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OFFICIAL MINUTES

of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Greenwich Township Board of Education held **Tuesday, July 28, 2020** virtually via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by President Gerald Michael at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Gerald Michael School Board President	Chair) Negotiations Committee Alternate Delegate to County & State Board Associations Greenwich Township Representative to Paulsboro Bd of Education Strategic Planning Committee Curriculum/Technology Committee Personnel Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Roseanne Lombardo School Board Vice-President	Chair) Strategic Planning Committee Delegate to County & State Board Associations Personnel Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Andrew Chapkowski	Chair) Buildings & Grounds Committee Budget & Finance Committee Curriculum/Technology Committee Personnel Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Chad Kent	Chair) Curriculum/Technology Committee Buildings & Grounds Committee Negotiations Committee Policy Committee Personnel Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Duane Sarmiento	Chair) Curriculum/Technology Committee Buildings & Grounds Committee Negotiations Committee Policy Committee Personnel Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Amy Vandergrift Absent	Chair) Public Relations Budget & Finance Committee Strategic Planning Committee Personnel Committee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Susan Vernacchio	(Chair) Budget & Finance Committee Negotiations Committee Public Relations Committee Personnel Committee

Quorum YES

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11
12 Also present were Dr. Jennifer Foley-Hindman, Chief School Administrator and Mr.
13 Scott A. Campbell, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

14
15 As required under the guidelines of the Open Public Meeting Law, notice of this meeting
16 was sent to **The Courier Post, and The Township Clerk**. It was also posted in the
17 Greenwich Township School Buildings. (Optional: Videotaping Regulations – “The
18 proceedings of this meeting are being videotaped and anyone wishing to discuss an
19 individual child should so note.”)

20
21 **FLAG SALUTE**
22

1 **1. AGENDA ITEMS**

2
3 Motion: (Kent/Chapkowski) to approve the following:

- 4
5 A. The approval of the contract for the Management of the Food Service
6 Program by Nutri-Serve Food Management, Inc. The Management fee for
7 the 2020-2021 school year is \$21,000.00. Nutri-Serve guarantees a
8 \$3,081.00 return to the District.

9
10 No questions or comments.

11
12 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

13
14 Motion: (Chapkowski/Vernacchio) to approve the following:

- 15
16 B. The approval of the District's Restart and Recovery Plan for the
17 Reopening of Schools and submission upon approval to the Executive
18 County Superintendent of Schools.

19
20 **Andrew Chapkowski** asked how the classrooms will be adequately ventilated?
21 **Dr. Jennifer Foley-Hindman** said that per the CDC guidelines, we are expected
22 to have the windows open as much as possible. It is possible that during those
23 winter months we will have to have the heat on while the windows are open. **Mr.**
24 **Chapkowski** then asked if the cleaning of the buses should fall on Holcomb?
25 **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said we have better cleaning equipment here in the district
26 plus it would take too much time to run the bus back to Holcomb to be cleaned
27 and then back to Gibbstown to complete their runs, then back out to Holcomb for
28 cleaning again before another run.

29
30 **Duane Sarmiento** asked for a quick recess so that we can get the other people
31 on the zoom meeting.

32
33 Motion: (Chapkowski/Michael) to approve a recess from 10:28 a.m. until
34 10:47 a.m.

35
36 Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

37
38 Motion: (Chapkowski/Kent) return from recess at 10:47 a.m.

