

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
School Administrative Unit 50  
48 Post Road, Greenland, New Hampshire 03840  
Phone (603) 422-9572 Fax (603) 422-9575

*To be approved by the Rye School Board at the August 5, 2020 meeting.*

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

A meeting of the School Board of the Rye School District was held at Rye Junior High School, Town Hall Streaming and through Google meets on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

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

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent  
Kelly 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

Visitors: Carla Cole, Amy Reynolds, Holly Mills, Jackie Erdall,  
Jacqueline DeFreze, Jess Morgan, Tasha Benson, Meagan Facella

**CALL TO ORDER (4:30)**

Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Ms. Honda encouraged participants to view the meeting through Live Streaming and noted that public comment could be made through a link to a Google Form, found on the agenda or in the meeting chat.

Ms. Honda asked participants to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**RE-ENTRY PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT (6:22)**

Ms. Honda explained that the Re-Entry Plan was distributed and some updates had already been made based on comments.

Ms. Honda read through the Public Comments submitted, starting with a comment from Amber Tinnin, regarding when the Board would need to know if a student would be attending in person or remotely.

Ms. Honda summarized Julie Derderian submission, in which she noted that a lot of time and effort was put into the plan, and asked several questions including: would teachers be given Professional Development on advisor meetings, would curriculum be standardized, when would groupings be announced, what would be the deadline for submitting intent to attend the school or remote learn, could the marking periods be provided, would all remote learners be expected to be logged in a full school day, would each class have remote learners, would busing be reduced, how would traffic flow be reduced. Ms. Honda continued to highlight Ms. Derderian's comments on technology, scheduling and curriculum.

Ms. Honda read Alyssa McGlashing's concerns over the possibility that her child would not be able to adjust to social distancing and she might need to place her in remote learning if she could not adjust, however the plan states that parents must commit to one marking period.

Ms. Honda reviewed Ms. Colleen Pavlas question regarding the teachers' comfort level with returning and the use of outdoor classrooms.

Ms. Honda read Ms. Meagan Facella suggestion to have a zoom Q and A with grade level teachers or administrators, prior to the deadline for submitting their plan for remote or in person learning and she questioned the safety of rotating teachers to different pods.

Ms. Honda read Kim Piela's comments regarding mask being worn at all times, the School Nurse, a designated quarantine space and her suggestion to have all students eat in their classrooms.

Ms. Honda reviewed Nathan Dunn's comments regarding the reality that even with protocols, kids spread germs, the need to err on the side of caution, the opinion that remote learning should continue until safety can be assured, the realization that testing takes time and the fact that symptoms for Covid are similar to many illnesses common in the schools.

Ms. Honda read Brett Mulvey's comments, asking if buses would be required and how the use of busing would increase the likelihood of cross contamination. Mr. Mulvey suggested using Wednesday verses Friday as the teacher work day and commented on academic testing. Mr. Mulvey asked about staggering drop-offs and pick-ups and the use of tents or other classroom alternatives. Mr. Mulvey concluding by encouraging the Board to reach out to parents, the PTA and REF with ways to help.

Ms. Honda reviewed another comment from Kim Piela, regarding the class structure, use of lockers and how the teachers would move between classes. Ms. Piela suggested using outdoor space.

Ms. Honda read Ms. Pavlas's question regarding the timeline for teacher classroom assignments.

Ms. Honda reviewed the concerns of Randy Lynch, regarding a family member at risk and mask use.

Ms. Honda shared Ms. Papoutsy's questions regarding the Air filters, and mask requirements.  
Ms. Reed continued to review Ms. Papoutsy's concerns regarding substitutes.

Ms. Honda explained that many issues mentioned were being looked into or would be covered within the plan.

Dr. Marion thanked everyone for their comments and explained that there was not a 100% perfect solution, so it would be difficult to make everyone happy.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS (33:20)**

No Manifest or Financial Report

Dr. Marion asked about the final financial numbers and Ms. Ryan explained that they were still closing out the year and said she would provide the final number when available.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT Communication (33:56)**

Mr. Petralia noted a request for enrollment of a seventh-grade student for the upcoming year covered under School Board policy JFAB. Mr. Petralia mentioned two staff requests for enrollment for their children pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Petralia said he included a brief opinion from Attorney Loughman, in the Board packet, regarding a district's liability as it related to COVID.

Mr. Petralia noted providing the Board with the draft memorandum of agreement which was in two sections, part one regarding health and safety and part 2 regarding working conditions.

Mr. Petralia explained that after the meeting, he would be able to disperse the Re-Entry Plan.

