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Michael Mark: Very good. Looks like it's 6:37 pm on my computer. I would say, welcome to the April 7, 2020 meeting of the Nyack School Board of Education meeting. As a special circumstance we're meeting by remote due to the COVID-19 state of emergency declared by the state of New York. We're all here and we're going to try to make the meeting as smooth as possible. I've got a little flag in the background if everybody could rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

James Montesano: I see the flag. I didn't see it at first, very nice.

Michael Mark: Courtesy of Mary. Presidents report, just a just a brief couple of minutes of comment. We are currently confronted with a pandemic emergency, the magnitude of which has changed all of our lives. I want to wish everyone health and safety as we navigate these uncharted waters. The adjustments that have been made by our families, our students, our teachers and our administrators has been monumental. There's so many variables that it would be impossible to expect the district to anticipate them all. Still, I have to take time to thank and commend the superintendent, administration, every teacher, teaching assistant, custodial staff, security, and all other personnel and the people in the community as well for stepping up and performing with grace and sensitivity and extraordinary effort. We're working to provide food service to those who need it. We're working to provide online instruction for our students. I've seen inspiring videos of teachers and administrators reaching out to connect with students and families to maintain a feeling of cohesion and community. We've set up provisions for child care for families of first responders and I thank you all for all of that work. And all of the work is continuing with the specter of a virus that is sweeping around the world. It has touched everyone I know and I believe that's true for most of us. I want to extend heartfelt prayers and thoughts to families who are struggling with COVID-19 and I mourn the loss of someone one of my own lifelong friends, colleagues and teachers. But also want to celebrate those who, while having had the misfortune of contracting the disease have blessedly weathered the storm. These individuals include families and members of our district staff and administration. Own trustee James Marshall, who we welcome to the meeting with the happiness and knowing that he endured a profoundly difficult trial and has come out of it to continue his advocacy and steadfast support of our students. This is a pandemic and it's an episode that will pass but it won't be forgotten. When it is in our past I'll be proud to say that our district stepped up with its best efforts to serve our students and our community and I thank you all for all of that hard work and dedication that we're all engaged in. Moving on to the superintendent's report, Dr. Montesano.

James Montesano: Thank you President Mark and thank you very much for those important remarks. This has certainly been an amazing adjustment for the school district to accommodate itself into this new reality that all of us are working under. Certainly, on behalf of all the staff, we wish all of our families, our students out there, to remain healthy. We

recognize the levels of difficulties that everybody is going through under these trying times and you know I say this all the time, I've been doing this for a lot of years in terms of the business. I know for sure, I've never been more proud of a school district or community than what I've seen occur and we recognize to our parents that this is not a perfect world for us and we're going to continue to work with you to try to adjust ourselves. I do know that our teachers are doing a tremendous job of preparing to get this. This is not something that teachers prepare themselves for with regard to teaching in this kind of environment. It's very unnatural to try to adjust themselves and engage our kids. At the same time, I really do want to commend Dr. Gregory. I think she's on her way into the meeting.

Michael Mark: She is here.

James Montesano: Hello, Dr. Gregory, who has really done a tremendous job of coordinating the efforts of all of our staff to put together this educational continuity plan. What I'd like to do, I'm going to ask her to make a few comments about that portion. I also want to take a few moments to talk a little bit about the food services and certainly commend Gloria, business official who has coordinated those efforts. And certainly the guardian angels, including Kim cross and all those at the Nyack center, and I'll close it out with a couple of brief comments about childcare. So, Dr. Gregory, are you there.

Winsome Gregory: I'm so sorry about that. I'm running from another meeting. Hi, everyone. This transition has had some challenges. In the beginning, we decided that we were doing this situation analysis and from the institutional analysis there are several things that we identify that we would need to do, and that was planning and preparation implementation, and the transition and all the supports that needed to be in place. The initial plan was for a two week period of time but then I think maybe in about three hours a task force came together and put together a plan that was for the students and keeps the students engaged and get meaningful activities for the two week period of time that was found initially. On the secondary level, this type of engagement of the students was not a huge transition. On the elementary, what we did is we had a transition plan that would involve reinforcing the concept of what students had already learned. Subsequently, the decision when we learned that we were going to be extended until the break was to extend that planning time and have the students do some additional work around practicing those skills, but we knew that we had to think more long term. So, the initial phase was just for that period of time, support the teachers, and make sure that we help the parents and the students to get the resources they needed for those two weeks. So we started to think about what that would look like. The teachers were anticipating being out for the break. We were just reinforcing the skills and when they came back from the break the idea was that the teachers were going to be spending that time learning how to really teach in a remote learning environment. That did not work out that way because, as you know, we no longer have the break. But for many of the teachers this new reality is what we have been preparing for in a lot of ways because the teachers had training for several years and those teachers felt quite comfortable in terms of facilitating and assessing

