

SHARON BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020 - 5:30 PM
@
VIA GOOGLE MEET
Draft Minutes

Present via Google Hangout:

School Board: Don Shaw, Chantelle Brackett, Sam Potter

Others: Raymond Ballou (Technology Manager, WRVSU), Jamie Kinnarney (Superintendent, WRVSU, left the meeting at 5:51 pm), Keenan Haley (Sharon Elementary School Principal), Steve Gagliardone (Sharon resident, arrived at 5:45 left the meeting at 5:51 pm), Nicole Antal (Sharon School Board Recording Secretary).

1. Call to Order

Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The meeting is recorded.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

3. Assign times/time keeper

4. Consent Agenda

4.1. Approve the Minutes of Tuesday, June 16, 2020 (Regular)

Potter made a motion to approve the minutes of Tuesday, June 16, 2020 as written and submitted. Brackett seconded; motion approved.

5. Board Communications

6. Public Comments

Gagliardone came to the meeting to discuss a policy on anti-racism. Kinnarney said he had received his email and had just told the board that the Policy Committee has appointed a Task Force to address Equity. Kinnarney said he should have received an email from Simmons to invite him to be part of the Task Force.

7. Reports to the Board

7.1. Superintendent's Report

Kinnarney shared a document prior to the meeting with the board he kept referring to. See attachments on the website to access.

Kinnarney told the board he had a voluntary info session with staff across the SU today (August 11) in regard to reopening plans and about the work that has been occurring during the summer. 148 staff members joined. It was well-received.

Policy committee: there are two policies coming to the SU, on August 24. Disposition of Assets and Investment Policy. The Policy Committee is also looking at other policies for updating. They have also created a subcommittee to address an Equity Policy for the SU. This subcommittee will gather stakeholder across the SU as well as some people at VLS who offered their support in this work. They will then report to the Policy Committee.

COVID: The Agency of Education just released today (August 11) revised documents on school reopening, some of the changes are about social distancing requirements. Kinnarney believes the State is gearing up to move to Stage 3 (which is the least restrictive environment, which was noted in a memo that was shared today). It also hints that there will be no mixed model of instruction, meaning that schools would have to be open for 5 days a week. The Virtual Academy the SU is working on would still be permitted under this, but it does mean that the hybrid models that are being worked on in other parts of Vermont will not be happening.

1:30 pm: Kinnarney explained the early release at 1:30 pm was about offering flexibility for families but also to ensure that the SU met the obligations to the Master Agreement with staff. The school doesn't end at 1:30 pm, enrichment and other classes will happen during that 1.5 hours. The SU is partnering with the afterschool program to provide additional staffing, to ensure that the teachers get their planning time. This plan is for 9 weeks and will be revisited if it needs to be adjusted.

Administrators: Kinnarney wanted to congratulate Haley and all the administrators across the SU that came together and worked on reopening schools as a unified front.

Ventilation: Kinnarney toured all the schools to review the HVAC systems except Sharon, but will on August 12 with Haley and Whitaker.

Nurse: Kinnarney shared that CARE Money will be prioritized to have a nurse full time in the building, 5 days a week, but also across the SU. Right now, the position in Sharon is part-time.

Transportation: Originally, the plan was to have health screening done before the student entered the bus, but the bus company wasn't comfortable assisting the SU with that. This is true across the state. There will instead be an online health check filled by parents that will have to occur in real-time communicated back to the building confidentially. There will be a temperature check once the student arrives on-site.

Shaw asked what the result of the survey about transportation, and if there was a high percentage of parents offering to drive their children to school, would it be possible not to offer transportation. Kinnarney answered that the School Board can decide not to offer transportation and there is an opt-out option in the contract. Kinnarney will report to the board the numbers of students who need transportation. Kinnarney also added that the Board can also try to run the buses for a few weeks and see how many students actually take the bus. If only a few students are on a route, the Board can decide if it makes financial sense to continue running the route.

Virtual Academy: It will be run SU-wide, and he is hoping that there will not be a need to hire additional staff to run it.

There is flexibility in the day for the Virtual Academy, but there will be a morning meeting, scheduled meeting, a social lunch meeting, time for intervention if needs arise. It is close to a regular school day, to ensure that learning continues.

Brackett thanked Haley and Kinnarney for the work they have been doing on reopening school safely.

7.2. Business Manager's Report

None

7.3. Principal's Report

Community Forum July 30: he and Shane Oakes (member of the COVID Task Force team) talked with the community about school reopening and answered the community's questions. He shared that it was important for administrators across the SU to open schools for 5 days, full-time for working parents. It was also important to keep it consistent across the SU.

Implementing 4 teams: There are 4 teams looking at how the school reopening and school days will be shaped.

One team is looking at indoor space and distancing recommendations.

One team is looking at outdoor space (4 tents will be used as much as possible).

One team is looking to develop informational videos on how to access school this year.

And one team is looking to develop the health screen systems of the school day.

Preschool: A teacher resigned, and it was decided not to replace her. The preschool team has developed a schedule that will allow them to make sure that all the rooms are covered for state guidelines. The format will be different but it will be similar to other preschools. Haley is confident this will be a cost-saving without impacting the quality of the program.

Grant: The school received a \$14,000 from the Byrne Foundation to buy material for the literacy program.

MTSS: Haley shared that the school has been working for years on MTSS but Kinnarney is a leader in the field and will help Sharon and the other districts in really improve in their implementation. Behaviors will be recorded to better address the needs of the students. Haley reported they have purchased software to help with this (SWIS Suite). The hope is to find trends to track behaviors.

Shaw asked if the data follows the student. Haley didn't know, he had just submitted this application.

Paving Project: The RFP will go back out in October to have bids in November-December, to have the paving project done hopefully in June of next year. Haley would like the assistance of Mike Clark who has offered his guidance at a previous meeting to discuss what could be done to fill the holes in the parking lot until the paving project can be completed. Potter will also have a conversation with the Road Foreman to discuss filling in the holes on the road the town maintains.

6th Grade: Janice Boulbol has accepted a new position in another school. Haley hired a new teacher, Andrew Evans. He has taught 6th grade and has been a teacher for 20 years, has a passion for outdoor education.

Shaw said he didn't recall accepting Boulbol's resignation. Haley informed Shaw that she didn't have a contract, just a letter of intent. Shaw asked for clarification about the contract situation, Haley confirmed that no staff has signed a contract yet. Shaw will investigate why that is, usually, contracts are signed in June. Haley suspects that the audit might be a reason.

Teachers: Potter asked if any teachers are sharing any concerns about coming back. Haley hasn't heard any definitive answer, some staff and teachers want to talk to their doctors, but no "I am not coming back" yet. Some families have indicated that they are not coming back for health reasons.

7.4. Policy Committee

See Superintendent's Report

8. Discussion Items

8.1 COVID-19 Updates/Planning

See Principal's Report + Superintendent's Report

8.2 Driveway Project

See Principal's Report

9. Action Items

10. Executive Session - Student Matter

Brackett made a motion to enter executive session at 6:14 pm. Potter seconded. Motion approved. Recording stopped.

11. Return to Public Session

**Potter made a motion to exit executive session at 6:21 pm. Brackett seconded. Motion approved. Recording started at 6:21 pm.
No Actions taken.**

12. Confirm Next Meeting Dates

12.1. Tuesday, September 8, 2020 - 5:30 PM @ VIA GOOGLE MEET (Regular)

Confirmed. Full Board Meeting on August 24th, 6 pm.

13. Future Agenda Items

14. Adjourn

Brackett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 pm. Potter seconded. Motion approved.