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Michael Tuttle
President
Board of Education

Transcript of Board of Education Meeting dated May 7, 2020

Michael Tuttle

So we'll call the meeting to order could we stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, please.

All Members

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all. All right. Thank you everybody for joining tonight. Looks like we probably have about maybe eight or ten callers on the line as well. Let's start. Can we, is there a motion to approve the president agenda?

Shelley Palmer

So moved.

Chris Olsen

Second.

Michael Tuttle

Chris second. Thank you, all in favor of approving the present agenda. Say aye.

Michael Hiser

Aye

Chris Olsen

Aye

Sherri Gibson

Aye

Shelley Palmer

Aye

Daniel Grandinetti

Aye

Michael Tuttle



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I forgot to tell everybody turn off, take off your unmutes. Okay, it's Aye for me as well. Looks like Chuck it is off.

Michael Tuttle

They are great Chuck. Good evening. Okay, so let's move into the reports. We have one report tonight that is on the budget update. So I will turn it over to Mr. Chevrier.

Jason Chevrier

Yes, well good evening. It's nice to see everybody again. That was probably the smoothest motion and acceptance of a motion since we've been doing video conferencing by the way, so that's what happens. Everybody gets good at this. So this evening, I'm going to give you an update and I want to talk to you a little bit about the changes that have started I, I'm assuming everybody can see my screen. I can't see you and see my screen at the same time. I can only see what I'm presenting. So Mr. Tuttle, can you just confirm that you can see the screen? Ok, I'm assuming that's a yes? Can't see if I don't.

Chris Olsen

{garbled}

Michael Tuttle

{garbled}...my cell phone I would answer you,

Jason Chevrier

Okay.

Michael Tuttle

I can't seem to figure that out.

Jason Chevrier

All right. Sorry about that.

Michael Tuttle

Looks like everybody can see it from what I can tell.

Jason Chevrier

Yeah, okay. So I wanted to give you an update on school closure, budget vote, and elections. We received a lot of information last Friday, so we are going to go through just a few pieces of information here to keep the board up to date and let you know where we stand with regard to do our school budget. So we're going to talk about the closure update, the school budget vote timeline, some considerations and implications of the Timeline, and then I want to talk about reimagining schools. You



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might have heard the governor talk about that a little bit. I want to discuss that a little bit with the board this evening. So this about a week ago this past Friday May 1st. The governor came on, he ordered all schools closed for the duration of the academic school year. The governor made it very clear in his message that we are to continue to provide certain services to our students and to our community. So we are required to continue to provide virtual instruction. We were ordered to continue to provide meals to students, breakfast and lunch, and as of today we are serving approximately about one hundred breakfasts and one hundred lunches per day. We do also as a reminder, we do feed students over the weekend. So on that Friday pickup tomorrow not only will they get breakfast and lunch for tomorrow, but we will do breakfast and lunch pick up for tomorrow, Saturday, Sunday, and breakfast for Monday morning. We are continuing to do childcare. I didn't list that on here. All schools are still required to do that. If you recall we did partner with YMCA, which was, that was a great partnership with another community based organization to help provide child care, and those plans are still available to essential workers and the application and link is still on our website to do that. In addition. Now that we know school is closed for the duration of the year. We have been talking about certain events at school. So obviously we've talked a lot about our senior class the class of 2020. Um, and as they went home in March, they've watched seemingly every meaningful rite of passage event that most kids get to participate in in their senior year disappear in front of their eyes. So we have been waiting and have kind of clung onto every little bit of hope to try to see if the time would turn, we'd be ordered back to school and then we could try to put some kind of in-person events together for our class of 2020. Now that we know School is closed for the rest of the year it allows us to really kind of move forward full steam ahead with planning for some recognition events for the class of 2020. So the big one being graduation, we want to you know, I'm not going to give you a lot of details about that tonight, but I can tell you we have talked about it just about every day for the last week and a half. We've been talking about it prior to that but it's been a topic of conversation almost every day this week and we are very close to being able to communicate with the parents of the class of 2020 and the students regarding what we intend to do for that event. So I'm very excited to give that information to students and parents, but we need to coordinate a few more things before we launch what will be happening there. In addition to the class of 2020. There are other significant milestones that take place over the duration of the year, our sixth graders move out of the elementary school and move up to the junior senior high school and we're working on transition recognition event for our grade 6 students, and our eighth graders who are seemingly moving out of the junior high school and into the senior high school. We want to make sure that we take an opportunity to recognize those students as well. So stay tuned there will be some more information coming out about how we transition those students, I had some conversation with James and his team down at the elementary school one group of folks that we certainly do not want to lose sight of in this entire process is our group of incoming kindergarteners. You know, we typically host events in the spring and we invite our Kindergarten students and their parents to come and be part of that. That and it helps ease some anxiety, helps the kids meet some people, some teachers and folks they would see around the school. Helps make that transition for them a little bit easier. In addition. We typically do our kindergarten screening which we are not able to do this year. So we've formulated a plan to stay connected to those parents will have school staff reaching out and making phone calls to