that level of teaching, and engaging the student. Other teachers are at the very, very basic level. Initially, the teachers were engaging with the students between 9:30 and 12 but as of the April 1 they're moving back to where teachers are directly responsible for teaching students as if the students were in front of them. Now that's a challenge because basically, we have to go to the next step, which is how we support. We have decided to continue with the curriculum and the instructional program that we have already in place. Darleen and the technology department did a phenomenal job getting the resources out there. And it is very much a challenge for some teachers to go on the environment that they're in to now be able to master all of those skills in a remote learning situation. So we immediately put in place supports from the teacher center, support from the tech department and also the Lati consultants that have been working and supporting teachers all along. If the teacher needs some guidance on how to differentiate and do small class lessons in this environment, then support is there for them as well. The special ed was an area that we were not quite sure how we were going to support students who require speech and language services, OT, PT and so forth. And while we were going to that short period of time, which was supposed to be the two weeks or three weeks. We maintained some of the services by reaching out and speaking to parents and making sure that they are doing some activities that would help to maintain their skills. Right now the speech language teachers are engaging with your students and making the attempt to make sure that they're providing students with what's on their IEP. At this point, I would say that I'm so incredibly proud of the support from the task force. Initially they were phenomenal, they worked around the clock in a lot of ways to get all, especially k-five prepared for the position. The secondary has been a lot easier in terms of this transition because they were used to engaging the students in the classroom and also having those students more independent and taking charge of the learning. The technology department also has been fantastic across the board. However, I would just like to touch briefly on some of the challenges because of the varying levels of sophistication of the skills with teachers, there are concerns on the part of parents that different students are getting higher level and more educated instruction than others. Part of the challenge is that I'm not quite sure parents understood that the direct instruction, synchronous teaching or asynchronous was not to start until after the break right now until the first of April, but I think that there was an expectation from parents. But we're supposed to be doing a lot of those direct instructions right now, teaching new concepts, however, that is starting the teachers are really raring to go and Darleen is working on some of the clearing so that the teachers can access the different tools that they need to do that. So that's a long way of saying there have been some challenges and they've had some wonderful successes. Thank you.

James Montesano: Thank you Dr. Gregory, and I can't tell you what a blessing it is to have a seasoned experienced educator, like Dr. Gregory available to us who as I said, she's leaving no stone unturned in terms of working with the various components to orchestrate. Literally, it's like building a brand new school concept overnight. And you know what we'd really like to say to our parents is please continue to give us your feedback with regard to what's working and where your challenges are.

We always try to have you connect directly with our teachers and our principals and either Dr. Gregory myself will try to resolve issues. We've gotten a lot of good constructive criticisms and suggestions along the way already so I can tell you from a parent's side, I've been spending the last week and a half with to my grandchildren in my house, ages six and eight, and seeing them working virtually. To parents, we empathize with you trying to get your children settled and you're trying to take care of your work issues, etc is no small feat. So we really do want to work with you with regard to that. I also just want to mention that the district has issued over 300 Chromebooks to families and 450 laptops to our high school students. We've also issued over 75 mi-fi devices. These are continuing to go out on a regular basis, our principals have been doing tremendous work at their schools to help distribute them. And I can't say enough about our technology department, led by Darleen Nicolosi. As a matter of fact, just this week, Darleen was able to secure a Spanish speaking technician from Edu-tech that is now going to be on-call for us to assist our families as well. We recognize this is imperfect. I can tell you we're in a better place today than we were two weeks ago and I trust that we'll be in a better place two weeks from now than we are today. I also want to mention that we just put out today to our families at the high school and eighth grade level that the Board of Regents has in fact cancelled the Regents examinations. I want to make it clear to our kids that are taking Regents courses, that doesn't mean you're automatically passed, that you are going to get course credit or that you're automatically going to be walking for graduation. You we are going to be basically charged with assessing and ensuring that you have met all of the standards that are set forth by the state for those courses. So please stay with it with us. I also just want to point out, Devon and Jason McCourty, who are names that I think many Nyackers are familiar with, I want to commend them. They reached out to us and have given a pledge to assist any of our kids that might be in need of technology. In fact, Damon and I had a nice laugh about this, that as a Jets fan, to get assistance from New England Patriot players.

Terence Rock: Very, very painful.

James Montesano: And finally, with regard to on the educational side is the school calendar. And again, recognize that we are going to continue to plow through our schedules spring break under the governor's executive order and I don't know what the outcome is going to be on the backside of this. I know our Board of Education is aware that our teachers are under a 185 day contractual limit. So I do anticipate that one school does get back in session is going to be some further accommodations that will need to be made to our school calendar and what that looks like. At this point, we don't know, but just ask our families again to continue to be in touch with us. And we are still working just so the board is aware that we have several more than a few High school students in particular that we're still trying to get in touch with to know if they have equipment, in terms of technology. But we have basically kind of lost track of some kids so I know Nicole is well aware, her entire department and staff are working towards this. And each and every day, we're getting more of our students to engage with us.

Jen Marraccino: I know it's not exactly like workshop with questions, but just to get a little bit of clarity, Dr. Gregory, thank you so much for

all that information. I again want to make sure when we are getting questions in the community that we're all on the same page. And we have clarity. So I know that we're very clear that teachers are working towards moving away from more of the review and sort of logging on for activities and moving towards more of live instruction. Can you just clarify again when to anticipate maybe run through the different levels. If it's different. According to elementary, middle school, high school, but again just so we're all on the same page and communicating clearly with parents. Is it after the 15th, that there's going to be more of a movement towards live teaching or even live teaching with the recorded aspect that kids who can't maybe get on at that specific time can then go back and watch the recording so just can you just clarify little the timing on that.

