

Academic Affairs
Administration Building Board Room
Wednesday, May 5, 2021 5:45 p.m.
(Virtual) Minutes

In attendance: Larry Stern, Rita Spinelli, David Bradley, Tim Tkach, Jonathan Cleaver, Jan Wentz, Lauren Cortright, Same Kistler, Mark McGalla, Melissa Volcskai, Aaron Sebelin, Sue Howland

I.) Lehigh Area School District's Dealing with COVID-19

a.) 3 different modes of education at the elementary center this past year

- In person 5 days a week
 - Students and staff followed all COVID guidelines, masks, and social distancing guidelines
- LAVA (Lehigh Area Virtual Academy)
 - Supported by 3 elementary full time teachers
- Swivl learning
 - Equipment purchased for each grade level with the students zooming in along with the actual classroom daily
- Mr. Tkach thanks all the administrators and staff for working so hard on all these learning models
- Mr Sebelin comments and commends the staff, secretaries, lunch room staff, custodians, it takes everyone to make this work. Partial to the Elementary staff and feels that they are the hardest working staff in the district. He also thanks the board for supporting the five days a week in person education this year. Received many calls on how were we able to make it work and keep our kids in school. Followed all health and safety protocols. Gives Mrs. Haydt a big thank you as the Pandemic coordinator for all of her work this year.
- Mr. Tkach thanks Mrs. Haydt, Kali Andrew, Mrs. Blasiak, Mrs. Lobein, and Mrs. Karpowicz with keeping our health and safety plan updated to enable us to stay open and within the guidelines.
- Mr. Bradley wanted to say thank you to the staff and community for allowing the schools to be open.
- Mr. Bradley then asks why we are still doing virtual meetings

b.) Middle School modes of education

- LAVA
- Zoom
- In person 5 days a week
- Thank you to all the staff for being flexible and handling all situations with great care
 - Students and staff followed all COVID guidelines, masks, and social distancing guidelines
- Dr. McGalla comments that the students have been amazing as well as the staff and a special thank you to Mr. Ebbert for all of his work with spacing and hall distancing,

etc. Nursing staff has been excellent and again thanking the board for all the support.

c.) High School modes of education

- Hybrid schedule
- LAVA
- Thank you to the administrators, teachers, secretaries, and staff
- Thank you to the board for allowing a full in person instruction at the high school level as guidelines became less strict
- Mrs. Howland comments that the high school was an a la cart kind of menu for students. About 500 students returned on April 6th to the in person learning option. Mrs. Howland talks about the quarantine process for students now since six feet social distancing is notable to happen.

II.) Update on the SEL program initiative at the Elementary Center (Mrs. Kistler & Mrs. Cortright)

- a.) Mrs. Kistler talks about the survey created for parents and community members regarding strengths and weaknesses within their student. It is available on the district website under district news. Simple link to a google form with a video as well. Will take this information and use it to drive and create meaningful lessons. Looking forward to having as many as possible complete this survey.

III.) Update on Kindergarten Registration – Mr. Sebelin

- a.) Mr. Sebelin talks about the kindergarten registration numbers which are 167 registered students at this time
- b.) This number is higher than typical at this time, normally it is between 140-160 at this time, we will lose some but also gain some as well
- c.) The process has been working very well and compliments to the office staff and kindergarten teachers
- d.) Two parents are allowed and temperatures are taken, etc.
- e.) Nursing staff, guidance and social workers are all available at registration
- f.) Parents are thankful for the personal touch provided by the staff
- g.) Great to see kids and parents into our school again
- h.) Happy to report that the process is very successful

IV.) Good of the Order

- a.) Mr. Bradley asks again about why we are still having zoom meetings – will the next academic affairs be in person? Obviously has nothing to do with COVID any longer. We should do both zoom and in person.

Next Meeting; Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 5:45 p.m., Virtual

