SANDWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
JUNE 3, 2020
CONFERENCE CALL

Members Present:  Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Ms. Miller, Mr. Pell, Mr. Fisher

Members Absent:

Administrators Present:  Dr. Gould, Ms. Wiklund, Ms. Austin

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:
Mr. DiGiacomo opened the meeting at 7:09pm and stated that we are returning from an Executive Session.  This meeting is being held through a conference call/google hangouts and is being recorded.  You may view the meeting by live stream at this time on Sandwich Community TV.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC FORUM:  None

GRADUATION:
Dr. Gould spoke on the High School Graduation that we are having on Monday, June 29th.  Right now we only have 2 active cases of the Coronavirus in Sandwich, so everything is looking good for graduation right now.  At our next school committee meeting, JJ Burke and Dave Mason will join us to speak about the preparation for graduation.  Ms. Bader asked if siblings would be able to attend graduation?  Dr. Gould indicated it would not be possible as we are limiting the amount of people attending.  Ms. Ames asked about the graduation parade and if this is put on by the parents?  Dr. Gould explained yes it is and JJ Burke as well as the Town are on board with all the preparations.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:
Dr. Gould gave an update on the Coronavirus and where we are with central office staff coming in.  We have some staff at the central office that come in a couple days a week but they are spaced far enough apart and are taking precautions.  Custodians are continuing to work in the buildings.  Ms. Ames asked if the guidance counselors are back to help students out?  Dr. Gould stated that yes they have been working with kids.  As far as re-entry into the buildings, purchasing PPE is an important part of this, the ability to get the supplies is an issue but we are working on this.  We also are looking for guidance from the state.  The school year ends June 16th and high school seniors are out now.  The buildings are setting up schedules for families and staff to pick up belongings.  Formative Assessments are being completed and this is where we can see where the student is now and also so we know where to begin for next school year.  Some guidance on recreation and summer camps has been given by the governor but more information will be forthcoming.
What will next year look like? Dr. Gould mentioned that 80-85% will be dictated to us but no information on what that is has come to us yet. There are lots of questions and just a few are about transportation/what will busing students look like and how many can be in a classroom, what does teaching look like etc.
Dr. Gould is looking to create a Task Force, where she has sent an email out to many groups to gather many avenues of the Town who will be impacted in the fall. We have a meeting on Tuesday. She will report back on this at future meetings.
The Budget for FY21, we are in an okay place and having discussions with the Town. The worry is for FY22, where we are talking with the administrative staff about cuts and what it would look like. We will address this the best we can.
Mr. DiGiacomo mentioned that he has reached out to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee about setting up some joint meetings. They are all in agreement to do this in the summer or fall.
The school committee members brought up the follow concerns:
Are there teachers who do not want to come back to school due to the Coronavirus? It is a worry as well as if parents will keep their child at home.
Evaluations, summer services, grades, GPA, engaging the student were all discussed as well as figuring out ways to help kids, provide parents with the free materials they may access, schools putting together materials as well, working on tutoring ideas also.
Dr. Gould had no further information on Prom yet.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Superintendent’s Evaluation:

  Mr. DiGiacomo explained that the Superintendent’s evaluation will not be done like it has in previous years. So much is happening, her goals have been blown out of the water and hard to evaluate under these circumstances.
  We could re-examine the goals as time goes on and then have a reasonable discussion, maybe decide in August.
  Ms. Ames stated that it is up to the School Committee to decide how to handle the evaluation but that she did reach out to the MASC and they mentioned we could look at data up to March 13th and evaluate. Generally we could look at goals and give an up or down or no evaluation due to Covid or redefine the goals. Ms. Ames felt this was a waste of time to do the evaluation and not fair to Dr. Gould.
  Ms. Ames and Mr. Fisher felt we should pass on the evaluation this year.
  Ms. Ames asked how teacher evaluations were being done? Dr. Gould mentioned that the 1-3 year teachers are evaluated up to March 13, whereas staff with professional teacher status will use last year's ratings and these will be turned into the DESE.
  Ms. Bader would like the goals rolled over to next year. Mr. Pell was in agreement.
  Ms. Miller does not want Dr. Gould to have lost credit for what she has accomplished before March 13th.
  Dr. Gould mentioned that she could give an informal report on where we are at the next meeting.
Mr. DiGiacomo is in agreement about rolling over the rating from last year and turning that data over to the DESE and do a status update on goals and achievables later on.

