

LINCOLN-WOODSTOCK COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD

SAU #68

DATE: July 29, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT:

Matt Manning, Chairperson
Jay Duguay
Brian Angelone
Tamra Ham
Joe Bossie
Vance Pickering
Jasmine Weeden

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF PRESENT:

Judith McGann, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Deb O'Connor, Financial Manager
Anik Avard, Teacher Representative

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Tracey Brumlik
Jennifer Whitman
Tony Drapeau
Ellie Harvey
Dan Lamoureux
Julie Rand
Charyl Reardon
Geoff Wilson
Heather Krill
Erin Bell
Dori Weeden
Paul Schirduan

Megan Woods
Denise Drapeau
Annie Anderson
Marcella Shamberger
S. Spencer Kelley
Diana Pamplin
Russ Bradshaw
Rebecca Steeves
Katie Scambio
Kristyn Fadden
Nicole Kelley
Victoria Martin

The meeting was held in the Middle/High School Gymnasium

Call to Order: Matt Manning called the school board meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Minutes:

Approval of the meeting Minutes of July 15, 2020. **Tamra Ham made a motion to approve the minutes of June 24, 2020. Jay Duguay seconded the motion.** Discussion was had regarding the wording on the last page of the minutes in reference to the budget being kept. Joe Bossie mentioned that further explanation of the conversation regarding the budget should be noted in the minutes. The budget was being kept due to unknown COVID expenses. **The board voted to accept the minutes with amendment. Brian Angelone, Tamra Ham, Joe Bossie, Jay Duguay, and Vance Pickering voted affirmative; Matt Manning and Jasmine Weeden abstained. The motion was approved.**

Approval of the Board Work session Minutes of July 22, 2020. **Tamra Ham made a motion to approve the minutes. Joe Bossie seconded the motion.** Discussion was had regarding the wording on the last page of the minutes in reference to concerns about sports. Joe Bossie mentioned that further explanation of the conversation regarding sports should be noted in the minutes. Concerns about sports were discussed in regards to full contact sports and traveling to other towns. **The board voted to accept the minutes. Matt Manning, Brian Angelone, Tamra Ham, Joe Bossie, Jay Duguay, and Vance Pickering voted affirmative, Jasmine Weeden abstained. The motion was approved.**

Handbook:

Superintendent McGann mentioned that copies of the relevant Handbook pages regarding policies, etc. had been distributed at the July 22 Board Work Session. The other pages of the Handbook refer to schedules, etc.

Jay Duguay was concerned about the Absentee Policy as stated in the Handbook. He mentioned that it would need to be more flexible this year. If the change isn't made in the handbook perhaps a separate sheet could be provided with a more flexible policy for this year. Superintendent McGann mentioned that the Policy should remain the same as it is the approved policy but exceptions to the policy will need to be made this year. The Absentee Policy will be added to the agenda for discussion at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Jay Duguay had concerns with the Cell Phone Policy as listed in the Handbook. He mentioned that the policy listed is a pilot policy only. More work was needed with the Board on the policy and it was not yet settled or approved. Superintendent McGann mentioned that the Policy could be worked on by the Policy Committee toward Board approval. Matt Manning suggested that they leave the policy in the book as is and put the policy on the agenda for a future Policy meeting.

Tamra Ham raised concerns about the student body count being listed at 340 in the Handbook. Tamra inquired as to the current count and Debbie O'Connor and Matt Manning stated it was around 266. Tamra mentioned that this count should be corrected in the Handbook to be more accurate.

Matt Manning made a motion to approve the Handbook with the correction of the student body to 266 or the most recent number. Tamra Ham seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Calendar:

Superintendent McGann, a copy of the proposed calendar was included in packet. The proposed calendar allows for three (3) extra days for teacher training regarding issues surrounding the pandemic. These days are authorized by the State plans through the Governor and DOE. These days are considered student instructional days. Teachers would return August 25th, 26th and 27th and again on September 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Students would return on September 8.

Discussion was had. There is a typo on August 31 which should be x'd out. Jasmine Weeden asked if there were 180 days typically? The print at the bottom of the calendar mentions 176. Should it be 177? Superintendent McGann stated this may be another typo.

Brian Angelone made a motion to approve the Calendar pending changes. Joe Bossie seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reopening Plan:

Superintendent McGann stated that face masks will be required in all grades K-12. An updated copy of the Reopening Guidelines Response plan was included in the packet. Basically, the plan is a "what if" plan and was revised to be based on information that became available on Monday, July 20 from the NH DHHS and Dr. Benjamin Chan.

Vance Pickering was concerned about the discrepancy between the 10 days return to school for COVID positive cases mentioned in the Testing section and those that have refused testing needing 14 days. Also concerned regarding the wording "if symptoms are improved". There is no "magic number" of days a student should be symptom free. Should they be re-tested before returning to school? Matt Manning and Superintendent McGann mentioned that we cannot mandate testing. Superintendent McGann mentioned she could reach out to the DHHS regarding the discrepancy in the 10 days and 14 days. Jay Duguay mentioned that the policy will follow the guidance of the State and will be a working document.

Jay Duguay asked to revisit Superintendent McGann's statement regarding the requirement of masks as the previous thought was mask use in just common areas, etc. Superintendent McGann stated K-12 will be required to wear masks but mask breaks will be scheduled. The details of mask breaks are still being worked out, but they may be held outside or in a corner of the classroom. Superintendent McGann stated that this plan is to allow the School to open as cautiously as possible. Mask use may be revisited but we want to be as cautious as possible to get us back in the building now and can be re-evaluated later. Matt Manning reiterated that we are trying to reopen the school as cautiously as possible and see where we are then we revisit mask use. Matt mentioned that all the information coming to us from the State is broad brush to include different communities like Manchester, etc. we must take a cautious approach and then reevaluate. Joe Bossie had a question regarding the use of a full -face shield as a replacement for a mask? Superintendent McGann mentioned that she did not have a definite answer on this but will check with DHHS for

recommendations. Joe mentioned that some students may need to read lips to understand. Superintendent McGann acknowledged that some students/staff may not be able to wear mask and plans for this need to be made.

Matt Manning mentioned that the NHIAA Executive Committee will be meeting tomorrow.

There will be a remote Lin-Wood staff meeting on Monday, 8/3 to go over the Reopening Plan. There will be a remote community meeting on Wednesday, 8/5 to present the Reopening Plan. Matt Manning suggested that this meeting be set up like the District meeting with questions to an email address and the responses to follow. Jay Duguay mentioned that at the last meeting it was suggested to have different parent meetings for the different schools. Superintendent McGann stated that there were concerns that parents would not come to that type of forum.

The School has been contacting all parents by phone to find out if students will be coming back to school and if so, what their bussing needs will be to try to figure out bussing numbers and schedules.

Matt Manning noted that we are checking with the school board association and school lawyers to determine if the Reopening and Athletic plans need to be approved by the Board.

Tamra Ham asked with two classrooms for each grade will the classes be able to recess together, etc. or will they be separated by class? She is doing research for the rec department as they are trying to decide what to do. Superintendent stated desks will be six (6) feet apart and need to social distance outside.

Matt Manning asked for comments from the public.

Recognition of Visitors/Public Participation:

Community:

Victoria Martin asked to clarify some of the questions that had been mentioned in regards to the Response Plan section: Both NH and VT has sent out guidance to medical personnel; COVID tests should not be done immediately after an original test as pieces of DNA from the virus can still show up in the test. The recommendation is for 10 days after infection with exceptions for cases of immunodeficient individuals. Victoria mentioned the difference between the 10 days for those that have tested positive compared to the 14 days for those that refuse to be tested. This is due to those that have been confirmed positive by symptoms and testing will have been exposed to the virus 4-6 days prior to symptoms appearing and since they have been tested, the 4-6 days can be assumed and then the 10 additional days are added making the total since exposure. Without testing the initial 4-6 days cannot be assumed so the full 14 days are required. Regarding the use of face shields: cloth or surgical masks protect others while plastic face shields are added protection for the wearer. Face shields are not a substitute for a mask they are extra protection.

Erin Bell – Inquired if the schools have access to medical professionals to reach out to for guidance? Matt Manning mentioned he was not aware of any. Erin asked if it would be beneficial? Superintendent McGann mentioned having access to DHHS and the State. Tamra Ham mentioned it would be possible to reach out to the local Health Officers for the two towns. Jay Duguay stated that the District has not been getting a lot of guidance until recently. We have been doing the best we can based on what we know. It is best to err on the side of caution and base decisions on what is happening in our area. Superintendent McGann mentioned DHHS gets involved with confirmed cases. Jay Duguay mentioned that we need to treat symptomatic individuals as if they have COVID. Universal masking will limit the transmission of COVID, colds, Flu, etc.

Tracy Brumlik – Asked how IEP and 504 plans will be handled and what happens if a child is not able to wear a mask? Superintendent McGann stated IEP and 504s will be followed and considerations will be made for those unable to wear a mask.

Jasmine Weeden mentioned that if everyone is wearing a mask it will protect most students.

Matt Manning mentioned that we may be able to peel back the mask strictness at some time, but social distancing would still be required.

Paul Schirduan – Had concerns with students being able to make up for lost instructions from this past spring. He suggested finding a baseline before the beginning of school year. He understood that students were using Zearn for math and remarked that children using Zearn alone are 50% below. He mentioned the low-test scores for this School and a statement that the principal had made in

the past about concentrating on reading, writing and arithmetic to get the numbers up. He would like to see the School focus on core studies and use base lines.

Tony Drapeau – Commended the mandate on face mask use. We live in an area where we are lucky enough to have the ability to open schools fac to face. Face mask use teaches children the responsibility to others. Tony inquired if there would be another School Board meeting prior to the meeting scheduled on August 19? Matt Manning mentioned there would likely be another meeting. Tony asked that there be parental input regarding school sports. 42% of the Middle and High School students participate in sports. It is important to the students. It is important to look at what is happening in our area and to gauge the community about their feelings on sports. Tony spoke with someone in Hanover where they have been playing sports all summer long. Tony mentioned that the Athletic Director has been speaking with other area Athletic Directors and the thought is to drop southern games and keep games local.

