

LINCOLN-WOODSTOCK COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD

SAU #68

DATE: August 12, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT:

Matt Manning, Chairperson
Jay Duguay - Remotely
Tamra Ham
Joe Bossie
Vance Pickering
Jasmine Weeden

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF PRESENT:

Judith McGann, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Mark Pribbernow, Principal
Kristy Duris, Teacher Representative
Sharon Holt, Assistant to the Superintendent

SCHOOL BOARD ABSENT:

Brian Angelone

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Tracey Brumlik
Jennifer Whitman
Tony Drapeau
Russ Bradshaw
Heather Krill

Megan Woods
Denise Drapeau
Annie Anderson
Marcella Shamberger
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 6:02 pm.

Minutes:

Approval of the meeting Minutes of July 29, 2020. **Tamra Ham made a motion to approve the minutes of July 29, 2020. Joe Bossie seconded the motion.** Tamra mentioned a typo on the second to last page under Erin Bell. Ern should be Erin. **The board voted to accept the minutes with the edit. Matt Manning called a poll vote Tamra Ham, Vance Pickering, Jay Duguay, Jasmine Weeden, Joe Bossie and Matt Manning each voted affirmative. The motion was approved.**

Policies:

Superintendent McGann noted there will be two policies for first reading at the next Board meeting.

Reopening Plan:

Matt Manning reviewed the reopening process to this point. The Reopening Committee which included nine educators, four admin and the Director of Special Education began meeting in June; there have been two public sessions and the parent presentation.

Superintendent McGann read the questions and answers both general and those received from the parent presentation. While reading the questions and answers further explanation was provided for some of the answers:

- Superintendent McGann spoke about an update just received from VLACS. There is a waiting list for Elementary and Middle School. High School courses are still possible, but parents need to check individual course availability.
- Superintendent McGann explained that Google Classroom is part of the Google Suite, it allows students to communicate with teachers and receive/turn-in assignments.
- Superintendent McGann mentioned the School is trying to extend Plato to include middle and elementary school.
- Superintendent McGann said to please contact VLACS for availability of AP courses.

- Superintendent McGann stated afterschool homework clubs typically start two weeks after the beginning of school but it may be longer this year.

Matt Manning followed up with a few clarifications regarding the questions and answers:

- Matt mentioned that based on a new study; buffs and bandanas will not be considered acceptable face coverings.
- Matt clarified that Google Classroom is not remote learning. There will be no individual instruction.
- Matt noted that a change is needed in the answer to the community question regarding siblings and fever. This question references a page number (30) in the Reopening Plan. Because of a change in the plan, this page number should now be 31.

Jasmine Weeden inquired about the word “may” in the answer regarding quarantining after traveling outside of New England. Superintendent McGann mentioned that current guidelines note that teachers would not have to quarantine. Matt Manning mentioned that this is where things get confusing because guidance is changing frequently to accommodate specific sections of the population such as buses can now allow two students per seat instead of just one. Matt Manning hoped that the Lin-Wood buses would still only allow one per seat. Mark Pribbernow mentioned that this was likely, as based on current needs there would only be 20-25 students per bus. Family members would need to share seats.

Jasmine Weeden asked if any out of district students were enrolling and if so, would they be required to quarantine? Superintendent McGann noted that they would need to follow the 14-day quarantine. However, they may have already met the quarantine if they have been staying in New Hampshire.

Tamra Ham mentioned that she had received a call from a parent who wanted to know what would be involved in Google Classroom prior to making the decision on sending her child (ren) back to school. The parent had reached out to Ginny Everett by email and had not heard back. Matt Manning suggested that the parent email the community@lin-wood.org email. Superintendent McGann stated that questions could be emailed to any or all administrators for response.

Joe Bossie asked if there is a deadline for parents to let the School know if their child(ren) will be returning? Mark Pribbernow mentioned that calls were made to families but not all responses were received. In several cases messages were not left because mailboxes were full. Not many “I don’t know” in the responses. Shawn Quinn had one parent say they were not sending their child back but later changed their mind. There are six confirmed as not coming back. Mark has not received many inquiries from parents.

