

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – December 4, 2020

Approved

**HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
DAVID R. CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL Media Center
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

Phil Denbow, Chair, Greg Martakos, L. Laliberte (Virtually), Jillian Godbout, Kara Salvas, Wayne Goertel, and Jim Sullivan

William Rearick, Superintendent, Marge Polak, Assistant Superintendent, Principals Ben Loi, Steve Harrises, and Matt Benson

PROOF OF POSTING

William Rearick, Superintendent of Schools provided proof of posting.

PUBLIC INPUT

No comments

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Holiday Related Closures

W Rearick: From November 15th to the 30th, Cawley has had 8 positive cases. The increased positivity rate continues to impact staffing.

The recommendation is for Cawley to be all remote from December 7 to 23.

I believe it is important that all our students be in school, but particularly our younger students. As of today, we can open Memorial and Underhill on Monday. It is subject to change if there is an up-tick of Covid cases or close contact cases. As of now, we have enough staffing. I would like the Board's support. With Cawley remote, we could marshal all our resources to help fill positions at the other two (2) school. Also, the teachers at Cawley are more familiar with the innovations and I'm confident, at least until Christmas, they can do an effective job. My recommendation is to switch to in-person learning on December 7th for Underhill and Memorial and require face masks for Kindergarten and 1st Grade. If you reopen Memorial and Underhill and if a teacher has class with more than 50% remote, then that class will switch to all remote learning. We want to stay open as long as we can at least until Christmas.

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L. Laliberte: I like the plan. I would hesitate to put a percent in the recommendation and would prefer to leave it to the Administration to make those decisions. I think it is a good compromise. The numbers are starting to scare me so I think this is good.

W. Goertel asked about Special Ed at Cawley.

W. Rearick: Services for Special Ed students would still be provided at Cawley.

J. Godbout: This is the compromise I was looking for. It takes care of the staffing issue and keeps our eyes on the little ones.

J. Sullivan asked what were the exact dates?

W. Rearick: This is just to get us to Christmas. I still support shutting down for the 2 weeks after Christmas.

K. Salvas: I think it is a good starting point, but I am still concerned about the staffing. I understand it is all hands on deck. I think every member of the administration should be ready to jump regardless of the duty. The subs from Cawley could be reassigned; what about Paras

W. Rearick: The Para's will remain at Cawley because many are one on ones.

K. Salvas: We need classroom teachers but if you have office staff out or non-classroom teachers, there is a trickle down effect. Continuing to just keep our head above water isn't always best. The more we can move staff to the lower grades the better. I'm ok with K-1 wearing masks but we may have parents pulling kids that can't get through the day.

W. Rearick: We can't let people bounce back and forth.

K. Salvas: If we are not in this position because of Thanksgiving, we will in the same position in January. I don't know what the creative solution is for the long term.

W. Rearick: This is short term to get us to Christmas. Even with only 7 cases, there is a cascade effect. We could get a number of call ins and we can't implement this plan. In the short term, we can piece this together with staff but it will be different in January. We couldn't keep this up for month. It wouldn't be fair to the kids that need services.

K. Salvas: When we are back in January and we don't have the people to fill the gaps; what is the breaking point? I like the numbers or percentages.

W. Rearick: We need to have those conversations. I think if we meet 50%, we have to close. Memorial is 7-7-7. If you lose 7 classrooms then there is no way we can cover it. I would first recommend closing classrooms and then if you get to an aged upon

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number, you close the school. We can start that conversation at the next meeting on the 15th of this month.

G. Martakos: I am in favor and I agree we need a percentage before going remote with a class. Will this impact the New Mornings Program?

W. Rearick: If we open, they will still be able to do what they do.

G. Martakos: Our goal is to keep students in school as long as we can, so this is a good plan.

P. Denbow: I think it is a good idea. The older kids can manage their days better than the younger kids. Based on the numbers that Bill has, it is a no brainer.

W. Rearick: The plan has three (3) parts

1. Closing Cawley from December 7 to the 23rd of December
2. K and 1st Grade wearing masks
3. Trigger to go remote using a percentage

J. Sullivan motioned to authorize the Superintendents plan for Cawley to be remote and Underhill and Memorial to be in school from Dec. 7th to the 23rd of December.

Seconded by G. Martakos.

Vote unanimously in favor.

J. Sullivan motioned to require K-1 to wear masks in school unless they have a condition where they are unable. Seconded by G. Martakos.

Vote unanimously in favor

The Board discussed what percentage of quarantine students in a classroom to trigger a switch to all remote.

L. Laliberte motioned if 25% of the class is remote due to quarantine, the entire class will be remote or up to the discretion of the Superintendent. Seconded by G.

Martakos.

Vote unanimously in favor

PUBLIC INPUT

No comment

ADJOURNMENT

G. Martakos motioned to adjourn. Seconded by W. Goertel.

Vote unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan