

MEMBERS PRESENT: **DIANE LYONS**
 STEVE JENKINS
 MARK FLEISCHHAUER
 JACLYN SAVOLAINEN
 LIZ RAUM
 JACKIE RACCUA
 MATTHEW VAN WORMER

OTHERS PRESENT: **JOSEPH PHLEAN, THOMAS BURNELL,**
 DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF,
 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

President Lyons called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 pm via Zoom.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.0 Motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2020 Regular Meeting.*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Raum, Savolainen, Van Wormer, Raccuia); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

2.1 Motion to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2020 Emergency Special Meeting*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Raum, Savolainen, Van Wormer, Raccuia); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

3.0 Public Comment

None.

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.0 School Closure Remote Learning Update

Superintendent Joseph Phelan provided the Board of Education with a brief review of the past two weeks, since the last Board meeting, in terms of the provision of remote learning to the school district's students. The building principals also reported individually for their schools:

Chancellor Livingston Elementary: Principal Brett King reviewed what has been happening at the elementary school.

- K-3 is utilizing Class Dojo
- 4th & 5th grade classes are using Google Classroom
- Remote learning is out of comfort zone of a number of CLS teachers, but overall a lot of positive feedback has been received from parents.
- There has been a balancing act of too much work versus not enough. Project based work is being requested.

- Use of Zoom has posed equity issue in some cases, not all students attend, and this platform has not used by teachers 100%
- Pre-recorded videos via You Tube channel have been utilized by some teachers.
- IXL – NYS standards-based math work has been used, with students able to practice online.

Bulkeley Middle School: Principal John Kemnitzer stated that the middle school teachers were first focusing on connecting to the students and connecting to all families. They made sure that each student had connected with someone. The middle school is in a good position because a majority of their teachers use the Canvas Learning Management System. Teachers are working together at each grade level and are offering individual or group office hours.

Rhinebeck High School: Principal Ed Davenport commended the faculty, the students, and the families for rising to this challenge to continue instruction in some fashion with an enormous amount of stress. Welfare of students, hardware/tools they need to access educational materials, and continuity of instruction were all thought of simultaneously. After conferring with colleagues within the school district and across the county, they decided that a total of two hours of instruction per day was a reasonable amount of educational materials for students to continue with their instruction. It takes students twice as long to complete tasks in an online environment than it takes in a real time environment. Principal Davenport, AP Marc Burg, and RHS PPS staff Megan Rodier, and Jeff Palazzolo made check-in calls with every family in the high school to see how everyone was doing. They will continue to check in with students that teachers have noted are not engaged. A virtual Spirit Week will happen next week. Principal Davenport also held a Zoom meeting with 30 ninth graders recently.

Steve Jenkins wanted to recognize those teachers that have gone above and beyond in this crisis. Superintendent Phelan stated they would discuss this in the upcoming Administrators meeting.

Jaclyn Savolainen asked the Principals how often they communicate with parents, teachers, students. They are trying to balance contacting parents with an intent not to clog their email inboxes. Teachers are having weekly meetings.

Emily Davison addressed how the special education staff are dealing with challenges dealing with that segment of the student population. Emily stated that it depends on the needs of the student, as well as the needs of the family, as to how the staff are helping. She has had 15 CSE meetings in and out of the district. Her teachers and providers have been providing resource room services via Zoom, telephone check-ins, sometimes daily, recorded math videos, and modified assignments that the general education teachers have provided. The high school special education teachers have set up individual Google classrooms for their students, so they have one location to get all of their assignments. Emily meets with her staff weekly on her Google classroom site.

Jackie Raccuia asked about how students receive related services. The providers have reached out to families and discussed what the available options and what would work best for the families. They are all providing services individually, not in groups. Emily has received positive feedback from families thus far. She also stated that the delivery of education is not the same, so there are services that do not look the same as they did before.

Diane Lyons asked about CTI students and how they are continuing education. Dr. Davenport stated from what he understands is they are continuing but with paper and pencil, instead of hands on.

Diane Lyons stated that some parents had reached out with some questions. If students possibly went back to school, what would it look like? Would there be a modified schedule? Superintendent Phelan stated that he wasn't optimistic about a return to "normal" schooling before the end of the current school year, based upon the information he was receiving. He stated they have not had the conversation yet, since they still had two more weeks before the April 30th date to return to school.

