

FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING

August 6, 2020

MINUTES

The **Virtual** Regular Meeting of the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education was called to order in conformance with the "Sunshine Law" by the Board President **via Zoom** at 6:01 p.m.

Member(s) Present Virtually

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Jessica Abbott | Laurie Markowski |
| Valerie Bart | Susan Mitcheltree |
| Jeffrey Cain | Edward Morgan |
| Marianne Kenny | Tim Bart |

Attorney Present Virtually

Alicia D’Anella

On the motion of Ms. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Markowski, the Board adopted the following resolution to meet Virtually in Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. viva voce.

SUNSHINE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes Boards of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Flemington-Raritan School District Board of Education that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

- Matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to, staff and/or student discipline matters, and specifically: _____
- Matters in which the release of information would impair the right to receive government funds, and specifically: _____
- Matters which, if publicly disclosed, would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy, and specifically: _____
- Matters concerning negotiations, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving the purchase of real property and/or the investment of public funds, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving the real tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving anticipated or pending litigation, including matters of attorney-client privilege, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving personnel issues, including but not limited to, the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or discipline of any public officer or employee, and specifically: Superintendent Contract.
- Matters involving quasi-judicial deliberations, and specifically: _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board ~~will~~ will not return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

The Board returned to virtual public session at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Bart shared Ms. Thornton from the New Jersey School Boards was supposed to be here for Board Professional Development however, she does not have power and is unable to join us. Mr. Bart noted she will be rescheduled.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. McGann wished Ms. Thornton all the best and everyone in our Flemington-Raritan district, community members and anyone who does not have power. We hope everyone is safe and the power is restored soon. She added we look forward to having Ms. Thornton back in the very near future to be able to participate with the Board.

Dr. McGann & Mr. Bland gave an extensive detailed presentation on the School Reopening: Returning with Confidence Plan, as attached and noted the slides will be available on the website tomorrow. Dr. McGann noted anyone with questions, to email them to FAQquestions@frsd.k12.nj.us. She noted we will try to answer your questions as quickly as we can.

