

**CANDIA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021
6:00 P.M.
HENRY W. MOORE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

These minutes have not been approved.

CALL TO ORDER

Matt Woodrow, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Board members Kristina Ickes, Mark Chalbeck, and Dana Buckley. Also in attendance Assistant Principal, John Banks; Director of Student Services, Kathryn Duncan; Technology Director, Chris Jamrog, Superintendent William (Bill) Rearick, Assistant Superintendent, Marge Polak, and Business Administrator, Amy Ransom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Matt Woodrow led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

LIAISON

Pinkerton Liaison, Madison Butters, updated the Board on activities at Pinkerton which included:

- Play 'She Kills Monsters'
- Girls Varsity Volleyball Playoffs
- Post Season Sports Playoffs
- Progress Reports

MINUTES

Motion by Kristina Ickes, seconded by Mark Chalbeck, to approve the October 7, 2021 meeting minutes, changing a quote by 'Jace Augusta' to 'Jason Gustin', and the motion carried unanimously.

Mary Pacheco, grade 2 teacher, read a letter addressed the Superintendent Rearick and Members of the School Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES

Bill Rearick updated the Board on bus #1 saying a new driver passed the test and bus #1 is back to running on time. Bill said they are close to getting the asymptomatic and symptomatic testing program up and running, but they are waiting on the contract from Convenient MD. He said there appears to be some difficulty receiving the tests as the state is running short. Matt Woodrow asked for the survey results, to which Becky Wing stated that 50% of those surveyed were in favor of asymptomatic testing and 75% of those surveyed were in favor of symptomatic testing. Bill Rearick stated that he continues to monitor the COVID numbers and that they are trending higher. Becky Wing reported that there was recent vandalism in the field. Video footage has been given to the Candia Police Department. Becky said there was a meeting with Tri-County Athletics, and the protocols which will be followed will be those whose district has the stricter of the two, no matter who is the home team.

REPORTS

Administrator's Reports were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

Goals

Goals were reviewed.

Recording Board Meetings

Marge Polak stated that she, Becky Wing and Chris Jamrog looked at low tech versions and Chris can report of their findings at the next meeting. Marge reiterated that if the district puts something on a

website, they must make sure it is accessible to everyone. If an audio recording is done, it would have to be verbatim.

2022/2023 Budget

Matt Woodrow asked if there were any updates on Pinkerton tuition or on health care numbers. Bill said there have been no updates yet. Kristina Ickes stated that she attended a Pinkerton meeting where there was spirited discussion regarding facilities.

Mark Chalbeck stated that compensation for custodial staff is very low and that we need to bring salaries up. Amy Ransom will do a wage study and will report back to the Board. Mark Chalbeck asked Amy to include the comparison cost of contracting out vs. paying actual salaries.

Bus Transportation

Matt Woodrow stated that there were a couple weeks that bus #1 was late up to an hour. Bill Rearick stated that requests were made of the bus company (STA) to shift routes so that one route wasn't always the late one, but that it took some time for the bus company to make that move. Bill said he understands that the bus company is having difficulty finding people, but that he sent a letter to STA asking for compensation for services not being provided. Bill said he also sent a letter to Department of Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut asking if he is planning on asking Governor Sununu for assistance with transporting students by the National Guard. He has not received a reply. Bill said each Board should discuss busing at their respective meetings as well as at their SAU Board meeting. Amy Ransom will have a draft RFP at the next Candia Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

CESPA Agreement

Bill Rearick summarized changes in language. He said he felt it was a smooth process and a fair contract. Motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Dana Buckley, to approve the 2022-2025 CESPA Agreement, and the motion carried unanimously.

Facilities Warrant Article

Matt Woodrow gave a brief history of the current facilities project. He said the Board must decide on a warrant article and what would have a chance of passing. Bill Rearick suggested that the Board prioritize items, to which Mark Chalbeck stated the roof and the HVAC systems should be the priority and should be done at the same time. He said doing those projects individually would end up costing more and the roof would not be seamless, allowing for problems in a few years. Discussion ensued relative to financing plans. Amy Ransom said she would look into a performance contract, but wasn't sure if one would be available if it were to include only parts of a whole project.

FINANCIAL

Motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Kristina Ickes to approve the 10/11/21-11/5/21 manifest in the amount of \$543,724.86, and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICIES

Dana Buckley explained that Policy JICD was in the October 7 packet but was never reviewed. He said the committee recommended taking language from a policy created by the special education attorneys for the district.

Motion by Dana Buckley, seconded by Mark Chalbeck to accept the first reading of Policy JICD (Student Discipline and Due Process), and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Dana Buckley, seconded by Kristina Ickes to approve the second reading of Policy BEDH (Public Participation at Board Meetings) as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Dana Buckley to accept the co-curricular nominations as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Lindsey Croteau-Currier Road: Is a bus driver. Parents swear and scream at drivers. She said parents call the police. She added that it is difficult for drivers to combine routes as it cuts their hours. Drivers are not being backed up by anyone.

