



North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

North Haven Public School
Board of Education Meeting
Clintonville Elementary School - Conference Room 2nd Floor
456 Clintonville Road
Meeting/Agenda

Attendance: Anita Anderson, Joseph Solimene, Randi Petersen, Wesley O'Brien, Goldie Adele, Jennifer Cecarelli, Amanda Gabriele, Dorothy Logan, Eleni Diakogeorgiou, Jennifer Kozniewski, Director of IT, Jen Stewart, Director of Student Services, Howard Wardlow, Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent, and Patrick Stirk, Superintendent of Schools

Thursday, October 8, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

I. Consent Agenda

a. September 24, 2020 Special BOE Meeting Minutes

Motion: to approve the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOVED: Joseph Solimene
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

II. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Information Item

Mrs. Anderson thanked the community on behalf of the BOE, for all of their patience and flexibility during these very fluid situations. Mrs. Anderson also thanked the administration, staff, and support staff for their flexibility and patience with keeping up with the State Department of Education and the CDC on a daily basis.

III. Jon Hipsher - M&J Bus Company - Update

Information Item

Mrs. Anderson introduced Mr. John Hipsher from M & J Bus Company.

Mr. Hipsher thanked Mrs. Anderson and the Board for having him here. Mr. Hipsher reported that the bus company is doing the following to keep everyone as safe as possible:

- ventilation on the bus', including keeping windows opened when able to, roof hatches opened
- drivers required to wear masks at all times
- district has provided M&J with extra masks for anyone who forgot or lost theirs
- district also provided M&J with sanitizer and gloves
- cleaning high touch and high traffic areas four times a day
- loading and unloading procedure in place
- distancing students the best they can
- taking temperatures of all workers on a daily basis

There was discussions and questions asked by the Board of Education and Mr. Hipsher answered all questions accordingly.

IV. Staff Communications

A. Superintendent's Report -

1. UPDATE: Re-Opening of Schools 2020-2021

Mr. Stirk reported:

- State Guidance and Requirements
- Leading and Secondary Indicators (by county)
- COVID-19 Case Rates by Town
- Full Time/In Person Reopening (Elementary) students returning 5 days a week
- Full Time/In Person Re Opening Option #1 (NHHS/NHMS 7:30-2)
- Full Time/In Person Re Opening Option #2 (NHHS/NHMS 7:30-12)
- NHHS/NHMS Remote Learning Schedule
- Class Sizes
- OPT Out Program Information
- New NHMS Pick up/Drop off Route
- HVAC/Air Quality
- Mr. Stirk reported that the NHEA took a survey of the teachers in Districts with two questions: Do you agree with the BOE to move all schools to full opening? Second question was to share your concerns/comments. Mr. Stirk reported that 72% of the respondents stated that they did not support the full opening of school on October 13, 2020. Their main concerns being safety, loss of a deep cleaning day, lack of a duty free lunch at the elementary level, and the inequities between secondary and elementary levels. With this in mind, Mr. Stirk and the Central Office Administrators developed the following alternative plan
 - Alternative Plan: Elementary 4 days in school. (8:30-3:02) Wednesday will be remote learning from 8:30-12:30 so that the schools can be cleaned
 - Alternative Plan: NHHS/NHMS 4 days in school 7:30-12 with live virtual learning from 12:50-2. Wednesday will be remote learning from 7:30-2 so that the schools can be cleaned
- Communication Avenues

The Board of Education had some discussion regarding all of these options and Mr. Stirk stated that he has decided to start advertising for part time lunch aides in each school to cover teachers' lunches.

Mrs. Anderson introduced Mrs. Carol Ardito, President of the NHEA. Mrs. Ardito thanked the Board of Education for allowing her to come forward and express their concerns. Mrs. Ardito stated that the teachers in North Haven are very dedicated, cooperative and flexible. They are not concerned that they are not in a totally safe environment, but that the world is in a pandemic and that there are reasons to be concerned for people being together in an enclosed place for a period of time. She stated that people are concerned about their own health, their student's health, and of the number of people in confined places, as well as going home to their families.

There was further discussion regarding the teacher's concerns by the Board of Education and Mrs. Ardito, as well as questions regarding PPE supplies at the schools.

2. Approval of the transition to full time, in person instruction

Motion: to approve altering the Full Time/In Person return to school to include 4 day, in person with Wednesday being a remote learning day beginning October 13, 2020

Approved

MOVED: Jennifer Cecarelli
SECOND: Dorothy Logan
AYE: 7
NAY: 1
ABSTAINED: 1

Amanda Gabriele voted no
Wesley O'Brien abstained

Motion: to approve 12 p.m. dismissal for the NHMS and NHHS beginning October 13, 2020

Approved

MOVED: Dorothy Logan
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 8
NAY: 1
ABSTAINED: 0

Amanda Gabriel voted no

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

C. Director of Student Services Report

1. Special Education Update

Information Item

Mrs. Stewart reported:

- On Tuesday October 27th at 6:00 Missy Wrigely from State Education Resource Center will discuss secondary transition planning that is offered to students with disabilities in middle school and high school. The presentation will be streamed on Facebook.
- The special education teachers and related service providers will send a new schedule to families if your child's service times and days have changed with the new in person five day schedule. Staff will work on a trial run of a schedule the week of October 13th and make any adjustments the week of October 19th. A new schedule if necessary will be provided to families no later than Monday October 26th.
- Students at the elementary school will be identifying how they are feeling throughout the day and noting this on a check in and check out sheet that will be kept in their social emotional learning notebook.
- Students at the middle school continue to build their skills on understanding self awareness.
- Students at the high school will be introduced to the core competency of self management. The students will identify a goal for themselves that is attainable as well as learn how to regulate stress and emotions during the month.
- October is National Bullying Prevention month. I will include resources for students, staff, and families related to bullying prevention and social emotional learning each Friday. The resources will be posted on the district's facebook page and sent through swiftreach.

D. Director of Finance and Operations Report

1. Director of Finance and Operations Report

Information Item

Mr. Wardlow reported:

- a. District has received the \$213,713 under the CARES Act - ESSER Grant
- b. District has applied and been approved for the CT CRF Grant in the amount of \$137,885
- c. North Haven tornado damage has been finalized in the amount of \$110,280

2. Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Information Item

Mr. Wardlow reported:

- a. SPED Tuition - This line item has been encumbered for the full year but the district has not received any excess costs from the State of CT. When that is received it will bring the balance back in line with the budget
- b. Custodial supplies line item is currently being utilized for all school re-opening supplies. This line item will be brought back into balance when we receive the additional funds from the State of Connecticut that we have been allocated

for COVID-19 expenses.

Mr. Wardlow stated that he will continue to adjust the budget line items with additional updated encumbered amounts as we get more accurate data so we can continue to present a full year budget to the Board.

V. Public Comments

Public comments were as follows:

- Veronica Lawrence, 521 Middletown Avenue - commented about no mask breaks at the HS, breakfast, and dismissal times
- Trish Lewandoski, 11 Cottontail Lane - Bus issues
- Kelly Grillo, 14 Pierpont Court - Thanked all the teachers and wishes the kids would get back to school 5 days
- Krista Kaplan, 14 Governors Drive - Justification in duty free lunch with HS/MS teachers vs. Elementary teachers, and is there a timeframe for hiring lunch aides.
- Ben Papson, 456 Quinnipiac Avenue, Class of 2016- will the Board reschedule a Mascot meeting date? Commented about the Instagram account regarding racism in North Haven.
- Neeru Gandotra, 10 Kent Drive - Opted out for her HS daughter and has concerns regarding her daughter's AP courses and not being able to take them if she is opted out
- Alyssa D'Amico, 60 Potter Road - concerns about the teachers not getting a lunch break, as well as concerns regarding children getting home for lunch before the remote learning from 12:50-2 p.m.
- Christie Gill, 108 Grove Road - schedule for the remote learning from 12:50-2
- Deanna Petersen, NHPS Teacher @Clintonville - commented regarding the duty free 30 minute lunch that is not being offered to the elementary teachers
- Andrea Ceste, 16 Ball Road - stating she liked the hybrid program. Teachers are fabulous and students are learning. Wishing the district gave the hybrid more time. Hallways are crowded, no mask breaks, and what is the process for notification of COVID cases.
- Danielle Parillo, 8 Central Avenue - commented regarding elementary teachers and lunch breaks, or lack thereof
- Kara Conlin, 18 Windsor Road East - wanted clarification as how Wednesday, hybrid days will work
- Brianna Benoit, 15 Liberty Terrace - asking if parents can volunteer at the schools to cover the teacher's lunch breaks
- Ben Rudicoff, 31 Lancelot Drive - student at NHHS - there is no enforcement of social distancing in the hallways
- Lisa and Scott Leeman 11 Justine Drive - thanked teachers as well as the Superintendent and the Board of Education for listening to the teachers. Also commented regarding live learning and the bandwidth at the schools, commented their disappointment regarding the teachers not getting lunch breaks
- Christine Valentino, 25 Cottontail Lane - commented regarding the elementary teachers not getting lunch as well as overcrowding in the hallways
- Tyesse Moore, 550 Clintonville Road - commented regarding three issues: COVID-19, Race, and the emotional well being of staff and teachers as well as the teachers
- Jamie Cosgrove, 1315 Ridge Road - commented that the teachers have been wonderful and encouraged administrators to get help teachers get breaks
- Bozena Galan-Blair, music teacher in district -commented regarding the number of students music teachers can have in a classroom
- Amy Alessi - teacher in North Haven commented regarding Wednesday planning time
- Trish Lewandoski - suggested administration get a committee together to get these lunch breaks covered
- Kristie Kehoe, 17 Ball Road - questioned what school districts North Haven has collaborated with when making these decisions and stated that the teachers in North Haven need to get their lunch breaks.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn at 9:42 p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Dorothy Logan
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Anderson
Chairperson