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those parents, and there is some planning of doing some virtual events with those students and some of their parents as well. So it also gives us the opportunity to really look at orientations for these groups of folks. So, you know, there's typically an orientation for grade 6 and their parents to talk to them about what expectations are like in the middle school. We recognize it's not only an important time for students, but it's also an important time for the parents and so Jody and Jacqui are working hard and they're team to put together some virtual events to orient to help support both kids and parents during these transitions. So the school closure is done a few things for us. Every couple of weeks, you know, you're kind of waiting for the next announcement, even though we all kind of had this feeling and this sense that schools would likely be closed for the duration of the year. As the governor kind of put it at two-week chunks three-week chunks where he's making those announcements it made it very hard for us to plan some of these things. At least now, it's a known, you know, we're very we're very sad and broken hearted for our senior class who you know when they left that day in March, they didn't realize it was the last time they really would be stepping foot in hallways of their high school, and that would be the last time that it would do that. I don't think any of us really thought that when we left in March. So, you know, there's some things in the works for our senior class and stay tuned to the website be watching on our website, and if you haven't seen it on social media, we've started highlighting, doing a senior spotlight and highlighting some things in there are some other things in the works that we will do to be celebrating and helping make the end of the year special for senior class. Let's talk a little bit about what happened right around dinner time on Friday is no better way for us to start the weekend, the long-awaited executive order from the governor that indicated timeline for the school budget vote and elections and how they would be handled. I will tell you that when this came out and we started to look at some of the language of the executive order there were lots of questions. So we have we have been in touch with the school district's attorney. We had some conversation there and you know through my channels with the Questar III BOCES and other superintendents we continue to talk about what was indicated in the order because we want to make sure we get it right and we've never really had to do anything like this before. So the date for the school budget vote and election has been identified as June 9th 2020, but the highlights really indicate that significant pieces {garbled} it's all done by absentee ballot only. There's no in person votes. There's a condensed timeline to meet the requirements. I think what's important to note is that if there are candidates that are interested in running for the board. There's usually a petition with signatures that is that are needed; that has been waived any interested candidate does not need to collect and reach required signatures. We need to, there is a link on our website for them to click the petition. They could fill out the nomination form. No need to get the signatures. They could fill that out. Send it to Shelli or reaching out to Shelli as the district clerk, and providing a statement to her that they have an interest in being a candidate in the upcoming election is all they need to do to get on the ballot. So in addition we have to do a postcard mailing which we've never really done before where we have to compile postcard with key dates and information on it. And that is actually at the printer as we speak. So been hard at work over the last few days trying to make sense out of the executive order. So, but what I wanted to do is kind of walk through a timeline, so I'm on the budget vote timeline slide and we as we take a look at the requirements when you look at this past Friday May 1st, the deadline for candidates to file nominations is May 11th, which is Monday. So



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there is a very short timeline for turnaround for anybody who is interested in running for the Board of Education to provide that notice. We have had a link up on the website. If you go onto the website, you take a look there's a Board of Ed. section right on the main landing page with a link to what you need to do to run for Board of Ed. May 12th, the first of two legal notices are due, May 15th, I put that date on here because we sat at our last board meeting and talked about our desire to adopt a budget tonight, recognizing we would need, and we're waiting on the financial information that is expected from New York State which has not come yet and actually through all my channels it has been very quiet. The only thing that we are hearing is when you watch the governor speak and you listen to what's coming out of Albany they do indicate that it's likely it'll come out on May 15th. Why does that become significant? Because we have yet to adopt our budget. You understand the reasons why we did at our last meeting. We presented a balanced budget to you. Those numbers haven't changed. We are sitting idle with our balanced budget where it lies. At the same time, we presented to you last we are just waiting on the financial information that's expected from New York State that becomes pretty significant because as you can see the next the next two dates May 21st is really the deadline for school boards to a budget. We do have a board meeting lined up for May 19th, which would have been our original budget vote. It is, we will be adopting a budget that night with the information that we have so that we can fall within the required time line. So my hope is that revenue information comes out from New York State on May 15th. Brian and I will be diligently working if it's through the weekend to put together information for all of you, and get something posted to our website so everybody can see what that is, answer any questions you might have, come back discuss it at the May 19th meeting, and have you approve and adopt the budget for next year. Not at all desirable, not really what we want to do and we want, you know, we would prefer thorough vetting and discussion of how we get to the numbers and my guess is we'll spend much of our time on the 19th talking about that. We'll spend a little more time and a bit talking a little bit about what the game plan is for that and how we will be anticipating less revenue in it. So jumping down to May 22nd, the property tax report card is due on the 22nd. The budget needs to be made available to the public and on the website by May 26th. On June 2nd, we will host our public budget hearing which is, usually we do our budget hearing and that's meet the candidates night. So if we have any members that are looking to run for the Board of Education, we will have them provide statements to folks that evening. June 3rd is the last day to mail the budget newsletter and then June 9th, we would need all absentee ballots, must be received by 5 p.m. on June 9th. So you can see the last piece of information I have their, June 9th or 10th. we're trying to work with legal counsel here. We recognize we have to count all these absentee ballots by hand and we truthfully don't know how many ballots were going to have to count. So it was first indicated that we might still need a board meeting on June 9th, but if we can't crack a ballot until 5 p.m. We're going to need time to count those ballots. So we're just waiting on guidance from legal counsel to see if it's possible to have a meeting on June 10th, which would give us obviously enough time that the next morning to count the ballots and then have the board accept the results on the 10th. We might need to do it on the 9th, I don't know yet. Waiting for guidance there. Some considerations, you know, I've talked a little bit about this already the current lack of revenue information from New York State is a real challenge and a frustration not only for us here in Schodack, please know that that is a feeling from every superintendent and every school board