39
40 Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

41
42 **Andrew Chapkowski** asked about student teachers and if they are asked to get
43 their substitute certification in the case they are asked to come in to cover for a
44 teacher that is absent? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said they would have to be board
45 approved and we cannot ask those student teachers to do that. We are reaching

1 out to mentor teachers in the district to see if they have any concerns about
2 hosting a student teacher. Also substituting in a district where a student is also a
3 student teacher violates some college policies. **Mr. Chapkowski** asked if
4 Wednesdays will be the day that educators will record their lessons? **Dr. Foley-**
5 **Hindman** said there is prep time on Monday's, Tuesday's, Thursday's and
6 Friday's so they can utilize those days. **Mr. Chapkowski** asked if we are
7 checking staff temperatures daily? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** answered that we are
8 not checking students or staff temperatures daily as she has been speaking with
9 the school physician and the school nurses and that data is not as helpful.
10 Parents will be asked to certify daily in the morning that their children are well
11 and if they exhibit symptoms to please keep their children home. Staff will be
12 asked to submit the same. **Chad Kent** asked what will differentiate the common
13 cold from Covid-19 symptoms? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** answered that it is the
14 expertise of our school nurses. **Duane Sarmiento** asked about flu symptoms?
15 **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said she has discussed this with the nurses and it is what
16 they are trained to do. We also have to rely on parents to keep the children
17 home when they are not feeling well. **Mr. Chapkowski** asked if we have a policy
18 where we can ask to have someone tested? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said the county
19 has free and accessible testing but we cannot require families to test. **Mr.**
20 **Chapkowski** asked if we will have an aide stationed at the bathrooms to make
21 sure children are washing their hands? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said there will be
22 some supervision but we are also revamping up our curriculum to include proper
23 hygiene. **Mr. Chapkowski** asked if all children from one family will be on the
24 same module and attend school on the same days? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said
25 they have kept families together and if there is a mistake, the family just needs to
26 contact the school and we will definitely make the change. **Mr. Kent** asked if we
27 are including children that go out of district to Paulsboro or GCIT? **Dr. Foley-**
28 **Hindman** said we are not because each school has their own schedule. **Mr.**
29 **Chapkowski** asked if we are going to mark the floor with a six-foot distance? **Dr.**
30 **Foley-Hindman** responded that we are. **Mr. Chapkowski** asked if there will be
31 an issue with students carrying all of their books since they will not be able to use
32 the lockers or will we be providing them with digital literature so they don't have
33 to carry so much? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said we will use as much digital literature
34 as we can and we will limit the amount of books that will be carried but we will
35 work through it during the school day. **Mr. Chapkowski** asked if we will be able
36 to have Art, Music and Computers at the Broad Street School? **Dr. Foley-**
37 **Hindman** said per medical advice, we will not be offering music during the first
38 half of the school year. Mr. Haney will provide remote individual instrumental
39 lessons but there doesn't seem to be a safe practice for the students or for Mr.
40 Haney at this time. Art and computers will continue as we can sanitize common
41 art products and each student has their own laptop. **Mr. Kent** asked if it isn't
42 safe for Mr. Haney, what makes it safe for all the other teachers? **Dr. Foley-**
43 **Hindman** said the students are not blowing directly on the other teachers during
44 instruction as they are with musical instruments plus students will be wearing
45 masks during other instruction where they won't be wearing a mask if they are

