

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: February 23, 2021

Type of Meeting: Executive Session

Place of Meeting: Zoom Meeting

Members Present: President Tina Posterli
Vice President Dr. Dennis Ryan (arr. 5:46pm)
Board Member Maureen Vrona, Esq.
Board Member Anne Conway

Absent: Board Member Sam Pinto

Others Present: Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. For Personnel & Administration
Mr. Michael DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance & Operations
Dr. Paul Romanelli, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Joseph Lilly, Attorney, Frazer & Feldman

President Posterli called for a motion to go into executive session at 5:31 PM to discuss pending legal and personnel matters.

**Motion to Go
Into
Executive
Session**

Motion by: Board Member Vrona
Seconded by: Board Member Conway
Approved: 4-0

President Posterli called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by: Vice President Ryan
Seconded by: President Posterli
Approved: 4-0

MINUTES

- Date of Meeting:** February 23, 2021
- Type of Meeting:** Public Hearing and Work Session
- Place of Meeting:** Audio – Phone In
- Members Present:** President Tina Posterli
Vice President Dr. Dennis Ryan
Board Member Vrona, Esq.
Board Member Anne Conway
- Absent:** Board Member Sam Pinto
- Others Present:** Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. For Personnel & Administration
Mr. Michael DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance and Operations
Dr. Paul Romanelli, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Joseph Lilly, Attorney, Frazer & Feldman
Ms. Lori Dolan, District Clerk
Members of the Public

PUBLIC HEARING

Pledge/ Opening Remarks

I. Pledge of Allegiance/Call to Order/Opening Remarks

President Posterli called the Public Hearing portion of the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Posterli recognized Black History Month celebrations – kudos to all involved.

II. Public Hearing

Public Hearing

Dr. Gallagher introduced Mr. DeVito, who discussed the need for the Public Hearing on the District-Wide School Health and Safety Plan. The District-Wide School Safety Plan exists to outline the District's protocols for responding to emergency situations that may arise in District. The recent update to the plan was made due to a change in requirements from NYSED. The new SED requirements stated that all district plans must now contain an in-depth pandemic plan to prepare for possible future school closures due to an outbreak of a communicable disease. An overview of the pandemic plan changes can be found on the bottom of page 5. The actual pandemic plan itself is

located on pages 20-31. For information on returning to school or work during a pandemic, there are flowcharts for decision making on pages 39-47. Anyone with comments or questions should email: dhoelzerbeach.org. The District-Wide School Health and Safety Plan will be adopted at the March 23, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

Full PowerPoint of the District-Wide School Health and Safety Plan is available on the District website and in the office of the District Clerk.

III. President Posterli called for Board of Education Discussion on the District-Wide School Health and Safety Plan

BOE Discussion

- Board Member Vrona asked if the only part that is changing is the part pertaining to the pandemic (yes).
- Board Member Vrona asked if we are up to date on all of our emergency drills and Mr. DeVito replied yes.
- Board Member Conway asked about pandemic protocols, and Mr. DeVito referenced a contact tracing diagram on page 37 and a "Can My Child Go to School Today?" flow chart on page 40 of the Plan. Mrs. Conway suggested that perhaps highlights could be summarized for the public, and Mr. DeVito said he would do that.
- Vice President Ryan asked how this moves from Plan protocols into the buildings, and Mr. DeVito replied that each building has its own Building Emergency Plan and that he would speak to Mr. Hoelzer to see if we need to update any of the building plans.
- President Posterli suggested inserting hyperlinks into certain sections for ease of navigation.

IV. President Posterli called for Questions and Comments from the Public – Items on District-Wide School Health and Safety Plan Only

Questions/Comments from Public – District-Wide School Health and Safety Plan Only

- None

V. Adjournment

President Posterli called for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing Portion of the meeting at 8:18 PM.

**Public Hearing
Adjournment**

**Motion by: Board Member Conway
Seconded by: Vice President Ryan**

WORK SESSION

I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

President Posterli called the Work Session portion of the meeting to order at 7:23 PM.

