

**Antietam School District**  
Minutes of the Hybrid Board Meeting  
**Monday, July 31, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**

The Antietam School District Board met in person and virtually, in a Teams meeting for their voting meeting on Monday, July 31, 2023. Mr. Gierula, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mr. Gierula asked if there if there were any corrections to the agenda, none were noted.

**The following Members were present:**

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Kimberly Alarcon | Kyla Ramsey               |
| Rebecca DiSarro  | Lorraine Storms Via Teams |
| Chris Faro       |                           |
| Michael Gierula  |                           |

**Also Present:**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Dr. Heidi Rochlin | Superintendent                                    |
| Tracy Detwiler    | Director of Finance & Business                    |
| Ken Bonkoski      | Supervisor of Maintenance and Facilities          |
| Anthony DiSarro   | Supervisor of Technology and Security Coordinator |
| Brian F. Boland   | Solicitor, Kozloff Stoudt                         |
| Jennifer Reeves   | Board Secretary                                   |

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Rochlin gave an Update on the the progress on Option #1, educate all students “On-Site,” for the education of the Middle-Senior High School students,educating 7-12. She spoke of meeting with legislators disscussing the long process of the getting EMA money whether that be local state or federal. She also spoke about many items and educational opportunities that may come out of this terrible situation that she is excited about. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Gierula asked if there was any further business being there being none he adjourned the meetingt 6:58 and announced that the board would be going into executive session for Safety and Security.

Submitted by:



Jennifer Reeves  
Board Secretary

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# Board Updates



7/31/2023

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## Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)

- Completion and submission of the PDA is the first step in the aid process
  - Our part of the PDA is complete and has been sent up the “EMA” chain (BEMA, PEMA, FEMA)
  - The PDA was completed by AEM Architects and lists our damages as \$21.8M
  - We expect that there will be quite a bit of “back and forth” among the agencies before they come to a consensus on the damage
  - The agencies need to come to a consensus on the damage assessment before a disaster declaration can be made
  - Funding depends on if/when a disaster declaration is made
  - We are in a “holding” pattern for long-term planning for the district until a declaration is made
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## Lobbying our Legislators

- With the help of Dr. Hackman at the BCIU, and Brian Boland, we have petitioned EVERY possible legislator with letters, phone calls and visits/meetings.
  - Today we met with Sen. Schwank, Rep. Rozzi, and representatives from the BCIU and Exeter SD.
    - We talked about lobbying for funding, how to best work with our community partners and municipalities, and what the State can help us with as we deal with the immediate issue of re-opening our schools for students.
    - Sen. Schwank and Rep. Rozzi will continue to lobby for the funds to get us up and running!
    - Our next step with Rozzi/Schwank is to set up a meeting with their offices and our Municipalities to talk through the issues we are facing and how we can all best work together to get our kids what they need in the short-term.
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## Educational Opportunities

- We have been in constant communication with PDE as issues arise in the realm of navigating PDE mandates in light of our current situation:
  - We met with the Bureau of Special Education to talk through how we can continue to best serve our special education population. As they advise us, we pivot when necessary and work together to come up with creative solutions.
    - At this time, we have concluded that it is best to keep our specialized instruction classrooms here in the district, and not send them to Exeter. But, we are keeping the option open with Exeter as we continue to plan and pivot.
  - We met with Dr. Mumin and his cabinet level officials, and continue to be in contact when we have questions. They have been very helpful.



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# Educational Opportunities

- We are working with Alvernia and Albright on the following:
    - Allowing our MSHS Seniors (and possibly Juniors) take their “core” courses, and other courses on their campuses.
      - Students would have to provide their own transportation.
      - We are working on having these courses paid for by non-profit organizations/foundations in the area.
      - These courses would count as college credit, and may allow some of our students to graduate in January!!
      - Students will be contacted (starting today) to work out schedules.
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# Educational Opportunities

- We are also working with Albright on possibly offering 2 “Total Experience Learning Classrooms” for our 5th/6th grade students.
  - These classes would be off-site at Alvernia.
  - We would transport students.
  - This would potentially free-up more classroom space.
  - We are meeting with Albright tomorrow to get more details.



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# Opening of School

- School begins on August 21, 2023 - With a “soft start” for students
    - We are beginning to work out the “Soft Start” to the school year and will be contacting families soon with the information to start school.
    - The “soft start” will split students into smaller groups for the first 4 days of school (just like the previous 2 school years)
    - Friday, August 25th is a STAFF ONLY day
    - ALL students attend on August 28th, 2023
  - Principals will be holding community meetings and will be sending out information to ensure a smooth start to the school year.
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## The Big Move

- Ken and his staff are working hard to get everything moved.
    - Teachers began boxing up and moving their classrooms today.
    - Volunteers from the community are coming in starting tomorrow to help with the “Big Move”
    - We are assisting Trinity UCC with their clean-out efforts as well.
  - Mr. DiSarro and his staff are working hard to get all of our spaces wired up and ready for business and school!
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## Traffic Patterns

- ASD Administration met with Chief Serafin and Mango today to discuss traffic patterns for the start of school
    - Chief will talk with the Borough about next steps, and then we will all come together around a mutually agreeable plan that keeps our students safe and traffic flowing as well as possible.
  - We will be strongly urging families to walk to school to help ease traffic congestion
    - Students who walk to school may be eligible to receive a PE credit
  - We are working on parking options for teachers in conjunction with Central Berks - once we have some options, we will consult with the Borough as well
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## The Creek

- We are working with our creek contractors and engineers to sort out the creek project.
- We held a meeting today with all parties in order to get an idea of what our next steps will be with the project.