Matt Manning stated that the School should have a date to hear from parents regarding remote learning and that students should not be allowed to go back and forth between remote learning and going to school. Some parameters should be set. Jasmine Weeden was not sure if we can say, “you can’t return” She stated she would be hesitant to enforce a decision based on parents being “stuck with a decision” until a certain time and is concerned with the legal implications. Joe Bossie mentioned that a deadline would make the first day easier instead of trying to guess who is remote learning. Tamra Ham inquired what would happen if there was a vaccine? Matt Manning said this would be a game changer. Matt Manning asked about the grading period? The grading period is nine weeks. Superintendent McGann mentioned homeschool students can join school or leave school any time during the year. Mark Pribbernow mentioned we should stay open to the community and children are welcome at any time. Jasmine Weeden stated we should be supportive and flexible at this time but suggested making some expectations to help the situation so there is no bouncing back and forth. Matt Manning is worried about people making their own schedule based on the parents’ needs. Matt Manning asked admin how they feel? Superintendent McGann responded that at this point, we expect most to come to school and if they can’t then we will deal with it case by case. Jasmine Weeden stated we can always revisit.

Joe Bossie asked how the School was coming along with Bus Monitors? Mark Pribbernow mentioned they have interviewed for the position and are waiting to verify references. One more interview scheduled.

Tamra Ham expressed concern with the elementary school being dismissed 10 minutes prior to the High School. She had heard from parents that need to have older siblings care for younger siblings after school this year. Can concessions be made? Mark requested that if Board members are receiving inquiries from parents, please forward them to administration immediately. The plan is to be

flexible with families, but we cannot answer unless we know the students involved. Tamra stated she will have parents call the school.

Joe Bossie asked if the duct work cleaning was completed as mentioned in the plan? The ducts in the gymnasium do not appear to have been cleaned. Superintendent McGann stated it would be completed before the start of school. Matt Manning said that the Board would like a report from Mechanical Services emailed to them noting what maintenance has been done and any recommendations. Matt Manning mentioned that a section on ventilation and cleaning was added to the reopening plan. Mark Pribbernow stated that the bus monitor position would be multi-faceted and would also help with lunches and regular cleaning throughout the day. The position is for five hours per day.

Tamra Ham inquired about the substitute list. Mark Pribbernow mentioned that more have been added and interviews are happening. Matt Manning mentioned that the need for substitutes concerns him greatly. Jasmine Weeden asked if districts share subs? Mark Pribbernow noted that he did not have that information.

Matt Manning asked if there was a deadline for staff to indicate their return? Superintendent McGann stated a letter was going to go out to staff tomorrow. The letter is currently being reviewed by council.

Joe Bossie asked a question regarding leave options or workers' compensation if a teacher has COVID? Judy mentioned sick leave and sick bank based on Collective Bargaining Agreements and policies also, different state and federal leave options. Tamra Ham mentioned having to directly pay (not sick time) staff members for two weeks if quarantined for COVID. Research leave options further.

Jasmine Weeden asked who needs to quarantine if a student is sick? Tamra Ham mentioned it depends on amount of contact and symptoms. Superintendent McGann said it depends on the scenario, on a case by case basis. Matt Manning stated that we would be getting real time guidance after reported to NH DHHS.

Matt Manning asked for a motion to approve the Reopening Plan with the intent for Full Opening as safely as possible with the notation that the plan is fluid and allows for change. Tamra Ham made the motion. Joe Bossie seconded. Matt Manning asked for the plan to be amended to indicate that bandanas and buffs would not be acceptable face coverings. Matt Manning took a poll vote to accept the Plan with amendment: Tamra Ham, Vance Pickering, Jasmine Weeden, Jay Duguay, Joe Bossie and Matt Manning each voted affirmative. The motion was approved unanimously.

Matt Manning expressed the gratitude of the Board to everyone involved in the Plan and to a caring and thoughtful community.

Recognition of Visitors/Public Participation:

Community:

Tracy Brumlik said that substitute teachers can choose to stay at one school or to work at multiple schools.

