

**Wappingers Central School District
Board Special Meeting**

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

6:00 p.m. Anticipated Executive Session

6:30 p.m. (time approximate) Reconvene Public Session

NOTICE THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Public in-person attendance will NOT be permitted. The decision to meet via video conference has been made in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 202.55, which extended Order 202.01. Previous executive orders addressing virtual meetings were 202.48 and 202.38.

The meeting may be viewed via remote live stream @ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbmirHxXLIn0yrMBhi6XJTA/videos>.

A recording will also be uploaded to the video library for viewing at a later date.

The public may submit comments on the form: <https://forms.gle/d6X5eud1Atc5yioS8> (activated at 6 p.m. on 8/19/20).

1. Call to Order

1.01 Board President Will Call The Meeting To Order

President John Lumia called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Proposed Executive Session

2.01 Proposed Executive Session, pending Board approval. It is anticipated that the Board of Education will reconvene Public Session at 6:30 PM.

RESOLVED that the Board of Education does hereby motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters related to the employment history of a specific candidate for employment.

Motion by Rob Rubin, second by Peggy Kelland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: John Lumia, Keith Odums, Marie Johnson, Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Rob Rubin, Eddy Sloshower, James Spencer

2.02 Return to Public Session

RESOLVED that the Board of Education does hereby close Executive Session and resume Public Session. The time is 6:25 P.M.

Motion by Rob Rubin, second by Peggy Kelland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: John Lumia, Keith Odums, Marie Johnson, Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Rob Rubin, Eddy Sloshower, James Spencer

3. Communications

3.01 Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

3.02 Roll Call

Roll Call of Board Members:

Marie Johnson - Present

Peggy Kelland - Present

John Lumia - Present

Keith Odums - Present

Linda Rappaport - Present

Rob Rubin - Present

Eddy Sloshower - Present

James Spencer - Present

Others Present

Jose Carrion, Superintendent of Schools

Daren Lolkema, Assistant Superintendent for Compliance and Information Systems

Kristen Crandall, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Development

Alberta Pedro, District Clerk

3.03 Acknowledge Receipt of Board Member Resignation (5 min.)

RESOLVED the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District hereby acknowledges receipt of Trustee Michael Lopez's resignation from the Board, filed with the District Clerk, effective on August 18, 2020.

Motion by Rob Rubin, second by Marie Johnson.

Board members thanked Mr. Lopez for his service to the Board of Education. He was a valuable member of the Board who was emphatic and cared about students. He will be missed.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: John Lumia, Keith Odums, Marie Johnson, Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Rob Rubin, Eddy Sloshower, James Spencer

3.04 Public Comments on Agenda Items (30 min.)

There were no comments on agenda items.

4. Superintendent's Report

4.01 Superintendent's Report - Reopening Schools

Superintendent Carrion, along with Assistant Superintendents Daren Lolkema and Kristen Crandall facilitated a presentation on the District's Reopening Plan. The presentation is available on BoardDocs.

Since March, the District has posted Communication Updates, Parent Resources, and Tech information on the website to families to keep everyone informed. We are now looking at how to open schools and address issues surrounding compliance with CDC and NYSED Guidelines for social distancing. While attempting to meet these requirements, the District will not be exempt from adhering to mandates, including unfunded mandates. The Reopening Plan is a living document. It is subject to change and will change as warranted by circumstances that arise. Dutchess County schools agreed on a hybrid model of two days in person and three days remote learning model. The District thought schools would be given more direction from the Governor's Office; however, the guidance may have been left vague due to the unique makeup of districts and communities across the state. Board members felt that schools in Dutchess County were being lumped in with Westchester and Rockland Counties, and if those counties see a spike in COVID-19 cases it may impact our county.

The Board was appreciative of the work by the Superintendent and Senior Staff. It is an enormous undertaking and included discussions with the bargaining units, including teachers, custodians, administrators, and other district staff. If the community seeks more information about the chemicals and process for cleaning of buildings, they are encouraged to read the minutes and view the recording of the Capital Improvement Committee meeting, where ventilation, chemicals, cleaning protocols, etc. were addressed in great detail by the Facilities Director Ron Broas.