Dr. McGann thanked the parents for giving her a quick turnaround on the survey. The parents that did not fill out the survey were told their child would be placed in a hybrid schedule. She asked that parents who were not able to submit the survey because of the loss of power to please reach out to your child's Principal or to Dr. McGann if you do not want your child to be hybrid. Mr. Bland shared there were a number of parents who filled out the survey twice and that the 2,947 total responses may not be correct. Dr. McGann added even though that number maybe be off, about a 1/3 of our families are choosing an all remote virtual academy option. Dr. McGann asked the Board if they had any questions. Mr. Bart thanked Dr. McGann and Mr. Bland for the presentation. Mr. Bart asked about the rescheduling in September, he asked what professional development are we specifically bringing to our staff so that we have them prepared for the hybrid and the virtual academy. Dr. McGann noted the teachers need support with zoom, understanding how to use their breakout zooms. Dr. McGann noted the other is about the special announcement she has regarding what is on the agenda tonight about our partnership with the National Education Foundation so there will be some professional development helping teachers with a new platform to support math and reading with an online option. Mr. Bland noted we will be using the time for a district meeting virtual or principal's have a variety of activities they need to provide training in safety and security which is our mandated training. He noted we will be asking all our teachers to prepare emergency substitute plans at the very beginning of the year so that in the event of an absence there will be a continuity to instruction. Mr. Bland noted since we cannot have traditional faculty meetings we are relying on SafeSchools to deliver a variety of different training, including training on the signs and symptoms of COVID awareness, social distancing and wearing a mask. The supervisors will have grade level meetings as necessary. We want every teacher to understand how to use Seesaw and how to use Google Classroom in break out groups. We are asking teachers in grades 3 to 8 to post all of their assignments in a single platform being google classroom, most of our teachers already do that. At the lower grade levels we will use Seesaw as the primary learning platform. He noted video tape training as well as school clinics will be during this time period. Dr. McGann added the teachers need time in their classrooms, they left in March and in the elementary grades there are shamrocks and leprechauns. Mr. Bart asked if the staff schedule has been shared with the Department of Education. Dr. McGann stated she will send a letter tomorrow and yes, samples have been sent to the Department of Education. Mr. Bland noted changes were made to the schedule an hour before this meeting. He noted they are working extremely hard to address concerns that are being raised. We want to make this the best experience for students and staff and welcome the feedback. Mr. Bart is concerned about the regression of math and that it is on one week and not the other. He asked what is the research, what is the philosophy that went into making this decision? Dr. McGann stated the biggest thing that went in this was keeping students safe. We spoke about not commingling students, we are working with the Curriculum Committee on achieving an award for a grant from the National Education Foundation that is on our agenda tonight, that will provide a learning platform to support students learning math and reading. Mr. Bland noted there is no research finding teaching math every other week is good. He stated this is a matter of necessity more than preference or research. We do have a good program in place at the lower grade levels called Freckle and this adapts to the lower grade students. He is hoping the teachers use the adaptive program Freckle during the week the students do not have math. Mr. Bart noted consistency matters and asked if the district can require teachers to do that. Mr. Bland noted lesson templates will be created for each grade i.e. ELA, math, science and social studies. Teachers will not be required to follow it so not to decrease their creativity, but we are going to give them a road map to assist them. Ms. Mitcheltree asked if K-4 Intervention groups are Related Arts and Physical Education, or are the 30 minutes for reading and math? Mr. Bland noted student support teachers will be utilized. The in person classes will be smaller; it mitigates the need for some of our student support. Dr. McGann noted supplies are being delivered all the time for our schools to open. Ms. Mitcheltree asked about the extension activities for the kids the week they are home is it the same classroom teacher. Dr. McGann noted it will be their classroom teacher. Ms. Mitcheltree asked about getting through the Curriculum this year. Dr. McGann noted they will try, however, it is very challenging. Mr. Cain needed to know the impact on kids seeing teachers every other week with reading and mathematics. Mr. Cain asked if we were looking at K-4 Freckle to make up that difference. Mr. Bland stated he is not entirely sure and gave a detailed explanation. Mr. Cain asked what is our mitigation strategy for mathematics. Mr. Bland noted for mathematics it is going to be various math assignments during the off week, the use of the computer programs that have been mentioned. Mr. Cain understands there is some ambiguity about what detail needs to be approved by the County in the plan. Do you believe it is possible for us to approve a plan like this tonight and make changes to the schedule at that level of detail without having to go back to the County.

Dr. McGann stated yes and we did it all already with the closing plan so the Board approved the closing plan and it was constantly revised, so yes they can be revised and yes I believe the Board should be doing that. Mr. Cain asked about Gifted and Talented and the Stretch program, when will that be starting? Mr. Bland stated the G&T program will continue with the same students who were in the program last year. Mr. Cain asked if this will be in person or virtually. Mr. Bland noted they are not sure yet at this time. Dr. McGann noted she continues to receive feedback and will take this all into consideration. Ms. Abbott asked if this was the last time it will be coming before the Board to vote. Dr. McGann stated yes. Dr. Kenny asked about shooting and fire drills. Dr. McGann stated our two Safety Specialists who are Vice Principals just went to a training on this from the New Jersey Department of Education.

They noted it looks like the Department of Education is adjusting the drills and they are suspended for now. Dr. Kenny asked if the fire alarms go off, will the students leave the building. Dr. McGann said yes but we are excused from drills.

Mr. Bart stated we are moving to the questions and answer period now. Mr. Bart asked the following questions.

Ms. Temple wanted to know why K-4 seems there is less virtual instruction time than vs. in class instruction time? Mr. Bland stated it is a little less, K-4 has 4 hours of screen time and in person is 6 hours at the K-4 level we are also concerned about the amount of screen time that the students are going to have as well. The decision was made at the lower grade levels to run a more abbreviated day.

Will there be a tutorial period available to all virtual students during week A? Dr. McGann is working on this and the support for not only the students but the parents as well. Mr. Bland noted tutorial periods are grades 5-8. He noted K-4 is a foundations lesson that only occurs for K-4 during one week at the 5-7 level; we have tutorials both weeks.

Will virtual classes have a normal student to teacher ratio? Mr. Bland stated yes. Dr. McGann stated, traditional 2:1.

Are you planning to share tonight's slides with the public? Dr. McGann stated it will be uploaded tomorrow.

