

**Special Meeting Minutes of the
PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION VIRTUAL MEETING**

Special Meeting Title:

Anticipated Executive Session, 6:00 PM

1. Discussion: Update on DATTCO Meeting contract standing

Public Session, 6:30 PM

1. Update: Reopening of Schools Plan for SY2020-2021
2. Discussion concerning the proposed waiver of Policy 9311 and adoption of temporary COVID-19 policies
3. Possible action concerning the waiver of Policy 9311 and adoption of temporary COVID-19 policies
4. Request approval to reduce the student school year from 180 days to 177 days for COVID-19 related three-day staff training.
5. Other

Date: **Thursday, July 30, 2020**

Attendees: Becky Tyrrell, Board Chair; Crystal St. Lawrence, Board Vice Chair; Deborah Hardy, Rebecca Martinez, Nicole Palmieri, Laurie Peterson, Kathy Wells, and Foster White, Board Members; Steven LePage, Superintendent of Schools; David Levenduski, Asst. Superintendent of Schools; Sam Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations, and Kevin Ross, IT Director (Host of Meeting)

Absent: Board Member Brent Davenport

Board Chair Becky Tyrrell re-convened the Public Session of the Special Meeting of the Board at 6:48 PM.

1)Update: Reopening of Schools Plan for SY2020-2021

Mrs. Tyrrell asked the Superintendent to give a brief update on the Reopening of School Plan.

Mr. LePage stated that the Plan was sent to the State Thursday evening. Faculty and staff have also been given a copy of the plan and was asked to fill out a survey to gage their intentions as to whether they will be coming back in September. Updates on the Governor's briefing were sent out to staff today.

In addition, Mr. LePage stated that the plan is not a "make a decision or forever hold your peace" type of model for parents. He is asking for a 10 day to two-week transition for those parents who want to switch their children from remote learning to attending school full-time. Those who choose to leave school and go to remote learning should have a smoother/quicker transition, which should only take a couple of days. Atty. Tom Mooney who is renowned in education law agrees that parents should be made to understand that schools need a reasonable amount of time to prepare in order to support the education of their child properly.

Mr. LePage also said that he would like to clarify any confusion that has happened within the last few days. He

stated that when the Governor and Commissioner first spoke to the public, they stated that due to the State's clear health matrix, schools would be opening full-time throughout the state, which was the only option.

Since then, the Governor and Commissioner inadvertently caused confusion at a recent news conference with regard to the reopening of school stating that there was more flexibility for school districts due to schools in Fairfield County wanting to use the hybrid method, which wasn't an option in the original plan. This statement has caused confusion for many Superintendents who are now thinking that it will be up to the districts to make the final decision. Mr. LePage stated that he and other Superintendents' have sent numerous emails to the Governor asking for clarification. The Governor will hold a conference tomorrow at 12:30 PM to give final clarity.

Mr. LePage commented that if the Governor comes back stating that districts' have flexibility, he will come back to the Board with new health data regarding students and staff. Although the district is planning to come back full-time there are still a few details to work out, but he is confident in the full-time model. However, if guidelines state that the hybrid method should be used, then a decision will have to be made at that time. The decision will be that of a snow day where school districts in specific areas align together. Mr. LePage stated that if things change he will come back to the Board for approval.

Mrs. Martinez asked if there would be a possibility for another survey to be sent out to parents for their thoughts on the hybrid model vs. coming back to school full-time. Mr. LePage said yes.

Mr. LePage also stated that reminders have been sent out to parents asking that they notify the school system if they choose to keep their child/children home.

2)Discussion concerning the proposed waiver of Policy 9311 and adoption of temporary COVID-19 policies

Mrs. Tyrrell stated that due to the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 health crisis, there is a critical need for temporary policies to ensure the health and safety of district staff and students as the Board plans for school reopening. Therefore, the Board will need to waive Policy 9311, which typically requires two readings of a policy before it can be adopted. A roll call vote is required and it will take seven (7) Board Member votes in order to waive the requirement.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO WAIVE POLICY NO. 9311 RESTRICTIONS REQUIRING MULTIPLE READINGS OF THE POLICY IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE THE ADOPTION OF COVID-19 POLICIES AND REGULATIONS FOR SAFETY REASONS. CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Crystal St. Lawrence—Yes

Foster White—Yes

Kathy Wells—Yes

Rebecca Martinez—Yes

Nicole Palmieri—Yes

Deborah Hardy—Yes

Becky Tyrrell—Yes

THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED WITH SEVEN YES VOTES 7-0. TWO BOARD MEMBERS WERE ABSENT.

3)Possible action concerning the waiver of Policy 9311 and adoption of temporary COVID-19 policies

Mrs. Tyrrell then called upon Asst. Superintendent David Levenduski, to give a brief overview of the policies.

Mr. Levenduski stated that the district is proposing the adoption of three policies and regulations which are specific to school district operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. These policies and regulations are only applicable for the duration of this school year unless it is shortened or extended. Mr. Levenuduski then discussed the three policies and how they relate to the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE THREE SERIES' OF COVID-19 POLICIES AND REGUATIONS REGARDING HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. KATHY WELLS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.

4)Request approval to reduce the student school year from 180 days to 177 days for COVID-19 related three-day staff training.

Mr. LePage stated that the Governor recently waived the 180-day school year to allow flexible freedom for three additional Professional Development days for staff from August 26-September 2 prior to the start of school which will now be Thursday, September 3, 2020. Staff will be trained on all health and safety practices and protocols.

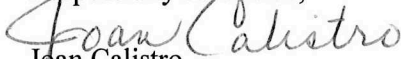
REBECCA MARTINEZ MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CHANGE OF THE 180 DAY SCHOOL YEAR TO 177 DAYS FOR PLAINVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, IN ORDER TO ALLOW HANDS-ON TRAINING OF SCHOOL STAFF ON ALL HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES AND PROTOCOLS AS PUT FORTH BY THE GOVERNOR. CRYSTAL ST. LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.

5)Other

Mrs. Tyrrell thanked all administrators who worked so hard on the Reopening Plan. She said there was a lot going on, with much confusion, but wanted them to know that the Board appreciates their efforts. Discussion ensued.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. KATHY WELLS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Joan Calistro
Recorder of Minutes