

EGG HARBOR CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING

July 27, 2020

The special meeting of the Egg Harbor City Board of Education was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m. via a Zoom Meeting streamed live at Egg Harbor City School District Homepage with President, Stephen Bouchard opening the meeting, and Board Members, James Guercioni, Stephen Murphy, and MaryAnn Rogers present. Also present was: Superintendent/CLS Principal, Adrienne Shulby; Business Administrator, Joseph Smurlo; Community School Principal, John Griffith; Director of Special Projects, Gina Forester; Supervisor of Early Childhood/LDTC, Tara Macchione; Board Solicitor, Ron Sahli and Board Secretary, Maryanne Shupin.

Mr. Bouchard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following statement: This is to advise those present at this meeting of the Board of Education of the Egg Harbor City School District, in the County of Atlantic, that adequate notice has been given of this meeting as required by the provision of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975; that notice thereof has been forwarded for publication in the District official newspapers, posted in the city Schools, and forwarded to the city Clerk within the time required by said Act.

The Board values and welcomes comments and opinions from residents as long as remarks are not personal or discourteous. The public comment portion of the meeting allows the Board to listen to community members and to hear their opinions on school policy and operations.

There are two opportunities to address the Board. The first public portion is reserved for persons wishing to speak about agenda items only. The second opportunity, following the action items, residents may address the Board on any school related issue using the email address as listed on the school's website/home page. Once identified, a speaker is asked to limit their comments to three minutes. Yielding time is not permitted. The public comments portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes total.

Mr. Bouchard called for the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Reflected in the opening paragraph

OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Bouchard invited the public to comment on or question any topic related to the Board of Education agenda items. One question was received from Rochelle Collier. She asked, "Do you have PPE for students and staff?" Mrs. Shulby stated that students and staff are required to come to school with a mask. Masks will be available for special circumstance.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE BOARD

Mr. Bouchard thanked the Board Members, Teachers, and Family Members for participating in the reopening plan over the last month. Their input for safely opening in September is truly appreciated.

PROGRAM ITEMS

Upon a motion by Ms. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Guercioni, the Board approved the submission of the Egg Harbor City Public School District's Restart and Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 school year to the Atlantic County Office of Education.

Before taking Roll Call:

Mrs. Shulby noted the two instructional options available to all students in the EHC School District.

Ms. Fuentes joined the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Option A – is an in person instruction, 5 days a week from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. Breakfast will be served to all students and at the 12:30 pm dismissal lunch will be a grab and go option.

From 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Teachers will have their lunch and prep period.

From 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Teachers will work an hour of Virtual Teaching to all students.

Ms. Caudo joined the meeting at 7:13 pm

Option B – is 100% options for virtual learning

(Roll call: Ms. Caudo-yes; Ms. Fuentes-yes; Mr. Guercioni-yes; Mr. Murphy-yes; Ms. Rogers-yes; Mr. Bouchard-yes) Motion carried.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The floor was turned over to answer questions from Community Members:

Rochelle Collier questioned, "If someone in the school gets COVID what procedure will you be following to protect the staff and students?" Mrs. Shulby responded, "Each case will be dealt with on an individual basis that depends on their exposure." The guidelines from NJ Department of Health and the CDC will be used.

Dominique Rodgers questioned, "Do you think it is safe to allow every student to come to school at one time? Will there be an option to have teams for who comes to school on certain days?" Mrs. Shulby responded, "We are able to open with the social distancing that we are required to do – given the survey responses we don't anticipate 100% of our students returning".

Rochelle Collier questioned, “With the remote learning include zoom instruction where there will be live teaching or will it consist of PowerPoint slides only?” Mrs. Shulby said it would be a combination. Dr. Forester detailed the virtual plan will include 9 components and will be presented as a Handbook. They include: services, digital platform, resources, content delivery, attendance procedures, reporting, grading, instructional support expectations, assessments, and in addition to the 9 components an assessment calendar, wellness supports, transition back to in-person learning and communication of District Policy will be added as well.

Beth Van Langen questioned, “Will student still switch between classes?” Mrs. Shulby indicated Spragg students will not. Mr. Griffith explained EHCCS students will stay in their homeroom pod while teachers will push into classrooms.

Kiomy Fuentes questioned, “Will there be Bathroom Monitors?” Mrs. Shulby explained changes to the restrooms to make for social distancing in the bathrooms: hands free sinks, removal of sinks and hand sanitizers. Mr. Griffith described the enhanced cleaning procedures and stated there are hallway monitors but not bathroom monitors.

Ingrid Nieves-Clark questioned, “For those students who receive services through either a 504 or IEP (OT, speech therapy, etc.) will those students be required to physically be in the school to receive the services or would there be a similar virtual option?” Dr. Forester explained that any student with a 504 or IEP, whether learning in-person or virtually, who require services will receive those services.

Keith Adams wrote “Good evening, will students have to wear masks all day or just in common areas? With flu season coming is their guidelines in place for testing of students with symptoms? What if any restrictions will be in place for lunch and breakfast? Mrs. Shulby explained the school does not test students for health reasons. Students are evaluated by the school nurse and parents are notified accordingly. Masks must be worn at all times by staff. Students must wear a mask when 6 feet distancing cannot be obtained.

Eileen DiGiacomo questioned, “If a parent selects 100% remote learning, will that be for the entire school year or can it be changed at any time based on the governor’s directive? Mrs. Shulby responded that reassessments will be done at the end of the first marking period: 11.10.20.