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across the state of New York at the moment. We have talked about politics at play here and the likelihood that the governor is waiting until the last minute to see if there is any infusion of money in the next stimulus bill from the federal government that would come to State and local governments, which might impact his decision on the amount of revenue loss that schools would be facing. It's kind of a wait and see game and we are not quite sure when that information is going to come again. We're anticipating it next Friday. So the timeline that I just shared with you, to have that dropped on us last Friday and there have been a lot of nuances and logistics to figure out, and the budget vote when we have reached out to legal counsel for advice and guidance and we've had multiple questions going just about every day this week, you know, they have never done anything like this before either and are doing their best interpretation. So the school attorneys, the different School attorneys in our region are talking with one another about how to interpret the executive order, and there's, I will just say I don't think there's agreement across the board with the interpretation. So we are listening to our school attorney. We're taking advisement there and we're doing all the things that we need to do based on the attorneys guidance to make sure that we are hitting the mark as we move forward through this process. But, it is no small order and I do need to give credit to Shellie who has been working extremely hard since this information has come out and I think it's important to recognize that it's you know, it's put a different level of strain and pressure on her as well, as the district clerk, who's responsible for making sure these processes all hit the mark and we do what we need to do. So we've spent a lot of time together trying to work through this the last couple of days and we are a little concerned now about manpower. Usually at the as you know, we usually have a board meeting. We take recess from the board meeting we go down. They tally the budget votes we get the results. We come back up, we re-enter session we read the results. We accept them and we move on with the rest of our meeting. At this point, most of our poll clerks who come in and help us out and much like in other districts are senior citizens. It's kind of a population of folks that might not be overly comfortable coming together to count ballots. And so we're now looking at options of how we go about counting the ballots and making sure everything is done appropriately. We'll likely have to livestream our ballot opening kind of much like we're doing here except make it open and available to anybody who wants to log on and watch folks open ballots and count them. And we what we have found out is we need likely two individuals per table somebody to tally and somebody to check. So we are still learning and still moving forward and trying to plan appropriately so that we can again do this as efficiently as possible, but we want to make sure we're within the right legal perspective in terms of making sure we don't miss the mark anywhere. I think it's important to recognize cost. We weren't quite sure what the cost would be, but we do have to send you know an absentee ballot out to our voters, and so inside of that envelope not only is their postage on the outside but there's a postage-paid return envelope, there's cost for printing and envelopes and sorts of things that we're all scrambling. Every school district is now scrambling to the printer to try to make sure we can get our hands on envelopes, and we can get them appropriately. The absentee ballot does need to be printed a certain way and the ballot has to have even the envelope that the ballot goes in has to be printed a certain way with information on that. So had we had, you know, three weeks to do it not a big deal, but now everybody is scrambling to try to get those cards printed because that's a must, and really working to try to make sure that we can get all of our ballots printed in



