

MINUTES – Board of Education

Port Washington-Saukville School District

January 25, 2021

President Brenda Fritsch called the special meeting of the Port Washington-Saukville School District Board of Education to order at 6:01 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021, via Google Meet video conference. Remote audio access was available to the public.

BOARD MEMEMBERS PRESENT: Kelly O’Connell-Perket, Yvonne Klotz, Brian McCutcheon, Aaron Paulin, Matthew Uselding, Douglas Mueller, Sara McCutcheon, Brian Stevens, Brenda Fritsch

EXCUSED: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Michael Weber, Duane Woelfel, Mel Nettesheim, Chris Surfus, Heidi Belohlav, Thad Gabrielse, Dan Solórzano, Nate Hinze, Steve Sukawaty, Jodi Swagel, John Bunyan, Joanna Bannon, Jeff Carron, Sandy Crain, Bryan Ryer, Bill Schanen IV, and 18 call-in attendees

II. UPDATE: SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The District Office Leadership Team provided the Board with an update on the substitute teacher shortage and the method the District is using to recruit additional substitute teachers.

III. ACTION: SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGES FOR ADDITIONAL PREPARATION TIME

Dr. Weber and C. Surfus presented the administration’s proposal for the addition of six early release days to be added to the 2021-2022 school calendar. The days proposed for an approximately two-hour early release were: February 10th, March 17th, April 14th, April 28th, May 5th, and May 19th. It was noted that with the return to 5-day per week instruction, combined with the shortage of substitutes, teachers are often filling in for each other and losing their preparation and planning time. The additional early release days would make up for some of this lost time, as well as provide additional time to assist students in need of additional support learning the curriculum. Y. Klotz, seconded by M. Uselding, moved to adopt the early release days as presented for teacher catch-up and preparation time. Roll call vote: K. O’Connell-Perket, aye; Y. Klotz, aye; B. McCutcheon, aye; A. Paulin, abstain; D. Mueller, aye; M. Uselding, aye; S. McCutcheon, aye; B. Stevens, aye; B. Fritsch, aye. Motion passed.

IV. UPDATE: TRANSPORTATION

M. Nettesheim provided an update on school bus transportation. Johnson Bus was able to accommodate the return to all routes and student transportation needs. Masks are required to be worn on busses at all times; windows will be open, weather permitting, for additional air flow; and the busses will load back to front and empty front to back.

V. DISCUSSION: DEVELOPMENT OF STRUCTURE FOR A DISTRICT-WIDE IN-TOUCH GROUP

D. Woelfel and M. Nettesheim gave an update on their initial plans for the structure of a District-Wide In-Touch Group, which they will co-chair. The group would be made up of approximately 20 members, including parents. The purpose of the group is to enhance communication between the school board, administrators, and school buildings, and to obtain thoughts and feedback from parents and staff on a variety of educational and school-related issues.

VI. UPDATE: COVID19 VACCINATIONS

D. Woelfel provided an update on vaccinations for school district staff. He has been working closely with the Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department, and vaccination of school staff remains a high priority. It was noted that paraprofessionals, the district nurse, and school staff over age 65 are eligible to be vaccinated now (based on vaccine availability), as part of Phase 1A. The remaining school staff will be among the next eligible group of Phase 1B.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, M. Uselding, seconded by Y. Klotz, moved to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: All aye. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly O'Connell-Perket
School District Clerk