Mr. Petralia noted a thank you that he received from the Portsmouth High School Celebration Graduation Team for the \$250 donation the Board made to the Class of 2020, which included how the funds were used.

Mr. Petralia acknowledge Mr. Peter Boyd, a Rye resident for a donation of face shields.

Mr. Petralia mentioned the revised 2020-2021 Academic Calendar, which included a possible shift to a September 9, 2020 student starting date.

## **REPORTS**

### **Superintendent's Report (39:31)**

Mr. Petralia noted that much of his report involved the Re-Entry Plan and said he included the Portsmouth Re-Entry Plan in the Board Packet.

Mr. Petralia explained that due to the resignation of Jenn Miller, they advertised a vacancy for the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Humanities position and at the recommendation of the principal, there would be a nomination later during the personnel section.

Mr. Petralia said the dates for future meetings were including in the Board Packet.

### **Central Office Reports and Principal Reports (41:36)**

No Reports

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Re-Entry Plan for 2020-2021 (41:48)**

Ms. Honda explained that there was an updated version of the plan with highlights to show additions and changes. Ms. Honda said that although some changes had been made the Public could follow along with the Re-Entry Plan previously posted online.

Ms. Lull thanked her leadership team for their help with the Plan. Ms. Lull noted additions to the school including floor markers for distancing and the removal of some group play items like doll houses.

Ms. Lull mentioned flushing the water faucets. Dr. Marion suggested flushing and testing. Ms. Lull said bathrooms would be labeled for specific grade use.

Ms. Soucy noted that parents and visitors would be screened at the door and those coming in would need to sanitize at the door and wear a mask. Dr. Marion mentioned that no one should go past the office.

Ms. Honda reviewed thoughts regarding no visitors in the school. Mr. Curtin added that all visitors should answer the same questions that the students must answer. Ms. Killen suggested no visitors other than deliveries or maintenance, due to the additional work and time that would be required. Dr. Marion and Mr. Petralia noted that it would be best to start with a strict policy on building access.

Ms. Lull mentioned adding specific hand sanitizer and taking temperature before entering the classroom. Dr. Marion added that teachers should have the right to require temperature checks later in the day.

Ms. Reinhardt mentioned adding more specific language regarding masks. Ms. Lull said they would receive mask extenders.

Ms. Soucy reviewed bathroom assignments.

Ms. Soucy explained that students would use bins instead of coat racks at the elementary and locker assignments would be made by cohort groups. Ms. Honda and Dr. Marion raised concerns about using the lockers. Ms. Killen explained that lockers could provide better contamination prevention for items like jackets. The Board discussed the process and use of lockers.

Ms. Lull noted they investigated the suggestion of adding picnic tables but realized with distancing that only one student would be able to use each table. Ms. Lull explained yoga mats allowed for more flexibility.

Ms. Reed asked what thought had been given to emergency procedures. Ms. Killen explained that there was discussion during the last commissioner call. Ms. Lull explained that they reviewed drills for the teachers.

Ms. Soucy mentioned adding a tent structure to cover some classes. Dr. Marion suggested connecting with local tent rental companies. Ms. Honda noted that REF could be a way to fund tents. The Board discussed the need to move quickly on tent rentals.

Ms. Lull noted the change from eating in the cafeteria to eat lunch in the classrooms. Ms. Soucy mentioned needing a process for staff to get lunch breaks. Ms. Honda expressed the need to reach out to Rye Recreation or find some other qualified help.

#### Arrival and Dismissal (1:06:35)

Ms. Soucy reviewed arrival and dismissal protocol, including discouraging student from congregating and having staff monitoring. Ms. Soucy noted that buses would pick-up at the Junior High first at the end of the day, then go to the Elementary. The Board discussed pick-up and drop-off specifics, including using assigned doors and staggered arrivals.

#### Busing

Mr. Petralia explained that buses would not be able to provide hand sanitizer. Mr. Petralia reviewed discussions regarding the process of loading the buses, assigned seating and capacity. Mr. Petralia explained specifics on the bus for route 3. Ms. Ryan reviewed the space available for each bus. Ms. Killen mentioned that they received specifics from the bus company, which would need to be incorporated into the Plan.

Ms. Honda asked about the support for assisting students in filling the gaps in learning. Ms. Lull and Ms. Soucy noted having the resources they needed.

Dr. Marion voiced the importance of not testing in the first two weeks. Ms. Soucy explained that it was removed.

Ms. Soucy reviewed how pods would remain in a classroom with teachers rotating. The Board discussed recess, the possibility of incorporating Physical Education during recess, incorporating more outdoor activities and the different options for movement.

Ms. Soucy explained the classroom assigned seating and the plan to avoiding certain group activities and shared materials.