1 trying to play an instrument. Children can remove their mask once they are at
2 their desk with the plexi-shield and being six feet away from other students but
3 have to put it on when leaving their desk. **Susan Vernacchio** asked if the board
4 could get a video of how a classroom is set up so they could get a visual of it?
5 **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said they will do that but right now, not all of the PPE have
6 been received and the classrooms are still being cleaned and sanitized. **Mr.**
7 **Chapkowski** asked how we will be managing special situations like Physical
8 Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech services? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said
9 we have to adhere to the specifications of the I.E.P. as to how many minutes or
10 hours per week we need to provide for those services whether it be with a
11 teacher and student separated by plexi-glass and/or face shields. We can utilize
12 some in-person and some virtual instruction. She is hesitant to give a “blanket”
13 answer as it depends on the individual needs of each student. We are doing
14 everything possible to do what is best for the student as it is written in their I.E.P.
15 Per **John Tirico**, Director of Special Services, they continue to receive guidance
16 from the C.D.C. on how to meet the guidelines. **Mr. Kent** asked if we can have
17 the teachers make a video of their instructions instead of just an e-mail? **Dr.**
18 **Foley-Hindman** said they are working on clear guidelines and expectations of
19 our teachers. We also will be providing three (3) days of professional
20 development for our teachers on remote instruction. **Mrs. Vernacchio** asked
21 how attendance will be taken on remote days? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said the
22 state hasn’t provided guidelines yet as to how it is going to be. We can look at it
23 a couple of ways whether it be when a student logs in or whether it be by
24 completion of schoolwork. We could definitely use more guidance from the state.
25 **Mr. Kent** asked how a remote-learning student will participate in labs? **Dr.**
26 **Foley-Hindman** said the remote-learning student will get a different assignment
27 than the in-person student. As far as all remote-learning students, there are
28 decisions that need to be made because we can’t provide the same experience
29 of a lab to an all-remote learning student as we could with an in-person student.
30 We can provide a virtual lab through Gizmo’s but we can’t expect a family to
31 have all the resources of a lab to conduct it at home and the student to have the
32 same experience. **Mr. Kent** would also like to know what the aides will be doing
33 once school lets out? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said they will still be responsible for
34 support of the students whether it be them logging in and working with a student
35 while he/she is working on his/her homework etc. **Mr. Sarmiento** said that what
36 we are doing is being directed through the State of New Jersey; we didn’t make
37 this up. **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said the standards and the guidelines were
38 provided to us by the Department of Education and Governor Murphy. **Mr.**
39 **Sarmiento** wanted to clarify that the decision was out of our hands to which **Dr.**
40 **Foley-Hindman** agreed. **Mrs. Vernacchio** also wanted to state that this is
41 constantly changing. Our plan is not perfect but we are doing the best we can
42 with what guidelines we were given and she wants to thank everyone that
43 participated in putting this plan together.
44
45

1 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2
3 Motion: (Lombardo/Chapkowski) to approve the following:

4
5 C. The approval of the following Policies and/or Regulations on first reading:
6

Number	Title	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading
P1648	Administration – Restart & Recovery Plan	X	
P1649	Administration – Federal Families First CoronaVirus Response Act	X	
P5310	Students – Health Services	X	
P5320	Students – Immunization/Illness	X	
P7410	Property – Maintenance & Repair	X	
P9150	Community – School Visitors	X	

7
8 **Andrew Chapkowski** asked about policy #1648 and how Holcomb is going to
9 handle driver shortages? **Dr. Jennifer Foley-Hindman** said they have been in
10 contact with Holcomb multiple times and she understands **Mr. Chapkowski's**
11 concern but she doesn't have an answer to that right now. We have to "hope for
12 the best and prepare for the worst". **Mr. Chapkowski** also has the same
13 concern for ESS (Source4Teachers). He would like to know if we heard what
14 their plan is? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said in the past we have used one (1) floating
15 substitute in the district and she has now asked for two (2) floating substitutes
16 and ESS feels they have the ability to provide that. **Mr. Chapkowski** then asked
17 how is the school going to address students that don't want to wear a mask or a
18 parent who wants their child educated in-person but doesn't want them wearing a
19 mask? Also how will we be handling contact-tracing if the students or parents
20 don't cooperate? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said that all staff are required to wear a
21 mask. All students will be required to wear a mask while riding the bus. If
22 a student refuses to wear a mask, we can provide all-remote learning. **Mr.**
23 **Chapkowski** asked what would happen should an employee get sick, then
24 exhausts all their time off and FMLA expires at the end of the year; how do we
25 address that? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** responded that it is the decision of the board
26 to change that policy.
27

28 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

29
30 Motion: (Chapkowski/Vernacchio) to approve the following:

31
32 D. The approval to adopt the attached changes for the District 2020-2021
33 school calendar. (Attachment)
34

35 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
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1 **2. PUBLIC – AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

2
3 This is the time when anyone from the public who wishes to speak to the Board
4 may do so. Please state your name, address and phone number. The Board will
5 hear your concerns. The Board may or may not take action this evening. You
6 will be notified either at this meeting, by letter or telephone of any action the
7 Board does take.

