



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Executive Session - Virtual Meeting Via Zoom - 7:00 p.m.

Public Session - Virtual Meeting Via Zoom and Facebook Live – 8:00 p.m.

A **Voting Meeting** of the Livingston Board of Education was held on this date via Zoom and Facebook Live. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board President, Ronnie Konner, who announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by amendment to notice approved at the Board's reorganization meeting on January 7, 2020 and posted at the Board of Education office and communicated to *The Star Ledger*, *West Essex Tribune*, *TAPinto Livingston* and the Livingston Township Clerk.

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

Executive Session

Whereas, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-11, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- Personnel and Negotiations

Action may be taken upon return to public session. The full length of the meeting is anticipated to be approximately 60 minutes and be it

Further Resolved, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Mr. August seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mr. August, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Ms. Messer, Mrs. Konner
Nayes - None

At 8:02 p.m., Mrs. Konner reconvened the public session.

Members Present: Charles "Buddy" August, Pamela Chirls, Seth Cohen, Ronnie Konner, Samantha Messer and Aditya Desai

Also in Attendance: Dr. Matthew Block, Steven Robinson, Lisa Capone-Steiger, James Perrette and Joann Goldberg

There were approximately 800 members of the public and staff watching remotely through the webinar and via a Facebook Live stream.

Mr. Aditya Desai led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Block explained that today was the second full day of professional development for our teachers. They will continue with professional development over the next two days. These four days are being used to allow teachers to learn how to use their devices, learn new online platforms, review the curriculum and to collaborate with one another.

Mr. Robinson reviewed our preparations for HVAC include installing Merv 13 filters in all univent systems at all schools except LHS, the purchase of portable HEPA filters for all nursing stations, the purchase of air purifiers for all classroom spaces that do not have windows and the hiring of a mechanical engineer to perform an evaluation of our existing HVAC system. Filters for the high school should be installed next week.

Mr. Robinson continued we have received a draft report from Johnson & Urban but it was not complete and we are awaiting some additional information. Once the final report is ready, he will make it available to those who would like to see it. Mr Robinson added the draft report shows that our systems are operational but we need to address some areas with balancing issues of air supply. We will be making adjustments to the dampers of the units in all of the schools and will then retest the original sampling of rooms to ensure the adjustments were effective. In addition, we will also test a new sampling of rooms chosen by each building principal. Mr. Robinson concluded that the buildings can be occupied while this is happening.

Mrs. Chirls asked when we would receive the report, how the rooms were inspected and what percentage were inspected across the district.

Mr. Perrette explained how the testing air balancing company checked the CFM from the supply units and outside air intakes. Mr. Perrette continued they took a sampling of three classrooms, the nurses office and a multipurpose room in each building.

Mr. Cohen asked if the current draft report can support that the building can be occupied during this time and Mr. Perrette responded yes, and as we adjust the dampers to allow more air flow, more people will be able to occupy the building.

Mrs. Chirls asked what happens with the spaces that aren't sampled and what protocols are in place when there are people in the buildings before we have written certification.

Mr. Robinson responded if we make these adjustments in every single classroom and then retest the original sampling of rooms plus an additional sampling and they all come back in normal range, then we know the system is operational and don't feel it's necessary to test every room.

Mr. Robinson continued he expects to receive the report by the end of the week.

Mr. August asked if we should be testing the PreK-2 rooms and self-contained classrooms since those will be the first students brought back. Mr. Robinson responded he will bring this suggestion up to the principals.

Mrs. Chirls and Mrs. Konner expressed they want to make sure the buildings will be compliant before students and staff are brought back.

Dr. Block continued his presentation by highlighting what has been done inside the facilities to get ready for the reopening of schools. Classrooms have been physically distanced, signage has been placed around the school, one way hallways and stairwells have been established, we have purchased PPE, hand sanitizer and air purifiers and student supply "go bags" have been created.

Dr. Block explained that device distribution has been happening and is ongoing; however, due to supply chain issues across the country, some new Chromebooks shipment has been delayed. As soon as those devices arrive, they will be deployed to students.

Dr. Block shared some home preparation for remote learning by directing everyone to our website to view the District Remote Learning Plan, which is a parent guide outlining preparation steps families can take to support their children and be ready for opening day.

Dr. Block concluded he hopes to be able to provide a date sometime next week for when our PreK-2 and self contained students can return in person.

