

RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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To be approved by the Rye School Board at the June 17, 2020 meeting.

RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

A special meeting of the School Board of the Rye School District was held via Google Hangout/Meets and dial in, on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Margaret Honda, Jeanne Moynahan,
Scott Marion, Heather Reed, Matt Curtin

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
Mindy Ryan, Business Administrator
Brian Grattan, Director of Technology
Sarah Reinhardt, Director of Special Education
Samantha Panek, Minute Taker
Maria Soucy, Principal
Suzanne Lull, Principal

Staff: Jim Gordon
Andrea Papoutsy, Jacqueline DeFreze, Kathleen Tucker,
Margaret Hanna

Visitors: JM Giraldo, Celeste Christo, Emil Uliano, Danny Benson,
Tasha Benson, Kristy H.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Ms. Honda, as Chair of the Board, declared that due to the State of Emergency, declared by the Governor as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with Emergency Order 12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body was authorized to meet electronically. Ms. Honda noted that there was no physical location for the public to attend, however there was public access provided through telephone and video electronic means.

Ms. Honda noted that this Board meeting was being conducted on Google Meets and all Board Members had a means for communicating during the meeting. Ms. Honda added that the public could listen and if necessary participate through calling in on the number or through the website access both provided on the agenda.

Ms. Honda explained that the meeting information was provided to the public through the school and administrative websites and added that there was a mechanism for the public to communicate issues accessing the meeting through e-mailing her or Ms. Killen.

Ms. Honda said in the event the public was unable to attend the meeting would adjourned and rescheduled.

Ms. Honda explained that votes would be taken through roll call voting. Ms. Honda took a roll call attendance of the Board, including whether others were present in the room with the Board Member. Four Board Members were present with no additional people in the room with them.

NEW BUSINESS

Rye Youth Softball Request /Field Use

Mr. Girald explained that the Governor's new guidelines allowed for small sport group practices and noted that fields for other leagues including Portsmouth had opened for practice. Mr. Girald said he heard that Rye Recreation had just given permission for the Little League to have practice on their fields. Ms. Girald said given that they had a plan which included coach and player waivers, they were hoping to get approval to use the fields for practice.

Dr. Marion noted that the fields were closed at the request of Rye Police. Dr. Marion questioned who would monitor the practice and said as long as the Rye Softball League was the responsible party for monitoring, then he was fine with the request.

Mr. Girald explained that their thought was to have 1 or 2 coaches trained for safety with 8 to 9 players, up to 10 individuals total for each practice, so they would be monitoring their coaches and groups. Mr. Girald mentioned that Ms. Christo reached out to Chief Walsh regarding access as well.

Ms. Honda asked Mr. Petralia what the next step would be.

Mr. Petralia said that he contacted Chief Walsh, after receiving the letter, and he confirmed that the Chief approved the request. Mr. Petralia added that the Chief indicated that the Town wished to put up new signage. Mr. Petralia said the District would cover costs for signage needed.

Mr. Petralia noted needing a copy of an insurance binder from the League. Mr. Petralia said he approved the request.

Ms. Honda asked if the vote should include all the fields at the schools.

Mr. Petralia noted that similar requests were likely to come in.

Ms. Honda said it should be made clear that the Board and schools were not going to schedule the use for the fields during the summer.

Mr. Petralia suggested the Board give him authority to clear request.

Ms. Moynahan explained that there was a Building Use Policy that included the fields and noted that the fee schedule needed to be updated for outside entities.

Dr. Marion asked if the signage up now was created by the Police Department or schools. Mr. Petralia and Mr. Gordon confirmed that the school had created the signage in place.

Dr. Marion explained that the Softball League needed a quick approval and added that he felt the other fields could be opened. Dr. Marion did not want to delay approval to determine details of signage.

Ms. Honda explained that there should be an understanding that there was not a scheduling process for the use of the fields in the summer.

Dr. Marion moved, seconded by Ms. Reed, to approve the request from Rye Youth Softball to use the fields for practice in accordance with the CDC and State guidelines, and to reopen all School fields in accordance with these same guidelines. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Moynahan asked if this included the Lang's corner field and if there was construction would that disrupt anything. Ms. Honda said that if there was work being done on the field, it couldn't be used however, as it would be summer, the Board would not be managing the process.