Winsome Gregory: Okay, what we were looking at initially was we started from March 19 and the initial phase was two weeks. Then we added on another five days. And that was supposed to until the break, we would have been finished with a break around, I think, April 20 with the break. That piece of the plan was we're still having some people who are continuing to do a lot of workshops and so on with the different consultants, but some teachers are already involved in direct instruction with your students. Even if they are you short the elementary level per se that there is live login now to watch your teacher teach you as a class at the elementary level. Also, most of the live instruction right now is on the secondary level, the support that's needed is on the elementary level. However, there are teachers on the elementary who I think the concern was with the recent discussion around security in terms of zoom and Google Hangout. However, I'm working on the security getting on an account that would be embedded in what it is that we are allowing the teachers, the account read along the teachers to use however teachers are still continuing to use them right now. Most of the teachers who are utilizing it however are doing either videotaping themselves as screen casts define and then have that information available to students. I think that there's a reticence right now for some teachers about actually going full force. They're concerned about the fact that feeling self conscious. I just had a conversation before I came on to this meeting with some teachers who were saying that, well, parents are going to be sitting there and watching the teachers so how am I going to be evaluated. Is that going to be held against me. They're just little things that you know some teachers are concerned about, most of the teachers are just raring to go. So I would say that since we had initially thought about having April 20th. I think that we will continue to support our teachers during that period of time. And once we get to that date teachers should be at a point where they're able to integrate both synchronous and asynchronous teaching for students.

Jen Marraccino: Have we thought about lesson planning might not be quite yet, but doing any type of brief, brief survey to get a handle on the amount of hours that kids are putting into school. Again, I think every level is probably quite different. For example, I know my daughter's does a dance class that it's pretty intense three days a week, two hours and they've moved to a combination of Vimeo and zoom and then did the briefest Survey Monkey to us all this weekend to just gather some information, two questions survey on feedback. So just to gauge our kids on they're completing their work in an hour, an hour and a half. Is it taking them

six to eight hours, you know, to get some sense of how it's playing out and households and all kids are different. Of course you know the speed with which kids complete work, but to think that there's any feedback that we need.

Winsome Gregory: A part of the evaluation process is that we have to have an evaluation loop that's involved. But I think it's a bit early to do that because we still just transitioning from the things I said to you before. That was, this was just supposed to be three weeks of reinforcing skills that students already the concept that students are going to be taught. So it was more like a review period. Now that we are moving into direct instruction, yes, we do have to do some analysis about what's been taught, how well, how many, how long students are on and so forth. So that would be something that we would consider doing. Yes.

Beth Davison: There's, there's a lot being circulated about how less than half of kids nationwide are actually keeping up online, and it would be nice to know actually x percent of ours are not in any punitive way but just to know that we're meeting needs.

James Montesano: That's a great suggestion. And just so you're aware, as well. As you know, there's a tremendous equity issue that we have. They're challenged by that and our initial concern was ensuring that our high school students were equipped and moving ourselves downward and we're now really kind of focusing on our elementary kids to ensure that we have connectivity with all of our kids. Because it's easy to say, flip over to online but you know, unless you know you're reaching all kids we're just going to further exasperate the divide so that that's something that, we're still working on.

Michael Mark: Thank you. Anything else on the education before I move into food services.

Winsome Gregory: It's not going to be easy. It's challenging, but the teachers are absolutely doing all in their powers right now to try to get up to speed as quickly as possible. So if there is a concern about what's happening now I would ideally, love to have to give us until that window of time which I do now and the 20th of this month for the teachers to continue to try and prepare. They're meeting their principals, they're meeting with their grade level teams. They are meeting with the support people and we have one on one session that's going on for some of the teachers what we really need in terms of technology.

Michael Mark: Thank you, Dr. Gregory.

James Montesano: I'm going to ask, Gloria, to give the board an update in terms of how our Aramark food program is operating. Before she starts, one thing I do want to mention is, to my knowledge, I believe we may be the only school district in Rockland County that has continued to deliver food on a regular basis. Most of the districts have at this point, moved it down to about two or three days a week and giving additional food for the five days, but we continue to do it on a daily basis. We began our

offering of grabbing breakfasts and lunches on the first day that school closed.

Gloria Menoutis: We have two locations. Currently, grab and go meals are available for pickup Monday through Friday at the Nyack center from 9:30am to 1pm and at Waldron Terrace parking lot from 10 to 11am, those meals are being distributed by Aramark via a mobile unit. Any student who's under the age of 18 is eligible to receive a free breakfast and lunch each day. We have seen a slow but steady increase in the number of students benefiting from the food service, for example, today 128 breakfasts and lunches were distributed, an increase from just under 100 when we started the program and last week, an average of 150 meals a day. So that's a good thing. We've had the family Resource Center coordinators to get the word out, the families have responded that they are pleased to know that the service is available to them.

I just like to thank Kim Cross for assistance and distributing and also delivering meals to some families in need in our community. And I'd also like to thank Mark and his staff for their continuous efforts. Additionally, Mark from Aramark has been providing meals for the daycare staff and students at the UNE. And that's really a very brief overview. I'd be happy to try to answer and questions.

Michael Mark: I do thank you, Gloria.