Jason Gustin-Crowley Road: Asked if numbers on the website are of students only, to which Becky Wing stated that the numbers represent students and staff. Asked Bill Rearick what the most current numbers

are, to which Bill gave numbers in each category over the the past four days, the past three days hitting the criteria that was set in the reopening plan.

Lindsey Croteau asked about air purifiers, to which Bill Rearick said 10 will be arriving tomorrow and all will be delivered by the middle of next week. There will be one in each classroom.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 Section II a.

At 7:10 p.m., motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Dana Buckley, to enter into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 Section II a. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The Board resumed public session at 8:05 p.m.

Motion by Matt Woodrow, seconded by Dana Buckley, to seal the non-public minutes in perpetuity, and the motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL/UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Enrollments
Draft Calendar
Facility Warrant Article
Custodial Rate of Pay
Draft Bus RFP
Recording of Board Meetings

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dana Buckley, seconded by Matt Woodrow to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled Candia School Board Meeting will be on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Henry W. Moore School Media Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca McCarthy
Recording Secretary

November 3, 2021

Dear School Board Members,

My family made it nineteen months without COVID coming into our household. Nineteen months of social distancing, remote learning, making hard decisions and wearing masks in public to protect ourselves and others. We chose the remote learning option last year to keep our family safe. We have elderly family members who underwent major surgery during 2020 and family members that have only a portion of their lung. We have close friends with immune deficiencies; friends who aren't able to get the vaccine because of medications that would fight with it. We have a fourth grade son who almost died as an infant from RSV, and it still isn't clear if long term effects make him part of the most vulnerable to COVID.

This year we were not offered a remote learning option, and we decided to trust the administration of the Henry W Moore School, as they were able to do a respectable job last year of staying open and offering a relatively safe, masked environment. We were surprised and concerned when we saw the drastic policy change following the school board meeting in August, allowing students to come to school unmasked, including unvaccinated individuals. We were concerned with the guidelines of only 3 feet of social distance. We wondered, "if the school does not have the space to accommodate recommended social distancing, how can the school board justify the safety of not having a full mask policy?" In prior experience with the school administration, we knew that they have our kids' best interests at heart, so we ultimately made the choice to send our boys back to in person learning. Unfortunately, it is now clear that the administration has its hands tied by current policy and is unable to do much to protect our children based on decisions that have been made on their behalf.

This left me extremely frustrated and disappointed and now, afraid. Tuesday morning, my child became part of a cluster in a fourth grade classroom and woke up symptomatic, testing positive for COVID. He was exposed in a classroom where there was known exposure, and no student other than my son showed up to school masked following the notification. There was a second positive, and still we needed to wait for a third positive test result for any preventative measures to be taken, at which point it was too late for my son and the other school community members who have and may still test positive. What is the logic in waiting for the situation to be out of control in order to do anything about it? It's like waiting to see how far a fire will spread before calling the fire department. If masking were a part of the preventative measures to begin with, this cluster would likely not exist. Even if the potentially exposed students were masked upon the first positive test, it would have greatly reduced the impact on this group of students. Instead, now as I'm writing this I'm cringing at every dry cough and trying to stay strong for my family all the while envisioning those touch and go days where my son was on a ventilator, in a medically induced coma, fighting for his life as a baby. That treatment and patient care sounds awfully familiar, doesn't it?

I understand that much of the reasoning behind leaving our students unmasked is concern over the long term effects of wearing a face covering. Have you considered the psychological effects of losing a member of the school community? A family member? What about the long-term mental scar of being the person to infect someone who became seriously ill, or worse? I can attest first hand to the trauma of witnessing my child fight for their life and living every minute by the oxygen level readings on the monitor. I must ask, how much further must this go? Must something catastrophic be the catalyst for change?

Considering that the holidays are approaching, gatherings will be happening more frequently outside of school, and people will be spending more time indoors. I hope you will consider an update to your Re-Opening Plan to include a universal mask requirement, as COVID positive numbers will inevitably increase during the winter months. I am aware that vaccinations are on the horizon for children, but I foresee many parents waiting until the end of this winter season. In addition, those who are vaccinated still aren't fully vaccinated for several more more weeks. With the school cases already at half of last month's full total as of only November 3, it seems like common sense to mask students at this time.

I wish I were able to address you in person, but unfortunately I'm at home caring for my son and I'm making the choice not to attend so that I don't put you or your families at risk. I hope you will consider making a similar choice for the students and families of Candia by helping the School Administrators who are in the trenches every day mitigating the effects of the current policies, by following the recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics and doing what is right for the good of the whole by making updates to the Re-Opening Plan and requiring masks be worn indoors when inside the Henry W. Moore School Building.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Laura & Peter Foti