Minutes of Virtual Regular Meeting of the Board of Education and Public Hearing

The Board of Trustees
Northville Public Schools

A Virtual Regular Meeting of the Board of Education and Public Hearing of the Board of Trustees of Northville Public Schools was held Tuesday, August 11, 2020, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Virtual Zoom Meeting.

1. **Call to Order**

   Meeting called to order by President Hwang at 6:33 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

   President Hwang led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Roll Call**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr. Roland Hwang, President</th>
<th>Ms. Mary Kay Gallagher, Superintendent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Sarah Prescott, Vice President</td>
<td>Mr. Mike Zopf, Asst. Supt. for Finance &amp; Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Laurie Doner, Secretary</td>
<td>Mr. Dave Rodgers, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Cynthia Jankowski, Treasurer</td>
<td>Ms. Beth Santer, Director of Special Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Angela Jaafar, Trustee</td>
<td>Mr. Aaron Baughman, Asst. Supt. for Instructional Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Suzanne Lynn, Trustee</td>
<td>Ms. Rebecca Pek, Director of Personnel &amp; Quality Assurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Matthew Wilk, Trustee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   President Hwang asked for any candidates present who are running for School Board in the 11/6/20 Election (4 seats) to raise their hand. Candidates present include: Kimberly Campbell-Voytal; Harihar Kulkarni; Lisa McIntyre; James Mazurek; Douglas Miller; Current BOE member Sarah Prescott; and Lindsey Wilson.

4. **Adoption of Agenda**
Motion No. 20/21-033 by Vice President Prescott, supported by Trustee Lynn, that the agenda be adopted as presented. Roll Call Vote: Doner – yes; Hwang – yes; Jaafar – yes; Jankowski – yes; Lynn – yes; Prescott - yes; Wilk – yes. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Consent Resolutions

Motion No. 20/21-034 by Vice President Prescott, supported by Trustee Jaafar, that the Board accept the consent agenda items for approval as presented:

a) Minutes of the August 4, 2020 Special Call Meeting of the Board of Education
b) Second Reading and Adoption of Policy 2001- Student Discrimination and Harassment; and Policy 4114- Discrimination and Harassment
c) Bill Warrants totaling $2,037,710.73

Roll Call Vote: Hwang – yes; Jaafar – yes; Jankowski – yes; Lynn – yes; Prescott – yes; Wilk – yes; Doner – yes. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Communications

Secretary Doner reported two communications:

a) npsboe@northvilleschools.org emails

b) Wayne RESA Board Highlights - July 15, 2020

7. Superintendent’s Report/Update

a) Update/FYI regarding NPS School Reentry Preparedness and Response Plan

Superintendent Gallagher reviewed the Re-entry Taskforce timeline. The vote tonight will approve the NPS Preparedness and Response Plan after the Board voted on the scenarios for each level at the August 4th meeting. Families are required to select which option they want for their child by August 12th at 4:30 p.m. The website is updated with a 2020-21 Back to School page and includes an FAQ document which is continuously being updated.

Superintendent Gallagher updated the Board on the Elementary Smaller Cohort Scenarios and provided a graphic of what the rotations would look like with the teachers rotating into the classroom. A second graphic, which would be used if total number of students in a grade level didn’t fit into the smaller cohort scenario was presented. This scenario would not have rotating teachers, except for humanities / lunch. The administration is asking the Board to consider flexibility in allowing the second elementary scenario where teachers don’t rotate in and would have class sizes a bit larger than the 15-20 which was messaged in the small cohort scenario. The cohorts would likely be between 21-23.
In both scenarios social distancing would be complied with to the extent feasible. There are circumstances in which desks and workspaces cannot be spaced 6 ft. apart.

There was lengthy board discussion regarding the flexibility of allowing a different cohort size without the rotating teachers.

Vice President Prescott asked about hiring more teachers. She noted the Board voted on the small cohorts and they need to stay true to their decision.

President Wilk asked if teachers had a preference. Superintendent Gallagher noted they want flexibility.

Trustee Jaafar asked if this would be the norm or the exception. Superintendent Gallagher noted the numbers will dictate which option is chosen at each grade level. She also asked if the Board agrees to allow for this flexibility, can parents change their selection based on this new information. Superintendent Gallagher said yes, they can contact the Board Office to request a change.

Trustee Lynn confirmed this would be done by building and by grade, this is not a one size fits all recommendation. Superintendent Gallagher agreed.

Trustee Wilk supports the flexibility. It is more time with teachers.

Treasurer Jankowski asked if we need to know the numbers before the decision is made. Superintendent Gallagher stated the numbers will guide what scenario is used in a building and by a grade, but as soon as the numbers come in on Wednesday, the work of planning classrooms will begin.

Secretary Doner prefers allowing for the flexibility.

Superintendent Gallagher stated the Board could chose to make a motion on the topic and vote on whether allowing flexibility is supported or not.

