

Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 18, 2020
Cafeteria - 6:00 pm
“EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS”

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by F. Bood, Board Chair.

Present were: F. Bood, L. Shippee, D. Capobianco, H. Wood, C. Langlois and M. Rouillard
Also in attendance were: G. Lanza, H. Nickerson, D. Chrzan, D. Zajac and M. Cartier, Plainfield Liaison. Absent: L. Smith

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

D. Anforth, addressed the Board as a bus driver and also a parent, and stated concerns for the reopening of the school and transportation.

Questions were presented concerning the following:

- The mask mandate
- Bus cleaning and disinfecting
- Protocols for students entering and exiting the buses
- The possibility of bus monitors
- Contact tracing
- Possible driver shortage

G. Lanza acknowledged that these are legitimate concerns and stated that she will schedule a virtual meeting with the drivers within the next few days to discuss their concerns.

IV. Reports and Communications

A. Correspondence

None

B. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting, July 21, 2020
2. Minutes of Special Meeting, July 8, 2020
3. Minutes of Special Meeting July 15, 2020
4. Minutes of Special Meeting August 5, 2020
5. Superintendent/Special Education Director’s Report
6. Principal’s Report

A motion was made by H. Wood and seconded by D. Capobianco to approve the consent agenda as presented with the change to the minutes from the August 5, 2020 Special Meeting.

Vote: All in favor.

Item III. Review of Legal RFQ’s - A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by D. Capobianco to appoint Kainen, Escalara & McHale as Board Counsel. Vote: All in favor” - change to: Vote: 5 in favor (1 Board member was absent for the vote).

C. Budget and Expense Report

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by M. Rouillard to approve the budget and expense report as presented. Vote: All in favor.

D. Plainfield Board of Education Liaison

M. Cartier, Plainfield Liaison, reported that Plainfield was scheduled to go with a hybrid model with remote learning as a parent choice. Plainfield's schedule will be students with the last name of A-L Monday & Wednesday and students M-Z Tuesday & Thursday - all students off on Friday. Students will start September 8th - 11th depending on their last name - students in preschool and special needs will have in-person instruction 5 days/week. At this time, Plainfield is looking at a modified hybrid model. Plainfield has had to hire staff due to retirements and resignations. Additionally, they had a water pipe break due to pressure testing.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Policies - 2nd Reading (vote)

- 4118.231/4218.231 - Personnel - Certified/Non Certified - Alcohol, Drugs & Tobacco
- 5112 - Students - Ages of Attendance (version 1)
- 5131.6 - Students - Alcohol Use, Drugs & Tobacco (Including Performance Enhancing Substances) - Policy & Regulation
- 5141.4 - Students - Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Abuse (version 1) - Policy & Regulation
- Policy#9321.2 Bylaws of the Board - Time, Place and Notification of Meetings - Electronic Board of Education Meetings

A motion was made by H. Wood and seconded by D. Capobianco to approve Policy# 4118.231/4218.231 - Personnel - Certified/Non Certified - Alcohol, Drugs & Tobacco; Policy#5112 - Students - Ages of Attendance (version 1); Policy & Regulation#5131.6 - Students - Alcohol Use, Drugs & Tobacco (Including Performance Enhancing Substances); Policy & Regulation#5141.4 - Students - Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Abuse (version 1); Policy#9321.2 Bylaws of the Board Time, Place and Notification of Meetings - Electronic Board of Education Meetings as presented. Vote: All in favor.

B. Policies - 1st Reading

- 5111 - Students - Admission/Placement - Admission

G. Lanza discussed her findings and addressed the questions the Board had at the July meeting regarding this policy.

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by M. Rouillard to table Policy#5111 - Students - Admission/Placement - Admission to the next meeting. Vote: All in favor.

C. High School Options

C. Langlois reported that negotiations with Plainfield are halted at this time.

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by H. Wood to table "High School Options" at this time until January 2021. Vote: All in favor.

VI. New Business

A. School Reopening Update

G. Lanza reported that Sterling Community School is set for a full in person reopening with a temporary opt in remote for parents. 309 parents have expressed their instructional preferences as of the date of the meeting: 212 - in person and 82 - remote. If more parents decide to change from remote to in person it could trigger a hybrid model. The school is all set for social distancing, adequate staffing and support, disinfected and capable of 15 desks per classroom - currently there are 14 maximum per classroom scheduled to return. The staff will return on August 24th and will participate in training and safety. The students are scheduled to return on August 31st for half days the first week. There will be 178 students days vs. 181 days, as per the State recommendation for 3 additional staff training days prior to students returning to school. The student day will be shortened by one hour: 8:45 am to 2:45 pm, to allow for longer high school bus runs and additional cleaning. There will be additional staff during the day for cleaning (one to start the school year and this need will be regularly reviewed). The fire marshall met with R. Bonner today for a walk through due to COVID-19 and said the school is in the best condition he has seen so far in regards to reopening for students.

B. Certified resignations (vote)

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by D. Capobianco to accept the resignation of J. Shamback. Vote: All in favor.

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by M. Rouillard to accept the resignation of J. Rogers. Vote: All in favor.

C. Approval of revised 2020/21 Calendar (vote)

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by M. Rouillard to accept the changes to the 2020/21 school calendar. Vote: All in favor.

VII. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

F. Bood added a 2nd public comment which was omitted from the Agenda in error.

C. Langlois thanked R. Bonner for all his hard work to ensure a healthy, clean and safe return to school.

VIII. Public Comment

None

IX. Executive Session

None

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by C. Langlois to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm.. Vote: All in favor.