

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – July 21, 2020

Approved

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, July 21, 2020 – 5:00 pm. David R. Cawley Middle

CALL TO ORDER

Phil Denbow, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

G. Martakos motioned to move the public input session on the agenda. Seconded by W. Goertel.

Vote unanimously in favor

PROOF OF POSTING

William Rearick, Superintendent of Schools provided proof of posting.

ATTENDANCE

Phil Denbow, Chair, Kara Salvas, Greg Martakos, Jim Sullivan, Wayne Goertel, Jillian Godbout, and Lindsey Laliberte

Staff: William Rearick, Superintendent, Marge Polak, Assistant Superintendent, Amy Ransom, Business Administrator, Principals Matt Benson, Ben Loi and Directors Christine Gialousis and Dean Farmer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6/16/20 Minutes-Approval

J. Sullivan motioned to approve the minutes of March 17, 2020. Seconded by W. Goertel
Vote unanimously in favor

6/16/20 Sealed Minutes-Approval

J. Sullivan motioned to approve the minutes of April 7, 2020. Seconded by G. Martakos
Vote unanimously in favor

6/23/20 Retreat Minutes-Approval

K. Salvas motioned to approve the minutes of April 21, 2020. Seconded by G. Martakos
Vote unanimously in favor

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Moved to after Presentation of Draft Re-Entry to School Proposal –Discussion

FINANCE

Expenditure Report/Manifest – June 30, 2020

L. Laliberte motioned to approve the manifest for June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$669,429.03. Seconded by J. Sullivan.

Vote unanimously in favor.

Expenditure Report/Manifest – July 9, 2020

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L. Laliberte motioned to approve the manifest for July 9, 2020 in the amount of \$653,381.93. Seconded by G. Martakos.

Vote unanimously in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of Draft Re-Entry to School Proposal –Discussion

W. Rearick, Superintendent

W. Rearick reviewed the re-entry options for the schools in fall. (see link)

<https://hooksett.sau15.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/07/Hooksett-Reopening-Presentation-7-21-2020.pdf>

The district's priority is the safety of students and teachers while allowing as many students as possible into the building. A survey was sent to a parents which showed 88% of parents were in favor of students returning to school in the fall.

The committee utilize data from the CDC, NHHS, NHDOE, the State NH and the Academy of Pediatrics as well as other States' plans in compiling Hooksett's proposal. The committee developed 3 Scenarios and how to implement those scenarios. Within the facilities, they considered the 6 foot model as well as the 3 foot model.(Pediatric Association changed to a 3 foot model with masks). The committee, as a group, supported wearing masks and were surprised when the Governor said they were optional. The committee urges the Board to consider masks for grades 2-8. Diagrams were used to look at 6 and 3 foot distancing within the classrooms at all three schools.

Under programing a “cohort” is group of students who don't move around. As an example, third graders with Mrs. Jones will remain with her the entire day; lunch, recess, and classroom instruction. In middle school there is a homeroom cohort where the teachers will move and the students stay in the same classroom. We are waiting for guidance regarding extra curricula activities. Transportation was worked on extensively with a 6 foot model which showed 12 students per bus. The Governor recommends social distance as much as possible on a bus. The Governor put a lot of responsibility for the plan on the districts.

We talked about scenario 1, 2, and 3. Each district is different. We are planning all three scenarios so that we can change and move from one plan to the other if needed.

Scenario 1. is for 3 foot distancing with masks. Times would remain the same, teachers travel to students, and students stay in cohorts.

Scenario 2. is a Hybrid which is 50% of students would come one day and 50% on another day. The advantage is you get as many students in as possible while maintaining a 6 foot distance with students in school for 90 days of direct contact.

Matt Benson, Principal Cawley

At Cawley, teacher would teach 11 students live and other students would remote in. The goal is to have 180 days of contact with teachers. Students who were learning remotely would be required to be up, be dressed and at a computer with the video on. We will continue a full day schedule.

Ben Loi, Principal Underhill

At Underhill (K - 2) When students are at school, they will receive direct instruction and services. Students at home can utilize pre-recorded instruction which is building on what they learned in class. These will be flexible option because students may not be at home on those days but rather with a day care provider or grandparents.

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W. Rearick:

Families will be kept to the same schedule regardless of grade.

Sample daily schedules were explained by Principal Benson and Loi for Cawley and Underhill which allowed for time for hand washing throughout the day.

There will also be mask breaks for students and teachers during the day

Cawley: The strategy is to have 60 minute of instruction time which will be shrunk for teachers to move and clean and set up as well as hand washing, and mask breaks.