James Montesano: Yeah, the one thing I just want to bring up to the to the board's attention with regard to our food program is I think Kim had indicated to us that we're up to about or she's up to about 25 deliveries. That this is all done by volunteers at the center, which is still just amazing. So that is something that we are monitoring. You know, Gloria is going to be continuing to work on an alternative plan if we get to that point in terms of how we might be able to assist, whether it was buses or something so I just want to let you know and Kim says, as do we that as this crisis continues, families may come that may be reluctant to utilize the services. So we are prepared for this to grow as time goes on as well. And with regard to childcare just again to give clarity to what this is about, again under the governor's executive order. Every school district was required, which we did, to file a plan for being able to provide childcare from 8am to 6pm five days a week, Monday through Friday, with a focus on emergency care workers and healthcare providers along with law enforcement folks and so forth. Well, what we decided to do in our county was develop a coordinated plan, which we did in coordination with childcare of Rockland who did a survey in the communities all over Rockland. They received about 200 some odd names and from that we designated what we thought strategically were areas where the focus would be with us having Nyack hospital or Montefiore Hospital in our backyard. Good Sam over by Suffern. And there's a couple other locations. I know in West Nyack I believe there's a health center. Also up in Haverstraw with Helen Hayes we designated those particular areas to open up to programs. After going through the forums and to get things started, there is currently a fee of \$45 per day per child. I know the YMCA who's providing the child care, is looking at FEMA funds to see if they can bring this down to a free service. But currently, it is a \$45 fee. We did get a

number of names that express interest, however, to date, and I was just over at UNE yesterday, we have one student or one child that's coming on, on a daily basis. We're anticipating about five to seven additional students, either at the end of this week or early next week. We are the only active site currently in all of Rockland County. My understanding is there are some signups going on at Nanuet and they're going to be looking to move those students over to us and get us to capacity before they open up another program. One of the issues for the Y is simply staffing and so we don't want to spread ourselves too thin, but UNE is the only site currently in Rockland County and right now there's currently one child that we serve. We do have a full time nurse there. The nurses are being coordinated from all the school nurses in Rockland County. So it's not just the Nyack public schools nurses that are working. We do provide through Nyack schools a security person that's at that school on a daily basis. When I was over there Officer Kelly was there. We also certainly are disinfecting those areas on a daily basis with our custodial services. So that's where we are with child care.

Jen Marraccino: This is probably a weird question, there's no way to get immunity tests for the people who are providing and working in these childcare situations, I mean the whole thing just seems absolutely crazy. People need childcare in these tough situations, but I don't even understand, on one hand how the government, the state mandated this. How do we provide it without knowing that people that are watching the kids, can some be asymptomatic. There's sort of, social distance where must wear gloves if you're with a kid for eight hours a day it's kind of unlikely that if you've been exposed you're actually not going to pass it on to a kid that you're with for eight hours a day.

James Montesano: You are raising an interesting point, my understanding and their survey is one of the big inhibitors in addition to cost was parents having a reluctance to have their children exposed to other children. So we do have the presence of the nurse on a daily basis in fact, our Peggy from the high school was there yesterday when I was there. They do take temperatures three times a day for whatever child that is there along with the staffing that is coming as well. But, to your point, kids may be asymptomatic, but still be able to spread the virus. But again, from our perspective, we're simply meeting what the governor's executive order has directed us to do, and he's very adamant about that.

Jen Marraccino: Right, it doesn't really have a good answer to it, but okay.

James Montesano: The only other thing I have for the superintendent's report. I thought the board might find interesting as I just learned today that there's going to be a ban on Styrofoam by January 2022 so that may have an impact on our food services at some point. That is my report.

Michael Mark: Thank you very much. Let us move on. We have 1.7 approval of the agenda, do I have a motion to approve the agenda.

Damon Bender: Motion.

Michael Mark: Motion. From Terence, second. Do I have discussion. All those in favor.

Beth Davison: Aye.

Michael Mark: Opposed. Anyone abstain. Motion carries. 7-0

Michael Mark: We have 1.8 student representatives report, Evy does not appear to be on the meeting. So we will move on to the next, which is Board of Education reports and we will go to Trustee Bender.

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Damon Bender: Thank you, President Mark. I'll be brief, only because you and Dr Montesano pretty much said everything. Right I would empathize with those who are suffering, I would celebrate in the accomplishments that the district has achieved in this trying time. The one thing I would point out, Dr. Gregory my ears kind of perked up when you mentioned LATI because I specifically asked my daughter if she thought that she was well prepared for this as a result of her experience in LATI classrooms. And surprisingly, she said yes. I didn't think that she would grasp the concept of the question, but she does, she said, you know that I can do my work on my own. I know that if I have a question I can go to the teacher through one of the mediums, whether it's email or telephone or what have you. So I think the district has prepared for the worst. Obviously, we hope for the best. But I think we are well situated for everything that's happening right now. So I thank every one of them in the district for all their hard work. That is my report.

Michael Mark: Thank you Damon. Trustee Davidson.

Beth Davidson: Thank you, President Mark. I would piggyback off what Damon said because I said the same thing to both my kids actually. Hugo being in third grade with Wendy Gottlieb, he's used to working down this list of tasks and same thing, checking his work online, asking her questions, math has been a little bit of a challenge. I assume that will continue to sort of evolve, but I think from a parent's perspective, both my kids have been adjusting really well and I said that to Kaitlyn Murphy, who's the lead teacher for the seventh grade West team that they've been preparing for this all year, whether they knew it or not since the beginning of the year. They've been sending out weekly team emails telling parents what's going on so that we can keep track. So it's been a pretty smooth transition for us and I think she was glad to hear that and, balancing the work they've already been trying to do. I think our homework policy helped in that way so that my kids have not been overloaded and teachers are used to working together to make that palatable for the kids. I just want to echo all the accolades for our staff, for our teachers, for the Nyack center and Kim Cross, for Lisa who's been, working around the clock to keep everyone really informed. So that's all been great and along with it, especially in terms of food for our families, the Community has really stepped up in an amazing way. We've been facilitating through our weekly donation lists of things we need, so that we can feed the kids every day and send home bags of groceries. We got the bags, those reusable white

bubble ones donated from local grocery stores and every week the protocols have changed with the reality on the ground. So now it's just weekly deliveries by community members. So between that and people to people, they're able to give out about 150 weekend food bags per week to help families because it's having multiple kids home all day every day with the rest of the family is the sudden huge food insecurity burden that our families have to deal with, so it's been really heartwarming. If you know anyone who wants to get involved, you've probably seen things on Facebook or circulating. There's a couple of different ways you can contribute. You can contribute to give to a wholesale delivery, so that we can be a little more efficient with things like eggs and other perishables. Then there's a sign of genius that is on Facebook and I can circulate as well. If you know, while you're shopping for yourself if you still are, if you can pick up a few extra things, the drop off is on Wednesday for anyone also listening from two to four every Wednesday. You can drop off food outside and everyone's wearing gloves. They're doing a tremendous job. So I really want to thank them, Kim's also organizing kids in the community with one Josie Rothman and a bunch of her friends to try to contribute, find ways for that extra energy to contribute back to the community. So you'll see a Facebook page going live that the Nyack center is hosting, as well to get kids engaged and involved in making masks, the hospital's sending cards. And so it's just the way this community is pulled together is really fantastic. There's lots of ways for us to stay connected. Again, I can email this all this around, but every week at 10 o'clock there's a weekly community zoom call that you can join them just to hear from the mayor, from the Chamber of Commerce, from all the different community groups of what's going on. I'll circulate that as well, working together for racial justice will go on as planned tomorrow via zoom for the first time. Phyllis will facilitate that, it can circulate that soon for anyone who's interested. If you're home and now suddenly are able to participate in things that you might not have had time to before. And I guess I would just also say that, parents really crave connection, I think and so as this goes forward, Dr Gregory and Dr Montesano both I'm sure, will find ways we can connect parents more, whether it's a class parent facilitated zoom or something. I think not being able to see people or talk to people, that's such a critical part of the school community that I think we're all missing and craving. So I'm sure we'll all be looking for ways to do that. And is this also an okay time Jim to present a random community question.

James Montesano: Sure.

Beth Davidson: Which is the lights at the high school are still on every night. And so I just had a question as to whether that was necessary, as I guess it does some throw off light on to the neighborhood.

James Montesano: I appreciate that it may be just simply as something that's programmed in time that we can have Kevin, he can look into. So thank you for bringing that to our attention.

Michael Mark: Is that a security issue at all.

James Montesano: We normally do leave the lower floor lights on, certainly our hallway lights, for that purpose on a regular basis. I don't know the

schedule of our cleaning crews, but it's also possible that we still have some cleaning, but I would anticipate with the schools closed we're getting that done during the school day. But, we can look into both of those things.

Beth Davidson: Right. That's it for me. Thank you very much, everybody.

Michael Mark: Thank you, Beth. Trustee Hughes.

Karen Hughes: Thank you very much. I echo strongly the words of Beth and Damon with regards to the job that I'm seeing firsthand, the job the teachers are doing with my own son and engagement. You know there's really no let up and I just want to extend thanks to everyone for the job that's being done and I think, Beth, right, the community engagement is amazing. There's a lot of traffic on social media and a lot of response coming from lots of folks all around just wanting to pitch in and help people so it really is tremendous. The work that's being done at the community level. Everyone's just pitched in, organized or not. It really has come together well. And so, internally, we've said it a lot, Jim, to you, your staff, Gloria. Everyone in administration, all the way down. I sort of feel helpless here, as a board member, you want to pitch in and help make something happen and you can't. We've just got to leave it to you to get the job done, it's admirable being here on the sidelines and watching it in action. So just thank you. That's my report.

Michael Mark: Thank you Karen, Trustee Marraccino.