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a timely fashion. And we're tracking the cost of what this will cost us. When we figure out what that is at the end of this process will be sure to let all you know, and again the time we're putting into it is it's incredible on top of the regular work that we continue to do, trying to figure out this process has been really interesting with very minimal guidance. If you've listened to the governor, one of one of the big things he came out with a Monday, you heard the governor talked about reimagining schools, and he mentioned Bill and Melinda Gates and working with the Gates Foundation. And you know, I will just share with you the overall message from the school community is not very warm and receptive to the governor's remarks. I sent the board an email probably, I don't know maybe an hour and a half or so before the meeting tonight, from the Rural Schools Association. If you have an opportunity, you should take a look and read through that letter that was written. I think it helps to find the problem very well. As you know, we are, we have been working incredibly hard to try to make the best sense of virtual learning and have kind of stepped up to the plate and done what I think is has been a remarkable job straying from the norm to make that a reality. Is it perfect absolutely not, you know, we continue to push professional development to try our best to support our teachers in terms of making virtual learning and virtual instruction as effective as it can possibly be and we recognize that there are impediments to our teachers as well. I don't know about all of you, but my Wi-Fi has frozen up a bunch of times today, you know, it's not overly stable some days it's better than others. We have folks with a whole different everybody has a different skill set and comfort level with it the integration of technology and let's be honest, a lot of our Educators have their own kids at home that they're trying to provide schooling to their own children at home as well. So, you know and when you take all of that into account, I think our folks have been remarkable job and the governor really indicated, he didn't come out and say hey great job teachers for doing this but now is the time to really look at changing teaching and changing the system of Education as it stands. And he really talked about the use of technology to do a bunch of things, you know to help with reduce the inequalities in education, and to break down barriers, and to have a teacher in one spot lecture to environments all over in different locations, and you know regardless of where you live, you can have access to really good teachers now right virtually because we can all do this virtually. And he said some things that that just kind of indicated that there might be some significant reform on his agenda out of this crisis, and so one of the things that all of our professional organizations are really keeping their ear to the ground on is, and we would certainly hope great talk to Bill and Melinda Gates all you would like to but we hope that the governor will have stakeholders from the field superintendents, teachers, parents, administrators, students, you know, get people who are currently in the system every day that live it every day do it for a living to be part of the team that talks about change. So stay tuned. It was you know, it's interesting the way that is being interpreted and received and there is some worry about that. SED has announced a K-12 task force that will involve stakeholders that I just mentioned superintendents, administrators, teachers, staff, and parents to really look at the reopening of schools in the fall. And so you know, what I think is an important for the board to consider this evening is, everything indicates, you know, all the indicators are really pointing to the fact that when we return to school in fall, in the fall, it's likely to not look like the school we left in March. You know, there's a very real possibility that social distancing considerations will need to be implemented and when we talk about what that means, you know for transportation



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and classrooms and cafeteria and when kids ask to go to the restroom, what do those things look like when we reopen school in the fall, the need for PPE equipment. The requirements were going to need to have for faculty and staff. What are we going to need to have available to students? What are we going to be required to provide as public schools? Will we, will we be able to you know get our hands on those for instance, and have those items ready and available for school in the fall. We already know how Athletics has potentially been impacted, but we do have to still consider what does that look like in the fall for our fall athletes who usually start in August. Are we going to be able to start and compete are we going to be able to do things like assemblies. We do our monthly morning assemblies down at the elementary school and we pack shoulder-to-shoulder all the kids sitting next to each other all the teachers in one room and a whole host of parent standing around the gym. Are we going to be able to do those things next year? We going to be able to take field trips and leave our general area? I had a meeting today with our music department who talked about All County and we are the school hosting All County band and chorus in the fall. And so I met with the teachers today, and we talked a little bit about of course if we can do it, we want to get life back to normal for these kids. So, of course we will host and we will do that. We had Matt be part of that meeting because Matt and his team will be required to do all sorts of things in terms of cleaning. But what are, are there going to be restrictions on events where we take kids from all over the county and you know, they come into our school building, are we going to be able to do that? Are we going to be able to do concerts, extracurricular activities and ceremonies where we invite large groups of people to come in and sit in our Auditorium and our ability to be able to do those things? We don't know. There is a real possibility, you know, when you think about volunteers and pick up and drop off at the elementary school, guest readers that come in to school. What do those things look like and what are the what are the guidance that are given to us as we consider reopening schools in the fall, and I would tell you I think there's a real possibility and I don't know this yet. It's my best guess but we talked about this, when the group of superintendents and our BOCES meets to have our regular meetings, you know, are we going to be forced to be looking at altered schedules for students? Whether it's a you know a much longer school day where we do AM and PM and or we have you know a group of kids in one day and then a different group of kids in the next day because we can't socially distance with 500 kids at the elementary school, but maybe we can socially distance with 250 of them in there. What does that look like for staff and needed support a lot of what if questions and we could what if it to death, but I want to give you a sense of the level of thinking and preparation that we are currently underway with now within the within the Questar III BOCES, we've had some discussion about the formulation of a reopening group, which would be comprised of a variety of folks from the different component school districts that would get together. I will let you know that I think we will certainly be doing that here. We will put together a reopening schools team to start to take a look at some of the considerations and the impacts of some of those, and trying to get everybody's best thinking moving forward. So be on the lookout for that that will be coming in the near future the K-12 task force will likely give us some guidance, but we will likely start to pull people to school to look at different areas that we will need to really kind of dive into and consider as we look to reopen in the fall. That is really part of that message is each day that goes by I truly think that school is going to look different in the fall. And I'm not sure we're going to be going back to school that looks the



