

LONG ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

3:30 p.m. – Long Island Library Conference Room

MINUTES

Citizens in the audience are invited to speak during public comment and/or on a topic that is introduced during the course of the meeting under New Business. Each citizen is to be limited to one presentation per citizen, per topic, of not more than three minutes unless the chair gives special permission. Audience participation shall cease on a topic at such time as the chairman calls for board discussion.

Access for the Wednesday, April 1 meeting was made using this ZOOM link:

<https://zoom.us/j/710836960?pwd=ODVtcUdYOWtHSjBZYWhKSS8xRk8zZz09>

If prompted, the meeting ID number is 710 836 960 and the password is 079896

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Annie Donovan called the meeting to order at 3:30. Roll call vote established that board members Sam Whitener and Pierre Avignon were also present. Also present were Marci Train, Lead Teacher, and Barbara Powers, Superintendent/Principal.

2. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Donovan moved approval of the March 11, 2020 minutes. Mr. Whitener seconded the motion. Roll call vote was 3-0.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public attended this ZOOM meeting despite the posted link invitation.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Powers talked about issues being addressed by the Cumberland County Superintendents Association, including Gov. Mills' most recent shelter in place ruling, which will push any potential school opening to May 4 at the earliest. Mrs. Powers said

she will alert families to this closure change along with any other relevant updates resulting from board decisions at this meeting.

She also reported that all families were polled after two weeks of distance learning to better understand the impact on families who are overseeing the work for our fifteen children. Nine of 12 families responded, while the remaining three families have been in regular contact with their teacher. While minor adjustments were requested for two children, all others who responded reported that the teachers have offered very helpful work previews each week; that they have asked their students for an appropriate amount of work; that Zoom has provided the opportunity for engaging and instructionally beneficial time working together with classmates; that the amount of screen time required by the school is manageable; and, that routines have helped families accommodate learning expectations as well as a healthy work/play balance at home.

The efficacy of distance learning will be assessed regularly with adjustments made as needed.

6. LEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Mrs. Train reported that instruction has been going well. She explained her use of on line platforms to manage work material distribution and return of completed work. She also shared her very inventive LEGO document camera so that she can display work pages during math instruction. She also said that connections with children on Chebeague Island have been made and remote book discussion groups will begin next week. Mrs. Norton also is using excellent resources and working daily with her children on line as well as furnishing hard copy work resources. Mrs. Train noted that both teachers are putting in an extraordinary amount of time to insure teaching and learning continue as well as possible.

7. OLD BUSINESS

•School Budget Update

Mrs. Powers explained that she will be joining a finance committee meeting later on this date to learn how the town intends to confirm the proposed budgets from all departments and how soon to process information for the voting articles in the Town Report, whenever it is able to be safely held.

•2019-20 School Year Calendar

At a recent staff meeting, Mrs. Powers brought up the possibility of cancelling the April vacation period given that school is likely to remain a distance learning experience for quite some time and children will continue working from home. Pros discussed included keeping the routines going for the children that are just now being established, providing social contact with the children during a time period when no one will be able to travel, and finishing school earlier in June just as good weather arrives by eliminating the four

storm days as well as the Friday before the scheduled break. Cons discussed included no break for teachers and families who have been working hard together to provide quality learning for the children, and being in a household where older siblings attending Portland Schools are on break.

Mrs. Powers agreed to poll families prior to this meeting to see how parents would feel about that possibility. The response was very positive. She reported that a strong majority of families favored keeping school going and routines intact. Two families who were interested in a break due to family pressures would be offered make up support should they opt to take that time as an excused absence.

The board discussed the strengths of the “pro” position and was satisfied that if that’s what a majority of parents and the entire staff would support, it would make sense to support the proposal. Ms. Donovan moved that Friday, April 17 change back to a school day, that Patriot’s Day, April 20, continue to be honored, and that Tuesday, April 21 through Friday, April 24 become regular school days, with the last day of school on Wednesday, June 10. Mr. Whitener seconded the motion. Through a roll call vote, the motion passed 3-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of Extended School Closure: Distance Learning Plan

Mrs. Powers then summarized a proposed document she had submitted for review – Long Island School’s Extended School Closure: Distance Learning Plan. She explained that the Maine Department of Education was requiring all school superintendents to develop a plan allowing each School Board to approve all aspects of their school district’s extended closure. The goals of the plan were as follows:

1. To reduce the spread of infectious disease through social distancing and facilities cleaning
2. To provide for continuity of instruction for all students
3. To ensure continued health and well-being of all students, including food security and emotional health

Details of the plan addressing all three goals were then discussed, with significant information regarding distance learning schedules and resources enumerated as well as parent feedback regarding the efficacy of the instructional plans.

Ms. Donovan then moved approval of the Long Island School Extended School Closure: Distance Learning Plan. Mr. Whitener seconded the motion. A roll call vote was then taken and the plan was approved 3-0.

- Approval of one-year contract for Barbara Powers as Superintendent/Principal for SY 21

Ms. Donovan thanked Mrs. Powers for agreeing to serve a 6th year as the Long Island School Superintendent/Principal in order to provide consistent leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. Powers noted that for both personal and professional reasons, continuing in the position for another year felt like the right thing to do and she appreciated the board's support. Ms. Donovan moved approval of her 2020-21 contract and Mr. Whitener seconded the motion. A roll call vote was then taken and the contract was approved 3-0.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25. Everyone was encouraged to stay healthy and follow all careful measures!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Remaining 2019-20 School Board Meetings:

Wednesday, May 6

Wednesday, June 3

PLEASE NOTE:

SPECIAL RULEMAKING FOR REMOTE SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS:

§ 403-A. Public proceedings through remote access during declaration of state of emergency due to COVID-19

1. Remote access. Notwithstanding any provision of law or municipal charter provision or ordinance to the contrary, during a state of emergency declared by the Governor in accordance with Title 37-B, second 742 due to the outbreak of COVID-19, a body subject to this subchapter may conduct a public proceeding through telephonic, video, electronic or other similar means of remote participation under the following conditions:

A. Notice of the public proceeding has been given in accordance with second 406, and the notice includes the method by which the public may attend in accordance with paragraph C;

B. Each member of the body who is participating in the public proceeding is able to hear and speak to all the other members during the public proceeding and members of the public attending the public proceeding in the location identified in the notice given pursuant to paragraph A are able to hear all members participating at other locations;

C. The body determines that participation by the public is through telephonic, video, electronic or other similar means of remote participation; and

D. All votes taken during the public proceeding are taken by roll call vote.