a county in substantial. Even Warren is substantial with 22/cases a day now. Our county quickly zoomed up the list in some areas. For example, under daily cases, based on 100,000, right now we are 13th out of 67 current list and our daily number is 74.8 percent. Twelve counties are above us listed as severe under COVID Act. So we are anywhere from a couple points from being listed as severe on covidactnow.com. Our positive test rate in Pennsylvania we are fifth out of 67 counties. As far as test rates ours is 20 percent, with infection rate is 31st out of 67 at 1.08. But a rate of 1.26 is when it gets really bad; with intensive care units we are at 32nd out of 67 currently and the Meadville Medical Center ICU is at 51% use.

When we look at our townships in our county for our school district, it is Springboro with a 50% infection rate, Conneautville is close to that number. We have to have 2 weeks of lower numbers to drop us down.

Mr. Sperry feels this is just the tip of iceberg from Thanksgiving so results won't get back until now or later with symptoms.

Board Discussion-

Mr. McQuiston asked if students have been affected. Mr. Sperry replied we don't have a Department of Health in Crawford County but our school numbers right now are 13 at CASH, with 99 on quarantine, 4 staff positives and 16 quarantine. We do not have any at CVE or CVMS positives but have quarantined 10 at CVMS and 11 at CVE. CLE has 8 quarantined, 8 staff and no positive for student. We had 5 staff positive and probably one more today. CLMS has 26 students and 11 staff quarantined and a total positive 1 student, 4 staff. Today also highest day for Pennsylvania. So the Health Department nurse we work with anticipates by middle of December to have 25,000 new cases every day, the hospitals to be filled by this week or next week. Mr. Sperry's recommendation is to do virtual one more week, look at data and if better or not worse we go back to ABABC.

Mrs. Klink noted there is an awareness parents have to work, we are putting children with grandparents, who are the highest risk people. There are lots of grandparents watching students. She would like to see everyone back to school, next week in the ABABC schedule. If it gets worse we can drop back. This is a huge disservice not having the students coming in for reasons of mental health is spiraling, not coming in for food and parents having to work. Parents can decide if they should come in. She recommended putting it on the parents to be their decision. But she wants to see them back to school every day or Monday to Thursday and clean on Fridays. We need to educate our students and parents have to work, we have lots of parents who need that work.

Mrs. Luckock asked Mr. Sperry if we are required to sign if back to ABABC version coming in to school if all these regulations are followed to the "T". His impression admin has been extremely diligent in that so looking for that feedback from admin. So if recommendation is to try to be in- person learning do you think we have enough staff to cover and everyone understands that we are continuing to be diligent. Mrs. Miller asked if anything on the document we are not doing. Mr. Sperry replied, no. If we are the only district not going back we will need to do something with Vo-Tech students, Mrs. Klink suggested putting them in a classroom.

Mr. Ellis felt the options are becoming more minimal as it goes along, we all know how district has cyber statistics quality is compared to brick and mortar and the outcomes, we know between 30 and 50 percent on cyber we get no response from. The big part is home and or parents, we are not doing anything for those students and we can't continue to learn like that knowing it is happening. We have to worry about Conneaut students. The only other option and Mr. Ellis hates to open this can of worms but saying anyway, we will have this issue through Christmas to the middle of January. I hope I am wrong. But we are not doing these kids any justice, we can tack on to end of

school year and give them a longer Christmas break instead of one week at a time. He cannot imagine being a parent, so let's tack 3-4 weeks on to the end of the school year. We have to finish by June 30th, so we have 14 days we can play with. He then asked if PDE would allow going past the June 30th/990 hour's deadline. Mr. Sperry noted it would require legislation, and Mr. Joseph we would have to finish by then no getting around that. Mr. Sperry reiterated he strongly advised against full board returning to brick and mortar but can do the ABABC, there is less transition with 5 year old to ten year old as it is the little ones not transmitting as easily. Senior high seems to be the higher transmission. Mrs. Miller might be in favor of bringing elementary back in, because so vital for learning, mental health.

Mrs. Luckock asked if it is practical to think about maybe elementary buildings K-4? Mr. Sperry felt starting Monday with ABABC through Christmas and carefully watch. if no cases in elementary or middle look at week after we come back from Christmas and go full starting with elementary and see. He believes the county will blow up and then we have Christmas. If we bring kids back will we have asymptomatic, yes, but with masks half of them we can keep six feet apart and the transmission rate is lower. Mr. McGuirk commented that he visited CLE and they do a great job keeping separated.

