

School Administrative District 8 Board Meeting

September 22, 2021

6:00 PM Business Meeting/6:15 Regular Meeting

Board Members present: Alexandra McCarthy, Rachel Noyes, & Sue Dempster

Present Via Zoom: Penny Lazaro and Cait Clapham

Administration present: Valerie McKenney, Superintendent via Zoom, Monte Selby, Principal, Bryan Feezor, Assistant Principal and Tina Davidson, Business Manager

- I. Call to order – Chair, Alexandra McCarthy at 6:15
- II. Action of Minutes of the August 25, 2021 meeting – R Noyes motion to approve/S Dempster second (5-0)
- III. Adjustment to Agenda – Change Policy AD to First Read
- IV. Persons desiring to address the Board – Question was asked if we were going to debrief the week of remote learning?
- V. Board Chair – Ali McCarthy congratulated the Ravens Little League Team with their successful year with a 12-0 record. A banner and plaque were given to the school to hang.
- VI. Personnel – Valerie McKenney spoke about the open Ed Tech position and that we could always use substitutes.
- VII. Principal's Report
 - A. Communication – Was asked to get more out in the Wind and face book page to inform parents/community members of the upcoming events or things that the school is doing. Have been doing a better job at getting the information out. Started getting agendas out to staff members with the upcoming meetings and professional development days. Also doing a weekly “upcoming” to inform all of the upcoming week activities, meetings, event etc.
 - B. PEPG – This is our teacher evaluation. Work has already started with this.
 - C. Remote – We spent last week in remote learning. CDC and Maine Doe felt that it was the best choice to air on the side of caution where we are a small island. The staff worked hard over the weekend, Monday and Tuesday preparing to go remote Wednesday – Friday. Everyone felt that it was a successful week. 154 out of 166 attended their classes remotely. The administration addressed the reason behind having the staff children come to school with their parents. Teachers that have school aged children can focus more on their own teaching and not worry about their child/children getting their remote learning in as well. Makes for a less stressful week.
 - D. Mask? – The school board made a smart decision to keep the staff and students masked during the school day. 1,390 Covid cases are in schools and there were 14 cases the first of the week to 52 by the end of the week. Our outbreak seemed to be contained.
 - E. Students – There was a senior day where the seniors got special treatment the whole day from going first in the lunch line to an ice cream social out on the field with all the kids and staff participating laughing and enjoying the last 20 minutes of the day. The kids seemed very happy!! Happy to report that we are not having to have both boys and girls on one team. They were able to have enough to make the two teams. Middle school is also playing as well. The attendance so far this year has been great and a big shout out to parents for making this possible!

- F. New Staff –
Emily Davis is our new guidance counselor. She will be on site 2 days a week and working remotely ½ day a week from home.
Caity Quinn Parsons – Theater teacher – Already working on an elementary performance with the K-5 students.
Julia Adair – Cafeteria - Great to have her on board with her calm and friendly personality.
- G. 50-50 – 50 parent communications in 50 days
- H. Open House has been rescheduled for the following week. Plan is to have two different nights. The elementary kids will come in according to last name. Did not want to have all come in and gather at once.
- I. Thank you to parents when they came and picked up their child/childs materials and meals for remote learning. Almost all was picked up in 90 minutes.
- J. COVID – A lengthy discussion was had on whether or not children that are sick, should the siblings stay home as well to be sure that it is not COVID? Should we buy tests kits to keep at school for those families that do come down sick and can grab the kits to test at home? The decision was made that the school was not really equipped to take on the medical end of testing and that our relationship with ICMS was in good standing and if a student should test positive, they were quick to jump in with the testing and contact tracing. The board would like to see a section in the handbook in with illness that will cover COVID. That will be added.

VIII. Superintendent of Schools Report

- A. Financial report
- B. Hillary Bunker will be updating the Vinalhaven School website page.
- C. Working with Alan Koenig on a 10-year capital improvement plan.
- D. Strategic plan – Will be working with staff and community to develop a three-year plan. Goals for 21-22 – Elevate Pride, Mission/Vision, Staff Evaluation and to strengthen programs.
- E. Portrait of a Graduate – PoG committee met for the first of two final meetings. Three drawings done by Maisie Richards was presented. The hope is to use one for the cover of the Strategic Plan with the hopes that the diagram will link us back to the PoG as decisions and steps are made toward district improvement.
- F. New bus – working with Maine Department of Transportation on a getting a new bus for the district. The hope is to purchase an electric school bus. Additional information to follow.

IX. Questions of Board Members

X. Policy Consideration

A. Policy AD Second Read (changed to first read up in adjustment) – Policy Remote Participation in School Board Meeting - **R. Noyes motion to approve/S. Dempster seconds (5-0)**

B. Policy BED- Second Read – Policy Educational Philosophy/Mission **P. Lazaro motion to adopt/A. McCarthy seconds (5-0)**

XI. Old Business

- K. Review of Data regarding masks - The board made a motion that staff and students would continue to mask.

A. McCarthy made a motion to continue mask wearing/S. Dempster seconds (5-0) approve.

A.

XII. New Business

A. Enrollment as of 9/7/21 170 students

B. Student opening for the 21-22 school year

C. Handbooks – The board will turn in any edits to Bryan Feezor in the next week and he will bring the completed handbooks to the next board meeting for approval.

D. Electric Bus Purchase – Valerie McKenney gave the board several handouts with information regarding electric buses and a discussion was had as to why electric, maintenance and charging of the bus. We will be looking at grants to be able to purchase an electric school bus. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

E. ESSER III Grant – Monte Selby shared with the board the budget that was approved by the committee. The committee consists of board members, administration, teachers, parents, community member and a social worker. A lot of thought went into areas of recovery of learning for our students, mental health and counseling, new technology integration, safety and learning supports, COVID requirements and ventilation and learning space. The board made a motion to approve the ESSER III budget. **A McCarthy made a motion to approve the ESSER III budget/R Noyes seconds (4-0) approve (1) absent.**

XIII. Set date for October 2021 regular meeting – October 20, 2021

XIV. Adjourn 7:49