Ms. Messer thanked the teachers and principals for putting together the in-person kindergarten orientation at Collins and hopes to see other ways we can get the kids to meet with their teachers and interact with their peers. Ms. Messer asked what the minimum required device is for a kindergartener and if a parent needs a device, how do they go about requesting one.

Mrs. Steiger responded they can use Zoom on an iPhone or iPad and if a family doesn't have access to one of those, they should contact their principal to borrow one. Once the Chromebooks arrive, all of the students in K, 1 and 2 will receive one.

Mrs. Konner asked how parents should reach out to for tech support and Mrs. Steiger responded if they look on the Reopening Plan and Remote Learning Plan on the website, there are links that go directly to the help desk for those with technology questions.

Dr. Block confirmed we will help any family that needs digital access at home.

Mr. Cohen requested we get a budget update as we enter the school year at our next board meeting.

Mrs. Konner asked if we could include possible projections on the staffing impact in the budget update.

Ms. Messer asked if we have given any thought to providing hard copy materials or pdfs for parents to print out so kids could have hard copies during remote learning and Mrs. Steiger responded that any parent can request a hard copy and we will provide it to them. Mrs. Steiger added we are using some platforms where parents can access and upload resources as well.

Mrs. Konner asked if our WiFi reaches the tents for students who are in classes outdoors and Dr. Block responded the technology department is working to extend WiFi so it reaches any tent that is not close enough to the building.

Mr. August asked if we will move custodians from the secondary schools over to the elementary to provide extra cleaning and Mr. Robinson responded that we had already planned on doing so.

Dr. Block explained the reason we are suspending the bylaw tonight is to give permission to the board to approve two policies with one reading instead of our normal two reading procedure. These two policies are required by the Department of Education to be approved prior to opening schools in either a hybrid or remote model. Our attorney has reviewed them and the suspension is only for these two policies.

Board Reports

Mrs. Konner, on behalf of the board, stated they had an opportunity to work with the different committees to bring together the final plan that was submitted to the county and thanked all of the participants.

Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes

Zach Cohen, 20 Stonewall Drive, stated as the board is extremely influential with how the district responds to this crisis, he would like to know where Mr. August, Mrs. Chirls and Mrs. Konner stand on the current remote plan and on in-person learning at all grade levels. Mr. Cohen asked about procedures to approve the plan. Mr. Cohen asked what their assessment of the remote learning experience was that occurred in the spring and what that assessment is based upon. Mr. Cohen asked if teachers will be presenting from their classrooms in the buildings.

Dr. Block explained that it was not required for the board to approve the plan; they are required to approve the policies that allow us to enact the plan, which are on the agenda tonight.

Dr. Block explained we are encouraging staff to teach from their classrooms.

Mrs. Konner explained her direct experience with remote instruction was through time spent with her eight grandchildren adding at times it was successful and at times it was not as meaningful as it would have been in person. Mrs. Konner continued she believes we should get students back but that teachers are critically important to the learning that is going to take place. Mrs. Konner added we need to look at a variety of protocols but the overriding factor has to be the safety of our children, staff and their families who may be at risk at home. Mrs. Konner concluded families will have a choice to do in person or remote and we need to find a way to provide that education with our staff so children get what they need both academically and emotionally.

Mrs. Chirls explained she is in favor of what the administration is proposing for PreK-2 as long as the buildings are certified safe and we have accommodations in place for staff that need them. Mrs. Chirls is awaiting the report from the engineer who evaluated our systems.

Mr. August explained he hopes we can get every kid back in school as soon as possible but we need to get the virus under control and until we can be sure everything is okay, he will go along with the plan as long as it is rolled out slowly.

Rachel Selvin, 18 Canoe Brook Drive, asked what start date was identified for when in-person learning would continue in the plans we submitted to the Department of Education? What is that date for the high school? Mrs. Selvin asked if there is a way to have questions answered in writing and then posting them on the website if they can't be answered at the meeting.

We have a FAQ page with questions and answers on our website.

Professor Stanley Weiss, 42 Ridge Drive, stated if our buildings were closed for a while, did we do a check of the water to look for Legionnaires disease, stated testing four classrooms is insufficient statistically, physical education has issues with vigorous talking and shouting which increases the risk of spread, to avoid ozone air purifiers because of kids with respiratory problems and that we didn't mention using UV lighting.

Mr. Perrette responded that all of the water in our buildings had been flushed and the HVAC units were up and running during this entire time because we didn't shut everything down. Mr. Perrette continued the units are all similar and perform in the same way so taking a sampling throughout the buildings gives us a very good snapshot of the CFM/air supply coming into the rooms.

Ken Fisher, 29 East Hobart Gap Road, stated this is the third time he is asking if anyone has looked into the automated system that tracks attendance and asked that we be mindful of those who are high risk and go the extra distance to ensure things are being done in accordance with safety guidelines and protocols.

Cara Katz, 28 North Hillside Avenue, asked what the metric is for reopening schools, what percentage responded hybrid versus remote on the new survey and if outdoor options for teaching have been explored such as tents or trailers. Mrs. Katz suggested reaching out to the community for assistance to families who need computers.

Dr. Block responded that the metric for reopening is when we have the staff we need to bring students back.

Dr. Block responded we did explore tents and trailers and have placed tents at every school; however, we don't have a space issue, we have a staff issue.

Alison Handler, 14 Hearthstone Terrace, asked why incoming freshmen still have their 8th grade computers and what happened to the devices the seniors were using. Mrs. Handler stated we need to communicate more clearly to manage expectations. Mrs. Handler would like an FAQ on the website.

Dr. Block responded we did order devices and they are slated to be distributed to students at various levels. If a high school student has a broken device, please reach out via the help desk and we will work to get that issue resolved.

Mrs. Steiger responded that 12th grade devices were repurposed to a different grade level.

John Yao, 9 Marisa Court, asked how we chose Merv 13 filters and Mr. Robinson responded we had Merv 8 and went to Merv 13 based on the ASHRAE Covid-19 recommendations.

Mr. Perrette added you risk limiting the amount of air supply and exchange going into the room with a larger Merv rating. Our systems were tested and are able to be operational using the Merv 13 filters.

Reynaldo Cobarrubias, 17 Edgemere Road, asked for a date for the high school to reopen for in-person learning and asked how we will sanitize our buses.

Dr. Block responded that information on the sanitizing of buses can be found in the hybrid document that is posted on our website.

Tricia Seid, 5 Huntington Road, asked for clarification on staff having issues with their own children and being legally allowed to take a leave. How does one teach remotely if they have to parent at home?

Helene Korn, 7 Cherry Hill Road, when we do determine that the HVAC system is up to code, are we ready to get all the students back to school in some capacity? Is that what's holding kids up from coming back in? What are the exact parameters and metrics for returning students to school? Why are kindergarteners being prioritized for new computers over high schoolers? Her 10th grader has a four year old computer that isn't working. Why are we moving custodians to the elementary schools? Perception is we have no plans for bringing secondary students back in school and we are not addressing the mental health of those students.

Dr. Block responded that the metric for reopening is when we have the staff we need to bring students back.

Dr. Block responded we aren't permanently moving custodians to the elementary schools but while the secondary schools aren't open to students, we are repurposing them. As secondary schools open, we will bring them back.

Dr. Block suggested contacting the help desk with any computer issues.

Eileen Heltzer, 17 Lexington Drive, recommends giving students more time between classes and that five minutes is not enough time.

Alyse Heilpern, 4 Highland Drive, asked if we have considered holding a parent forum or town hall, why orientation was held virtually and not in school, when we pivot to hybrid in elementary schools, will teachers have assistance to help manage students online while having students in class and can we use bus aides or bus drivers in order to facilitate. For the board member pushing to get kids back in school, do they have any solutions on how to get the kids back in school.

Dr. Block responded that orientation went remote due to the weather and that on Friday there are some in-person events at the high school. We are working at every level to try and bring kids in as much as possible and the PTOs are helping with that, too.

Dr. Block added classes need to be supervised by a certified educator and we are looking at all of our options.

Lisa Tokuda, 10 North Drive, requested the questions be answered as they are asked.

In an effort to answer some of the questions asked tonight, Dr. Block explained that two weeks ago we announced we were going remote. We first brought forth a hybrid plan and during that time, took a lot of steps to prepare to get our students back in person. We hoped the hybrid plan would allow people to come back slowly and deliberately. As we were preparing, we had multiple staff members who came forward with medical leaves that prevented them from returning. Then, after the governor made his announcement, several large districts where our staff live started to close for all remote instruction and we had a significant amount of leaves requested for child care. We made a decision that we wanted our teachers to engage with our students and that remote learning, at least to begin, was the right option. We are encouraging our staff to teach from the buildings and many have been in. If a certain number have medical or other personal issues that don't allow them to return to our buildings, we don't have the ability, at this point, particularly at the secondary level, where there is content specific certifications and skills, to be able to consider replacing those teachers. The Federal Government, under the CARES Act, allows staff to take child care leaves if they need them. We are trying hard to bring in teachers at the elementary level first, not because we don't value those at the secondary level, but because the certifications at those levels allow a lot more flexibility in our being able to staff those classes. Dr. Block's goal is to bring our youngest students in first, then work up to bring back our next youngest and then look at the secondary level to formulate a plan to move forward. It is difficult for him to verbalize today how we will bring secondary students back as the staffing situation will dictate what can be done.