Mr. Curtin asked what the process and protocols would be to protect the teachers, as they move from class to class. Ms. Lull reviewed the protection in place. Dr. Marion explained that teachers would need to be responsible for following processes like washing hands.

Mr. Curtin asked what the specifics would be regarding the students' requirement to wear masks. Dr. Marion noted that consistency with the masks would be important. Ms. Lull emphasized the importance of setting routines.

Ms. Honda and Ms. Reed expressed the need for clear guidelines. Mr. Curtin noted that the policy should be set with the understanding that parents would possibly base whether their child returns or not on that policy. Dr. Marion encouraged the Board to error more on the side of safety when setting the policy.

Ms. Reinhardt discussed the differences and guidelines between masks and shields. Ms. Reinhardt noted ordering some clear masks for the schools.

Ms. Killen and Ms. Lull reviewed using the language face coverings. Ms. Curtin asked what the CDC's recommendations were. Ms. Killen noted 3 to 6 feet with a face covering.

Ms. Honda asked about microphones. Mr. Curtin noted that availability was limited and there was an expense. Ms. Reinhardt mentioned that some devices for students would be impacted by sound systems.

Mr. Curtin asked how involved the Town Health officials had been. Mr. Curtin noted the difficulty with younger children wearing masks but if public policy required it, then the schools should include it.

Ms. Honda noted that there should be communication in the form of short videos to help educate the students on policies and procedures. Ms. Lull noted that some types of communication were already being worked on.

Ms. Soucy reviewed the changes to Unified Arts.

Mr. Curtin asked how the Library would be used. Ms. Lull said there were pending questions regarding using the library, due to the carpet. Ms. Lull said that students would have an online reserve a book or book cart option.

Mr. Curtin noted the written comments regarding Music. Ms. Honda asked what the next step would be for Music. Mr. Curtin mentioned that information was in the drive.

Ms. Lull reviewed the WIN block wording.

Mr. Curtin noted the importance of having the appropriate staff to assist with any learning gaps. Ms. Lull and Ms. Soucy expressed feeling that they had the resources they needed, at this time. Ms. Honda noted that the needs could not truly be determined until the students returned.

### **Building Based Learning and Home Learning (1:54:55)**

Ms. Killen reviewed the building based instruction for students returning to the classroom and explained that online platforms would be used so in the event a student or entire class needed to be quarantined that teacher would continue to teach their assigned students.

Ms. Killen explained that the Board would need to determine the specific parameters for allowing a family to select the remote learning program. Ms. Killen reviewed that remote learning would take place on VLACS and noted that if there were any teachers that could not return, they could lead remote learning through an online program. Ms. Killen emphasized that the format for remote learning would be different than the building-based classroom.

Dr. Marion reviewed a scenario and questioned why a remote learner could not be assigned to a teacher and class. Ms. Killen explained the concern over double duty and double platforms.

Ms. Reinhardt clarified the differences of illness verses those selecting remote learning. The Board discussed the different solutions. Ms. Killen emphasized that this model reflected the State Guidance and other concerns.

Mr. Curtin and Ms. Killen reviewed the staffing model for at home learners. Mr. Curtin voiced concern over keeping a student connected and engaged with their peers. Mr. Curtin said the options cannot be dependent on staff deciding not to return.

Ms. Reed suggested looking into a hybrid model. Ms. Killen explained that their original plan had been to provide more of a hybrid.

Dr. Marion agreed with the Boards' comments and explained that there should be a seamless transition and connection provided for the students learning from home.

Ms. Honda reviewed the survey numbers for parents comfortable with returning to the building.

Ms. Lull noted that the dual platforms did create more work. Ms. Lull reviewed the concerns relating to all the options.

Ms. Honda questioned why the live instruction was difficult and noted that it would provide the most success. Mr. Petralia mentioned that the Board could discuss in Non-Public.

Ms. Killen noted the time constraint to create a program. Dr. Marion suggested getting teachers involved in creating the solutions. Ms. Honda mentioned that given the time was limited for pulling groups together for planning.

Ms. Reinhardt reviewed logistics and privacy issues regarding taping in the classroom.

Mr. Curtin noted that this was a complex issue. Mr. Curtin explained that he did not believe the student at home would have the same experience but wanted to create a solution to keep students connected.

Ms. Reed noted that the sizes of the classrooms should allow for some solution.

Ms. Honda noted that a timeline needed to be created.

Ms. Reed asked if the VLACS students would be disconnected from the school under the suggested plan.

Mr. Curtin asked what the restrictions would be for coming in and out of the building-based learning programs. Ms. Killen suggested a trimester commitment.