Mr. Hall wished to weigh in, he feels unqualified to make a decision, so put statistics together anywhere you go to support. One stat we know is we will lose to cyber because of home life, as they are not participating in the program but we also have to keep our buildings safe. He understands it is difficult on families, he believes we need kids in school but stay on course with keeping safe. But how do we do this effectively. Mrs. Klink answered we let the parents decide, we go ABABC and if a parent doesn't feel comfortable sending them then keep at home.

Mr. Ellis said they get back twice a week and teachers can communicate better with contact. Mrs. Miller noted that in an email from Mr. Maskrey he suggested opening up cyber again and allowing parents to make the choice.

Mr. Joseph brought up the Attestation form again, signed stating either going remote or if not hybrid or in person you will follow the recommendations. One specific is what you do in the event you have cases based upon the number of students in the building, you have to close for number of cases. If going to ABABC hybrid model have to understand admin may need to close based on our square footage and capacity as a whole.

The Board asked Mr. Maskrey, CASH principal you are the most impacted by quarantines, so any insight. Mr. Maskrey would like to see hybrid but at same time being selfish for kids and faculty. Not sure if he can reopen with the current numbers and is he willing to sacrifice myself to do this.

Mr. McGuirk asked what the faculty felt. Mr. Huber answered; and speaking based on experience this year. He is facilitating K-6 with Mrs. Kantz and has 102 active K-6 students in the program. He said some of them greatly benefit with in-person delivery of instruction, several very successful but they have very dedicated parents working with them. He is not seeing success with those who work independently, with no parent support and he says that say that through 6th grade. He also teachers 9th grade cyber- the same holds true at that level, parent direct involvement is very successful. Those by themselves at home all day are not as successful. He cannot speak for staff at this time.

Mrs. Golenberke is willing to sacrifice herself but not the faculty, she feels it is a no brainer students are not as motivated virtual and the argument is whether it safe, premature for me to speak for everyone but want to keep staff safe.

The Board reviewed building numbers based on the Attestation for the positive COVID numbers and when the district would need to go virtual. Mr. Sperry added this is a rolling 7 day period and once you sign that attestation you have to adhere to it so with our 22 infected we would have to close for 14 days at one of the buildings. If we do not sign a district must go remote.

Mr. Sperry again stated his original recommendation is to go full remote one more week and allow the Thanksgiving surge come or we go back to ABABC this coming Monday.

Mr. Hans spoke, when kids in the building there is connection and accountability with students. The faculty have done great job meeting expectation. With full cyber we are not making those connections despite staff doing what they do online. Even if we do start back with the ABABC, that is 3 days of classes and back to Christmas break. The consensus in his building is yes we want them in some capacity but how do we do that safely.

Mrs. Luckock is trying to understand both sides but is it worth giving anytime to give class before Christmas break but a little class time is better than nothing. Mr. Sperry noted that Erie County is finding people are not being honest, or are asymptomatic, or went and got tested and still walking around exposing and being positive, adults need to be adults.

Mrs. Luckock noted the majority are leaning towards ABABC starting Monday with full realization in a week and half is Christmas break and any instruction is better than none.

Mr. Joseph reminded the Board in taking action, the Board had already granted Mr. Sperry temporary authority to switch so he can make a decision based on discussion here tonight.

d. Review of Winter Sports Schedules and Guidelines...Mr. Sperry

Minutes

Mr. Acklin provided some history on PIAA guidelines, we have to have 15 days of practice before the first legal contest, and 5 days before the first scrimmage. With everything going on we have had to back up it up so now we are up to December 28 first legal competition at CASH.

Many other districts were not that way, but in the last week they are falling amazing. The vast majority are down with very few actually practicing. Our school does not have any days in of practice so no matter when we start we have to put 15 days in of practice. The winter sports season ends February 15, 2021.

Mr. Joseph, District Solicitor read the state attestation, if our county.

Mrs. Miller recommended allowing the varsity only to practice, therefore limiting our risk. Mr. Acklin too wants to start practicing. But Mr. Ellis reminded everyone that Crawford Central is on hold indefinitely with all activities and PENNCREST is pending their board meeting tomorrow night. Mr. Hornstein felt any time increases the chance out of school and it sounds like a bad idea. Mr. McGuirk agreed. Mr. Hall agreed with Mrs. Miller how important sports are but school learning he feels trumps sports.