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same way it did in March, potentially ever again with the way the governor is talking. I don't know that but I will tell you the challenge with the budget is we are budgeting for school the way we as we have always known school to be in the fall, with an expectation that school will be the way it is always been in the fall and we don't know that to be the case. We just need more information, which we don't behave at this time. So I've got to tell you it's challenging. There's no there's no doubt about it. We're really working hard to you know, keep everybody moving forward currently with where we are looking to provide high quality experiences for the kids to the best of our ability now that are missing out on some of those transitional events and important ceremonies. We want to take care of those kids. And at the same time we are tasked with looking at the future and what this might mean for not only education but really when you when you draw it in what it means for us here in Schodack as we look to start and open school actually in the fall. So a lot to think on and a lot to chew on but you know, the budgeting situation is a real Challenge and I say that only because we don't know one hundred percent what we're planning for at moment. Where were planning for school as it has always been so hang tight and I would ask for your patience certainly. And just know that you know, it's been a goal of mine since I took on my role and responsibilities here to at the request of the board to be open and transparent. We've worked very hard to develop a process that gives you enough time to process and chew on that information and to really make well-informed decisions around the budget. I will sit here with confidence and tell you I think we put you through a very good process again this year, but we were thrown a curveball that unlike anything we've ever seen before, and so we are doing our best to give you the information to communicate with our school Community because we owe it to people within our organization to treat our people right and to do the right thing by people within our organization and I don't know what to tell them yet. I have been very open and honest and talked about the significant revenue shortfall we're likely to see and I have shared with all of them that no, two ways about it. If we have a significant revenue shortfall, it impacts program. Every single person that is employed with the school district has an impact on students somehow whether in a makes no difference, if you know, I'm a custodian or a groundskeeper or if I'm a teaching assistant or a teacher or I'm an administrator, a school nurse, it makes no difference every person you identify works hard to help provide great experiences for our students, every single one of them. So we think and I shared with you once again, Maple Hill High School was identified as the third best in the capital region. Once again this year, you know, we know we pay a lot of taxes, we know that, but I think we the tradition and what we've been very proud of is we give you a significant return on your investment and we're very proud of the work that we do. We're proud of the people that do the work in the organization and the balance is trying to strike doing what's right by people and being able to plan effectively moving forward recognizing we're going to, we're going to be in a downturn here. We know programs are going to be impacted. We know programs mean people been very honest and upfront so I, I hate to be a downer. I don't mean to sound pessimistic. I am very much an optimist. We will get through this we do know it but it's going to get hard before it gets any easier. So the close with that and I'll turn it back over to you, Mr. Tuttle.

Michael Tuttle



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Thanks, Jason. Thanks for that. Thanks for um, it looks like there's a laundry list there. So you're thinking ahead and I think we appreciate that. Do any of the board members have any comments for the report that we just got? You can just unmute if you do. If not, I just wanted to point just a couple things out and get clarification. You said the absentee ballots that would go out that was mail in only correct?

Jason Chevrier

That's correct.

Michael Tuttle

Right, so there will be no drop offs. Nobody dropping off at the school. Just wanted to highlight that point and then to just highlight to the board that June 9th, June 10th that Mr. Chevrier was talking about as far as the budget vote happening that night. He's looking in to see whether we can do it the following day because if we can't and it's kind of iffy on because the board seats are voted on that evening. That could be a late meeting. I don't know how long it's going to take us to tally the amount of votes that come in but making the assumption that we might not be able to start that count till 5 p.m. Could be a few hours. So just hang tight on that and we'll come back to everybody with an update. And one final question, just um, I know you're going to come back to us on cost of this mailing, but you have a ballpark.

Jason Chevrier

It well it's changed as of today, if you think about every person who is eligible to vote we need to mail them one. That's a dollar per person. Brian, can you jump on I don't remember the cost of you know, when you think about the purchasing of envelopes and the printing and that sort of thing any ballpark I don't know that number?

Brian Carey

We don't have updated after the change of today, but previous to today it was about \$2,500 for the postage and printing, I'm sorry, for the envelopes and printing plus \$1.00 per envelope that is sent out, it's \$.50 going out, \$.50 to be returned. That number has dropped a little based on a recent interpretation by the lawyers, so we'll get that number out to the Board as soon as we have it buttoned up.