Mr. Curtin asked how shifts in the local COVID concern, could impact the models being presented. Mr. Petralia suggested designating one teacher per grade be assigned to the remote learners if there was a shift in building learners. Ms. Honda noted the importance to plan actions for all scenarios.

Ms. Honda reviewed the next steps and timeline to present to parents. The Board discussed the desire to keep home learners, who are enrolled in the school, connected to the school and grade. The Board continued to define what that connection could be.

Ms. Reed questioned why the home learner's curriculum could not be the same, given that the teachers were creating online platforms. The principles explained some of the complications.

Dr. Marion voiced that there was a possibility of return to remote learning and this was the time to create something different for deeper learning.

Ms. Honda expressed concern regarding the challenges for students that selected home learning for the first trimester that then returned to the building for the second trimester. Ms. Honda added that having different platforms and curriculums would make it difficult for students and teachers.

Ms. Killen reviewed her understanding that the Board preferred a Hybrid Learning Program verses VLACS. Dr. Marion said VLACS should not be ruled-out but should be used as a back-up option. Ms. Lull explained the possible need for adding staff to accommodate a Hybrid model.

### **Special Education (2:43:19)**

Ms. Reinhardt explained that the IEP was a Building Based Document. Ms. Reinhardt said once they know which students will be in Building Based Learning versus Non-Building Based Learning, the IEP teams could start meeting with parents and working on plans.

Ms. Reinhardt noted that parents need options to meet in the building or remotely. Ms. Reinhardt explained that the parents attending meetings should not be considered visitors.

Ms. Reinhardt explained the protocols for special education groups, including cleaning and providing individual manipulatives. Ms. Reinhardt reviewed the requirements for staff coming in and out of the building. Ms. Reinhardt mentioned protocols for Paraprofessionals.

Ms. Reinhardt noted the programs that have been successful and would be continued.

Ms. Honda asked what the process would be for home learning. Ms. Reinhardt explained that parent consults would be needed.

Ms. Reinhardt reviewed the Governor's Emergency Order 48, requiring IEP teams to convene and explained that they would be following the Order, but they were reviewing the legality of the Order.

Ms. Honda voiced concerned as to how the program would work. Ms. Reinhardt responded that she was not concerned because they had created programming that worked and each IEP plans had always been individualized.

Mr. Curtin noted the 'No' visitor policy, previously discussed and questioned how that would impact the IEP meetings. Ms. Reinhardt reviewed the legal requirements and Mr. Curtin asked if meeting could occur off-site and Ms. Reinhardt explained the difficulty in taking staff out of the building.

Mr. Curtin asked about concerns regarding clothing contamination for instructors. Ms. Reinhardt explained the situations that would warrant a staff member needing to change clothing.

### **COVID Exposure Protocols (2:59:31)**

Ms. Honda asked about the origin of the exposure protocols. Mr. Petralia and Ms. Killen explained that the requirement came from the state.

Ms. Killen reviewed the process for staff and students showing signs of illness and protocols for anyone testing positive. Ms. Lull explained that the RES Nurse had reviewed and agreed with the Plan. Ms. Honda added that it would be critical for the Nursing staff to be involved in the Plan.

Ms. Honda asked about the specifics on the investigating timeline. Ms. Killen noted the location in the Plan that explained how the Public Health Investigator would determine the process, communications needed and timeline for each case.

Dr. Marion asked if the Public Health Department could handle the workload. Ms. Killen said she was told that they were increasing the department to meet the need. Ms. Honda mentioned that the Board needs to determine their own policy regarding exposure situations with the assistance of experts.

Ms. Reinhardt reviewed a scenario and how the Public Health Investigator would assist.

Mr. Curtin and Ms. Honda reviewed how the timeline for getting advice could be delayed and discussed how the school should respond while waiting for the advice.

Ms. Killen explained how it would be tricky to be responsible for determining when and who to quarantine. Ms. Killen and Ms. Reinhardt explained how symptoms for COVID were like many other illnesses.

The Board discussed various scenarios. Mr. Curtin noted that the Board would need to create some type of policy. Mr. Petralia reminded the Board that at some point the discussions on all the issues would need to be resolved and the Plan would need to be finalized and posted.

Mr. Curtin voiced concern on the response time of the Health Department. Ms. Honda explained how this issue could influence whether or not parents send their children into the building.

### **Remote Instruction (3:22:30)**

Ms. Lull noted there was more specific language added, per previous discussions.

Ms. Soucy noted the plan explained that in remote learning the staff and students would follow the same schedule as they would during building based learning.

Ms. Killen asked the additional clarification be added regarding the different help desks one for academics and one for technology.