8
9 In accordance with Board policy and procedures, speakers are not permitted to
10 publicly speak of personal issues involving school personnel or against any
11 person connected to the school system. Any such concern should be presented
12 to the school or district-level administration so that a proper response may be
13 given.

14
15 **Melina Spitale**, 368 Swedesboro Road, Gibbstown, NJ asked about the all-
16 remote learning and should a parent choose that and what the plan will be and
17 also will you be utilizing packets or will there be more opportunities for on-line
18 technology or online live teaching? **Dr. Jennifer-Foley-Hindman** said there may
19 be times when it's right for packets but we expect the all remote learning to be
20 technology-based. All students will receive a laptop for use at home. **Mrs.**
21 **Spitale** then asked if an agreement been made for a new contract with the
22 teachers and staff? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said it hasn't but communications have
23 been made by all parties as of yesterday.

24
25 **Liz Koponick**, 1500 Memorial Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ asked if students can
26 walk to school if they are within walking distance and can parents drive their
27 children to school? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** responded that any parent can take
28 their children to school. They will not be able to enter the school but they can
29 bring them at the designated area that will be assigned for each building. **Mrs.**
30 **Koponick** then asked about the length of the school day? **Dr. Foley-Hindman**
31 said she can't give definite times but an approximate would be about 4 ½ hours
32 in school learning.

33
34 **Naila Tanczak**, 200 Ashton Drive, Gibbstown, NJ wanted to know why there is a
35 break in going to school? Why the Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday
36 schedule instead of a Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday schedule? **Dr.**
37 **Foley-Hindman** said if you were a Thursday/Friday group, you would have a
38 weekend break from your in-person studies and then Monday, you are remote
39 learning until Thursday when you would then be in school. Although teachers will
40 be available during the day on Monday, you still would not see them in-person
41 until Thursday. Whereas the Monday/Tuesday group would have in-person
42 learning and then remote learning Wednesday, Thursday and Friday where
43 teachers are available. It is a bigger disadvantage to those Thursday/Friday
44 students. We looked at a lot of schedules but felt this was the best for them.

1 **Ms. Tanczak** also asked about busing? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said with only half
2 of the students being on the bus, that should speed up the bus runs.
3

4 **Patricia McConnell**, 128 Carson Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ said in reference to the
5 remote-learning, with parents working during the day, will kids be able to log on
6 in the evening? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said we want to keep it flexible and if the
7 teacher can provide the work for the students in the evening, that's fine but we
8 also need to give our teachers a rest during the evening so that they can spend
9 time with their families.
10

11 **Debbie Fisler**, 105 Casperson Street, Gibbstown, NJ wanted to know if anything
12 is addressed for those people in town that don't have internet access? **Dr.**
13 **Foley-Hindman** said that Michael Grelli, our technology coordinator, has been
14 looking for ways to address that situation. **Ms. Fisler** said it seems that a lot will
15 be put on the nurses when determining a cold, the flu or Covid. **Dr. Foley-**
16 **Hindman** feels we have two of the best nurses and she is confident that they will
17 err on the side of caution and send a child home if they feel a child has Covid.
18

19 **Kearston Haruch**, 57 North Repauno Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ said that kids are
20 going to be excited to be back at school and see their friends. Some will want to
21 go and hug their friends. How is that going to be handled with the social-
22 distancing? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said there is going to be a lot of education and
23 before the students come back to school we are relying on the parents to prepare
24 the students of what's to be expected of them. When they come into school, the
25 teachers will be preparing them as to what the expectations are and why it's
26 important to wash our hands and why we have to keep socially distant.
27