Mattia Brown wrote “I am a council member who is on the school board committee but yet I do not have access to this meeting which I’m told I should but my real question is why was the last meeting held at the middle school but this one is remote? What has changed since the last meeting? I have quite a few parents who feel they aren’t being allowed to voice their opinions. If the school is safe enough to send our kids back how is it not safe enough to hold a meeting of just a few people? Mrs. Shulby responded this evening meeting is a “Special BOE Meeting” that required a quick turnaround. There was confusion on the comment “do not have access to this meeting” by Mrs. Shulby and Mr. Smurlo.

The next communication is from cre10515@sol.com.

250 new cases in NJ today

How safe is the school if the board members are doing a zoom meeting opposed to having a meeting With parents face to face? Already answered.

How many meetings have happens since Covid that we're in person? 1

Did all members of the board attend?? No one Board member had a previous engagement.

If not I'd like to know why you all don't feel safe enough to have meetings in person but expect us to send our Children to your school and feel safe? Already answered: the Governor has mandated the District to have a plan.

How many are African-American Hispanic or mixed race on the board? This is not recorded.

Black and Hispanic ppl and mixed children and adults are 3percent more likely to get Covid and later die -What's the percentage of Caucasians opposed to black and Hispanics in our school? This information is not readily available but Mrs. Shulby encouraged the writer to contact the Board Office for this information.

How many board members have children in the school? To those members will you feel safe sending your children? Ms. Fuentes answered "absolutely not". Ms.

Rogers is leaving this decision for her grandchildren up to their parents.

Children are getting

Neurological disorders and organ failure due to covid . 27 babies and one has passed away also a 9 year old just died in Florida Which was African-American. Do you want our children's blood on your hands?

Mr. Sahli responded that it's not on our hands. The District is offering you an option mandated by the Governor.

Flu and cold season starts in September and October it's suggested by CDC to get a flu Vaccine on top of covid vaccination (which there is no vaccine) how many nurses do u have ? One in each building.

Do u have a Quarantine room? We're calling it an isolation room.

Is your nurse trained to know the difference between cold flu and Covid? Our nurses are trained to identify signs and symptoms-only a test will tell the difference.

If any of the three are suspected what will the school do to protect every child that has been around the infected child? The time line to isolate is built into the Restart Plan.

What will you do when children are not getting enough oxygen breathing in the same co2 for hours on end? Mr. Sahli stated we are not charged with this responsibility. The oxygen availability is the same for all students.

If doctors and nurses have a hard time getting PPE and reusing them how often will our children have to reuse their masks? There is no solid answer.

Do all the cameras in your school work for contact tracing and also for homeschooling or remote learning? How are you accommodate my child because I choose not to send them to school? The cameras work in the buildings. Contract tracing is done by the county. Security cameras are not for remote learning.

In EHC there are about 30 ppl with covid in a 6 block radius only 10 have been tested now put those ppl with a house hold with 3 and they are non Symptomatic as of now ..within 2 weeks how many ppl can they affect ? Or die. This is not a question we can address

Then We have ppl that test negative and it may a false negative it takes two tests to be sure- ((can take 7 - 10 days)) for test results. This is not a question.

Heating systems fans push partials of germs more than 14 feet These particles can enter your nostrils your mouth your eyes through the air not to mention when you have kids touching things.. Will they be hand sanitizing every 5 to 15 minutes? Time is built into the schedule to hand wash and sanitized.

What was the percentage of parents On the survey that were progoing back to school Opposed to not going back to school? 58% do not feel safe in sending the students to school

How many of the parents are first responders working in grocery stores convenient stores malls nurses doctors nursing homes exc? Our survey did not address parents' professions.

Drs will not see Patients due to the covid and the spread So will you be sending children home and asking parents to drive them to the emergency room or will they leave from the school to the emergency room? Parents responsibility.

How much money is it going cost to school for deep cleaning -masks thermometers -plexiglass? Currently working on getting quotes aat this time there are no costs. How many times a day will you be taking temperatures of staff and children? This is not a requirement.

Will there be emotional support groups for children who are afraid of dying of Covid? Emotional wellness support is part of the plan.

How many custodians do you have and how often will they be cleaning?

6 custodians, 1 maintenance and 1 supervisor

How will School handle children that refuse to wear masks because their parents don't believe in it? Or because they don't want to? Unfortunately

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this is a requirement for in-person learning.

How will you prevent the walkers from clustering in groups and staying 3 feet apart to school and home? Social distancing will be encouraged but once they leave the building the school cannot enforce.

How will the toilet paper not be contaminated each time the toilets flushed or a hand touches the toilet paper? Students will be instructed on cleanliness, using the restroom, the sinks and antibacterial sanitizer.

Statements from cre10515@sol.com.

*Harvard is having online classes

*Florida has 48 hospital with no icu beds (surge doubled in 3 weeks)

*Texas shut down for 2 weeks

10,000 cases up 121 percent since July 13th

*Arizona Is finding coronavirus in their septic systems

*

California went back to level one (no school shopping eating out church gyms exc)

Ingrid Nieves-Clark asked, "If a child is required to quarantine due to the virus, will that child be able to switch to remote learning during that time?" Mrs. Shulby replied yes-absolutely.

CALENDAR DATES

August 12 Regular Board Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, upon a motion by Mr. Guercioni, seconded by Ms. Rogers, and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Shupin
Board Secretary