Jen Marraccino: All right, so lots of videos. First, just, prayers and best wishes going out to everyone who's dealing with a positive diagnosis or someone in their family, which is just so widespread at this point and huge thanks to everybody that was mentioned already, teachers, faculty, staff at Nyack Center. Kim and Nikki, I just keep thinking about them and wanting to do more, because I'm so impressed by everything that's happening at the center every day for so many hours and Beth mentioned so many different Community initiatives. The only other you didn't mention Beth, that I'll add, is the Nyack Nourishes GoFundMe page. Very similar, right. But that's just a new GoFundMe page set up again. Another way to donate is to provide nourishing meals for our hospital workers. I think it was Jen White who set up the musicians playing on the street corner at the shift changes in front of the hospital. At 7:15am every day there now people out there playing music, singing songs so the hospital workers can hear them. There's also an effort to make posters thanking the hospital workers in the parking lot. So Nyack is a pretty amazing community in terms of how many people step up and help each other out and think about everything, the special people in our community in tough times like this. Another group that I wanted to give a special thank you to was the Center for Safety and Change, because I think so many of us, myself included, are so fortunate. I'm looking at my window into an Upper Nyack beautiful neighborhood. I've got a big backyard, I've got space. I've got my family around me. You know, I feel really, really, lucky just thinking about all of the people that don't have this, people who are in such smaller spaces, who have such larger families on top of them. The Center for safety and change families who are dealing with abuse of spouses and are now trapped

in their houses with them and are really experiencing more challenges. Another group to send a special thanks out to, everybody working at the Center for safety and change and just for all of us to keep that in mind, the people in the community that are dealing with these very hidden challenges that are just now compounded and times. It's our parents and our kids. Just something that was on my mind to put out there for all of us to be aware of and again, special thanks to the people at the Center for safety and change. Thank you everyone for everything.

Michael Mark: Thank you Jen. Appreciate the comments. Trustee Marshall.

James Marshall: Thank you, President Mark. Can everybody hear me? Yes, okay, thank you. Jim, I just had a quick question before I gave my report about the child care. Because you mentioned, there were 200 signups but then you know the numbers, very, very low.

James Montesano: Yes, you know that they actually called every single parent that's filled in a registration form and two major things came through, but the largest one was the concern parents had about bringing their children into a location where there's going to be other people, other kids that will be there on a regular basis. So they went forward and made other forms of arrangements for themselves. Okay, secondarily, was the cost, the \$45 a day. Sometimes you have families with more than a few kids and, that was a little bit difficult to overcome. That seems to be the two variables that kept most people out. We're still working on the fee schedule through Chuck Maze and the Y to see if they can get reimbursed through FEMA and the primary issue I think, is a concern about having a cluster, even though the way the governor set it up, was nine children to one caretaker at each at each facility.

James Marshall: Okay, thank you and I do want to point out to you and Damon, I'm sure it was not lost on you that the Patriots flew to China in their jet and they flew back with a bunch of masks. I'm sure you saw that. I wanted to make sure that you know the content of their generosity. So Jen, thank you. I'm just going to dovetail into your mentioning of the Center for Safety and Change and the rise of domestic abuse. That is something that has been in the news that has not been spoken about as much and you're so right and I really resonate with you, we're just the two of us in this house we really do have everything. There are so many people in my community alone that don't. So I appreciate your sharing that. I'm just going to go through this really quickly, and I hope that my voice doesn't give out. I kind of wanted to lead with what seems like months and months ago, the Nyack community envisioning event that was held on March 10. We didn't do board reports at our last meeting, but I just want to shout out to Dr Montesano for going forward with that event, it was outstanding. I like the format and commitment to equity that will continue and beyond this pandemic, we find ourselves in at the forefront. I thought the panel was outstanding with our student Elijah and Mr. Palmer, Mr. Leo, Mr. Coombs but they did a great job. I thought Joyce did an amazing job and reforming a commitment to equity as well as Dr. Connally, who contracted her role in terms of, if folks aren't comfortable, she's not doing her job. Your ongoing commitment and execution on equities, it just

outstanding. So I do applaud that ongoing vision and commitment, even though it was not popular you're marching forward and that is commendable. I was glad to be a part of that well attended event. And I would say I would do the same again. I looked at the guidance video that was put together by the Guidance Department. I thought that was an excellent video so a shout out to Lorraine and I thought it was really amazing music. Miss Baptista, Mr. Pena, and Miss Gretchen, they were really great. I actually found myself doing some myself. And a shout out to our FRCs for the video that was also really, really well done, especially the bilingual component and to Kim and as so many people have said, Kim and Nikki Hines, and Nyack Center. I really, really thank Dr. Montesano and Dr. Gregory, Gloria, Linda and all the administrative staff and principals for your efforts for our students, which is at a very stressful and challenging time and Lisa, for online updates on the website. Shout out to Darleen for the assistance with the Chromebooks and getting the students online. And Jim, just representing the district at the superintendent's table, I continue to get strong feedback on your presence at the table. Thank you for the regular updates from the governor's office, NYSED and the Board of Regents. If I left anybody out, I do apologize. And lastly, I don't really know how I contracted the COVID-19. I'm thinking was it the last day, I went to the gym and I forgot my gloves? Was it when I went to pump gas or went to the grocery store without glasses. Was it an accident or I don't know and I don't think I will ever know. What I do know for sure is that within a two to three day period after probably the same week of our last meeting I did go to the hospital and I didn't come home for six days so I can tell you, I'm overwhelmed by the outpouring that occurred and still is occurring and the fact that I got to come home at all. To have my co patients who came in with me, did not leave alive and that continues to haunt me and I'm still grieving, pray for those who lost their lives to this virus. I feel like I've been given a second act of sorts, with a huge need to pay it forward. So to all of you, I say thank you again and again for the hope and healing you gave to me and by extension to Lynette during and after my stay in the hospital. I'm grateful beyond words. I do have a final question, because I'm sitting at home watching a lot of TV. I noticed that some local high schools are performing part of their school musical online and wondered if it's something that the team of Hello Dolly would consider doing given all the hard work that went into that production. That's my report and thank you.