Victoria Martin – Mentioned she had emailed a link about the type of masks that are most effective to Matt Manning. She is wondering about the ventilation, are there intake/out take filters in every classroom? Superintendent McGann said they are in each classroom. Victoria asked if Mechanical Service is a contracted service? Superintendent McGann said yes. Victoria inquired about outdoor space use and if it was being left up to the teachers or if there had been any effort to create outdoor spaces, tents, etc. for eating or classrooms? Superintendent McGann said no but it is a good idea and will be looked into. Matt Manning said there have been conversations about renting tents. Tamra Ham has access to a large tent. Victoria Martin stated that the parent communication information session was great but was difficult to find on the website. Could we send an email to parents with links to the plan and the information session, etc.? Not all parents use social media. Victoria questioned when the hybrid learning plan would be used as she thought hybrid learning was for districts that did not have the space available to social distance. With our numbers, social distance should not be a problem. Matt Manning said it could be used when/if something is happening in our community and we want to be precautionary. Superintendent McGann said the hybrid schedule was in place if we needed to distance more.

Annie Anderson – She received the phone call from the school with the question regarding sending students back. The question asked, “at this time, are you comfortable with sending your students back?” so she does not feel that she has given a definitive

answer about sending her children back and thinks that other families may feel the same. She feels a follow up is needed. She agrees with Matt Manning that parents should be asked to commit to a certain amount of time (a quarter) if they choose to distance learn and that it would not hurt to set expectations. Additionally, she is a teacher in another school district. Her admin is encouraging them to use Google Meet live stream for those students who might be quarantined and thinks it is a good idea to consider.

Tony Drapeau - Asked if it were true that bus protocol changed from 1 to 2 per seat? Matt Manning said yes. Tony asked how does that affect athletics? Matt Manning said he does not know at this time. Waiting on bus companies for capacity and availability. Two buses may be needed. Different teams may need to be scheduled on different days. Matt Manning noted the intention is to give children as normal an educational experience as possible. Tony asked about NHIAA requirement for physicals? In the past they were done in the spring by the school nurse. Mark Pribbernow stated that if the school knows that the student has been scheduled for a physical, that would suffice. Tony asked if the school could arrange something in the fall?

Heather Krill – Noted concerns about teachers’ commitment to students that have chosen to remote learn? What is the teachers’ responsibility to keep kids up to speed? The students may struggle and not pass assessments. Matt Manning mentioned that it is not the student making the decision to stay home, it is the parents’ decision and the parents would need to take responsibility. If student is remote learning, we should have the parents sign off on the decision.

Joe Bossie asked if students that are remote learning could participate in sports? Matt Manning said yes, even traditional homeschool students have access to the School’s co-curricular activities.

Jen Whitman – Asked for clarification regarding the Bus Monitor position’s responsibility on the bus. She has had issues with the bus in the past; the bus lost her son, and students on the bus have poor behavior and have used inappropriate language. In the past there has not been anyone to monitor students’ behavior on the bus. She said she reached out to the school and was told the buses were a contracted service and she would need to speak to the bus company. Matt Manning apologized for Jen’s experience he said the Bus Monitor will primarily be there to take temperatures and provide the COVID screening but will be the adult on the bus. Joe Bossie noted that video may be added to the buses. Jen asked if the Bus Monitors were only on the bus on the way to school? Tracy Brumlik asked if the Bus Monitors were for safety/to monitor mask use, shouldn’t they also be on the bus at the end of the day? Matt Manning said that the School would look in to expanding the Bus Monitor positions to an 8-hour position. Jasmine Weeden said it was two different issues; the monitor for temperatures, etc. and the monitor for behavior. More conversation is needed. Tamra Ham asked if CARES act funds could cover the Monitor at the end of the day?

Adjournment:

Tamra Ham motioned to adjourn; Vance Pickering seconded the motion. Matt Manning took a poll vote: Tamra Ham, Vance Pickering, Jasmine Weeden, Jay Duguay, Joe Bossie and Matt Manning each voted affirmative. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Holt