

Minutes of the NORTH ROYALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting/Work Session
Held June 4, 2020
Virtual Meeting

SUMMARY

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. RESOLUTION 2020-120: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA
- V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- VI. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
- VII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS
- VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- IX. RESOLUTION 2020-121: MOTION TO ADJOURN

I. CALL TO ORDER. President Dr. John Kelly called the regular meeting of the North Royalton Board of Education to order at 6:32 p.m. on June 4, 2020.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. President Dr. John Kelly requested all present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

III. ROLL CALL. Present: President Dr. John Kelly, Vice President Heidi Dolezal, Jacquelyn Arendt, Terry DeLap and Anne Reinkober. Also present were Superintendent Gregory Gurka, Treasurer Biagio Sidoti, Assistant Superintendent James Presot, Director of Personnel Patrick Farrell, and Director of Technology Tricia Pozsgai.

IV. RESOLUTION 2020-120: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA. Resolve the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by Arendt

Seconded by Dolezal

Voting Aye: Arendt, Dolezal, DeLap, Reinkober, Kelly

Motion Carried

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. The public is invited to speak to any of the agenda items and other school topics at this time. No speakers addressed the Board.

VI. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

a. Superintendent's Update:

End of 2019-20 School Year: The end of year activities looked different this year than in the past due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were drive through clap outs at the elementary level, virtual promotion ceremonies, and our in-person commencement. Many thanks to our students and parents who took the time to advise us on the commencement, and to the high school administration and activities staff who worked tirelessly to make it happen. The entire high school staff worked as ushers and parking attendants etc., during the five days of the commencement. We felt that personalizing commencement was the best way to honor and recognize our students. We are anticipating the release of the ceremony video by mid-June.

Planning for 2020-21: The Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education will put out guidelines that school districts must follow next school year for the safety of students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are waiting for those guidelines in order to make final plans for the next school year. We are also meeting with area superintendents to discuss what their plans will look like. A survey was sent out this past Monday to receive parent input in planning for the next school year. As of today, there are 1,600 survey responses. The survey closes Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. The goal is to have a presentation for the Board at the Monday, June 8, 2020, Board meeting to review these results. There will not be a set plan by Monday's meeting, just a review of the information. Once the guidelines are announced, most of the summer will be spent putting our plans together. The goal is to have plans ready for the Board to approve and share with the community at the beginning of August. The Board will be kept informed of our process and how we will seek more input from them and the community.

Certified Employee Professional Development: Teachers worked to develop plans in the chance we have to start virtually. This is not saying this is what will happen, but that this situation is the most difficult to plan for. Those plans include Zoom or Google Hangouts as part of the instruction, pre-recorded lessons that students watch at home, as well as assignments and pacing for the instruction.

Classified Staff MOU: In dealing with the re-opening plan for next year, how we start the year will affect the personnel we need. In essence, if we begin as normal, we will need to keep our staff as is. If we begin with hybrid models, we may need additional staff to divide students up due to physical distancing requirements. We have been working with our classified staff association (OAPSE), to discuss how we can utilize all staff, possibly even in different capacities. If we are virtual, we may not need certain groups of staff.

We agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding with OAPSE changing the time table for reductions in force. The Association agreed and approved an agreement to allow us to change the 60-day notification period for Reductions in Force (RIF) to 30-days. With school scheduled to start on August 19, this gives us until mid-July to determine our staffing needs rather than making decisions next week. I want to thank OAPSE for their help during this time period.

Ohio School Boards Association Town Hall: Mr. Gurka listened to a town hall meeting, hosted by Dr. John Richard, Deputy Superintendent of Ohio, that went over things such as basic health safety measures, physical distancing (6 feet) and social distancing - limiting interaction (staggered starts and utilizing other areas that are

not used customarily for teaching spaces), sanitizing/cleaning/hand washing, daily precautions, and precautions for “flare-ups.”

In addition to the guidelines that will come out from the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education, there is a list of recommendations from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) that need to be considered when making plans for next year. This list was shared with the Board.