- **Sub-Committee/Liaison Assignments:**
  Mr. DiGiacomo mentioned that previously tonight we held a workshop to assign sub-committee and liaison positions. These will be posted on our website.

- **School Committee Summer Meeting Schedule:**
  Mr. DiGiacomo mentioned that the next two meetings will be June 17 and August 26 and he would like to have meetings every two weeks during the summer. These could all be held virtually.
  Therefore, it was in agreement with the members to select July 8, July 22 and August 12 as additional summer meetings.
  *Ms. Ames made a motion to amend the School Committee Meeting Calendar by adding meetings on July 8, July 22 and August 12 at 6:00pm.*
  Second by Mr. Fisher.
  Roll Call Vote: Aye: Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Mr. Pell, Ms. Miller, Mr. Fisher
  6-0-0 Unanimous

**OLD BUSINESS:**
- **Budget Update:**
  Ms. Austin spoke about the April Budget Report provided to the committee members. She has reduced the transportation encumbrance and we are in the positive with $600,000. Once utilities are further paid, we may have an additional $100,000-150,000 available to us. Possibility of at the end of the year to have $750,000 but this does not include pre-pay for special education tuitions. We may be able to turn over to the Town at year end $500,000.
  Ms. Austin explained that what you are seeing on the April report is how it will probably stay for the year end.

**WARRANTS:**
Ms. Ames made a motion to accept the warrants as presented. Second by Ms. Miller.
Roll Call Vote: Aye: Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Mr. Pell, Ms. Miller
Abstain: Mr. Fisher
5-0-1 Passes

**ACT ON THE MINUTES OF 5/20/20:**
Mr. Fisher made a motion to accept the School Committee Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2020 as presented. Second by Mr. Pell
Vote: Aye: Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Pell, Ms. Miller
6-0-0 Unanimous
PTA/PTSA/SPECIAL EDUCATION PAC/SCHOOL COUNCIL/BOARD OF
SELECTMEN REPORTS:

LIAISON/ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS:

OTHER TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR:
Ms. Bader read a statement on current events put together by herself and Dr. Gould after a
discussion they had on how shocked & saddened they were on recent events. This is to recognize
and support all people of color in our country.
The members expressed that this is a wonderful letter and a consensus was asked on sending this
out as a school committee.
Ms. Miller thought we should support the authors of this letter.
Ms. Miller made a motion to support the letter written by Dr. Gould and Ms. Bader with
the sentiment and intention.
Second by Mr. Fisher.
Roll Call Vote: Aye: Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Mr. Pell, Ms. Miller,
Mr. Fisher
6-0-0 Unanimous

PUBLIC FORUM:
Charlie Holden from the Board of Selectmen expressed that the meeting was so well done and
the reorganization of the school committee should be a complement to the community.
Specifically to the SHS graduation, I would consider an invitation to be invited.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CLOSING REMARKS:
Mr. DiGiacomo mentioned the Graduation Parade on Saturday from 4:00-5:00 at the High
School. Hope many of you may be able to attend.

ADJOURNMENT:
Ms. Ames moved to adjourn at 8:32pm. Second by Ms. Bader.
Vote: 6-0-0 Unanimous

Meeting is adjourned and the next school committee meeting will be held on June 17, 2020

Respectfully submitted by,

Holly Lenk

Holly Lenk
School Committee Secretary
DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING
May 20, 2020 School Committee Minutes
2020-2021 School Committee Meeting Calendar
April 2020 Budget Report
Statement on Current Events

Meeting Minutes approved at June 17, 2020 meeting.
Holly Lenk