Facilities Request

Mr. Petralia explained he received an email from a vendor about air purification systems which he forwarded to Mr. Gordon. Mr. Petralia said Mr. Gordon received a quote for both schools.

Mr. Gordon explained that the devices would be installed in each of the roof top units at each school and used ionization to clean the air. Ms. Gordon said the devices were small and simple. He noted that they would be hooked into the electrical of the unit and placed in the blower box.

Mr. Gordon reviewed how the units ionized the air as it circulated through and killed virus, bacteria, mold and illuminated odors. Mr. Gordon explained that UV lighting could also be used to purify air but it required bulb changes while this device required little to no maintenance. Mr. Gordon added that some costs could possibly be recouped through the COVID Grant.

Ms. Honda asked about the cost. Mr. Gordon said 8 units for the elementary would be \$12,795.00 and 5 units at the Junior High would cost \$8,175.00. Mr. Gordon noted that he could get other quotes.

Dr. Marion mentioned needing time to review and research. Dr. Marion asked if Mr. Gordon could get additional bids and suggested reviewing again at the next meeting.

Ms. Honda noted the importance of being inclusive about all needs. Ms. Honda asked Ms. Ryan about the grant details. Ms. Ryan noted that the Cares Act Grant was for \$14,639.

Ms. Honda explained that they would weigh this item along with others and revisit at the next meeting.

Dr. Marion suggested purchasing cleaning supplies now to utilize the unreserved fund balance and asked Mr. Gordon to create a list for the next meeting.

Ms. Honda said Mr. Gordon was a resource for the Board and noted his participation in meetings was beneficial.

Ms. Honda explained that the Board hoped by adding a second meeting a month, that one of the meetings could focus on the planning. Ms. Honda said even though the SAU 50 Task Force would be working on planning, the meeting would help keep discussion and communication going.

Ms. Honda asked for the Administration to update the Board on the planning. Ms. Honda noted that Dr. Marion provided the Board with another District's Plan, as an example. Ms. Honda asked the Board to brainstorm.

Ms. Reed mentioned that the example seemed to be thorough and include points relevant to Rye. Ms. Reed noted that the plan addressed ideas including the social and emotional pieces and they utilized similar technologies.

Mr. Petralia asked for a copy of the plan. Dr. Marion said he would forward a copy but added that he submitted the sample plan as an example not as an endorsed plan.

Ms. Honda thanked Mr. Petralia and Ms. Killen for agreeing to an additional survey and explained that the survey would cover how things went and thoughts on scenarios moving forward.

Mr. Petralia thanked the Board for communicating and said that the survey would go out the following day.

Mr. Petralia said he had a meeting with the principals scheduled for June 8th to begin planning each scenario. Mr. Petralia said a staff survey was also done.

Ms. Honda said she would appreciate seeing the raw data from the surveys.

Dr. Marion suggested the Task Force meet with all the SAU principals as a committee.

Mr. Petralia explained that the Schools were different and surveys were an example of the differences, as there were different questions and nuances with each district, so he believed it was a better use of time to hammer out issues with each Districts' principals, Board Members and Town.

Ms. Killen said they had compared Districts and pulled ideas from across the SAU but now it was time to be more specific to each building.

Ms. Honda suggested having meetings with individual building leaders but then have a committee meeting with more individuals from the building. Ms. Killen noted that that was the plan, but they had to cover 4 Districts. Ms. Killen reviewed the groups expected to weigh-in and the process to create the first draft. Ms. Killen hoped to have a first draft late June.

Dr. Marion said he did not feel the Districts were that unique and groups bring more knowledge. Dr. Marion expressed that the other principals could have knowledge and ideas that would help. Dr. Marion added that curriculum work would take time and distributing the work would be helpful to ensure everything gets done.

Ms. Honda asked if the building leaders would take ideas back to the staff and groups to figure out all the aspects.

Mr. Petralia explained that each District governed the Team but warned against assumptions.

Ms. Honda emphasized the importance of keeping the momentum going by working with the principals and having them drive teams at the building level.

Ms. Reed said it could be helpful to build out the framework, then each District could use that framework to create the detail.

Ms. Moynahan said she believed the Rye teachers did a great job. Ms. Moynahan noted the lack of the social and emotional elements being address, based on her personal experience. Ms. Moynahan suggested incorporating a classroom lesson to connect the students.