The Board hopes the community understands the complexity of the task of reopening schools. There are many non-specific means to achieve these mandates. Even for smaller districts, this is an enormous undertaking. It is impossible to think of every moving part. What is most important is the safety of the students and staff and

to be realistic about what we can do as a district.

The Board asked the following questions:

Q: Please clarify the cost factor for the purchase of masks for students and staff.

A: The district is estimating approximately \$700,000 for 40 weeks of schools at 12,000 paper masks a day (at 21 cents per mask).

Q: 47% of parents indicated that they want to send their children back to school. Is there a breakdown by grade? If students are divided alphabetically by last name, will there be classroom space available to maintain the room capacity for social distancing?

A: The plan is for the district to provide parents with a separate form/survey where they would commit to either hybrid or remote learning for the first quarter. The idea is to wait for the first or second week after school has begun in September to send the survey to parents, so that they have the opportunity to see how remote learning is working for their child.

Q: The district has to provide a seat for every student on the bus regardless of whether they ride on the bus. Does the same apply to providing a seat in the classroom for every student regardless if they decide to attend in person or not?

A: A response can not be provided at this time. There are logistics with being a public school.

Q: If there is a classroom with an assigned teacher but the number of students in that class want to be remote and there is another class in the same grade where the majority of students want to be in person, will students and/or teachers be moved to optimize the number of students in the classroom?

A: That is an ongoing conversation. The district can not compromise the Teacher-of-Record. At this time we don't know how many teachers may have medical reasons that prohibit them from in-person instruction. Our goal is not to compromise students by having them go from teacher to teacher.

Q: Is the plan to have Kindergarten students attend three days per week?

A: Yes, during the phase in model, Kindergarten students are the first group of students, along with specific high needs students and low level English as a New Language students, the hope is of bringing them in four days of the week.

Q: How will you document the required quantity of teacher/student interaction?

A: A response can not be provided at this time.

Q: How will you do APPR observations using the Danielson Rubric when there is limited teacher/student interaction?

A: A response can not be provided at this time. WAA, WCT and HR held their first meeting which was very productive. The conversations are ongoing.

Q: Will the district review the protocols for hand washing, wearing a mask, and social distancing with students and will there be any funds to subsidize the cost of extra custodial staff?

A: Part of the phase-in process will be video tutorials and curriculum revisions before students return to schools. The district does not have the funds to cover extra custodial staff. We need to think long term with regard to the financial impact to the school district. DOH and CDC Guidelines would need to be changed, so we can get students back.

Q: Will there be protocols in place for students who don't comply with wearing a mask and social distancing?

A: Yes, the Code of Conduct will address these issues.

Q: Will there be staff training regarding the disposal of contaminated products?

A: Superintendent Carrion has every intention to minimize children having to deal with the pandemic as part of their responsibility. This will be further discussed by staff.

Q: There may be students who are deaf/hard of hearing or lip readers. How will remote learning look for them?

A: WCT and the Office of Special Education are collaborating, and work continues to address those concerns on areas of need for students.

Q: The district has to provide nurses to the private and parochial schools. Do we need to hire more?

A: No. The district has always been required to provide nurses, pending enrollment at those schools.

Q: Will additional staff be needed for cleaning?

A: We don't know. We will see how things are going in the county and may need to adjust hiring needs.

Q: Do you expect teachers to contact parents?

A: There has to be daily contact with parents. There are a lot of variables with that question.

Q: Schools were built at different times with different class sizes. What will it mean if 27 students are assigned to a classroom and only 10 seats are available. Will students be reassigned to another classroom?

A: The district would need to look at the Teacher-of-Record and the certification area. This work continues. Decision may not be based on the number of seats but rather on the need of students.

Q: Regarding special education students with high needs, are they phasing in with the grade level or based on need?