Why are we using Zoom instead of Google meet? Dr. McGann stated we do not want to lose any instructional time with our teachers and our students. Our teachers know how to use Zoom. They have been using it now for months. We are not going to learn a new platform at this time when they have so many other things they are trying to work through. Dr. Bland explained that if the technology department turns on Google Meet it is on for all students at all times and that might be a SIPA violation because we have no way of monitoring what the students would be chatting about during the video conference. It would also be unsupervised if they elected to go on and do a google meet outside of school hours. We have to comply with SIPA and COPPA. They expressed concerns about not being able to adequately monitor what the students are doing on that platform.

What if the Governor moves us to a complete virtual plan, does the entire district move the virtual academy mode or do we have a different plan in that situation? Dr. McGann stated they do not have a plan yet. Mr. Bart stated theoretically we could move to 100%, we did it in March. Dr. McGann agreed. Mr. Bland noted K-4 will not change, 5-8 is complicated.

When will ESL services be provided? Mr. Bland stated the student needs virtual or as a pull out. Dr. McGann will answer the rest of questions and answers and chats in email.

Mrs. Bart asked, if we are definitely going to be using Zoom. Dr. McGann stated our video lessons will be through Zoom.

CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD

Mr. Bart read the following statement regarding public comment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(a), the Open Public Meetings Act. Members of the public are invited to address the Board according to the Board's policy and bylaws. Please be aware that this portion is your opportunity to comment, and is not a forum for the Board to respond to your comments. However, the Board will certainly give all comments appropriate consideration.

Mr. Bart noted the Citizens Address the Board will be 30 minutes, with a 3 minute rule per citizen. Mrs. Bart volunteered to keep track of the 3 minute time limit.

Sue Vala, FREA President and teacher, represents 370 members. She stated every educator in Flemington-Raritan believes teaching students in person is the preferred way, however, the health and safety of the students, staff and their families must become our first priority. We have seen the final reopening plan and we formed a work group to review the document. We will be in touch with Dr. McGann to discuss our concerns regarding health and safety. She was happy to hear that some of the PPE has been delivered and the district plan is extensive, but we are concerned that if the PPE does not arrive in time what will be the back up plan. She wants a contingency plan to open up the schools 100% virtually in the event we do not have the PPE. She is concerned about the HVAC issues and air quality. She stated that we would like assurances and proof of testing of our systems to feel safe. We are worried about the amount of staffing and will we have enough substitutes. The state reinfections rate is 1.3, we know that Hunterdons rate is lower but it is still over the recommended rate of 1. The opening of schools should be based on science and not a date on the calendar.

Kevin Pfluge, teacher, personally feels that the opening plan is inadequate. It does not safely protect the school community as well as their families. Why would we risk exposing students and their families to this virus by gathering in groups larger than ones many of us have been avoiding. He worries about teaching in an indoor environment in a building with documented air quality and issues with mold with temperatures reaching unmanageable levels before this. What about transportation, are the safeguard enough? Staff worry about teaching. Is it a risk we are willing to take?

Kelly Flanagan, teacher, a program called donorchoose.org an organization that will supply students and teachers with their needs. She wants to encourage the Board and the District to reconsider our use of this site which is specifically for raising funds for educational purposes. 100% of the proceeds go to that as this was spoken about once before. Dr. McGann asked Ms. Flanagan to send her an email. Dr. McGann noted she knows donorschoose well, She partnered with them before with another company.

Sarah Milheim, parent, thanked the district and Dr. McGann. She wants to know if we will be doing COVID-19 testing for the kids? She asked how we are going to differentiate between the common cold and not feeling well and COVID. She stated it's not always COVID.

Nydia Peake, teacher, how are the Gifted and Talented being accessed and identified for our students who are in need of bilingual and ESL services. Dr. McGann stated we spoke about this earlier and will follow up.

PERSONNEL

The next meeting will be August 11, 2020.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL:

All Personnel items were approved under one motion made by Ms. Mitcheltree, seconded by Mrs. Bart.

