



North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

North Haven Public School
Board of Education Meeting
North Haven Middle School - Library
55 Bailey Road
Special Meeting/Minutes
Thursday, September 24, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

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

Jennifer Cecarelli was absent.

I. Consent Agenda

- A. September 1, 2020 Special BOE Meeting Minutes
- B. September 14, 2020 BOE Special BOE Meeting Minutes
- C. Retirement of :
 - Donna Burbuckler, Paraprofessional at Montowese
 - Ann Marie Longobardi, Special Education ParaProfessional at Montowese
- D. Resignation of:
 - Jordan Brangi, Paraprofessional at North Haven High School
 - Eileen Ziegler, Special Education Teacher at North Haven Middle School

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

Mrs. Logan commented that the paraprofessionals will be missed and spoke of the hard work She also wished them all the best. Mrs. Logan Stated that she worked with Ms. Ziegler, who was a teacher in North Haven for 30 years and wishes her well.

II. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Information Item

Mrs. Anderson thanked the Administration, Faculty and Staff, as well as parents for all coming together the best they can during these continued difficult times.

III. Athletic Director, Steve Blumenthal - Presentation/Discussion

Information Item

Mr. Blumenthal made a powerpoint presentation highlighting the Good, the Bad and the Promising things have taken place throughout the North Haven Athletics Department. Mr. Blumenthal explained how the Department will be moving forward this school year, including not only the restrictions from one sport to another, but also the restrictions that will be in place for the spectators of the sporting events, in accordance with the COVID-19 Reopening Plans. Mr. Blumenthal also explained the precautions they are taking in the athletic department regarding practices. Student athletes are being screened prior to all practices both at home and at practices (e.g. questionnaires, temperature checks, masks, etc), making these experiences safe as possible for the athletes and coaches.

The Board members asked questions, and Mr. Blumenthal answered accordingly.

IV. Staff Communications

A. Superintendent's Report -

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

Mr. Stirk presented his next steps to the Reopening plans. He reported the following:

- State Guidance and Requirements
- Leading and Secondary indicators by county
- COVID-19 Case Rate by Town
- **Full Time In Person Reopening Scenario #1 -**
 - Elementary Schools
 - In person 5 days a week
 - full day of school (8:30-3:02)
 - safety measures in place
 - increased number of lunch waves
 - encouraging parents to transport students to and from school
 - Middle/High School
 - In person 5 days a week
 - Full Day of School (7:30-2)
 - safety measure in place
 - students will have lunch in schools
 - encouraging parents to transport students to and from school
- **Full Time In Person Scenario #2**
 - Elementary
 - In person 5 days a week
 - Full day of school (8:30-3:02)
 - Safety measure in place
 - Increased Number of lunch waves
 - Encouraging parents to transport students to and from school
 - Middle/High Schools
 - In person 5 days a week
 - half day of school (7:30-2) live virtual support
 - safety measures in place
 - students will NOT eat lunch in school
 - encouraging parents to transport students to and from school
- Reviewed MS/HS Block schedules with average class sizes

There were discussions regarding the pros and cons of the HS/MS going back full day or being dismissed at noon.

a. Approval of the transition to Full Time, In Person Instruction

Motion: to approve the transition to full time, in person instruction on Tuesday, October 13th contingent upon reassessing the data which will be reported out at the next Board of Education Meeting on October 8, 2020. At that time Mr. Stirk will decide the plan for the MS/HS schedule being a full day (2 p.m. dismissal) or dismissing at noon

Approved

MOVED: Randi Petersen
SECOND: Joseph Solimene
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

Mrs. Anderson also stated that remote learning will still be an option for those who have currently chosen that option and that others may also choose that option, if they so choose.

2. Discussion concerning the suspension of Policy 9311 (Development, adoption and/or amendment of BOE policies) for the limited purpose of adopting a POLICY CONCERNING TEMPORARY POLICIES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
3. Possible action concerning the suspension of Policy 9311 (Development, adoption and/or amendment of BOE policies) for the limited purpose of adopting a POLICY

CONCERNING TEMPORARY POLICIES AND
REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC

Motion: Given the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 health crisis and the critical need for these temporary policies to ensure the health and safety of our staff and students as we plan for school to reopen, the Board moves to suspend Board policy 9311, for the limited purposes of adopting temporary COVID-19 policies/addendums through June 30, 2021 which shall serve as addendums to existing Board policies. For all other proposed policies, Policy 9311 will remain in effect.

Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Dorothy Logan
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

4. Discussion concerning the adoption of the POLICY CONCERNING TEMPORARY POLICIES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
5. Possible action concerning the adoption of POLICY CONCERNING TEMPORARY POLICIES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Motion: Moved that the Board adopt the proposed temporary policies and regulations related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as prepared by Board counsel, Shipman & Goodwin

Approved

MOVED: Joseph Solimene
SECOND: Amanda Gabriele
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

6. Adoption of the following Regulations
 - Administrative Regulations Regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) Information Item
 - Administrative Regulations Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1973 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) Information Item
7. Discussion and possible approval of the number of spectators at NHHS sporting events

Motion: Approval of the number of spectators at NHHS sporting events

Approved

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

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mrs. McKenna reported:

- 370 students in Opt Out Program to date
- there are challenges with students switching platforms
- Opt out teachers are working closely with the IT Department

There was discussion regarding the Opt Out Program and the District Plan regarding if/when there are positive cases in the district and what will happen going forward.

C. Director of Student Services Report

1. Special Education Update

Information Item

- PPTS are held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday during school hours. If there is full reopening of schools PPTS can be held on Wednesday. PPTs will be held virtually.
- case managers should have contacted parents to introduce himself or herself and answer any of your questions or concerns regarding your child. Communication among families and the team is a relationship that will continue to foster throughout the year.
- If your child needs to be evaluated for a triennial evaluation or initial referral the staff will conduct the evaluations in person. If your child is in the opt out program you can bring your child to school to get evaluated or the evaluation can be done remotely.
- The IEP is written as being in school for five full days of in person learning. The Learning Implementation Plan demonstrates the changes in services based on the particular hybrid and/or remote model the student participates in. The Learning Implementation Plan is only implemented when a student participates in the hybrid or remote model. If students return to school five days in person the learning implementation plan will be put on hold.
- A child can attend in person learning at any time if in the opt out program currently. To help with the transition back to school the general education teachers will discuss how your child is performing in collaboration with the special education and PPS team.

Social Emotional Learning Update

- SEL is part of each school's community. The month of September and October is all about building relationships with one another and establishing routines. At the elementary level SEL is embedded into each morning meeting. Students will have an opportunity to determine how they are feeling upon arrival, mid way through the day, and at dismissal. Each student received a zone of regulation card which provides a visual of different emotions. An SEL lesson at the secondary level is completed once a week. The core competency self awareness was introduced to students this month and will continue into next month. The students will identify emotions, recognize strengths, build self confidence, and self perception.
- Every Friday information will be posted regarding social emotional learning on the district's facebook page.

D. Director of Finance and Operations Report

1. Director of Finance and Operations Report

Information Item

Mr. Warlow reported:

- The State of Connecticut allocated North Haven \$135,885 or approximately 18% of the requested amount for COVID related expenses not accounted for in 20/21 budget. We will be using this money for more PPE needed in District
- Turf field update - The district suffered damage during the recent storm. We have filed a claim with our insurance company and will be covered for the damage less a \$10,000 deductible. The total amount to fix storm damage is not final to date

2. Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Information Item

- No issues to report in the current budget
- provided an estimate of potential savings should the schools move to a full remote teaching model using the date of November 2nd. It is estimated that if this occurs there would be an approximate savings of \$2.5 million.

Mrs. Anderson suggested that Mr. Stirk that a representative from the M&J Bus Company be at the next Board of Education Meeting on October 8, 2020 to review the procedures and protocols that are in place for the bus drivers and students.

3. Approval of the following donations:
- The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving - \$1,000
 - Clintonville PTA - TV Monitor for hallway

Motion: to approve the donation from the The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in the amount of \$1,000.

Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Dorothy Logan
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

Motion: to approve the donation of a TV Monitor from the Clintonville PTA, for the hallway at Clintonville School

Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabariele
SECOND: Joseph Solimene
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

V. Public Comments

Public Comments:

- Kristey Huntley - commented about better communication. Not everyone is on Facebook would like in the future to have "town hall" style meetings, with more dialogue.
- Kristie - concerned about band, gym and chorus where there is close physical contact and how these classes will be handled
- Alyssa - concerned about the HS/MS plan to dismiss at noon and have virtual learning after they get home. Worried that that is a lot for the students.
- Robert - Hybrid teaching/Live Instruction
- Christopher - if quarantine happens will there live/hybrid teaching

VI. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn at 9 p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabariele
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Anderson

Anita Anderson, Chairperson