

**Minutes of the NORTH ROYALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting/Work Session  
Held September 10, 2020  
Royal View Elementary Gymnasium**

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**SUMMARY**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. RESOLUTION 2020-232: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA
- V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- VI. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
- VII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS
- VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- IX. RESOLUTION 2020-233: EXECUTIVE SESSION
- X. RESOLUTION 2020-234: 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 6:30 p.m. on September 10, 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 Patick Farrell, and Director of Technology Tricia Pozsgai.

**IV. RESOLUTION 2020-232: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA.** Resolve the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by Arendt

Seconded by DeLap

Voting Aye: Arendt, DeLap, Dolezal, 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:

Superintendent Gurka discussed the reopening plan for the District. There have been weekly email communications sent to parents as to what the District status is for reopening in person. Based on the Governor's weekly Thursday press conferences, this is the third week since August 20 that Cuyahoga County has remained in the Level Orange category. With this information, the District is moving forward with plans to transition into our Blended Learning Phase. Highlights of the upcoming week is listed below:

- A number of special education students started back in-person on September 8.
- The week of September 22, students will come in-person one day only so that we have time and space to get them acclimated to the building and the processes of buses, lunches, restrooms, etc.
- High school students will follow a regular schedule whether in-person or remote during the Blended Learning Phase.
- Middle school and elementary students will have lessons and activities in Google classroom to work on and complete on the days they are remote during the Blended Learning Phase.
- Bus schedules will be posted September 15 on our District website.
- Principals will be sending out additional communications with specific information.

Mr. Gurka thanked students, parents and staff for a positive two weeks of the Remote Learning Phase. He urged people to keep doing the right things by social distancing, wearing masks, and practicing good hygiene as these are the things that will allow students to return to in-person school.

Director of Personnel Pat Farrell and Superintendent Greg Gurka explained the District's COVID-19 contact tracing plan. Email communication was sent to parents yesterday describing the process the District will follow. The first step is for parents to notify the District of a positive COVID-19 test result or a positive doctor diagnosis. The District will alert the classroom, the school, and then report it on our website. We will be as transparent as possible in our communications without disclosing protected health information. Mr. Gurka asked our students, parents and community to respect other people's privacy and to be respectful in general regarding any situations that may arise.

Mr. Farrell shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board from a training he attended with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBOH) for contact tracing. Below are some highlights from the training:

- The CCBOH uses 10 minutes as the timeline of exposure to someone to determine if an individual should quarantine.
- Quarantine is for those who are not ill but have been exposed. Individuals should remove themselves from others after being in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 (within six feet for at least ten minutes).
- Isolation is for anyone testing positive for COVID-19. These individuals should isolate from others for 10 days since the onset of symptoms AND be symptom free for 24 hours without medication.
- Contact of a Contact: Individuals who have been in contact with someone who has been in contact with a positive COVID-19 case. They are not mandated to quarantine at this point, but should watch for symptoms and seek a medical diagnosis should they develop symptoms.

The contact tracing process involves an interview with the COVID-19 positive individual to gather important information. This information will be passed on to the health department as well as used for further tracing, such as activities they participated in, locations they were at, siblings, timeline of onset of symptoms, and anything else that can help to narrow down the list of close contacts.

Rumors: Mr. Gurka publicly spoke to clear up a couple of rumors. The new STEM wing at North Royalton High School is open and the teachers are working in their spaces. There is a rumor that one of the reasons the District started with Remote Learning was due to construction delays. This is not true. We are prepared to welcome students now and the building was ready if school had started as originally planned on August 19. The other rumor is that if the District had not started in the Remote Learning Phase our teachers would have gone on strike. That is not true. Our teachers are working, happy to be back, and ready to be working in-person with students.

Assistant Superintendent Jim Presot gave the Board a short update on the various construction projects that are occurring in the District:

North Royalton High School:

- The new addition is completely done and the teachers are working in their new spaces.
- Hammond Construction has started the next phase of the project - the 1976 and 1988 sections. They have gutted the majority of the interior spaces and are beginning the renovations. This section is expected to be completed in March of 2021.

North Royalton Elementary School:

- Painting has started and is being done inside the second-grade wing.
- Exterior brickwork is almost complete and the entire building will be enclosed by the end of September.
- Bids for the road widening project and the sanitary sewer lines were just received and look favorable. The Construction Manager (CM) is reviewing the bids with the lowest bidder and making sure everything is included. We should have final numbers sometime next week.