Mrs. Luckock noted it is difficult to ask for a sacrifice and wondered what the majority recommended. If we come back to the classroom in December and hold athletics in January or are we comfortable with sports in December. She feels not of us are against extra-curricular but if we have to be the parent and say ok if we have to do priorities where are they and do we have a staggered approach. Do we prioritize getting academics back and phase in extra-curricular.

Mrs. Klink reminded everyone we talk about athletics but we should be saying extra-curricular, right now we need our kids in the classroom and all extra-curricular should not be happening. Mr. Hall agreed as well as Mr.

McQuiston, education first. Mrs. Luckock concurred. Mr. Burnham noted we have been going on for some time tonight on this, he feels the classroom is needed for students and we should do the ABAB schedule. Extra-curricular are important but he too agrees that they should be delayed until we see the return to school turn out. Mr. Ellis agreed.

Mrs. Luckock concluded the majority agreed to return to school with the ABABC Schedule next Monday and extra-curricular will be delayed.

e. Maintenance Updates...Mr. Kimmel

Minutes

Mr. Kimmel updated the Board noting with COVID he has changed what he is doing and we are getting more done with more time, noting for example we have more access to equipment.

f. Policies for 1st Reading...Mr. Sperry/Ms. Dressel

1st Reading as information - Policy 213 Grading of Student Progress

Minutes

Mr. Sperry noted the Committee only met briefly last month and we only have one- Policy 213 grading of student progress amended to add a minimum "F" for a 9 weeks grading period.

g. Superintendent's Report...Mr. Sperry

Minutes

Mr. Sperry provided the following report;

1. CCCTC PAC Meeting was held on November 10th. We discussed our current plans in all three districts and how it affects the CCCTC. We discussed the current data/trends and reviewed projections from the health department in regards to Thanksgiving and Christmas and what they expect to occur.
2. IU5 SAC Meeting was held Nov 6th. We met remotely. We had a presentation of "Telepresence Robots" this would allow students that are on "Homebound" (usually for medical reasons) to "attend" school remotely with a robot and they could go to each class and participate like they were there. The robots are at the IU for any district to use. We also discussed current and pending legislation, PIAA and winter sports, and COVID-19. We then had a meeting with the Erie County Health Dept concerning COVID-19.
3. We had over 1,000 CASH Newspapers printed and have now been delivered throughout the district.
4. I attended a "Career Ready Boot Camp" provided remotely by the IU on December 17th and 18th. The Boot Camp reviewed and updated state requirements regarding 339 plans for K-12.
5. We have had weekly Pandemic Coordinator Meetings for Crawford/Erie/ and Warren Counties through the IU. Frank Kimmel and I have attended all of these meetings. These meetings allow for more in depth conversations with the Dept. of Health and their agents. Discussion has covered all aspects of COVID 19.
6. Tim, Tom, Kevin, Mike and I continue to talk daily and often many times a day to review data, discuss ideas and concerns and stay congruent with each other through this pandemic.
7. Systems of CARE meeting was held yesterday. Tom Washington, and I were in attendance. The meeting centered on current plans in regards to COVID-19 and all the agencies in Crawford County.

Most agencies are operating remotely with a few having limited office hours. Women Services has seen an increase in domestic abuse calls during the pandemic. Mental Health has also seen an increase in referrals.

h. Superintendent's Evaluation...Mrs. Luckock

Minutes

Mrs. Luckock was in receipt of everyone's completed superintendents evaluation, she will tally it tomorrow/Thursday.

i. PSBA Updates...Mr. Ellis

- PSBA Liaison Insider November 24, 2020

Minutes

Mr. Ellis only had a few items to report.

j. Agenda Review...Mrs. Luckock

Minutes

The Board reviewed the draft agenda.

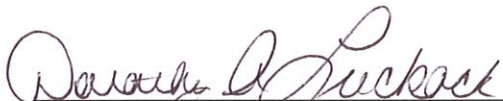
4. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes

Motion by Mrs. Miller, second by Mr. Hornstein to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION - to review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, might lead to disclosure of information protected by law, specifically to discuss personnel concerns.


Dorothy Luckock, Board President


Greg Mayle, Board Secretary