Michael Tuttle

Okay.

Jason Chevrier

Just to clarify that point I'd rather spend it on program and students, budget vote is important, but you know to have that dropped on you and to have to incur that expense, I don't know, it is a little tough to swallow last minute, but it is what it is and it's important, so we will make sure we get it done.



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Okay, if there are no other questions from board members doesn't look.

Daniel Grandinetti

Am I can I just can I just say something Mike?

Michael Tuttle

Yes, please Dan. Go ahead.

Daniel Grandinetti

Jason when you were mentioning what the governor was saying about educating kids this way and you mentioned the term inequality from what I'm viewing this from, this will increase inequality tremendously if we're going to educate kids this way this is, this is terrible for equality.

Jason Chevrier

Well, and if you listened, if you listened to the governor on Monday, he did talk about how do we get more technology into the hands of Educators and kids, you know that article I sent out to you earlier today, really kind of highlighted from the rural perspective, you know, there are some great inequalities in the rural perspective to there's not, there's there's still areas without broadband and you know internet access. We have pockets of our community that don't have access to that. So, you know our ability to you know, we are lucky we had you know a few households that needed support we were able to get them cellular hotspots and devices so that kids could do it and we have been a forward-thinking district for a long time the one-to-one Chromebook initiative that was started years ago. I'm not sure what we would have done had we just had banks of laptops for kids to sign out. So, you know the technology planning that had started well before me has paid off in dividends, but you're right Dan there are inequities all over the board, you know, and I think I don't want to try to make sense of what the governor says, but I think he looks at it as you know, when you have kids in urban environments potentially where you know, they struggle for access to high-quality teachers who tend to, you know, run to sub the suburbs and you get you know teachers that avoid the inner city environment being able to do virtual learning you have access to teachers where kids could access those teachers and that instruction and that might be what he's talking about, but I don't disagree with you at all. I think there's significant inequity that is occurring through virtual instruction.

Daniel Grandinetti

I would even argue that even what our district as good as we're doing. I would say most parents would rate a six out of ten if they were given a 10 before we started this process. It's just very difficult.

Jason Chevrier



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Michael Tuttle
President
Board of Education

I don't disagree with you. You know, I know it's not ideal and like, you know, I think we've said right from the get-go. Nothing is ever going to replace the quality of having those kids together in a room with high-quality teachers. You know, that's what's always made us special the culture of the building, the social interaction, the type of learning that takes place, you know, we have put a strong emphasis on education that is not done just by the individual. There's a lot of group work that takes place and social interaction and how do we create and build and do things together? Some of that can be done virtually but not all of it. And so you know now what I'm home with Mom and Dad, everybody is doing the best they can with what they're given, but I will tell you, you know, you can you can pick and choose for the most part. You know, I think we were ready to kind of hit the ground running and I think you know and again all of my colleagues across the board have worked incredibly hard to serve their communities and all the teachers have worked hard. I think we've been out ahead of it. I think we've been out in front of folks and I think we've done a really, really good job. And again is it Perfect, nope and I have no doubt there are people that would love to tell me what we could do to be doing it better. I have no doubt about that. There are a lot of factors at play here as opposed to you know, you have to take into consideration that maybe not everybody is certainly aware of but we've worked hard again and not only are we teaching kids. Remember we're feeding them. We've got a plan for childcare. There's all sorts of things that were doing that are kind of, you know, I'd like to think we're not a child care facility we are Educators and we educate kids and that's what we do. We provide high quality experiences for kids to learn. We do understand that parents can drop their kids off and leave them there, but we're not daycare providers. It's not what we do. So, you know to be able to figure those things out very quickly, get them operational, and get them moving, get all of our teachers on board, have you know, one point, one stop shopping for parents, the ability of teachers, the connections were making, the support that's being provided for kids. Not all of you are seeing that individually, but when I see it from my level and know the work that's going on where we have TAs that are calling kids every night at seven o'clock for some kids to check in. How's the work going today? How are we doing today? Is there anything I can help you with today? I care about you. I'm checking in on you. Make sure you get your work done. Like we're deploying our staff to stay connected to some of those kids, probably those kids, Dan, that you talked about that, you know, there is an equity issue here with some of our kids and some of our kids would be very quick to give up. And so we're leveraging the culture and the relationship that is so valuable and important to us here to put all of our folks at work and they're doing that. They're staying connected and providing a high level of support to some of our kids who really need it and it's not like traditional support. We don't really know, we're kind of figuring this out as we go too? Is it ideal, nope, I would tell you it's not we want all of our kids back in the classroom with their teachers. That's what we want, but we're not there, and so we continue to meet and talk and work and think about how we can {garbled} make it for all of our kids. So I'll stop talking now. Sorry, you got me got me amped up there Dan.