Certified Staff – Appointments, Resignations & Leaves of Absence

1. Approval was given to appoint Jessica Braynor as the HIB coordinator for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. Approval was given to accept the resignation of the following staff member(s) for the 2020-2021 school year, as follows:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Position | Purpose | Effective Date |
|------|-----------|------------|------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Maiorana | Laura | FAD | Grade 4 | Resignation | September 25, 2020 |
| 2. | Riggins | Marisa | SS | Behaviorist | Resignation | September 25, 2020 |

3. Approval was given to transfer the following staff member(s) for the 2020-2021 school year, as follows:

| | Staff Member | | Current Position | | Transfer Position | |
|------|--------------|------------|------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Position | Loc. | Position |
| 1. | Robison | Kelly | FAD | Grade 3 | FAD | Grade 4 |

4. Approval was given to employ the following staff member(s) for the 2020-2021 school year, pending certification, fingerprints, background check, and health exam, as follows:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Position | Salary/Degree/Step | Effective Dates | Certification/College |
|------|------------|------------|------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | McClymont | Kaitlyn | SS | Social Worker | \$60,935/MA/1 | September 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 | School Social Worker/Rutgers University |
| 2. | Principato | Gabrielle | FAD | Grade 3 | \$56,535/BA/1 | September 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 | Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6/Rowan University |
| 3. | Rizk | Mary | SS | School Psychologist | \$68,735 (prorated)/MA+30/8 | October 7, 2020* - June 30, 2021 | School Psychologist/City University of New York, Queens College, Roberts Wesleyan College |
| 4. | Smith | Lauren | SS | School Psychologist | \$61,984/MA+30/4 | September 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 | School Psychologist/Rowan University, Georgian Court University |

*Start day may be adjusted based on release from prior district

5. Approval was given to amend the May 26, 2020 agenda:

for the following staff member(s) to take a leave of absence during the 2020-2021 school year, as follows:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Position | Type of Leave | Leave | Anticipated Dates |
|------|-----------|------------|------|----------|---------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. | Rogowski | Lauren | BS | Grade 4 | Maternity | Disability | October 5, 2020 - October 30, 2020 |
| | | | | | | FMLA | October 31, 2020 - January 29, 2021 |

to read:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Position | Type of Leave | Leave | Anticipated Dates |
|------|-----------|------------|------|----------|---------------|------------|--|
| 3. | Rogowski | Lauren | BS | Grade 4 | Maternity | FFCRA | September 1, 2020 - September 14, 2020 |
| | | | | | | Disability | September 15, 2020 - October 23, 2020 |
| | | | | | | FMLA | October 24, 2020 - January 15, 2021 |

6. Approval was given to amend the July 27, 2020 motion:

to employ the following leave replacement(s) for the 2020-2021 school year, pending certification, fingerprints, background check and health exam, as follows:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Position/ Replacing | Effective Date | Salary/Degree/ Step | Certification/College |
|------|-----------|------------|------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 3. | Santiago | Melissa | BS | Grade 4/Lauren Rogowski | October 1, 2020 - February 1, 2021 | Sub Per Diem Rate Days 1-60 \$56,535 (prorated) / BA/1 (day 61+) | Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6 (CEAS Pending)/Rider University |

to read:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Position/ Replacing | Effective Date | Salary/Degree/ Step | Certification/College |
|------|-----------|------------|------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 3. | Santiago | Melissa | BS | Grade 4/Lauren Rogowski | September 1, 2020 - January 19, 2021 | Sub Per Diem Rate Days 1-60 | Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6 (CEAS Pending)/Rider University |
| | | | | | | \$56,535 (prorated) / BA/1 (day 61+) | |

7. Approval was given to amend the July 27, 2020 motion:

to accept the resignation of the following staff member(s) for the 2020-2021 school year, as follows:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Position | Purpose | Effective Date |
|------|-----------|------------|------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 2. | Arroyo | Ashley | RFIS | 10-Month Vice Principal | Resignation | September 18, 2020 |

to read:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Position | Purpose | Effective Date |
|------|-----------|------------|------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 2. | Arroyo | Ashley | RFIS | 10-Month Vice Principal | Resignation | July 31, 2020 |

All Staff – Additional Compensation

8. Approval was given to confirm the employment of the following staff member(s) for extra compensation during the 2020-2021 school year, to provide certain in-person and/or remote, required services, as follows:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Purpose | Max # of Hours | Rate |
|------|-------------|------------|------|--|------------------|--------|
| 1. | Mastroianni | Christina | CH | Summer IEP Meetings-General Ed Teacher | 120 Shared Hours | Hourly |