James Montesano: We can certainly look into that James, thank you.

Michael Mark: Thank you, James, appreciate your comments and glad you are well on the way to being on the mend. We all understand how difficult a trial that was.

James Marshall: Thank you all.

Michael Mark: Terence Rock.

Terence Rock: After that report by Trustee Marshall, I'm just going to say thank you, James for making it back and thank you for that report, because you've really covered everything. I'm going to yield my time to President Mark and that is my report. Everyone stay healthy and thank you all.

Michael Mark: Thank you for that report as well. Do we have any responses to citizens' prior proposals, questions and concerns?

James Montesano: We do not.

Michael Mark: Okay, I don't see that there's anybody online here from the public. So I assume we do not have citizens, proposals, questions and concerns on any item. Hearing none, move on to the workshop items. Are there any citizens proposals, questions and concerns on the workshop items? Also, hearing none we will move on to the 2021 proposed budget, Dr Montesano.

James Montesano: Yes, I guess my comments will be generalized for tonight with regard to the budget. We did propose a budget to the Board of Education at the March 17 meeting and clearly quite a bit has happened since that period of time. So, we're hearing now that typically on a regular schedule, the Board of Education would be looking to adopt its budget at the April 21 meeting, two weeks from tonight, and I know the board is also aware that the Budget election that was scheduled to take place in May, we've been advised that that will not take place any earlier than early June. With that in mind it looks like it's going to push back the schedule for budget adoption probably two weeks. So we anticipate that the budget itself will not need to be adopted by the board until probably the second meeting in May and that's important for a couple of very critical reasons since the March 17 meeting. We built the budget for the March presentation based upon the January Governor's proposed budget. Since that time, we've gotten a new budget run, which has primarily kept our funding intact, although I will mention that typically once the proposed budget in a normal year gets to the legislation we typically see an uptick in terms of the aid allocation that the governor has proposed in his budget. It's clear that's not happening this year. So our budget run essentially is telling us that our state aid going into the next school year is scheduled to be at the exact dollar amount that this current school budget dollars. The most concerning part of the budget preparation, which will make this budget this year quite unique in terms of budget development from past years is the plan that was passed by the legislature, now has what's called a state revenue reduction plan. And what that means is, while the state is committing to Nyack public schools, X number of dollars and state aid. They also are telling you that they clearly do not have the revenue available at the moment, to be able to ensure that you're going to get every one of those dollars fulfilled to you during the 2021 school year. With that in mind, the state is stating that they will be reassessing the state revenue on an ongoing basis as this rolls forward. They have set forward three assessment date periods where the state is going to, during that time period, review its state revenue and then be able to tap school districts to tell you that they were actually going to reduce that State aid that they've committed to currently. The three periods are April 1 to April 30, 2020 this current April is the first review period. The second one will be May 1 - June 30 of this school year and finally, from July 1 through December 31, 2020. So what does that mean to us. Well, that means that the school board can be putting a budget together and basically at these various junctures the

state can then pull back those funds, which is going to make our budget development and our running of the schools very precarious as we go forward. So what we are going to be doing now is getting through that first assessment period; by the end of this month will know if there's any reduction going forward. Clearly, this will give us time to build that directly into this current budget, but it is very likely that we'll be building a budget asking that the voters approve a budget and at the same time recognizing that the state, a portion of that budget may be pulled away from us up until December 31 of 2020 so it's going to make our budget process quite different and the operation of our schools quite different. At the same time we do anticipate that we will be making further adjustments to that March 17 proposed budget to you. Again, that's going to be determined by what new information we have leading up that point. That's about all I can say with regards to the budget at this particular point, just that it's going to be a very dynamic process going forward. Certainly, I'll continue to keep the board and the community apprised as we march forward. And that's where we are heading.

Michael Mark: Any comments or questions on the budget.

James Marshall: Just a question, Linda sent us the Excel spreadsheet and it listed different categories for the pandemic adjustment. What you explained earlier, the foundation aid is not coming, right? That's not that 1.7 million that's you put that as a negative. So that's not happening right?

James Montesano: So the foundation aid that you're scheduled to receive is identical to what we were receiving this year. That's what we're scheduled to receive next year. But at the same time, we may pull it back at these various benchmarks.

James Marshall: And just so I'm clear and Terence had asked this earlier, you want to go to 1.91 for the tax cap.

James Montesano: Yes but I'm not prepared really to present it tonight but that latest run there is going to be a tax cap adjustment to our to our tax levy cap and we have to re evaluate that formula. There are also some further adjustments to the budget that are negative. For example, we know for sure that the proposed budget that we presented to the board at the March 17 meeting. Since that time, we've had a to re forecast the anticipated revenue on the revenue side of the budget that we anticipated regarding our investments. That is going to bring our budget down roughly about \$250,000 on the revenue side of the budget that we're going to have to make up for as well. So we're not prepared to say exactly how we'll do that yet. Just let you know that because it make it worse, depending on what you know if before the may adoption of your budget, the state may be telling us that we're getting less money than we're currently scheduled to receive and that will further adjust things.

