

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – July 29, 2020

Approved

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Minutes TUESDAY, July 29, 2020 – 5:00 pm. David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center

CALL TO ORDER

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

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, Steve HARRISES, and Ben Loi. Directors Christine Gialousis and Maintenance Director Dean Farmer.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Approval of July 21, 2020 Minutes

*J. Sullivan motioned to approve the minutes of July 21, 2020. Seconded by L. Laliberte
Vote unanimously in favor*

OLD BUSINESS

School Calendar

G. Martakos motioned to approve the 2020 school start date for September 1st, 2020. W. Goertel.

Vote unanimously in favor

Re-Entry to School -Discussion

W. Rearick recommended taking option 2 off the table and consider the need to bring as many students as possible with an online option.

K. Salvas motioned to approve Scenario 1 and 3 with the appropriate precautions and offer a remote option. Seconded by G. Martakos.

W. Rearick stated they will ask all parents to choose an option which should be done by the 8th of August.

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Christine Titus stated she appreciated the effort of the Board but is confused as to why a survey for parents is going out with a Hybrid being taken off the table. The survey went out in May and many parents didn't know where everyone would be in September and hadn't seen a plan. How can the Board make the decision if they haven't surveyed parents. Last week they were all for a survey and here we are now without a survey.

Bob Lachance sent an email to everyone yesterday and appreciates that safety is the number one priority. Statistically, there is a small chance of Covid in Merrimack County. Mr. Lachance read the article regarding the long and short term impact of keeping schools closed. This is a challenging time and we can't let our kids get behind because we are afraid.

Board Discussion

W. Goertel discussed some information he was able to gain from looking at the data and doing some analysis. He likes the proposal on the table but would like to see all three (3) scenario's included to allow families to select their risk level.

J. Godbout likes the option of 1 and 3 but doesn't want to alienate the families that are not coming back. There are Budget constraints but mask should be mandated and they need to look at the air filtration system. There is also a concern regarding substitute teachers and transportation.

Will the schools be open to the public at night?

J. Sullivan stated he is pleased that the option for distant learning will be offered and would like to know how that will be handled. Having two (2) options is good.

P. Denbow explained that they looked at a lot of data including parents comments and would love to do all three (3) choices but the resources are not available. Teachers that cannot return can be utilized for the online learning. With the proper protocols, it is safe to come back. The Board's job is to look at this from the 30,000 foot level with Bill as the CEO. The decision is being made now so that Administration has enough time to prepare.

Masks should be required. Special Ed learning remotely is difficult. It is hard to find any evidence that shows remote learning is as good as in person instruction.

K. Salas supports having kids back in school. The data supports safely returning to school.

G. Martakos asked how students transitioning in third and sixth grade will be handled.

M. Benson stated that 6th grade students will be brought in for a day to get equipment and meet with Mr. Roma and have orientation.

S. Harrises stated they have discussed having a zoom meeting where students can meet their teachers virtually.

G. Martakos asked if Chrome Books were available 1-1.

W. Rearick stated that Cawley has a 1-1 for Chrome Books and they have ordered grades 3-5 and tablets for Underhill.

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L. Laliberte asked if parents are selecting a scenario for an entire year or can they change if their circumstances change.

W. Rearick stated that parents will have to make a decision for a trimester. Special circumstances will be handled on a case by case basis.

W. Rearick talked about the need to wear masks in school.

L. Laliberte stated the importance of educating parents on proper wearing of masks and cleaning.

W. Rearick stated that information will be going out in the packets to parents.

W. Rearick stated that teachers were not in favor of taking temperatures of students at school.

J. Godbout asked if VLAC was working in conjunction with the school?

W. Rearick stated VLAC is an option being offered to parents.

The Principals discussed the protocol for nurses and explained that teachers would handle the basic first aid from the classroom. They also reviewed the availability of isolation rooms in the schools if needed.

D. Farmer stated that he will be meeting with the HVAC contractor and will be able to answer questions regarding filters and airflow and possibly the use of UV light.

Vote unanimously in favor

W. Rearick stated that masks should be worn with the exception of student that can't wear them

J. Sullivan motioned the School Board require all students from grade 2-8 to wear face coverings except for those exempt due to health issue and encourage the use in lower grades (K-1) for both school and buses.

Seconded by W. Goertel

Vote unanimously in favor

POLICY APPROVAL (Second Reading)

Policy AC –Non-Discrimination* (law into effect 8/14)

Policy KF –Use of Facilities

G. Martakos motioned to approve the 2nd reading of AC and KF. Seconded by K. Salvas.

Vote unanimously in favor.

The Board will meet on August 12th at 6:00 pm rather than August 18th.

Resignation

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Rebecca Benyik Computer Technology Teacher

G. Martakos motioned to accept the resignation of Rebecca Benyik. Seconded by K. Salvas

Vote unanimously in favor

FINANCE

Manifest Approval (if necessary)

G. Martakos motioned to approve the manifest for July 29, 2020 in the amount of \$860,304.18. Seconded by K. Salvas

Vote unanimously in favor.

K. Salvas asked Administration to reconsider not having standardize testing during the first week of school.

B. Loi reviewed the parent drop off and pick up procedure for the fall. The plan is to have parents stay in their vehicle during drop off and pick up. The location will be different than in the past. Students will be escort in and out of the building with social distancing.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 Section II (a-k)

J. Godbout motioned to enter into non-public per RSA 1:A:3 Section II c at 6:33 pm.

Seconded by J. Sullivan

Roll Call unanimously in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan

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