North Royalton Middle School:

- Now that we have final bids on the elementary project, we can begin focusing our attention to some of the middle school projects that need to be done. This work will occur over the next two years.

Bell Tower Project: The original bell that hung in the bell tower of the first North Royalton High School has been installed in the tower above the ticket booth at Serpentine stadium. The bell is able to be light up at night and will be rung after our teams score points on the field during games.

Mr. Delap asked the status of the sewer lines for the elementary building. Mr. Presot explained that we will go back to the North Royalton Planning Commission Meeting in October to amend our original approval application. The District had originally indicated that it would not only install the sewer line, but would also install the laterals to each of the homeowners that the line passed. After review and discussion with our legal counsel, this is not permitted per law. The homeowners would be responsible for doing this. We need to clarify that with the Planning Commission in October.

Food Services Update: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved an unprecedented waiver for school service programs. We will be able to offer free breakfast and lunches to all of our students regardless of their status in the free and reduced program in all phases of our reopening plan until funds run out or through December 31. Students who stay remote will have a drive-up system to pick up their meals and students in school will be able to receive free meals. Ala carte items will be charged regular prices. Email communication will go out to parents on Friday to explain this program in detail.

News from North Royalton High School: There are three National Merit Semifinalists: Dylan Bellomy, Jake Bulkowski, and Christopher Linne. There are 16,000 semifinalists that started at 1.5 million juniors in 21,000 high schools. We will honor these three students and will also hear shortly if there are commended students.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Staff Organizations: Administration has worked with both the North Royalton Education Association (NREA) and Ohio Association of Public School Employees (OAPSE) on MOUs to deal with circumstances that occur during a remote or hybrid setting that would not occur during a regular school year. We continue to finalize the MOU with the NREA and the OAPSE MOU is up for approval on Monday's agenda.

State Testing: Even though state testing was not done this past spring, the state will still issue a State Report Card. The Board received a packet explaining what the report card will look like. It will be released on September 15.

Census: The census collection will end on September 30. Mr. Gurka urged every household to take ten minutes to complete it.

Agenda Review:

Mr. Presot went over the YMCA pool contract and a Power 4 Schools contract that may be on Monday's agenda. If he does not receive the information for these contracts on time, they will be on the October Board Agenda for approval.

Treasurer Biagio Sidoti reviewed the financial packet for the month ending August 31, 2020, the Suburban Health Consortium was posted, he went over the 2020-21 Appropriations, and several items were recommended for approval.

- b. Upcoming Agenda Review  
The Board reviewed the September 14, 2020, regular meeting agenda and made changes where needed.

**VII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

- a. Board Member School Liaison Assignments
- b. Board Goals Discussion for Possible Changes

The Board will keep the same school assignments as last year:

- Albion: John Kelly
- Royal View: Anne Reinkober
- Valley Vista: Heidi Dolezal
- Middle School: Jackie Arendt
- High School: Terry DeLap

The Board also decided to review the current goals and will discuss at a later date if any changes will be made.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Regular Meeting	September 14, 2020	7:00 p.m.	Royal View Gymnasium
NR Recreation Board Meeting	September 22, 2020	6:00 p.m.	NR City Hall
Regular Meeting/Work Session	October 8, 2020	6:30 p.m.	Royal View Gymnasium
Regular Meeting	October 12, 2020	7:00 p.m.	Royal View Gymnasium
Financial Advisory & Audit Committee Mtg	October 15, 2020	7:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting

- IX. RESOLUTION 2020-233: EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Motion to go into executive session at 7:57 p.m. to consider the employment of a public employee or official and to discuss the evaluations of the superintendent and treasurer.

Moved by Reinkober Seconded by Dolezal  
 Voting Aye: Reinkober, Dolezal, Arendt, DeLap, Kelly  
 Motion Carried

Called back to order at 8:14 p.m.

**X. RESOLUTION 2020-234: MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 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](http://www.northroyaltonsd.org).

ATTEST:

Brian Sidot  
 TREASURER

October 12, 2020  
 DATE

John H. Kelly  
 BOARD PRESIDENT

10/12/2020  
 DATE