28 **Ashley Yandach**, 33 Brandt Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ wanted to know if parents
29 can choose a certain schedule if one schedule works better than the other in
30 reference to childcare and will the same apply for siblings? Will they be in the
31 same schedule? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said that all siblings will be on the same
32 schedule and if for some reason they aren't, we will make that change before
33 school starts. But as far as changing to accommodate childcare, we set up the
34 schedules to balance the buses, balance the classroom etc. We would try to
35 accommodate as best we can but there is no guarantee. **Mrs. Yandach** then
36 asked when the parents will be finding out their child's schedule? **Dr. Foley-**
37 **Hindman** said state guidelines say the District Plan must be given out no later
38 than 30 days before school starts so approximately August 7.
39

40 **Naila Tanczak** asked how the decision was made to go to ½ days and remove
41 the regular education Pre-School? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said the pre-school
42 would be a problem with the masks and social distancing and we feel we
43 wouldn't be able to ensure the social distancing with the children especially with
44 the amount of pre-school students we had. It was a difficult decision but one that
45 had to be made. As far as a hybrid schedule, along with the guidelines of serving

1 breakfast and lunch were the social distancing and sanitization of cafeteria and
2 classrooms before and after eating, plus the supervision of that time, we did not
3 feel we could safely accomplish that.

4
5 **Sarah Muller**, 12 East Broad Street, Gibbstown, NJ asked why we can't use the
6 Gibbstown buses instead of Holcomb buses? **Scott Campbell** responded that
7 we do not have our own buses and we haven't for the past 8-10 years.

8
9 **Dan Roscetti**, 337 North Ulmer Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ asked if there is a
10 choice for parents to do an all-remote learning? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said there
11 is a choice and it will be out-lined in the plan that will be sent out.

12
13 **Autumn Clement**, 845 Mullen Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ has a child that will be
14 transitioning to Nehaunsey School and she wants to know if there will be an
15 orientation during the summer? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said we are looking at doing
16 a video presentation for both the in-coming middle-schoolers and our
17 Kindergarten.

18
19 **Meaghan Myers**, 138 Patterson Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ asked if there was a
20 reason for the remote meeting instead of an in-person meeting? **Dr. Foley-**
21 **Hindman** said that it isn't a problem with board members but it is with the public;
22 it would be hard to social distance if a large amount of the public showed up at a
23 meeting and we never know just how many will show up.

24
25 **Tiffany Bishop**, 260 Crescent Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ wanted to know what
26 would happen if their child goes to school and absolutely cannot wear a mask all
27 day, could the parents then switch to the remote learning? **Dr. Foley-Hindman**
28 said it would be best all around if the parents make that decision before school
29 starts. **Ms. Bishop** then asked if there is any word on the yearbooks? **Mr. Grelli**
30 said there is no word on them yet.

31
32 **Stephanie Smith** said she works at the Gibbstown library and wanted to offer
33 their services to anyone that needs it. **Dr. Foley-Hindman** thanked her and said
34 the library has been wonderful.

35
36 **Ashley Rastelli**, 142 Giammarino Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ said her daughter has
37 an I.E.P. which allows for her to take multiple breaks during the day. Will you be
38 able to implement that safely for her? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said we have already
39 given the teachers flexibility where they can stop in the middle of a lesson for a
40 break.

41
42 **Jason Ray**, 65 Chester Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ asked how breakfast will be
43 given out and where will the students be eating it? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said
44 students will not be eating in the school because of the social distancing; they will
45 be receiving a "grab-and-go" bag to take home with them which will have the pre-

1 packaged food for them. **Mr. Ray** then asked about the students switching
2 classes but **Dr. Foley-Hindman** informed him that the teachers will be moving
3 from classroom to classroom; not the students.
4

5 **John Morris**, 335 Carson Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ said his daughter will be going
6 into the 6th grade and asked if it was possible to accept appointments to tour
7 Nehaunsey School? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said she will definitely consider it along
8 with the Kindergarten students as well.
9