Mr. Curtin clarified that he did not want to discourage parents from using VLACS, if that was their preference. Mr. Curtin asked what the implications were for those sending students to Portsmouth that decided to use VLACS and how would that impact tuition.



Ms. Reinhardt explained that Portsmouth had released their Plan with options. Mr. Petralia explained that Portsmouth was offering alternatives online/home learning for those with underlining health concerns or safety concerns.

Ms. Honda read Portsmouth High School's options for learning. Ms. Honda asked if Portsmouth's plan was in opposition to the State recommendations.

Ms. Lull explained that live and recorded classroom learning was an option, but not what the teachers preferred.

### **Communication Strategy (3:32:16)**

Ms. Honda explained that two companies had been contacted regarding communication needs for the Plan. Ms. Honda noted that the Board had reviewed the information.

Ms. Reed said that Tidal Media donated time and services to provide the District with a website to communicate the details of the Plan.

Mr. Petralia asked if there were any technology needs required.

Dr. Marion highlighted the benefits.

Mr. Curtin explained the control and editing aspects. Mr. Curtin thanked Ryan Roskilly for his working making this possible.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to accept the donation from Title Media in accordance with Policy KCD to assist the Board with a COVID response web presence. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 5-0*

### **Calendar (3:42:05)**

Ms. Honda reviewed the Parent Survey regarding the September 9th start and explained that the time would be used for professional development and could be an opportunity for the students to visit the building before the start date.

*Dr. Marion made AND WITHDREW, a motion to revise the previously approved Accademic Calender for 2020-2021-2020.*

Mr. Petralia explained that there were SAU determined professional work days. Dr. Marion asked for clarification on the work days listed on the revised calendar and emphasized the importance of planning time. The Board reviewed how the Teacher Work days would be used.

Dr. Marion asked for the totals for the special designation days on the revised calendar.

Ms. Honda asked if the final day of the school year would change with the adjustment to the start day. Ms. Killen explained that there was a document showing the impact of calculating days or hours for the school year.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to authorize the Administration to the move forward with changing the start date for students from August 31, 2020 to September 9, 2020. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 5-0*

Mr. Curtin asked about the reserved days for the end of the year and questioned whether the days were still needed given that the district had Blizzard Bags. Ms. Honda explained the desire to provide at least one day for the students to for go the Blizzard Bags and take a snow day.

Mr. Curtin explained that he preferred having the full picture of the calendar.

Dr. Marion asked for clarification relating to the final school day listed compared to the document regarding days and hours.

Ms. Killen explained that it was up to the Board to decide on the final day based on calculating with days or hours. Ms. Killen explained that 3 of the teachers work days would be counted toward the student instruction days.

Mr. Petralia added that those days could be used toward remote learning if necessary, all together or seperated out.

Mr. Curtin asked about CBA implications. The Board explained that there was not an impact, but Mr. Petralia explained that the changes would be discussed with the Teacher Association .

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Tuition in Requests**

Mr. Petralia said he had communicated with the Principals regarding the impact to class size and confirmed there was none.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to approve both staff member requests to enroll their children into the Rye Schools. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 5-0*

Mr. Petralia explained that a family, previously residing in Rye, was requesting to tuition into the Rye Junior High.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin, to approve the non-resident request at the tuition rate of \$17,994.00 and allow enrollment for the 2020-21 School Year, if the family wished to proceed. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 5-0*

Ms. Reed asked for clarification on the tuition rate. Dr. Marion explained the history of the rate, as it related to what the New Castle students paid and the rate that Portsmouth charged.

Mr. Curtin voiced the assumption that the family met all the written qualifications.

### **Personnel**

Mr. Petralia explained that there was a recommendation to appoint Ms. Lindsey Kaplan as the new Grade Seven Humanities Teacher for the 2020-2021 School Year. Mr. Petralia reviewed Ms. Kaplan's qualifications.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to appoint Ms. Kaplan as the Rye Junior High School Grade Seven Humanities Teacher. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 5-0*

Dr. Marion mentioned the recent meeting with the ACT and voiced that they agreed with concerns mentioned. Dr. Marion supported using the language that they proposed, to create more flexibility in the contract.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Meagan Facella explained that as a parent and a teacher, she wanted to voice her concern over using VLACS as an option for home learning. Ms. Facella explained the parent concern to stay home over safety but also the fear of students being disconnected. Ms. Facella voiced concern over the idea that if a parent decided to learn from home that their child would be taught by a stranger.

**ADJOURNMENT/NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. Discussion. Roll Call  
Vote: 5:0*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Samantha Panek  
July 22, 2020*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Curtin, Secretary

*8/19/2020*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date