

# *Wales School Committee*

Meeting of July 23, 2020

5:30 P.M.

Virtual Meeting

**PRESENT:** Christine Randall, Ed Boyce, Amy Bishop, Carolyn Boehne, Ashley Gallant

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Erin Nosek, Mrs. Deb Boyd, Mrs. Jodi Bourassa, Ms. Linda Christofori and Mrs. Karen Miarecki

**AUDIENCE PRESENT:** Staff members, Community members

**Regular Session Open at 5:30 p.m.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Ed Boyce, seconded by Christine Randall to approve the June 17<sup>th</sup> Regular and Executive Session.

Discussion: Changing nomination for **Secretary** to Mrs. Gallant instead of Ed Boyce

VOTE: Unanimous, as amended

Randall - Yes, Boyce - Yes, Bishop - Yes, Boehne - Yes, Gallant - Yes

## **Financial Report**

- FY21 Budget Update – Awaiting updates

## **Communications**

- MASC – COVID-19 State Funding Resolution - FYI
- MASC – Anti-Racism Resolution - FYI
- MASC Bulletin - FYI
- School Committee Terms and Roles - FYI

## **Principals Report – Ms. Linda Christofori**

- Reopening Plan – To be discussed in Superintendent’s Report

## **Superintendent’s Report**

- School Re-opening Information
  - Remote Learning Survey – June 2020 – Protocols were received
  - School Re-opening Survey – July 2020 - 44 families have completed the survey thus far. Some items touched upon -Comfort level coming to school, masks being worn, school lunches vs. home lunches, bus concerns and whether they would like Hybrid model, Fully Remote Alternative, or In-School Learning. The survey will help to draft the plans moving forward.
  - DESE Updates – FAQ’s – Included in the packet
  - Staff Survey – FYI on how they feel returning to school
  - Walk through occurred in the schools in every classroom in every building, the following are highlights:
    - What is the nurse set up, disinfectant ordered and protocols that are required by the state?
      - Three plan types have been provided per requirements and need to be in by July 31<sup>st</sup> (Hybrid – one week off one-week remote, Remote Learning and In School)
    - Ventilation system will be reviewed; new filters will be provided and they will be checked weekly to see when they will need to be replaced; looking to see what the air flow is and see how that can be tested by a meter for rating for a baseline.
    - Screens were investigated and new ones will be provided if needed. Looking into screens put into windows for air flow for fresh air to come into the school.
    - Most classrooms size with the 6-foot separation distance will work out fine.
    - The town is having an outside vendor to sanitize monthly; will investigate further and what the requirements are.
  - Joint Meeting will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup> regarding a plan for the new school year.
  - Discussed Concerns/Comments Regarding School in the fall:
    - Kerri Glanville read a statement from the staff with their concerns
    - Safety is a huge concern to have in school learning
    - Children not getting the correct learning due to all the cleaning and masks; will it be effective learning?
    - Concern with Teachers becoming ill, what would happen for learning at that point?
    - Appropriate PPE has been ordered
    - Air Flow will be monitored
    - Younger students (Pre-K – Gr. 1) will not be required to wear the masks, but they will be highly encouraged to

- Teachers and Adults will be wearing masks
- Three Models will be provided as options as state requires (Hybrid, In School and Remote Learning)
- Sanitization
- August 6<sup>th</sup> – Joint Committee to discuss in detail
- Testing teachers to make sure they are healthy will not be a requirement.

### **Tantasqua Representative Report**

- Various models on reopening; not a definitive one just to move along to the state
- Calendar – Voted on bumping up the two PD days in October and January to move up to Labor Day week so all staff will be in the building and that children will return the day after Labor Day. Graduation is happening this Saturday at the football field; only immediate families will attend with being six feet apart. Board of Health gave stamp of approval for graduation.
- 20/21 Calendar – Vote below

Motion was made by Ed Boyce, seconded by Amy Bishop to approve the FY20/21 Calendar changes with the PD Days being moved from October and January to the first week of school allowing school for students to start later and teachers to have PD Days prior to the start of school.

**Discussion:** School will start for Teachers/staff on 8/31 with 9/1, 9/2 and 9/3 begin Professional Days and Teacher meetings to be held. Reopening of school will be on 9/8/2020 except for Special Ed which will start on 9/14 and General Ed will start on 9/21. General School for grades 1-6 will start on 9/8 and Kindergarten will start on 9/14.

VOTE: Unanimous

Randall - Yes, Boyce - Yes, Bishop - Yes, Boehne - Yes, Gallant - Yes

### **Public Access**

None

### **Old Business**

- Joint Meeting – August 6<sup>th</sup> for planning approval
- Received Summer School Grant – Awarded \$12,000 for Wales– broke it down into three weeks so it will be by invitation and how to recruit students and staff prior to the start of school

### **Open Forum**

This is an opportunity to offer comments or observations about the School Committee and its work. Motions may be made during this session to establish New Business for a subsequent meeting or to refer a topic to a subcommittee. Members are limited to two minutes each and the session shall be limited to 15 minutes.

- Will there be after/before school programs this year – Hopeful that there will be it may be different or structured in a different way; will be reviewed
- Specials, Gym – Will this be an option? Gym classes will be held outside. Will not be singing in the music; some things will be different. Library time will be investigated; at the beginning not, certain it will be allowed.
- Chrome books will be wiped down effectively – One cart is available
- Windows will not be opened if under certain temperature; will follow appropriate guidelines
- What kind of transparency or reporting will be provided for the public regarding COVID cases – That is a health department question not a school one
- Allergies – Peanut/tree nuts – What if eating in the classroom with open spaces? This is a safety issues; it would have to be a peanut free school. Will revisit and place on the list to work on.
- Lunch – Children will have to eat in the classrooms except for K and ½ of grade 5.
- Higher Risk Group – Asthma – Will it be recommended to wear the mask for older children? Unless a medical necessity they will all wear the masks. The school committee may have the right to vote if they are to be taught remotely. Grade two and up will be mandatory to wear a mask and face shield may be recommended if medical reasons say a child can't wear a mask.
- What disqualifies someone from wearing a mask? Require documentation from a medical provider such as for COPD or Asthma. They would wear a face shield instead or excluded to wearing a mask. This will come down to what is best for your child.

### **New Business**

None

At 7:15 p.m. Motion was made by Ed Boyce, seconded by Amy Bishop to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous

Randall - Yes, Boyce - Yes, Bishop - Yes, Boehne - Yes, Gallant - Yes