James Marshall: All right, and then those three timelines that you put also in an email that could go through December, that that will be something we'll put on our website, so the public can be aware of all these possibilities?

James Montesano: We certainly can do that as part of our budget information that we're going to be putting out and as you know they're still no clear idea how an actual budget vote will be taking place. We know that it's not going to occur until at the earliest sometime in June. I was watching on TV today to see how the state of Wisconsin was trying to hold a primary and what a nightmare that was, so we just don't know. I quite frankly don't know what this is all going to shake out to be like.

James Marshall: Thank you. That was it. Thank you very much, Jim.

Michael Mark: Anyone else?

Terence Rock: Jim, just for the sake of clarity. We're going to submit a budget or be asked to approve a budget in that two week delay. So that probably in the late May time frame, and there will be two points of time that the state can come back and make an adjustment to that budget based on whatever we do.

James Montesano: Well, they will make an adjustment to your budget, there'll be making an adjustment to the amount of revenue aid they're going to be providing you so I guess what I'm saying. If you look at it, there's actually three different assessment periods and the first one is between April 1 April 30 of this month. Right, so that one, if it does occur it is my sense that I would really be surprised if we get hit now because they just gave us the new revenue dollars, but if it does occur, we will be in a position to build that into the into the budget before it comes to the voters.

Terence Rock: Correct.

James Montesano: At the same time, in the second period, which is between May 1 and June 30 it's possible that adjustment period may come before the actual budget has to be adopted by the board. And there, again, if, we do get hit, the budget that we would be asking the board to adopt would probably include that budget adjustment. Okay, so at the same time, the thing that's really disconcerting is you can have a budget before your voters, hopefully the voters would approve that budget and at the same time, at some point in the future into the fall, as late as December 31, the state may come and say, guess what, we're taking a million dollars from you what you thought you were getting. So now, how are we going to adjust ourselves to that. That's the real challenge that this particular budget cycle is going to present to the board.

Terence Rock: I just wanted that to be clear, so thank you. Sure.

Michael Mark: Thank you, Dr. Montesano and Gloria, of course, for helping to put this together. It's a fluid process, as we can see we don't know what's going to be happening. But we'll look forward to the fact that we have some flexibility. We don't have to do it on April 21 so maybe we will know something then, even if we don't, we have confidence in how you guys are putting together the budget and will act accordingly. We are moving on then to the action items. Are there any citizens' proposals questions,

concerns on the action items? Hearing none. We have some items 3.2, 3.3. 3.4 and 3.5. Let's do the minutes separately, 3.2 and 3.3. Can I have a motion to approve those? Motion, James. Second, from Damon. Any discussion on the Minutes. Motion to approve. Any discussion. Hearing none, all those in favor. Opposed, abstained. Motion carries. We have 3.4 and 3.5 vote on the bases administrative budget and the vote on the BOCES member election. Can we have a motion to approve those?

Beth Davison: Motion.

Jen Marraccino: Second.

Michael Mark: Any discussion on that. Hearing none, as the BOCES representative for the board, I would point out, we had a presentation from BOCES last week, we didn't get to complete because the meeting was bombed, but we did most of the information and as a matter of fact, because of some necessity by the state for certain reimbursements the administrative budget of BOCES that we vote on is actually a couple of percent lower than it was last year. So that's a nice a nice boon for us and the services that we get from both these are always useful. So I'm glad that we're here to vote on that, is there any other discussion on that? Hearing none, all in favor? Any opposed, abstained, motion carries.

Michael Mark: Moving on to business items, 4.1 and 4.2. Do we have motion to approve? Motion, Karen. Second, from Damon. Any discussion on those items? Hearing none, all those in favor?

Michael Mark: Aye. Opposed, abstained, motion carries. I've got three personnel items, Dr Montesano, anything we need to know about those?

James Montesano: No, just do want to thank the English teachers who will be picking up an extra hour teaching period. Notice that it is retroactive back to March 2. And sadly, that is for replacing Georgia Williams to finish out the year for us. So I do thank those teachers for stepping up for us.

Michael Mark: Yes, that is indeed a sadness, but it's good that we have teachers that are stepping up, appreciate that. Do we have a motion to approve those items.

Michael Mark: Motion, Terence Rock. Second, from Damon.

Michael Mark: Any other discussion. All those in favor, Aye. Opposed, abstained, motion carries. Before we adjourn, thank you, Darleen, and thank you to the district for setting up what I think was a quite a smooth meeting. I hope we don't have to have too many of those going into the future. But Dr. Montesano, thanks for all your input as well as Darleen for sitting there and listening to us all.

James Montesano: It says we can do virtual meetings all the time going into the future.

Michael Mark: That's a good idea. So that's something to be considered.

Michael Mark: Motion to adjourn.

Beth Davison: Happy holidays.

Michael Mark: Happy holidays to everybody.

Jen Marraccino: Motion.

Michael Mark: Second, James. All those in favor. Meeting adjourned everybody stay safe. Stay well.

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Michael Mark: Meeting adjourned everybody stay safe. Stay well.