4.1 2020-21 Budget Development Update

Thomas Burnell, Assistant Superintendent, updated the Board that right now there is no Budget Vote date currently scheduled by New York State. The Governor will announce this sometime in the future. Mr. Burnell doesn't anticipate that it will be a Board-only decision on budgets and approvals. It appears that the Governor is insisting on conducting school district votes and board member elections. Everything that deals with the budget works from the budget vote date backwards. Once the vote date is set, there are different things that are required 45 days before, 30 days before, etc. He speculated that Board member petitions will happen quickly once a date has been set.

Mr. Burnell reviewed the draft #3budget changes, showing adjustments on revenues and projected State Aid. He stated that State Building Aid will be delayed if the capital project is not able to be completed before December 1 this year. It would only be a half year payment, but we wouldn't receive the aid if the project isn't completed. Because of COVID-19, some projects can be done and others will have to wait, due primarily due to the need to work with social distancing in mind (plumbers, CLS lockers). Superintendent Phelan stated that the Palumbo Group may need to rework their timeline. An upcoming meeting with the construction contractors is scheduled for Thursday. Regarding health insurance, the DEHIC rates have been reduced to 4%, so Mr. Burnell was able to reduce the health insurance cost in the 2020-2021 budget. Right now, the proposed budget is \$4,085 over the tax levy limit.

Mr. Burnell reviewed the list of possible items for consideration for possible addition to the budget that would be offset by other reductions. There are some items that need to be discussed. He asked the administrators to look at the list of budget items and to prioritize what they were requesting. Diane Lyons stated that

she was uncomfortable adding anything to the budget since there are so many unexpected things that could happen. Superintendent Phelan stated that they are not adding anything today. There may be State Aid cuts throughout the coming year that are currently unknown. Mr. Burnell stated that we could add more appropriated fund balance to the revenue side if necessary.

Diane Lyons thanked all the administrators and staff for all the work they are doing and for being at the Board meeting.

Superintendent Phelan stated when you are in a crisis, you realize the strengths of your organization. He commends the administrative staff for doing a great job and cautioned the Board not to take them for granted.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Superintendent Phelan said that the District is doing very well working through this crisis. The vast number of parents have been appreciative and supportive. He also wanted to thank the Rhinebeck Reality newspaper for bestowing the position of school mascot on him, as part of an April 1 article.

Board President Diane Lyons stated that at the end of this, the students will know that they were cared about and supported.

Steve Jenkins shared that it was nice to see the field work begin at CLS.

5.2 Old Business

None.

5.3 Public Comment

None.

5.4 Other

Diane Lyons suggested sharing more of the highlights on the Twitter account for the community to see.

Ed Davenport added that www.RhinebeckReality.org also has a phone app, that will be the central communications location for high school activities. They will be partnering with BMS students as well.

6.0 Action Items

6.1 Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the following consent items:

6.0.1 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the CSE and CPSE recommendations.*

6.0.2 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to accept grant awards from the Rhinebeck Science Foundation, in support of funding for the following, PLTW: Gateway to Technology

Training, in the amount of \$5,500, as stipulated.*

6.0.3 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the permanent Civil Service Appointment of Tamisha Greenhill as Senior Account Clerk, effective April 15, 2020.*

6.0.4 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve 2019-20 Budget Transfers in accordance with Board Policy #6150. (See attached)*

VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Raum, Savolainen, Van Wormer, Raccuia); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

The Board thanked the Rhinebeck Science Foundation for their generous contribution. The Board also wanted to congratulate Tamisha for her permanent appointment. Everyone recognized that the District Office was lucky to find her.

6.2 Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, negotiators for the District and the Rhinebeck Teachers Association executed a Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement on April 8, 2020, addressing issues related to the school closure resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and including contract terms for a one-year rollover successor Collectively Negotiated Agreement to the parties' agreement that will expire on June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, legislative approval is required by the Board of Education in order to implement the funding of said Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the ratification by the Rhinebeck Teachers Association, the Board hereby ratifies the Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Rhinebeck Teachers Association dated April 8, 2020, and authorizes the funding of those monies necessary to implement the provisions of the 2020-2021 collectively negotiated agreement between the District and the Rhinebeck Teachers Association. A copy of said Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

VOTE: 6 AYE (Lyons Jenkins, Raum, Savolainen, Van Wormer, Raccuia); 0 NAY; 1 ABSTAIN (Fleischhauer); 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

Diane Lyons thanked Superintendent Phelan for working on this with RTA. Superintendent Phelan thanked the RTA and thought it was a good outcome for all parties.

7.0 Proposed Executive Session, if Necessary, Subject to Board Approval
None.

8.0 Adjournment

Motion Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen, the Board voted to adjourn at 9:06 pm.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons, Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Raum, Savolainen, Van Wormer, Raccuia); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Druker
District Clerk