Scenario 3:

100% remote learning

Temperature taking of students

The State said follow the lead of parents with temperature taking. The recommendation will be that parents take the child's temperature before going on the bus and should not send them if there is a fever. It would be a huge task to take every child's temp as they come in. We can do it for staff only. The guidance was given by the Governor for summer camp and that is for parents to take temps.

G. Martakos raised the concern of parents making the decision to send their students to school. His experience at daycare is children often are sent sick.

W. Rearick stated that they do not have enough staff to do this with all students.

Scenario 1 and 2 is assuming all teachers will return to work. If we get enough teachers that don't come back, it will impact our decision.

If there are less than 6 teachers with physical issues, we could use them to help online learning and re purpose them. The plan will be shared with HEA. The teachers will be asked if they are coming back so we can determine what we have for staff. A second issue is bus drivers which tend to be older and may have reservation about returning to work.

Transportation:

In Scenario 1 or 2 we should have enough buses. Parents will be encouraged to transport their children if possible to reduce contact.

We will ask if possible for students to wear masks on the bus.

School Calendar

The Governor said the district can take 3 days out of their calendar and use it for professional development. If the Board considers changing the calendar, the first day of school would be September 1st.

Additional considerations

Recess

Physical Ed classes

Sports and Extra Curricula

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New Morning, Before and After

Visitor

Response to outbreak

Videos to parents for tutorial for assignments they are asked to work with

FAQ will go out for parents on various protocol.

Discussion – Board members

J. Sullivan: What are the benchmarks to move from Scenario 1 to 2?

The survey said 88% of parents were in favor of students returning to school. How will we address the 12%? Will they have the option of staying home and participating in remote learning? Will the school be responsible for teaching those students or will they home school on their own?

W. Rearick: The State guidance said districts need to educate students that are physically compromised. That is their guidance. What we do is our decision. It is impossible for teacher to do double duty and do both. In our report, we talk about protocol if students have symptoms. and they will be taken to an isolation room. The parent will pick up the student and urged to test the family. There will be wait time of 2-10 days. We need to be reasonable.

K. Salvas stated that there will not be a perfect solution for every family and thanked the committee for their work.

As a reminder, parents should work with their children during the summer to be self sufficient with personal tasks. The district should look into purchasing shields for children that can't tolerate masks.

W. Rearick stated that the district will transport high school students.

D. Farmer: We ordered masks for adults and students and we have a 2 months supply.

We ordered electrostatic sprayers to hose down all surfaces at the end of the day.

We are bringing on staff during the day to help with cleaning and we are planning lunch in the classroom. Contactless whenever possible in bathrooms.

W. Rearick stated the night custodian may come during the day to clean during recess or whenever possible when classrooms are empty.

The bus company has sprayers for disinfecting as well.

L. Laliberte stated that the parents should be surveyed again in September or early August so parents will have more information and can make a more informed decision.

There should be a policy where we require parents to track the temperature of students.

A negative test should be required in order to return to school after someone is out for Covid.

The protocol should include a contact page.

W. Rearick: We will have a list of contacts by school. We have to notify the State and they will come and do contact tracing.

L. Laliberte asked how the schools would handle lunch and allergies.

W. Rearick stated that it has been discussed but not yet finalized.

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L. Laliberte asked who would be responsible for developing a transportation policy.

W. Rearick stated that the district will provide the policy to the bus company.

J. Godbout stated that the district should work with families that don't feel comfortable sending their students back. There is a substitute shortage which is concerning.

W. Rearick stated there is shortage of substitute teachers and it is a legitimate issue. This goes back to having the teachers here. Sub rates may be increased but it is still difficult.

J. Godbout stated that she is concerned with transportation.

W. Rearick will have more answers in 2 week.

J. Godbout asked if the school will be open and available to outside groups and what has the district done with regard to ventilation.

D. Farmer, Maintenance Director reported that upgrades in the software have been made. The direction from CDC is to leave windows open as much as possible.

W. Goertel requested the plan be posted on the website.
He supports doing temperature checks on all students.
Would like the survey to ask more detailed questions.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Public questions – (Limited to 3 minute)

Dave Levesque, 29 Morrill Road thanked the committee and stated that he is a teacher in Derry and everyone must understand that school will not be the same no matter which option is chosen. He asked if parents or pediatricians were consulted.

W. Rearick stated that parents were not included. Parents are able to give their input at this meeting. Data from the CDC and the Academy of Pediatric were used.