9. Approval was given to employ the following staff member(s) for extra compensation to assist RFIS in virtual student connections, enrollment of new students, student scheduling, and preparation of resources for staff and students for return to campus during the 2020-2021 school year, as follows:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Purpose | Max # of Hours | Rate |
|------|-----------------|------------|------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| 1. | Albanese | Heather | RFIS | Return to campus preparations | 120 Shared | Hourly |
| 2. | Brennan | Elizabeth | RFIS | Return to campus preparations | | |
| 3. | Doty | Kristine | RFIS | Return to campus preparations | | |
| 4. | John | Lindsay | RFIS | Return to campus preparations | | |
| 5. | Marsh | Aileen | RFIS | Return to campus preparations | | |
| 6. | Jill (Courtney) | Moscowitz | RFIS | Return to campus preparations | | |

10. Approval was given to amend the August 6, 2020 motion:

to employ the following staff member(s) for the 2020-2021 school year, pending certification, fingerprints, background check, and health exam, as follows:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Position | Salary/Degree/Step | Effective Dates | Certification/College |
|------|-----------|------------|------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | McClymont | Kaitlyn | SS | Social Worker | \$60,935/MA/1 | September 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 | School Social Worker/Rutgers University |
| 3. | Smith | Lauren | SS | School Psychologist | \$61,984/MA+30/4 | September 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 | School Psychologist/Rowan University, Georgian Court University |

to read:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Position | Salary/Degree/Step | Effective Dates | Certification/College |
|------|-----------|------------|------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | McClymont | Kaitlyn | SS | Social Worker | \$59,835/MA/1 | September 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 | School Social Worker/Rutgers University |
| 3. | Smith | Lauren | SS | School Psychologist | \$64,215/MA+30/6 | September 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 | School Psychologist/Rowan University, Georgian Court University |

*Start day may be adjusted based on release from prior district

11. Approval was given to confirm the employment of the following staff member(s) upon the appropriate re-opening of school and commencement of the face-to-face delivery of special education and related services, to provide certain in-person and/or remote, required services between July 1 - August 31, 2020, including without limit those required for: IEP Team meetings, testing/evaluation and reporting services, and the completion of legal and scheduling requirements, not to exceed the combined, contractually-approved 120 hours per employee, to be paid at the employee's contractual, hourly rate, as follows:

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Position | Max # of Hours | Rate |
|------|-----------|------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------|
| 1. | McClymont | Kaitlyn | Social Worker | Shared 1,680 hours | Hourly |
| 2. | Rizk | Mary | School Psychologist | | |
| 3. | Smith | Lauren | School Psychologist | | |

Mr. Cain asked about the shared hours. Mr. Bart stated the shared hours under #9 are to support the Principal at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School both Vice Principals have finished working. Dr. McGann noted that this is correct, there are no Vice Principals at RFIS. She noted Dr. DeMarco needs some help for all the work that needs to happen to reopen the building. Mr. Cain shared the hours are 1,680. Mr. Abbott stated Mr. Cain is looking at the addendum #11. Mr. Bart asked Dr. McGann about the shared hours under #11, 1,680. Mr. Bart asked if these are shared with other employees. Dr. McGann said yes they are. These are just 3 new additional employees. Mr. Cain shared his support of the Principal at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School without both Vice Principals.

Aye: Ms. Abbott Ms. Markowski **Nay: 0** **Abstain: 0**
 Mr. Cain Ms. Mitcheltree
 Mrs. Bart Mr. Morgan
 Dr. Kenny Mr. Bart

CURRICULUM, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, ASSESSMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND GRANTS

The next meeting will be August 12, 2020

The Curriculum item was approved under one motion made by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Cain.

1. Approval was given to employ the following Genesis support consultant(s) during the 2020-2021 school year.

| Item | Consultant | Location | Purpose | Cost not to exceed |
|------|---------------|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Steve Falcone | District | Develop Grade 5 Report Card | \$495 |

2. Approval was given to employ the following staff member(s), or their alternate(s), for additional compensation during the 2020-2021 school year. If alternates are necessary, their employment will be confirmed as replacements at no additional cost.

| Item | Last Name | First Name | Loc. | Purpose | Max. # of Hours | Rate |
|------|------------|-------------|--------|--|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. | Dmitrenko | Irina | CH | ESL Eligibility Screening | 5 hrs. | Hourly |
| 2. | Flavin | Patricia | CH/RH | Grades 3-4 Computer Curriculum Committee | 20 shared hrs. | \$33.78/hr. |
| 3. | Hutchinson | Lisa | CH | | | |
| 4. | Truncale | Christopher | BS/FAD | | | |
| 5. | Vaccarino | Katie | BS | | | |

3. Approval was given to submit a preliminary application for the 2020 NJDOE Bridging the Digital Divide Grant with a maximum allocation amount of \$105,076.