Michael Tuttle

Alright, let's go ahead and move into public comment at this time. So callers that are out there, if you would, if there's a comment you'd like to make, I believe it is * 6 to unmute your mic and then I'll call on



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you individually by your, your phone number. Okay, first caller up is 14. Is it just me or I'm not hearing? No, it sounds it sounds like we can't if you can hear us. I'm getting a lot of nods around on the videos. I don't you come in and very, very, very faint. Might be able to try to call back in and maybe the connection will work then. Just going to give them a second. Okay, that caller is the only, only person that's unmuted her unmuted their mic, so caller 14 do you want to try again?

Jason Chevrier

Mike maybe it is it possible that she could, oh, they're on the phone, I was going to suggest the comment box, but that won't work if we're calling in.

Michael Tuttle

Exactly. Yeah. All right, caller 14, I'm sorry, but we yeah, none of us seem to be able to hear you. So I don't think it's on our end. I see you've gone ahead and no it looks like they've come off. I'm going to give them one second to call back in and then we'll move on.

Jason Chevrier

14 is back.

Michael Tuttle

I see them back I was waiting from going to unmute the mic. 14, if you want to unmute your mic or unmute and go ahead you can. I think a little bit better. I barely heard you but I think you said hi.

+1 518-***-**14

{garbled} all right,

Michael Tuttle

We can hear you now.

+1 518-***-**14

Okay. I actually took my headphones off. Can you hear me ok? It's Mary?

Michael Tuttle

{garbled} is much better.

+1 518-***-**14

Great. Hi, everyone. That was terrific. Yeah, I do want to say a couple of things Mary Moser co-president of SFA, 8th grade special education. I do want to say that the support that the teachers have felt from the Administration has been tremendous. That it's recognized everywhere how hard they are working to support us and I think that has relieved a lot of the anxiousness and the anxiety that people were



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feeling about making sure that they were reaching the students, and I think that the Administration has worked a very nice system out where they're making sure that we are supported with students who we are having a hard time connecting with because we still have some of those, and that's the biggest worry I think for most teachers right now are the students who we are not connecting with and I know between Jodi and Jackie at the high school and I'm sure James and Keri in the elementary school and all the support staff. We're starting to reach a lot of the students. So we are super appreciative of that. That was my one comment. My second comment was that as a special educator, I cannot even begin to tell you the distress I felt at the governor's comments yesterday. I mean in special education, more than anything it is about the whole child. We, every child in our district is always whole child educated. That is how we do it here, but the thought of trying to even think about a virtual education of physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists for students with special needs is, is beyond the scope of anyone's imagination. So when our governor wants to reimagine education. I'm very, very wary about where this is going to be going and I know that hearing those comments that makes me know that my district is also very supportive of the fact that reimagining education virtually is, um, it has its place but it definitely would never have its place in special education on the whole. So that's my special education piece, and I've heard from some parents who are who are just, their just shocked about it because of the support that the parents themselves receive from the district and from special educators when they have a student who has special needs themselves. So anyhow, that's my comment on special education, and my last one is that I know I'm really old but we actually had Polio when I was in school, and so and we actually had kids who had polio and when the vaccine came out and students everyone became vaccinated. We only heard about it again years later when people stop doing some vaccinations and then that, then they had the booster shots. So, you know, I'm very hopeful that our brilliant minds are working hard on vaccines and that we won't have to reimagine education past the point of vaccinations in the near future. So that's all I have to add to that and I thank Jason very much for all the hard work he's done. It's been tremendous to know that we're all up-to-date in that he keeps us all really and truly updated on everything that's happening in our State. So, thank you Jason.

Jason Chevrier

Thanks, Mary.

+1 518-***-**14

All right.

Michael Tuttle

Mary, I appreciate those comments. It's good for the board to know as well that you guys are receiving all the support that you need.

+1 518-***-**14

I'm going I'm going to mute myself now.



Jason M. Chevrier
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Michael Tuttle

Thank you.

+1 518-***-**14

Which is something many people would like to do. All right.

Michael Tuttle

All right. I do not see there's not no other callers have unmuted. So I'm going to go ahead and close public comment and move into board discussion. Board members is there any anything anybody would like to discuss this evening? Any topics? It's looking like a no. All right no topics there. Jason you have anything for district updates? It sounds like we pretty much updated.