Dr. Block added he understands the social and emotional needs and the toll the pandemic has taken on students and principals are working on creating in-person experiences for students to come after school, to run clubs and activities and to try and provide social interaction while counselors are working on ways to address the social and emotional needs of students.

Dr. Block concluded it is our plan to begin opening schools for our PreK-2 and self contained students and hopes to provide a date for opening some time next week.

Ms. Messer reiterated the question of how one can teach remotely while full time parenting adding FFCRA allows for a 12 week leave and the longer we go remote, the longer time people have to find child care and asked if we are exacerbating our own problem by extending the number of weeks for someone to find child care.

Dr. Block explained this is the difficult balance he has been struggling with since FFCRA has been announced. Dr. Block added their expectation is that staff will be professional and do what is expected of them for their students while teaching remotely.

Mrs. Konner added there is nothing that replaces what happens in the classroom between the teacher and the child and wants to get our children back in the classroom. Mrs. Konner expressed concerns about providing a consistent level of education and asked how we can enable teachers, who are physically able to provide instruction to children, rather than hiring substitutes.

Mrs. Chirls stated we are treating our education like a transaction without having regard for staff. Mrs. Chirls added continuity is important for students with their teachers. Mrs. Chirls wants staff to be happy in their work environment. Mrs. Chirls suggested we think about things in a creative way rather than as a push/pull between us and our staff members.

Ms. Messer explained she is not speaking about people who have medical conditions. Ms. Messer is suggesting we establish a date to return so people can file for FFCRA if they need, which provides them with a two week leave so they can secure child care, and then they can come back and teach. Until we establish a date, no one has to put in for their FFCRA.

Mrs. Chirls stated she wants our buildings to be certified safe and secure before staff and students can return.

Mrs. Konner asked what arrangements have been made for staff with regard to child care and Dr. Block responded that Mrs. Burman works with any staff member requesting a leave to determine how we can keep them engaged and bring them in. Medical issues legally require an accommodation so there is a different process. Dr. Block added we have offered all staff who have requested child care leave a few weeks to secure that child care within the first few weeks of the opening of school. Information for accessing child care through the YMCA or JCC has been shared with staff and the community.

Paul Boxer, 12 Audobon Road, wrote that he is disappointed and frustrated with the district's decision to shift to all remote for all grade levels. Mr. Boxer asked why we don't have outdoor classrooms, use large indoor spaces in town or purchase temporary trailers. Mr. Boxer asked why are the teachers who are able and willing to teach in person, not permitted to do so.

Dr. Block responded that teachers who are able and willing to teach in person, are permitted to do so.

Cheryl Paredes, 21 Burnet Hill Road, wrote she walked into her district today to prepare for a fully hybrid school year and felt a sense of resentment that she had to leave her own children at home, knowing their year will start remotely. Mrs. Paredes wrote this appeal to our teaching staff, our children need you academically, socially, and emotionally and in every district there will be those who truly find themselves in a compromised position, unable to attend in person and to you I can only empathize. To those who can, please rethink your need for a leave. I write to you this evening to simply ask our administrative team to continually reevaluate the plans for a return to school. However modified, any contact time is better than no contact time.

Dr. Block responded we do continually reevaluate the plans as we get new information and new guidelines.

Stefanie Cohen, 20 Stonewall Drive, wrote that part of the submission of an all remote plan needed to include a date specifying when each school (grade level) would reopen for in person learning. What are those dates? If these teachers are taking child care leaves because their own kids are home, how are they teaching remote to our children if they are taking care of their own?

Dr. Block responded we provided hopeful dates for Pre-K to 2 and 3 to 5 and we know that secondary will be remote for the first quarter and are hoping to be able to bring them back as soon as possible.

Cara Katz, 28 North Hillside Avenue, wrote why has there been no communication about mental health and what is being done behind the scenes to address? How are the JCC and YMCA opening and our schools are not?