A: Based on the type of need and when it is not possible to provide services virtually. The Assistant Superintendent of Special Education is leading this review with his project team made up of teachers and administrators.

Q: Will nurses be required to go to the parochial schools?

A: Regardless of the pandemic, nurses are assigned to parochial schools.

4.02 Board Ratification of Reopening Plan and Approval of Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and/or ratifies the Re-Opening Plan developed for the Wappingers Central School District for the 2020-2021 school year and does hereby approve the revised 2020-2021 School Calendar, as stated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby authorize the Superintendent of Schools to amend, modify and/or update the Re-Opening Plan and 2020-2021 School Calendar as needed subject to further Board approval and/or ratification in the event of substantial revisions to the Plan.

Motion by Peggy Kelland, second by Rob Rubin.

Board members expressed confidence in the Superintendent's decision and felt they should support him by approving this resolution. Others felt that Board approval of the Reopening Plan is not required by the Board. Therefore, ratifying/sanctioning the plan was actually approving the Reopening Plan, when that was not required by NYSED or the Governor. Board Members Eddy Sloshower and Marie Johnson support the revision to the school calendar.

Motion to separate the Reopening Plan and the calendar from the resolution.

Motion by Eddy Sloshower, no second.

The question was moved by John Lumia, and seconded by Rob Rubin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: John Lumia, Keith Odums, Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Rob Rubin, James Spencer

Abstain: Marie Johnson, Eddy Sloshower

5. Consent Agenda

5.01 Consent Agenda Resolution

RESOLVED that the Board of Education does hereby approve the following Consent Agenda items as stated: 5.02 and 5.03.

Motion by Peggy Kelland, second by Rob Rubin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: John Lumia, Keith Odums, Marie Johnson, Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Rob Rubin, Eddy Sloshower, James Spencer

5.02 Teaching/Administrative Personnel List

RESOLVED that the reading of the Teaching and Administrative Personnel List be waived and the Probationary Appointment be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Teaching & Administrative Personnel List

Date: August 19, 2020

Probationary Appointment

Name: Michael Lopez
Position: Secondary Assistant Principal
Tenure Area: Secondary Assistant Principal
Building: Roy C. Ketcham High School
Probationary Period Begins: on/about 8/24/20 Tenure Due: Four years from Start Date.
Expansion Details: Mr. Lopez is filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Lisa Talaber. (Ref 7/01/20)
Annual Salary: \$105,750.00
Certification: Initial, School Building Leader

RESOLVED that the Board of Education does hereby approve the following Consent Agenda items as stated: 5.02 and 5.03.

Motion by Peggy Kelland, second by Rob Rubin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: John Lumia, Keith Odums, Marie Johnson, Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Rob Rubin, Eddy Slosower, James Spencer

5.03 Approval of August 17 Minutes

RESOLVED that the Board of Education does hereby approve the minutes of August 17, 2020 Board of Education Meeting, as stated.

RESOLVED that the Board of Education does hereby approve the following Consent Agenda items as stated: 5.02 and 5.03.

Motion by Peggy Kelland, second by Rob Rubin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: John Lumia, Keith Odums, Marie Johnson, Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Rob Rubin, Eddy Slosower, James Spencer

6. Requests for Additions to the Agenda

6.01 Board Members May Request Additional Agenda Items, Discussion Items, or Requests for Information

There were no requests for additions to the agenda.

7. Communications

7.01 Comments From The Public (30 min.)

There were no comments from the public.

8. Adjournment

8.01 Board President Will Ask For Motion To Adjourn The Meeting

RESOLVED that the Board of Education does hereby adjourn the August 19, 2020 Board of Education Meeting. The time is 8:57 p.m.

Motion by Rob Rubin, second by Peggy Kelland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: John Lumia, Keith Odums, Marie Johnson, Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Rob Rubin, Eddy Slosower, James Spencer

Respectfully Submitted,
Alberta Pedro
District Clerk