Ms. Honda said she had confidence that the social and emotional component would be included. Ms. Honda emphasized the concern over being ready.

Ms. Reed noted that everyone needs a break but if that break goes too long, things would not be ready in time.

Ms. Honda explained that the Board would support any professional development.

Dr. Marion explained that there was more flexibility with funds now. Dr. Marion noted that the Budget Committee wanted to support education and he stressed the need to consider purchasing items like chairs, chrome books, cleaning supplies, and other needs now.

Dr. Marion said it was important not to wait for the State's recommendations and suggested that things that can happen in parallel should be done.

Mr. Petralia noted that some of the elements like technology, were part of the plan.

Mr. Petralia explained that he was having an Executive Board meeting and was willing to revisit additional development time with the Association.

Dr. Marion suggested working with the principals to assemble groups and create a plan for those groups.

Mr. Petralia explained that after meeting with the principals, they would be looking to the leadership and crisis teams for input.

Dr. Marion agreed with the process for creating the plan but expressed the need for teachers to be involved with implementing the plan. Dr. Marion noted challenges that come with starting in remote learning and the need to work on curriculum and instruction.

Ms. Honda asked if communication to the parents could be increased, once the school instruction was wrapped up.

Mr. Petralia explained that an update was planned for this week.

Ms. Honda asked if there would be regular communication and Mr. Petralia mentioned updates would follow every 2 weeks.

Mr. Curtin offered his support and volunteered to assist in any way he could.

Ms. Honda reviewed what had been covered for planning which included communication and the survey, then asked to discuss the Board retreat.

Mr. Petralia explained that Ms. Schwab, SAU 50 Joint Board Chairperson, sent an e-mail requesting that the Joint Board meet more frequently. Mr. Petralia said Ms. Schwab offered Wednesday, July 1, 2020 as a possible Joint Board meeting date, but he suggested an early summer retreat instead of a Joint Board meeting.

Ms. Honda said she liked the idea of having the retreat early, to get an update, prepare and plan.

Mr. Petralia said he would contact Ms. Schwab and explain the recommendation.

Ms. Honda asked how the Board preferred to meet for the Board retreat whether via Google, Zoom or a social distanced physical meeting.

Mr. Petralia suggested selecting the date first and having a social distanced physical meeting. Mr. Petralia explained that the restrictions could be different by July.

Ms. Honda mentioned concerns over space and size restrictions.

Ms. Reed suggested a physical and virtual meeting to accommodate restrictions.

Dr. Marion suggested the Rye Junior High cafeteria with spread out tables and live streaming. Ms. Honda noted that virtual allowed ease for public comment.

Ms. Honda surveyed the Board regarding their availability in early July and narrowed the date to July 6th or 7th. Ms. Honda reviewed the typical items covered during the retreat.

Dr. Marion said that planning would be front and center. Mr. Curtin suggested that strategic planning become part of regular meeting process.

Ms. Honda noted that Ms. Reed forwarded many good points to discuss.

Ms. Moynahan asked if a time limit was necessary for the meeting. Ms. Honda said it was not required. Ms. Moynahan suggested not limiting the time, so discussions were not rushed.

The Board discussed time options for the meeting and date preferences.

Ms. Honda noted Monday, July 6th as her preference. Ms. Moynahan clarified that the Retreat would replace the early July Board Meeting. Ms. Honda confirmed that it would.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Honda opened the meeting up for public comment.

Ms. Papoutsy, a Rye teacher and resident, commented that she appreciated Dr. Marion pressing the need to focus on the small window of opportunity to use this year's funds and she was glad there was support from the Budget Committee.

Ms. Papoutsy mentioned a letter that was sent to parents which discussed the Continuity of Learning and Operations Team and included information about the groups providing input as well as the process for planning. Ms. Papoutsy asked if the planning being discussed by the Board was the same as the planning noted in the letter. Ms. Honda confirmed the plan and task force were the same. Ms. Papoutsy mentioned that the letter outlined who was involved very well.

Ms. Papoutsy thanked the Board for adding the additional meeting each month to address issues but noted that notification of the meeting was a concern. Ms. Papoutsy explained that she only learned of the meeting through Facebook and she suggested having more and earlier communication regarding additional meetings for the staff and public.

Dr. Marion said the Board would improve the communication.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 5:0

*Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Panek
June 2, 2020*


Matt Curtin, Secretary

7/6/2020
Date