Dr. Block responded we have a lot of mental health initiatives through our counseling department. We will get messages about these services out to the community.

Stefanie Littman, 2 Winged Foot Drive, wrote how will MPM students be able to go back in person learning if the YMCA is running a full day daycare program from the building?

Dr. Block responded if we are able to staff and bring kids back, we would work with the YMCA to adjust their facility use.

Sherri Marrache 2 Columbia Road, wrote why is it that some students with IEP's qualify for in-person learning and others don't? Which doctors signed off on the safety and wellbeing of having our students on computers learning remotely for 6+ hours a day?

Dr. Block responded that all students qualify for in-person learning and we are continuing to try to secure the resources to be able to provide in-person learning for all students. Dr. Block responded that in our plan we outline how we will provide both synchronous and asynchronous experiences so we don't have students staring at screens for 6+ hours a day.

Debra Ann Wahle, 7 Beverly Road, wrote that Ms. Messer does not realize the fact that the FFCRA is only in effect until Dec. 31. Prior to that is the holiday break. A September 8th start of child care leave would bring a teacher back on December 1st. The "timeline" she is referring to being pushed back would only be done so by about two weeks at the most. That is not a huge issue.

Amy Mahoney, 13 Dogwood Terrace, wrote I have seen nothing about the steps being taken to remedy the staffing situation, specifically for the middle and high schools. Mrs. Mahoney would like to see the plan submitted to the State for approval. Additionally, I would like to ask whether or not the hybrid plan originally presented for the middle and high schools is being reconsidered while we work towards opening for in person learning?

Dr. Block responded we are working to remedy the situation by starting at the elementary level and will share the plan on our website. Dr. Block added that yes, the staged approach hybrid plan originally presented is being reconsidered.

Lisa Fried-Grodin, 13 Macopin Drive, wrote what are you specifically doing to reopen with a hybrid model at the secondary level and what confidence do you have that it will happen. Mrs. Fried-Grodin also asked with regard to teachers with expertise that can't be easily replaced, how will this problem ever be overcome this year? Why can't you let some teachers come back in person and have some remote? Why are so many other high schools able to be on a hybrid model?

Dr. Block responded we are doing the best we can to work on overcoming this issue and that other districts are able to be on a hybrid model because they hired substitutes to teach kids and have had less leave requests.

Abhishek Gangwal, 6 Hazelwood Avenue, wrote he would like the following details on the 150 teachers who indicated they would need to take a leave of absence if we return to in-person

learning: their grade, subject and how many leaves are left for each teacher demanding full 100% online learning. What is the plan to reopen schools in a hybrid model?

Dr. Block responded he is unable to provide all of those details but said that 2/3rds are at secondary level and 1/3rd are at the elementary level.

Michelle Amin, 6 Washington Court, stated parents have a responsibility to enforce their children wear masks when they are out of the house and around town unsupervised by an adult.

Dr. Roger Turbin, 230 Beaufort Avenue, stated the PPE works and asked what the plans are for providing the best PPE for teachers and students.

Dr. Block responded there are specific PPE requirements we are following and those include N95 masks and gowns for nurses and some others. The recommendation we have been given for students and staff is to wear cloth masks.

Brooke Alper, One Schindler Way, asked if there will be anything set up for rising 6th graders to meet their peers and teachers in person during the month of September.

Dr. Block responded he is encouraging the principals at every level to bring students together for activities in person.

Brian Spector, 34 Bennington Road, wrote how does installing Merv 13 filters exceed the ASHRAE recommended filter levels when they state that level is the minimum and they recommend higher rated filters?

Mr. Perrette responded we were using Merv 8 filters and based on the manufacturer's recommendation, we installed Merv 13 filters. Mr. Perrette added we were also cautioned that if we used higher filters, the amount of air flow coming through the system becomes restricted and it could affect the efficiency of the units.

Cindy Goldstein, 24 Mayhew Drive, wrote that she hopes that the additional rooms tested will be across the entire building being evaluated and not only the K-2 rooms.

Cynthia Katz-Cocuzza, 223 E. Northfield Road, wrote why weren't the laptops collected from the 7th graders and seniors given to either the freshmen or sophomore classes?

Mr. Douglas responded that all students will receive a device and that some are still being distributed. We also have a grade level worth of Lenovos that will be redistributed.

Dr. Block added all computer questions should be referred to the help desk.