Dave Levesque stated that if safety is the top priority of the district then the only option is remote learning and if the district decides to fully open, safety standards are sacrificed. Manchester voted to be at 6 feet. If we are 6 feet, we cannot all be here. Comparisons were made between the school building square footage and other retail stores limiting occupancy. If a hybrid is selected, masks must be mandatory and everyone must be 6 feet apart.

Christine Titus, 12 Morgan Drive read a statement into the record.

Michael Dullen, 6 Prescott Heights stated he is a biochemist and data is more real than feelings. There are multiple studies of air circulation and at 16% or higher you are at 99% of particles. The best prevention is wearing masks, washing hands and limiting face touching.

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Not to be dismissive but you can't let fear dictate your life. This is not going away. Data can be chosen to look any way you want. Goffstown cases are primarily long-term facilities. Look at the studies. Get off on the right foot without political or personal agendas.

Marissa asked about staff that are exempt from work due to ADA or are uncomfortable returning to school, could those staff members do remote teaching. Possibly survey everyone in town and find out how many students there are that want remote learning and allow those teachers to teach.

Jodi Pinard, 11 Morningside Drive.

Use the teachers that can't come to school to teach remotely.

Transportation, I am willing to drive my daughter. If you are not transporting high school, please let the parents know as soon as possible. If teachers are expected to teach in the classroom and do remote learning, when are they going to be with their family and children? Concerned about privacy of the student and family if a student contracts Covid.

Meghan Hanna, 23 Stirling

Read a statement stating that everyone's anxiety is different and we need to be respectful of the risks each family is willing or unwilling to take.

Amy Mercier 35 Goffstown Road

I am a therapist and I have a lot of clients calling about themselves and their children. This is a very polarizing issue. People are caught up in their emotion.

Everyone needs to be mindful that everyone's feeling and experience is their own. Everyday everyone assessing and manages risk. We take risks everyday with driving, amusement rides, or bad weather. We don't shut that down. So much is a matter of luck with regard to school shootings. We have lost many more students to shootings than Covid. We must manage that fear. The news is a scary place and they don't state how many people are a-symptomatic. The reality is we must manage this risk. We are not looking at this for the short term. You have a higher chance of dying from cancer than from Covid. We must manage that risk in our family and if we are wearing masks, and washing hands we are managing it.

Casey Allard, 11 Viewpoint Drive requested the district communicate with parents and let them know what is expected from them so they can understand the data.

Smyth Road

I have a kindergarten and am worried about daycare and transportation.

Will technology be provided for students in a hybrid?

W. Rearick: Students will be provided what they need.

Tanya stated that she would like everyone to wear masks and A and B groups should be kept to the same schedule every week.

W. Rearick It will be A- Monday, B-Tuesday, A- Wednesday, B Thursday, with Fridays alternating. We will have a more rigorous grading system than with remote which was pass fail.

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Tanya asked if substitutes would be able to attend Professional Development.

W. Rearick: Yes so they will in order to be familiar with the protocol.

*See more public comments submitted electronically attached

Board Discussion

P. Denbow stated that it appears that the first few people were advocating for remote learning and then there were parents more in favor of attendance. There is not enough staff to do both. The Board will work hard to address all the concerns and we will do our best.

The Board will meet on July 29th and hopefully make a decision on the direction of the district.

J. Godbout stated that the Board is working with a default budget.

***K. Salvas motioned to include the 33 online comments received in the minutes. Seconded by P. Denbow.
Vote unanimously in favor.***

L. Laliberte stated she would be hesitant to make a decision on a scenerio without seeing a draft of the plan first.

W. Rearick stated they would not have a policy by next week but could say what would be included.

K. Salvas asked the committee to revisit remote teaching for those that cannot go back to school and asked if face shields could be made available.

Policy KDA Public Information Program* -Discussion (requested by G. Martakos) Social media – discussed

The board entered into a discussion regarding social media and the need to have one contact person. No action was taken.

POLICY APPROVAL (First Reading)

Policy AC –Non-Discrimination*

First Reading

K. Salas motion to approve the first reading with the omission of the date. Seconded by J. Sullivan.

Vote unanimously in favor

Policy KF –Use of Facilities*

J. Sullivan motioned to approve the first reading with changes. Seconded by G. Martakos.

Vote unanimously in favor

PERSONNEL (if needed)

Ratification of Superintendent's Nomination

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L. Laliberte motioned to approve the appointment of Linda Ratigan as Reading Specialist. Seconded by K. Salvas.

Vote unanimously in favor

L. Laliberte motioned to approve the appointment of Magdala Johnson. Seconded by W. Goertel.

Vote unanimously in favor

ADJOURNMENT

G. Martakos motioned to adjourn. Seconded by K. Salvas.

Vote unanimously in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan