

# *Wales School Committee Meeting*

Meeting of September 16, 2020

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

**ABSENT:** Amy Bishop

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

**AUDIENCE PRESENT:** Staff members, community member

## **Regular Session Opened at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Christine Randall provided an overview for the audience regarding protocol during the Public Access portion of the meeting. Members are limited to two minutes each and the session shall be limited to 15 minutes and each person is to be called upon to speak by the Chair.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Ed Boyce, seconded by Carolyn Boehne to approve the July 23rd Virtual Regular Session.

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

### **Financial Report**

- Special Ed/Homeless Transportation - Significant shortfall due to new placement and required homeless transportation. The line has been increased for FY21, but perhaps not enough.
- School Choice balance June 30 is \$128,873, before applying \$37,351 to the FY21 operation budget
- Final FY21 budget (\$7,237 - Town vote \$1,833,133)
- Reopening Grants - Being utilized

### **Communications**

- DESE and Dept. of Public Health - Joint Memo provided in packet and reviewed guidance and policies and immunizations; by December 31, all students are to be provided with the flu vaccine
- DESE and DHP - Summary PowerPoint provided in packet and reviewed guidance and policies
- 20/21 Calendar - Voted on and approved updates on the calendar
- Policy BG - School Committee Development - Sequence to have Policies approved

### **Principals Report** – Ms. Linda Christofori reviewed her report and reviewed highlights

- New Staff - Nicole Colella has joined as the new adjustment counselor and Rob Morgan as the new custodian
- Open House - Held virtually on Monday, September 14th at 5:00 p.m.
- Technology Tidbits - We loaned out 38 iPads and two Chromebook's to families for their use during remote learning.
- Extended Day Program - Will be offering the Extended Day Program to parents again this year.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- School Re-opening Information - Appreciation provided to Support Staff, Maintenance, Parents, and all that have helped with all for their hard work
- Home Schooling - Slight uptick - Three new homeschool applications (on top of the previous one)
- Designated a COVID point person to communicate to the department, Lynne will be the point person and DESE will be tracking any occurrences
- Day one - Went smoothly, the kids seemed happy and they all wore their masks properly. Police officers were here, and the children seemed happy and engaged. The kids were happy to see one another face to face; even remotely they were chatting with one another. Any technical problems please discuss with the Principal and she will relay the messages to the IT staff.
- DPH Color Coded Data - Changing out of one model to another, all five of the communities were only shaded in grey. Process will be to wait to review three consecutive weekly reports until deciding on remote/hybrid for color changing data.
- Peanut Letter - Staff member's life-threatening allergy. A letter will be sent out regarding "no" peanut products will be allowed in the classroom. The teacher in the audience discussed the possibility of airborne allergies; if they touch anything with residue it will be an allergic reaction; it is life-threatening. Language in the letter will be updated and sent along that it is effective immediately that nut products will not be allowed.

### **Tantasqua Representative Report**

- Meeting last night - School reopening for the district for Tantasqua Junior and High School. PPE Safety is in place. There is a public health nurse for the town of Wales; this will be reviewed and provided
- Fall sports will be starting in October - Certain sports will be allowed and implemented for the local area (No football or volleyball).

### **Public Access**

- Staff requested stronger language on wearing masks for the children at school be reviewed.
- Parents present asked when more students can be full in-person. Six feet distancing is what the school is starting at as the guideline with mask off is six feet for lunches. Based on space this will be reviewed to see how many could be at the school at one given time with being in each classroom.
- Teachers express concerns - It is cold already; teaching in the classrooms is not easy with having half zoom and half in-class learning. Concerns with BOH on how they will effectively handle the process to make sure it is well established. The school committee will set up a meeting with the BOH to discuss their concerns, so everyone is on the same page.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

- Policy EBCFA - Face Masks - First Reading, Second Reading, and Vote for Adoption
- Remote Learning - Student Code of Conduct
- Building Use Request for the November 3rd Election - The town is looking to utilize the building during this time. The school committee will reach out to see what the specifics are if having it held here.

**Motion** was made by Christine Randall, seconded by Ed Boyce to Approve Amended Policy EBCFA - Face Masks on First Reading, Second Reading, and Adoption.

Discussion: Pre-K through Grade 1 will be expected to wear masks

VOTE: Unanimous

**Motion** was made by Ed Boyce, seconded by Christine Randall to approve the Remote Learning Student Code of Conduct as presented in the packet

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

**Motion** was made by Ed Boyce, seconded by Carolyn Boehne to authorize the Chair to vote to approve the Building Use Request for the November 3rd Election (*if deemed acceptable upon further review/discussion*)

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

**Motion** made at 7:29 p.m., by Christine Randall to enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Ch. 30A, Section 21A(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. The Committee will adjourn the meeting from Executive Session

Discussion:

VOTE: Boyce – Yes, Gallant – Yes, Boehne – Yes, Randall – Yes