Marcella Shamberger – Inquired about school day start and end times? Superintendent McGann mentioned the school start times and end times will remain about the same as in the past for now but that may change. Bussing schedules are still being worked out. Buses may need to start earlier. Marcella also asked about tolerance for sickness (sniffles, allergies, etc.)? Superintendent McGann noted that new symptoms would be important, symptoms that are new/unusual for that child. Inquiry regarding in what scenario would the school be moved remote or hybrid? Superintendent McGann stated that would be at the direction of DHHS. Marcella asked if parents would be notified? Superintendent McGann mentioned that parents would be notified based on the recommendations from DHHS, but no specifics that might violate HIPAA.

Tracy Brumlik – Asked if the decision to go remote/hybrid be as quick as the last time or would more notice be given to parents? Matt Manning stated there may be no notice, but we are better prepared to handle remote learning now. Jay Duguay said the community will be more aware of COVID cases as community infection rates and numbers are publicly available now so the decision to go remote/hybrid will not be a surprise in that regard.

Dori Weeden – Inquired as to when students would be allowed into the building in the morning with the need to do temperature checks, etc.? When should children be dropped off? Superintendent McGann mentioned that had not yet been determined. Not everyone will be coming in the same door. It takes four seconds to take the temperature. Trying to keep arrival time as close as possible to the regular time.

Denis Drapeau – Will students be going to their first class right away? Matt Manning answered yes and that would be their home room. Middle School will not change classrooms throughout the day only High School will.

Victoria Martin – Asked if there would be a full-time school nurse? Superintendent McGann and Debbie O'Connor answered yes. Victoria provided support to Tony Drapeau's comments regarding the importance and safety of outdoor sports. She asked if there were plans to utilize outdoor classrooms, lunch areas, etc.? Superintendent McGann said yes, plans are being looked at to utilize outdoor spaces.

Spencer Kelly – Asked a question regarding food service? Superintendent McGann stated meals will be individually wrapped and delivered to classrooms.

Dan Lamoureux – Inquired if it will be okay for sports teams to be made up of students from different classes/grade levels if they are not intermingling in classrooms.

Matt Manning stated that transitions are being minimalized in the Schools.

Nicole Kelly – Asked what would happen to siblings if one of the children was sent home with COVID symptoms? Matt Manning said he assumed that would be based on recommendation of DHHS. Jay Duguay stated the document from Dr. Chan that the response plan is based on is publicly available online and address siblings, etc. Superintendent McGann said this is addressed in the response plan.

Erin Bell - Asked if a faculty member's child has symptoms, would the faculty member be sent home? Matt Manning said most likely. Erin said that will affect staffing. Jay Duguay said there will be several challenges especially in the area of staffing. Not everything can be predicted but trying to mitigate challenges such as finding enough substitute teachers.

Jennifer Whitman – Inquired if it was possible for a child to be added to the bus system later in the year? Superintendent McGann said the plan needs to be flexible. Matt Manning stated that the school is asking for parents to be flexible, so the school needs to be flexible as well.

Jasmine Weeden - Understands there is a need for focusing on reading, writing, & arithmetic. Sports are an important part of Social/Emotional learning. This has been a trying situation for all parties involved, there will be a lot of emotion and thoughts, sports are a normalcy and will help support children's return to school. She emphasizes importance of social/emotional learning.

Charyl Reardon – Asked if remote learning would be available to children that are quarantining so they are not falling behind? Superintendent McGann said yes, K-12 will have laptops with Google classroom available as well as textbooks and course work.

Tracy Brumlik – Inquired if there was the technology available to set up a classroom on Zoom or another platform? Brian Angelone and Tamra Ham answered that this would not be possible because it could provide a HIPAA violation if a student walked through the video frame, etc.

Joe Bossie mentioned that no one on the Board was in favor of canceling sports but needed more time to discuss the risk vs. reward and make an educated decision.

Annie Anderson – Asked if there is a plan in place if a parent chooses to keep their student home? What is the alternative? VLACS, home school, etc.? Superintendent McGann stated that they can do VLACS also the District will provide the technology needed, laptop, Google Classroom. The full details have not yet been worked out.

Marcella Shamberger – Asked if the information would be available at the August 5 presentation for parents? Will that be a good day to listen and get all the information? Matt Manning says the presentation will provide the best information we have at that time. Brian Angelone suggests that interested individuals keep coming to all Board meetings and notes that the Board meetings are all recorded. Superintendent McGann mentions they will present the entire plan on August 5, but things may still change. Jay Duguay mentioned that the previous week's meeting (7/29) had more information about the plan and the audio is available online.

Matt Manning mentioned developing a communication plan so that everyone gets information in real time and will be as transparent as possible.

Ellie Harvey – Asked that information be sent by email as well as calling and posting? Yes, this should be a main focus of communication.

Tony Drapeau – Is it possible to put the plan on the website and email it to parents?

Matt Manning expressed appreciation for feedback. We will get through this.

Adjournment:

Tamra Ham motioned to adjourn; Jay Duguay seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Holt