II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Gallagher asked Mr. DeVito to present this evening's budget presentation on Facilities, Transportation and Technology.
- Highlights of Budget Presentation on Facilities, Transportation and Technology include: overall reduction in Facilities budget of 3.62%; overall reduction in Operations budget of 1.98% due to lower starting salaries for replacement of retirees, elimination of 2 guards at NIKE, reduction in natural gas line; overall reduction in Maintenance budget of 8.56% also due to replacement of retirees at lower starting salaries, reduction in equipment purchase needed compared to last year, reduction in groundskeeping line; overall reduction of 7.27% in Transportation budget due to lower starting salaries for replacement of retirees, reduction in bus driver slots based on route consolidation, while maintaining five spare bus driver positions and adding bus aides; overall increase in Technology of 13.32% to cover cost of eRate project for new switches that will be reimbursed at 50%, completing the iPad one-to-one initiative for K-2 students, replacement of chromebooks for 6th and 9th graders.

Full PowerPoint presentation is available on the District Board of Education website and in the office of the District Clerk.

III. President Posterli called for Board of Education Discussion on Work Topic

BOE Discussion

- Vice President Ryan asked if we are looking to purchase electric buses and Mr. DeVito replied that we are speaking to vendors, exploring grants, solar panel options; perhaps good idea to wait a year to see how technology advances.
- Vice President Ryan asked if a year like we just had put added stress on Technology and Dr. Kiley-Rendon replied that much of the software purchases were covered under the Cares Act, but saw an increase in chromebook damage due to their being transported back and forth to home more frequently.
- Board Member Conway asked about electric buses. Mr. DeVito stated that he is proud that our district has one of the "greenest" fleets in the state, but they will see what further advances develop in the next year. Board Member Conway asked which buses break down the most, and Mr. DeVito said we don't have a record yet to compare.
- Board Member Conway asked about the increase in bus aides, and Mr. DeVito replied that in the current year some were added due to IEPs and elementary runs. Approximately 5 bus aides added.

BOE New/Old Business

- Board Member Conway asked about the increase in Central Data Processing in BOCES-related expenses and Mr. DeVito replied that is for BOCES technicians.
- Board Member Vrona asked why we need to increase summer drivers and Mr. DeVito replied due to growth in Special Ed summer school program, and budget had been underfunded in the past.
- President Posterli asked, with regard to electric buses, would there be an increase in cost for training mechanics, and drivers and Mr. DeVito said he wasn't sure.

IV. President Posterli called for Board of Education New/Old Business, if any.

- Board Vrona asked if we are in compliance with genderless bathrooms and Mr. DeVito said still checking on signage, and will get back to her on that.
- Board Member Conway asked, regarding Food Services, how they are doing financially and are we up to date on kitchen equipment and Mr. DeVito replied that, although we are doing our best, still way down financially compared to previous years. We are getting government reimbursement on meals and are in compliance with kitchen equipment – will address further at Capital Projects subcommittee meeting.
- Dr. Ryan thanked Ms. O'Shea for a hard copy of school newspaper. Asked about this year's graduation and moving up ceremonies and Dr. Gallagher replied that we are planning and hoping for as "normal" a year as possible – same with prom.
- Dr. Ryan asked how many were on the call tonight (45).
- Board Member Conway asked if we could have in-person Board meetings again soon, Dr. Ryan and Mrs. Posterli agreed, and Dr. Gallagher stated that the next Board of Ed meeting will be in person.

VII. Questions and Comments from the Public

Questions and Comments from the Public

- A member of the public if, in light of being able to bring back sports, we could come up with a similar plan for other extracurricular, ie art shows, musical performances, school plays, etc. to allow parents to view their children perform while still following COVID guidelines, and Dr. Gallagher replied yes, they would be looking into that as we move into spring events.

XI. Announcements

Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association – Keith Harvey said he looks forward to seeing everyone in person at the next Board meeting.
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – None
3. LBSEA – None
4. Parent/Teacher Association – None

XII. Adjournment

Adjournment

President Posterli called for a motion to adjourn at 8:18 PM.

Motion by: Vice President Ryan
Seconded by: Board Member Conway
Approved: 4-0

Minutes submitted by:

Lori Dolan, District Clerk
February 23, 2021