Helene Korn, 7 Cherry Hill Road, wrote I understand that teachers that teach specific high level courses at the high school level cannot be easily replaced. How about if the students are in the classroom and a teacher who has reason to have to teach remotely is live streamed in from their home? Why can't we use volunteers in order to supervise in class while the teacher is streamed in virtually?

Dr. Block responded classes need to be supervised by a certified educator and we are looking at all of our options.

Pam Kalish, 69 Cornell Drive, wrote if all dual working families can find their own child care, why can't the teachers? Why can't teachers utilize the JCC, YMCA and town program just as Livingston parents are doing?

Dr. Block responded we are encouraging teachers to utilize these programs.

Eric Littman, 2 Winged Foot Drive, wrote how do you plan on effectively evaluating the teachers and students while on remote learning? How will the teachers test students and evaluate whether or not the students are learning the necessary skills for each grade level?

Dr. Block responded although it will be a challenge to evaluate remotely, teachers will be developing goals and we will be holding them responsible for meeting them. Observations and evaluations will still take place while everyone is in a remote setting.

Apryl Gassman, 28 Woodcrest Drive, wrote when are the 10th graders supposed to return their old and get their new computers?

Dr. Block suggested sending an email to the help desk so they can address the question.

Julie Potischman, wrote how are we going to get the teachers back if they continue to have health concerns and/or child care issues? How will those circumstances change enough to bring them back to school? What will be different in November or any future date? Why can't we open rooms in the schools to have the teachers bring their kids to school so they can remote learn and the teachers can teach?

Dr. Block responded this will be a challenge and he hopes to be able to provide a better answer to the community as we figure that out. Dr. Block added we are encouraging our teachers to teach from their classroom but there are other issues with teachers bringing their own kids to school.

Lisa Fried-Grogin, 13 Macopin Drive, wrote if the current plan submitted to the State has been approved? Has the State required the district to commit to do certain things to meet the proposed opening dates? What consequences are there from the State if we don't meet the deadlines for all our schools?

Dr. Block responded we have not yet heard back from the State about the current plan we submitted. The Executive Order states we are to continue working towards remediation of the reasons that caused us to go remote and it is unclear about what the consequences would be to a district.

Sondra Hamptman, 5 Westminster Drive, wrote the high school is doing two semesters so does that mean students aren't going back until January?

Dr. Block responded that he believes at this point that we won't be able to open secondary schools for at least the first quarter of the year. The high school still plans to be in semesters.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

BUSINESS

Ms. Messer moved the following:

3.1 Policies and Regulations

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9, approves the use of a program of virtual or remote instruction to meet the 180-day requirement for the 2020-2021 school year for parents opting full time remote learning pursuant to the NJDOE guidance issued on July 24, 2020; and / or District schools are closed due to a declared state of emergency, health emergency, or a public health-related closure. Further, the Board suspends Bylaw #0131 for Policies #1648 and #1648.02 only and hereby approves Policy #1648 and Policy #1648.02.

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mr. August, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Ms. Messer, Mrs. Konner
Nayes - None

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

Vishal Lala, 7 Vista Terrace, wrote that she recommends we stick with the original decision of going all remote.

Mila Milov, 106 Falcon Road, wrote can teachers that have a unique skill set teach remotely and be streamed from home into the classroom while secondary students come in person and be supervised by an aide?

Dr. Block responded they need to be certified educators and while her suggestion doesn't seem optimal, he will look at all options for bringing students back in.

Apryl Gassman, 28 Woodcrest Drive, wrote why are high school classes only half day for the first three weeks and not a full day?

Dr. Block responded this is a new paradigm and a new model so we want to give teachers the time they need to adjust and collaborate.

James Calderon, 130 Hobart Gap, asked if there will be a distribution of textbooks and workbooks and Mrs. Steiger responded that principals and supervisors are working on a schedule and will be communicating that to parents.

Saket Dusad, 62 Virginia Avenue, stated she wished there were more parents than grandparents on the board.

Billie Chaleff, 91 Ridge Drive, asked how a child with an IEP will get extra help and Mrs. Steiger responded there will be opportunities during the school day to create small groups for extra help and there are office hours after school for students to get extra help.

Michele Cohen, 15 Woodland Terrace, appreciates Dr. Block for realizing that we would be hurting the quality of education at the secondary level if we had to replace those teachers who have a specialized content area skill level with substitutes.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:02 p.m., Mr. August made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mr. August, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Ms. Messer, Mrs. Konner
Nayes - None

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Robinson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steven K. Robinson
Board Secretary

September 2, 2020

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