Jason Chevrier

Yeah, I just a couple of things really quick. I do want to just acknowledge. I want to thank Chuck, Town of Schodack, Matt, Rhonda and our whole host of volunteers that did the food drive last weekend, very successful food drive collected a bunch of food for The Anchor, was very much appreciated. It was great seeing folks great team effort between the town and the school district. It was just, it was an awesome event and a great day. I know Chuck was heavily involved in spearheading that so Chuck great work and thank you for looking out for us and getting us involved in that. That was awesome. Just wanted to let you know too that there are plans currently in the works. Now that we know school is closed for good that we will, building principals are working with Matt LaClair to arrange for opportunities to have all the items that belong to students gathered up and collected and distributed back to students and we are going to be looking for opportunities for teachers to come into the building to kind of pack up their classroom. What you are going to see probably in the next week or so is Matt's crew has been doing heavy cleaning. Now that we know school is out can really get after some of the other stuff that they need to do. By emptying out rooms and really kind of getting after like a typical summer clean that they would do. They've done deep cleaning of the buildings, but we've been anticipating students coming back. There's some painting and some other things that need to happen. So you're going to see those guys kind of come back to more regular shifts at work. That will likely happen as they empty rooms, paint, do all those things, and of course, they will stay safe and follow protocol and do all the things that they need to do. Do but we do need to get items out and teachers need to get in and kind of pack up their materials and rooms take stuff off of the wall. So you're going to see a little more activity in the upcoming weeks than you have probably seen if you've driven by the school buildings, but just know that that is what is occurring there and we still don't know today whether we're going to be able to host summer camps. So summer camps are still a question mark. My meeting with the county this past Wednesday, the health department said they're waiting from guidance from this the New York State Department of Health. If they deem summer camps as childcare, then they will be able to operate under strict guidelines, but right now typically summer camps are not considered child care, but if they are deemed that, they would be able to operate so we do need to be ready with Matt and his team to



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potentially work to have either the Town of Schodack Camp, I know there was some talk about whether that would operate or would not operate. I know the town is considering whether they're going to do that or not this year, but Castleton kids also runs a camp and there is a Maple Hill Sports Camp that operates. We've been in touch with those folks that run Maple Hill Sports Camp and you know, we have talked to them that if you do operate any kind of camp then you would need to, we would need to run it past the Rensselaer County Department of Health get a stamp of approval on what it is you're doing and you would have to make sure that you're following all the appropriate guidelines. So what I think they are going to do is actually send out a survey to parents to see if they did operate camp if their parents would still send their kids to see if there's enough interest. They don't want to set it up and arrange it and not have anybody attend. So we're not sure the communities level of comfort even with that just yet. So, but stay tuned. We'll keep you posted as we know a little bit more about that. That's it for me Mike.

Michael Tuttle

Okay, great. Thank you. Okay, I'd like to, is there a motion to move 6. A. through C., 7. A. and 8. A.

Michael Charsky

So moved.

Charles Peter

I'll second that.

Michael Tuttle

Thank you, that was Chuck. Shelli. Okay. So what we have here is in finance we have the treasurer's report, the claims auditor report, student activities report, we also have three donations to acknowledge, it would be Donna Hilbert's donation of time and materials to make masks for the District employees, Ann Zownir's \$40 donation to The Backpack Program and Leanna O'Grady's \$200 donation to The Backpack Program, and lastly is a approval of unpaid leave of absence for Alyssa Pryde for the remainder of the year. So all in favor of moving 6. A. through C., 7. A. and 8.A. could I have you unmute your mics now, please.

Daniel Grandinetti

Aye

Michael Tuttle

Okay, and if everyone could all those in favor, please say aye.

Michael Hiser

Aye



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Chris Olsen

Aye

Shelley Palmer

Aye

Sherri Gibson

Aye

Michael Tuttle

Aye

Charles Peter

Aye

Daniel Grandinetti

Aye

Michael Tuttle

Opposed, no and any abstentions, no. 8 aye Shelli, thank you motions past. At this time we'll go ahead and open up to public comment again. Anyone wishing to make a comment, please unmute. Okay, I don't see any, any phones unmuted, I'm going to go ahead and close public comment, and at this time, is there a motion to go into executive session to discuss two employee contracts and one employee evaluation.

Chris Olsen

I make a motion.

Michael Hiser

Second

Michael Tuttle

Thank you. Okay, all those in favor please, again, please unmute, all those in favor of moving into executive please say aye.

Chris Olsen

Aye

Michael Charsky



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Michael Tuttle
President
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Aye

Sherri Gibson

Aye

Michael Hiser

Aye

Shelley Palmer

Aye

Daniel Grandinetti

Aye

Michael Tuttle

Any opposed, any abstentions? Okay thank you everybody that is on, all board members, I sent you that email to go into executive session if you could sign out of this meeting and then sign in to the other session I'd appreciate that. For everybody else that joined thank you very much, all the caller's thank you for calling in and we will speak next May 19th. Okay, good night