10 **Duane Sarmiento** left the meeting at 12:26 p.m. due to a work commitment.
11

12 **Melina Spitale** said since students will only be in school for 4 ½ hours two days
13 a week, have you thought about having the teachers only instruct in LAL and
14 Math since they are the core subjects and having science and social studies be
15 virtual and also will the special areas be virtual or will the students be gathering
16 in the different classrooms for the special areas? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said that
17 students at Broad Street will not be travelling for specials; here at Nehaunsey,
18 they do have to travel for their electives because of the diversity of their
19 schedules.
20

21 **Jason Ray** asked about the restart policy that has been put together and if the
22 district is using the guidance of the State Department of Education? **Dr. Foley-**
23 **Hindman** said she is using the minimum standards identified in that plan; that is
24 what the Department of Education and the governor will be looking for.
25

26 **Ashley Yandach** asked if the Pre-School program is cancelled or just the
27 integrated program? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said that only the integrated pre-school
28 program is cancelled but the required pre-school disabled program is still
29 available.
30

31 **Tina Grimes**, 86 Casperson Street, Gibbstown, NJ asked if this hybrid schedule
32 is going to be all year or will we be able to eventually go back to a full five days a
33 week? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said she hopes it will only be for the first marking
34 period but she honestly doesn't know what things will look like in November. We
35 are hoping to welcome all of our students back five days a week at some point.
36

37 **Tiffany Bishop** wanted to know if the school is going to be offering some kind of
38 counseling to the students who may have anxiety or fear related to Covid-19?
39 **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said they already have some programs in place from the
40 school psychologist, guidance counselors and social worker.
41

42 **Tara Stahl**, 224 Carson Avenue, Gibbstown, NJ asked if moving forward with
43 these meetings and the 10:00 a.m. start, could it possibly take place on Saturday
44 to accommodate those that do work during the week or was this an outside
45 situation where it had to be held at 10:00? **Board President Gerald Michael**

1 said we didn't just come up with this time "willy-nilly". It was discussed and this
2 isn't the first time we've met at this time in the summer. Going forward if there
3 are more of these meetings, we can discuss a different start time but he can
4 assure that it won't be on a Saturday. This is a tough situation for everyone
5 involved and he thanks all those that did come out to this meeting.
6

7 **Jason Ray** asked if the local day care centers have been brought into any of the
8 meetings and can parents be provided with some sort of safety measures of their
9 children when it comes to social distancing? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said she can't
10 speak of the protocols of the day care centers because they are out of our
11 jurisdiction and we can't offer that here in the district so it will be the requirement
12 of the parents to work with those day care centers to make sure they are
13 providing all the safeguards. **Mr. Ray** asked if the district is going to provide
14 busing to outside daycare facilities? **Dr. Foley-Hindman** said we currently do
15 not provide busing to daycare centers and we don't see that changing. We will
16 continue our current agreement with S.A.C.C. depending upon their situation.
17 **Mr. Ray** then asked if a child can be bused to a different residence; say a
18 grandparent who will be watching them while the parents are at work? **Mr.**
19 **Campbell** said any busing to/from a different residence will have to be consistent
20 and cannot be deviated because it interferes with the social distancing and the
21 amount of kids on the bus. So wherever the child is picked up in the morning,
22 that is where they will be dropped off in the afternoon.
23

24 **Gerald Michael** again would like to thank all those who came out to this meeting,
25 teachers, staff, administrators and especially the parents.
26

27 **3. ADJOURNMENT**

28
29 Motion: (Kent/Vernacchio) to adjourn the meeting at 12:41 p.m.
30

31 Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
32

33 Respectfully Submitted,
34
35
36
37

38
39 _____
40 Scott A. Campbell, Board Secretary
41
42

43 ****Next Board of Education Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10,**
44 **2020 at 6:30 p.m. ****
45