Aye: Ms. Abbott Ms. Markowski **Nay: 0** **Abstain: 0**
 Mrs. Bart Ms. Mitcheltree
 Mr. Cain Mr. Morgan
 Dr. Kenny Mr. Bart

FACILITIES/OPERATIONS/SECURITY

The next meeting will be August 11, 2020

TRANSPORTATION

The next meeting will be September 8, 2020.

Mrs. Bart noted there will be a meeting before September 8th.

FINANCE

The next meeting will be August 13, 2020.

POLICY

The next meeting will be August 13, 2020.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The next meeting will be August 12, 2020

Dr. McGann noted there are no reports under these Committees as they just met.

MISCELLANEOUS(INFORMATION/ACTION)

All Miscellaneous/Action items were approved under one motion made by Mr. Cain, seconded by Ms. Abbott.

Action Items

1. Approval was given to adopt the attached, revised 2020-2021 District Calendar, which reflects the following changes:
 - o September 1: Closed for all staff and students
 - o September 2-4: Teacher In Service Days
 - o September 8: First Day of School for Students
 - o March 8: School in session for students and staff
 - o May 28: School in session for students and staff
 - o Contingency Days in order: April 12; and if needed, then, April 9, 8, 7, 6, and 5.
 - o At this time, all school days are Early Release Days for students.
2. Approval was given for the Returning with Confidence: A School Reopening Preparedness Plan, as attached.
3. Approval was given to accept the National Education Foundation (NEF) STEM Promotion Award for STEM + Academy Total System Solutions (“SATSS”) to serve students in grades 5-8 at a value of \$195,025.00, as attached.

Dr. McGann noted this is the award that she spoke about earlier. She had hoped to have Dr. Todd Ullah from the University of California on tonight, but he could not make it. She noted we received a grant award in the amount of \$195,025 to support our students in grades 5-8 for STEM plus Academy Total Systems Solutions and you will hear us refer to this as Tess Maker. This is a great win for Flemington-Raritan with our all virtual and our hybrid schedules. Dr. McGann stated she is very proud of our Curriculum Department and our STEM leaders with Ms. Wolff and Mr. Losanno as well as herself to achieve this grant for Flemington-Raritan.

Mr. Bart thanked Dr. McGann and stated it is a wonderful addition to what we can offer students and another reminder of why our STEM network and the work Dr. McGann does in STEM makes a difference for Flemington-Raritan. Mr. Cain congratulated Dr. McGann on winning this award and is encouraged by the quality of planning that you have put into measuring the success in the program, so that we can understand what it does for our students. Mr. Cain thanked Dr. McGann and her team. Dr. McGann noted she hopes Dr. Ullah will join us in the future.

Mr. Cain noted he will vote yes to the reopening plan after much reflection. He noted he shares Mr. Pfluge’s health and safety concerns. He understands the Governors order to open schools and feels Dr. McGann and her team have, with the support of the community, everything possible to maximize health and safety for students, staff and families. He is appreciative of this. He has concerns regarding some of the educational aspects and is encouraged to hear that they are still being worked on.

Mrs. Bart noted it is a shame that we did not get guidance from the Governor when it was needed. She noted they provided ventilators to everyone and she wished the Government would do more for the schools and their needs. Mrs. Bart noted she is in support of the opening, but is concerned.

Dr. Kenny thanked Dr, McGann, all the team members, Principals and everyone for their hard work. She agrees that this is a hard vote. She shared as a health care professional she feels that what we are doing is the best we can and she supports the vote.

