

Jason M. Chevrier
Superintendent
518-732-2297



Michael Tuttle
President
Board of Education

**Thursday, January 21, 2021
Board of Education Agenda - Regular Meeting**

Final Minutes approved at the February 11, 2021 board meeting.

Meeting Time: 6:00 pm

Meeting Location: Virtual meeting.

Virtual access for members of the public, click on the video button or paste the following link into your web browser:

<https://schodackk12.webex.com/schodackk12/onstage/g.php?MTID=e65eb789b84d606b6645ea6700d5c0b9c>

Join by phone: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 179 736 4132

Event Password: 2020

Present: Michael Tuttle, Mary Yurista, Kyle Hurysz, Michael Hiser, Shelley Palmer, Sherri Gibson, Michael Charsky, Charles Peter, Daniel Grandinetti and Jenna Hoffman (Student Representative to the Board of Education)

Also Present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, Michael Bennett, Michael Silver, Keri Rosher, Jacqui Hill and Michele Reickert

1. MEETING OPENING

- A. President Michael Tuttle called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
- B. President Michael Tuttle asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- C. Moment of Silence In Memory of Jasleen Kaur – President Tuttle spoke about the recent tragic loss of Freshman Jasleen Kaur and asked for a moment of silence in memory of Jasleen.
- D. Daniel Grandinetti moved for approval of the present agenda, Michael Hiser seconded, all present in favor.
- E. Mary Yurista moved for the approval of the minutes the regular meeting of December 17, 2020, Michael Hiser seconded, all present in favor.

2. REPORTS

A. COVID Update

Mr. Chevrier explained the process used to determine contact tracing for positive cases working closely with the Department of Health. He talked about the planning and move of 6th grade to the Jr/Sr High School allowing grades 4-6 to return to in person instruction 5 days a week. The shift of students to the high school made arrival and dismissal challenging at first but it is now running smooth. He shared that the school has not been mandated to begin testing based on the county positivity rates, but work has been done to prepare should the district be determined to be in a micro-cluster zone. Teams were formed from volunteers, individuals were trained, there was PPE review and fit testing for those who wanted to use one. Volunteers on the testing team are eligible for a vaccine under the 1a. Athletics are still undetermined, but Indoor Track was cancelled, lack of facilities was a factor, no guidance has been given on basketball at this time. Questions asked: What was the cost of the migration of grades

4-6? A figure will be gathered and shared with the board. What would constitute the district going to a full remote model? A possible exposure or positive cases affecting a large number of staff where we could not provide supervision in the classrooms, or drivers being in quarantine or testing positive and not being able to transport students could make it necessary.

B. 2021-22 Rollover Budget

Mr. Carey shared the rollover budget for the 2021-2022 budget and the goals of the budget process. He spoke to the knowns in the budget a very early calculation of the tax cap is 1.97% increase in tax levy; this is a very early projection and is subject to change. State Aid cuts are still unknown, and depend on what the schools and States will get from the Federal Government. If the schools get the funds there may not be a significant reduction in this year's aid, but it is still undetermined how it may affect future years when federal aid is no longer there. Star reimbursement is now being called Star Aid, the impact of that is unknown. Building and department budgets are at a 0% increase and expenses across the board are being looked at, there are contracts expiring this year that will need to be negotiated. There was discussion about this year's budget compared to the past few and the uncertainty of the future. Do the savings of \$389,000 reflect the net savings for next year or is it a savings after the costs from COVID. There was discussion on how Medicaid reimbursements are being handled. Has the district recouped the state aid that was being held in December? The money held in December has not been received and will depend on the money anticipated from the federal government. There was discussion on how the district will determine the savings from services and activities not being carried out this year vs the COVID costs incurred.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. DISTRICT / BUILDING / COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. District Updates

Seymour Fox Foundation - Mr. Chevrier spoke about the letter and donation from Seymour Fox Foundation donating \$5,686.00 to the Pat Wood Backpack Program through the Regional Food Bank.

Mr. Chevrier spoke about the crisis team that was formed to help the community and district staff deal with the tragic loss of Jasleen Kaur. Questar III was a big support and help to the district throughout the process as the district prepared for students and staff to return on Thursday with little information that could be shared until the local law enforcement notified the family and more information could be released.

B. Building Updates

Ms. Hill expressed how special this community is and spoke about the overwhelming support that the community received. She thanked the school counselors for their dedication and time coordinating the crisis team and thanked everyone who help during the crisis, and spoke of a two fundraisers that have been started to help the family.

The HS welcomed 6th grade to the building and shifted schedules to allow more time with students in the high school. The students in 6th grade are happy and settled in nicely, transition activities will take place showing them how to use lockers for next year.

Ms. Rosher talked about the transition of grades 4, 5 and 6 back to in-person instruction and shared that a classroom was added in the Library, Teaching Assistants were hired to assist with the addition of students, kids are excited to be in school, and that attendance is better and easier to manage. Teachers report that they are finding they can get through more material now that they have the entire class in-person.

Mrs. Rosher thanked the group of parents that had a sign put up in front of CES thanking faculty and staff and had individually wrapped Crisp Cannoli treats delivered to the staff at CES.

5. BOARD DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP

A. Board Discussion

Mary Yurista asked for an update on Mr. Derby. Mr. Chevrier shared that Mr. Derby was on an Administrative Team virtual meeting; he is doing well, getting his stamina back and getting good news from his doctors. He has an appointment on the 25th and will potentially know when he can return to work.

Mr. Hurysz asked about the psychosocial state of the students at the high school and what is being done to help students. Jenna Hoffman talked about how the seniors are doing, the event planning for the seniors and finding different ways to celebrate the senior year.

B. Action Item Follow-up

- Community Advisory Group – will revisit in May 2021

Mary Yurista moved to approve section 6. A. through C. and section 7. A. Kyle Hurysz seconded. After explanation of the Treasurer’s Report, Claims Auditor Report and Special Education report, all present members voted in favor of approving, Shelley Palmer was not available for this vote.

6. FINANCE

- A. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- B. Acceptance of Claims Auditor's Report
- C. Approval/Acceptance of Donation(s)

7. OTHER ACTION

- A. Approval of the recommendation of the District Committee on Preschool Special Education and/or Special Education

8. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Michael Hiser moved to approve items A. through C., Mary Yurista seconded, all present members voted in favor of approving.

Mr. Hiser and Mr. Chevrier shared thanks and appreciation to Laura Cook for her years of service and dedication to the students and her time on representing the faculty association, Mr. Sterantino for his years of service and many positions he had been in at the district as well as Mr. Schultz for the years he has volunteered and served on the Audit Committee.

- A. Approval of Staffing Actions
- B. Approval of Transportation Personnel change in hours
- C. Resignation of Audit Committee Member

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Lant thanked the CES parents that showed appreciation to the faculty and staff at CES.

10. ACTION ITEMS

Report to the board the costs associated with bringing grades 4-6 back to in-person 5 days a week and the expenses related to COVID vs. the savings from activities and things cancelled or changed due to COVID.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Sherri Gibson moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:26 pm. to discuss the personnel history of a particular person, Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.
- B. Charles Peter moved to reconvene to Open Session and adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm., Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele A. Reickert

District Clerk