



North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

North Haven Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
North Haven Middle School
Auditorium
55 Bailey Road
North Haven, CT 06473

Thursday, February 10, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Anita Anderson, Joseph Solimene, Randi Petersen, Goldie Adele, Jennifer Cecarelli, Amanda Gabriele, Eleni Diakogeorgiou, Ronald Bathrick, Marie Devlin, 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.

I. Consent Agenda

- A. January 11 and January 20, 2022 Special Board of Education Budget Meeting Minutes
- B. January 13, 2022 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- C. Resignation of:
 - Lisa DePaola, Secretary, Nurse's Office @NHHS
 - Bianca Steele, School Psychologist @ NHHS
 - Tiernan Shea, Job Coach @ North Haven Transition Partnership

Motion: To approve the items on the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOTION: Joseph Solimene
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

II. Director of Finance, Operations and Humans Resources

- a. Director of Finance and Operations Report

Information Item

Mr. Wardlow reported that the budget remains to be on track and reviewed the operating expenses for the month of January. The Board asked questions and Mr. Wardlow answered accordingly.

Mr. Wardlow apologized to the Board and stated that he forgot to include the Transfers for January in their packet, therefore the January transfers will be put on the March Agenda for approval.

- b. Approval of the 2021-2022 Monthly Financial Report,

Motion: to approved the 2021-2022 Monthly Financial Report

Approved

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Eleni Diakogeorgiou
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

c. Potential approval of a district J.P. Morgan purchasing card

Mothon: to approve the district J.P. Morgan purchasing card

Approved

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Eleni Diakogeorgiou
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Mr. Wardlow explained that he is proposing a JP Morgan Chase Purchasing Card for the Business office to be used for vendors who do not accept checks. There will be three cards issued, one for the Superintendent, one for the Assistant Superintendent, and one for the Business Office.

d. Greenleaf Solar Energy System

Information Item

Mr. Wardlow reported that Green Leaf Energy is a Solar Company. North Haven is applying for this project on Montowese Elementary property which is a non-binding commitment, and there will be significant savings in the long run. There is a February 15th cut off date for applying for this. The Board agreed that this is a good idea for the District. Mr. Wardlow agreed to keep the Board posted on the application and approval.

III. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Information Item

Mrs. Anderson stated that due to the nature of this meeting this evening, she is designating Mr. Stirk, Superintendent of Schools to provide an update regarding the Statewide Mask Mandate.

Mr. Stirk began by providing some clarity concerning the statewide mask mandate.

Based on our preliminary assessment of this matter, the State House of Representatives and Senate are considering a package to include an extension of the Governor's Executive Orders. Within this package is an existing order that relegates the authority to provide masking guidance to the Commissioner of Education.

The House is meeting today and if the package passes, it will be sent to the Senate. The State Senate will be meeting on Monday, February 14th. If passed through the Senate, it is expected that we receive guidance from the Commissioner of Education shortly after which will lift the masking requirements for schools. This will end the mask mandate in schools and it can only return under one of two circumstances:

- The Commissioner, depending on how long the Governor's Orders are extended, reserves the right to re-institute a mask mandate at a later date if she believes that it is warranted.
- or
- Our Board of Education adopts a policy requiring masks. To be clear, the Board is not required to take any action in regards to mask wearing and can consider this an administrative matter relegated to the Superintendent in consultation with the local department of health.

In summary, if the bill package is passed and the mask mandate is lifted and our Board of Education chooses to not take any action; the mask mandate will essentially be lifted and masks will become optional within North Haven Public Schools.

An additional point...If the package does not pass in either the House or Senate, the mask mandate will expire on February 15th.

The State Department of Education in consultation w/ the Department of Public Health infectious disease section made the decision to lift this mandate. Since the beginning of the pandemic, North Haven Public Schools has been committed to following the guidance of both departments and we will continue to do so when we receive confirmation that the mandate has been lifted.

CSDE has not updated any of their guidance at this point, as a result, all other mitigation strategies will remain in place. North Haven will have masks available for students and staff, and will continue to share health recommendations with our students, staff, and families as well as monitor information from the Governor's office, as well as the State Department of Public Health.

Key Points

If Pre-K buildings are housed with BOE operated buildings, then the mask guidance issued by the commissioner applies to them as well unless the local Board decides otherwise for that age population.

In addition, masking will still be required on buses per federal statute and regulations unless an exception is permitted as defined in the order.

Mr. Stirk stated that he will keep the Board and community updated when the final details are shared with districts.

IV. Public Comment

Mrs. Anderson reviewed the Board Policy regarding Public Comments and stated that considering the topic on tonight's agenda she is willing to extend the time limit from 5 minutes to 7 minutes per person, and no more than 40 minutes on one subject.

Comments were made by the following:

- Mary McNeirney - in favor of no masks
- Gina Malgieri, 52 Drazen Drive - in favor of no masks, it should be parents choice
- Melissa Martinel - in favor of no masks
- Anna Buono - in favor of no masks, it should be parents choice
- Tracy Reilly, 1037 Hartford Turnpike - In favor of no masks
- Gina Grasso, Spring Road - in favor of no masks
- Tara Raffone, 6 Welch Road - In favor of no masks
- Aiden Peek, 370 Upper State Street- Student NHMS stated he doesn't like masks, cannot breathe with one on.
- Maria Eposito, 103 Homewood Avenue- in favor of no masks
- Kara LaDore, 19 Bayard Avenue - in favor of no masks
- Michelle Prunier, 350 Mill Road - in favor of no masks
- Jodi Pelliccio, 197 Maple Avenue - in favor of no masks

V. Superintendent's Report

Information Item

a. Mask Mandate Discussion

Mr. Stirk stated that a communication will be going out to families tomorrow with more information.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Approved

MOTION: Ronald Bathrick
SECOND: Joseph Solimene
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Anderson
Chairperson