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Aye: | Ms. Abbott | Ms. Markowski | Nay: 0 | Abstain: 0 |
| | Mrs. Bart | Ms. Mitcheltree | | |
| | Mr. Cain | Mr. Morgan | | |
| | Dr. Kenny | Mr. Bart | | |

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Abbott shared that she received two emails supporting the library clerks and a thank you to the Board for the time and dedication during this time. We received a question from a constituent regarding meeting minutes and the process of posting them and timing. Dr. McGann responded. The Board responded back to the Library Clerk emails and the note of thanks we received. We were carbon copied on a community members email to Dr. McGann regarding teacher involvement in the reopening plan and asking how much teacher involvement there was. Dr. McGann replied to that person. We received questions from a staff member on reopening and Dr. McGann replied and will add those same questions to our FAQs and we received a thank you note from Ms. Persche for considering her for the Board position. Ms. Persche also congratulated Ms. Rosengarden.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Markowski updated the Board on the County Meeting she attended virtually between Somerset and Hunterdon Counties. She noted they spoke mostly about what the topics will be during the year and waiting to see what happens. She reminded the Board to let Ms. Voorhees or Ms. Benz know if they will be attending the Virtual NJSBA Convention in October. She noted NJSBA has information on ordering PPE's, so if we have trouble getting things we can contact them. She asked that we utilize their site. She noted they have a lot of great ideas and news. She noted Ms. Thornton was at the virtual meeting and advised us to be prepared for updates. Mr. Bart asked Ms. Markowski to keep an eye on our Board Meeting schedule and find another opportunity to bring Ms. Thornton in, maybe in September.

Mr. Bart reminded the Board they discussed trying to have a hybrid Board meeting on August 24th. He noted we do not have all the details but we will communicate with the Board in public. He noted this has never been done before and they are looking into it. The intention is to have some Board members live at J.P. Case and the public because of the indoor spacing issues the public will come in on the virtual piece of that meeting because we have not done it before. We will have all the functions of the agenda available. Dr. McGann noted we have to adhere to the Governor's new order reducing the number of people. Mr. Bart explained it will give the Board Members the opportunity to join the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Bart noted Ms. Abbott distributed a document to the Board that explains what it will look like.

CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD

Mr. Bart read the following statement regarding public comment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(a), the Open Public Meetings Act. Members of the public are invited to address the Board according to the Board's policy and bylaws. Please be aware that this portion is your opportunity to comment, and is not a forum for the Board to respond to your comments. However, the Board will certainly give all comments appropriate consideration.

Sue Vala, FREA President, thanked Dr. McGann, Mr. Bland and the Board for the detailed plan. She noted she heard in the Board's voices the hard decision it was when the Board Members voted on the plan and that was very powerful. She could tell the Board is just as worried as we are. She is hopeful that if things shift that you will do what is necessary to keep all of us safe. She thanked everyone for their deliberation and the thought that was put into this plan.

Kristen Boyce, Borough, thanked Dr. McGann, Mr. Bland and the Board for their time spent on the plan. She asked if the numbers continue to rise and Governor Murphy does not give us the option to go all virtual, will you make the decision to go all virtual against the Governor and what would the ramifications be.

Melissa Hoffmann, teacher, wanted to thank everyone for the online platforms and things we need to do. She is relieved to know there will be training for those 3 days and the time you are giving the teachers in the schedule to meet with other staff members and to be able to coordinate what we are doing. She is very appreciative.

Sherill DeGenova, teacher, Borough, thanked everyone. She is concerned that Special Education has not been part of any of the meetings or has had someone on the Committee. She stated those are my people. She shared she would hear when questions came up regarding Special Education, she would hear, we will discuss that later. She noted G&T & General Education was talked about, however, special education is almost 30%. She asked that they not be forgotten. She is concerned with many of their students who are at great risk because of comorbid health issues, behavior, etc.

Liz Gardner, teacher, thanked everyone for all their hard work this summer. She noted that there are co-taught math classes in grades 5-8. She asked what a co-taught class looks like when you cannot have two adults in the room and what does that mean when we are virtual.

Mr. Bart thanked Ms. Benz for supporting the Board tonight, Mr. Losanno for bringing citizens in and out of the meeting. Ms. D'Anella for joining us from Comegno Law and Dr. McGann and Mr. Bland for their presentation.

ADJOURN

On the motion of Ms. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Markowski the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m. viva voce.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Benz
Administrative Secretary/District Notary

2020 Board Meetings

August 24
September 14 & 29
October 12 & 26
November 9 & 23
December 14