Governor DeWine announced today new health orders that will allow entertainment facilities to reopen beginning Wednesday, June 10, including aquariums, art galleries, country clubs, ice skating rinks, indoor family entertainment centers, indoor sports facilities, laser tag facilities, indoor movie theaters, museums, outdoor playgrounds, public recreation centers, roller skating rinks, social clubs, trampoline parks, and zoos. Day camps and residential camps may open at any time. These sectors must follow the Consumer, Retail, Services & Entertainment guidance and any other applicable associated guidance that is specific to their business. Some of the items may have implications for schools and we will work to get clarification on how this impacts schools.

Athletic Guidelines for the COVID-19 Pandemic: We are now permitted to have our teams begin skills training. Based on the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) guidelines, we have to reopen in three phases, which were reviewed with the Board. Facilities remain closed to outside groups and the public due to mass gathering restrictions that are in place until the end of June. We will re-evaluate that once we get additional guidance. We have submitted our phasing plan to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for approval.

SB 319: Senator Matt Huffman introduced SB 319 on Tuesday, which is a relief bill for schools in regards to issues brought on by COVID-19. This was just introduced and has a long way to go to become law. We will watch the progress. The Board received a handout that detailed information on this bill.

Assistant Superintendent Jim Presot discussed the following items:

Facilities Update: Mr. Presot discussed the high school project by detailing items on each level of the building as well as the exterior work in the parking lot that has begun. The contractor is still expecting to turn over the new addition on time for the start of the 2020-21 school year. He then spoke about the upcoming start of the middle school door card readers system that will be done over the next few weeks. Finally, he highlighted the work occurring at the new elementary site. Great progress has occurred and soon all of the interior cement work will be completed and interior walls and windows will be installed.

Food Services: Mr. Presot announced that he recently met with the District Food Service Supervisor Mary Ellen Feigi who has decided to retire July 31. She has been a tremendous asset to the District and will be greatly missed. The District has started the process of posting the position and will be seeking candidates to replace her in the near future. He then provided a brief report on the overall year in operations and some of the accomplishments of the Food Service Department. He concluded the presentation by sharing some of the revenue and expenses over the past year and how the shutdown of school operations impacted the financial revenue of the Food Service Department.

Insurance Proposal: There was a review of the insurance proposal that will be recommended to the Board to approve at the June 8 Board meeting. The overall price did increase from previous years, but much of that can be attributed to a number of new buses being added to the fleet and the new insurance placed on the new addition to the high school. The District did seek quotes from multiple vendors before deciding to remain with its current provider.

Auction: An update was given on the recently completed online auction for furniture and equipment that was sold at the high school.

Maintenance and Custodial Staff Update: Mr. Presot reviewed much of the work that was done by the maintenance and custodial staff over the last two months in the 76 and 88 sections of the high school to prepare for the upcoming renovations by our construction contractor. He commended the staff for all of their hard work and effort it took to get everything moved and cleaned out from these spaces.

Treasurer Biagio Sidoti reviewed the financial packet for the month ending May 31, 2020, the Suburban Health Consortium was posted, and an item was recommended for approval.

b. Upcoming Agenda Review

The Board reviewed the June 8, 2020, regular meeting agenda and made changes where needed.

VII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

a. Superintendent and Treasurer Evaluation Template Review

The Board made a few recommendations to the Treasurer’s Evaluation Template.

b. Discussion on Virtual Board Meetings

The Board made a decision to have July’s Board meetings in person at Royal View Elementary where the distancing guidelines can be followed.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular Meeting	June 8, 2020	7:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
Regular Meeting Appropriations	June 29, 2020	7:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
NR Recreation Board Meeting	June 30, 2020	6:00 p.m.	NR City Hall
Regular Meeting/Work Session	July 9, 2020	6:30 p.m.	Royal View Elementary
Regular Meeting	July 13, 2020	7:00 p.m.	Royal View Elementary
Financial Advisory & Audit Committee	July 16, 2020	7:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting

IX. RESOLUTION 2020-121: MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Moved by DeLap

Seconded by Arendt

Voting Aye: DeLap, Arendt, Dolezal, Reinkober, Kelly

Motion Carried

Note: All North Royalton Board of Education meetings are recorded and posted on the District website: www.northroyaltonsd.org.

ATTEST:

Brian S. Siskat
TREASURER

John H. Kelly
BOARD PRESIDENT

July 13, 2020
DATE

DATE