Trustee Wilk volunteered to draft the motion and it will be added to the added agenda items.

b) Northville Council of PTA's Report - Ms. Tanya Pitkin, President

Ms. Pitkin shared two slides regarding the role of the PTA and the role of parents in the PTA. Meetings will be virtual this year, at least for the first few months. If any families ordered an Edukit, they will still be available and pickup information will be shared in the next few weeks.

School Code

a) Overview of School Breakfast Program / Opt Out

Mr. Zopf provided background on the School Breakfast program in Northville Public Schools. Cooke School will continue to provide breakfast and Northville High School will continue to have a Grab & Go option.

b) Public Hearing

One comment was received regarding support for providing School Breakfast at all out schools.

c) Board Consideration - Opt-Out Provision section 380.1271 Michigan School Code

Treasurer Jankowski asked if there is any connection to the meals currently available to families due to the pandemic at Cooke School. Mr. Zopf noted that is a completely different program and the School Breakfast Mandate is specific to our students and it is based on the October 2019 numbers.

The Board discussed the recommendation and asked if Mr. Zopf could provide an update in late September for numbers of Free & Reduced for 2020 once we have more information for this school year given the pandemic. Mr. Zopf stated he can look at the numbers and provide an update.

Motion No. 20/21-035 by Treasurer Jankowski, supported by Trustee Lynn, that the Board accept administration's recommendation to exercise the Opt-Out provision of the School Breakfast Program, Section 380.1271, Michigan School Code, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Jaafar – yes; Jankowski – yes; Lynn –yes; Prescott – yes; Wilk – yes; Doner – yes; Hwang – yes. Motion carried 7-0.

9. Public Comments

There were approximately 24 public comments surrounding the two options provided to families and the virtual slow start in September.

10. Elementary Class Size Flexibility

Vice President Prescott noted she does not support the Board not sticking with what they voted on just last week and feels it calls into question the credibility of the Board if they change what they say they are going to do.

Motion No. 20/21-038 by Trustee Wilk, supported by Trustee Lynn, that the Board provide direction giving the Superintendent and District flexibility to utilize the modified elementary cohorting plan, as detailed in the Superintendent's Report of
August 11, 2020 as presented. Roll Call Vote: Jankowki – yes; Lynn – yes; Prescott – no; Wilk – yes; Doner – yes; Hwang – yes; Jaafar – no. Motion carried 5-2 (Prescott, Jaafar).

Vice President Prescott wants references to the 15-20 in our materials and website to be adjusted now that it has been changed.

11. NPS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

During the Public Comment period a parent indicated a letter regarding IBDP was received indicating the program will now be all virtual. Mr. Baughman clarified the letter and noted the IBDP program will be offering the classes to both virtual and in-person students. The delivery of the instruction will be the same for both scenarios, it will be live synchronous instruction. Those students at home will see the instruction through Schoology and the students in the classroom will be using Schoology as well and receive the same live synchronous instruction, the difference is the teacher will be in the room with the in-person students. A teacher will be available in the classroom for all in-person students after the live instruction is complete.

Superintendent Gallagher gave an overview of the Preparedness Plan and the different phases. She also indicated what is included and excluded for the highly recommended protocols.

Trustee Wilk asked about what extent we are asking families to provide supplies.

Motion No. 20/21-036 by Vice President Prescott, supported by Trustee Lynn, that the Board adopt the NPS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for the 2020-21 school year as presented. Roll Call Vote: Lynn – yes; Prescott – yes; Wilk – yes; Doner – yes; Hwang – yes; Jaafar – yes; Jankowski – yes. Motion carried 7-0.

12. GRBS Contract Modifications

Mr. Zopf provided detail on the modifications to the contract which include additional staff and cleaning protocols.

Trustee Jaafar noted she has heard complaints about GRBS in the past and hopes these changes in the contract are an improvement.

Motion No. 20/21-037 by Treasurer Jankowski, supported by Secretary Doner, that the Board authorize the administration to approve the GRBS Contract modification in an amount not to exceed $377,082 as presented. Roll Call Vote: Prescott – yes; Wilk – yes; Doner –yes; Hwang – yes; Jaafar – yes; Jankowski – yes; Lynn – yes. Motion carried 7-0.

13. Added Agenda Items
Motion number 20/21-038 was added to the agenda and is reflected in the minutes in agenda item 10.

14. **Public Comments**

There were 19 public comments regarding the two options provided to families and the virtual slow start in September.

15. **Questions/Comments from Board Members**

Superintendent Gallagher provided answers to some of the questions asked during public comment.

Trustee Jaafar thanked the COLT team and the Re-Entry Taskforce. She noted there is a lot of misinformation on social medial and suggested read the FAQ’s and get the facts.

President Hwang and Vice President Prescott also thanked the team and reminded folks the Board and everyone involved with the re-opening is doing their best.

16. **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

_______________________________

Laurie Doner, Secretary