

**KINNELON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORK SESSION  
8:00 P.M.  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020**

**MINUTES**

Please be advised that the Kinnelon Board of Education work session meeting scheduled for September 10, 2020 and will take place as planned. However, the meeting will occur electronically on a device or over the phone. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, community members will have the opportunity to witness the BOE conduct business via phone or video conference. Public comments will be facilitated as usual.

The meeting will take place at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday through Zoom, a video, and audio conferencing application. The link for the meeting can be found on the Kinnelon Public Schools.org website just below the picture on the District Home Page.

The Kinnelon Board of Education met in Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss:

Personnel – Superintendent's contract

The Board reconvened in Public Session at 8:07 p.m.

**I. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Michael Petruccelli, Board President, called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. and read the Meeting Notice.

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provision of the act, the Kinnelon Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published in the Suburban Trends on March 4, 2020, posted in the Kinnelon Public Library, filed with the Borough Clerk and posted on the District web site.

**II. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT	Mr. Michael Petruccelli, Board President Dr. Peter Hughes, Vice President Dr. Marianne DeAlessi Mrs. Megan Fischbeck Mr. David Gigante
---------	--

ABSENT	Ms. Michelle Donus Mr. Nathan Nussbaum
--------	---

ALSO PRESENT Kerry A. Keane, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Diane DiGiuseppe, Superintendent

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**V. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Ms. DiGiuseppe reported on the following:

- The first day of school for in-person instruction
  - K-5 Student flow was good while getting off of the busses.
  - There was a sense of calm during in-person instruction.
  - Students were physically distancing
  - There were some On-Course glitches and some Zoom dropout
  - May need to stagger drop off/pick-up
- Staffing issues are resolving
- Nothing definite about NJEA visit
- We reviewed the virtual plan which was sent to the State
- Health screening form
- Thank you to the staff for making it a successful start

**VI. PETITIONS AND HEARINGS OF CITIZENS – AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Petruccelli, Board President stated that talks have just begun regarding Ms. DiGiuseppe's contract. She is only getting a 2% raise per year, not \$27,000. He also stated that the tax increase gossip going around town was inaccurate.

Dr. DeAlessi noted that it was unusual to begin talking about the Superintendent's contract in September.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Questions/comments were made regarding:

- How does the Board of Health know if there is an increase in COVID cases? Testing centers and PCR, are they systematic?
- Is there a requirement for barriers to be in place to take masks off?
- Is there something in place for teachers to check-in on hybrid/virtual elementary students?
- Opening the Superintendent contract is not in the best interest of the District.
- Health form – do students need to be tested if they have a mild cough?
- Is On-Course the only platform to use?
- Virtual teacher or broadcast live from the classroom?

- Requirement for face shields. Older kids are having a problem with sightlines.
- What percentage of students are totally remote?
- When will Stonybrook get their chrome books?
- Are face shields one size fits all and can they take masks off?
- Virtual schedule in elementary school for hybrid students.
- We are not prepared to do virtual.
- Masks are hard to wear all day. Some are taking them off in classes. It is hard to carry shields around. Virtual students had a problem hearing teachers/seeing white boards.
- Thanks to all the Administrators and BOE members for doing their best to open school.
- Stonybrook and Pearl Miller days were vastly different.
- Did we fix the bandwidth issues?
- Is everyone getting chrome books? Ms. DiGiuseppe answered yes.
- Is there a maximum number of virtual students?
- If we need to close for two weeks, what can we expect as far as schedules go?
- Under Finance – settlement agreement, is it Special Ed? Ms. DiGiuseppe answered yes,
- Kinnelon High School lunch schedule is unclear.

## VII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Personnel Committee  
(Dr. Hughes - Chair, Mr. Nussbaum, Ms. Donus)

Agenda Items #1 through #17 represent the Personnel Committee's recommendations. They were voted upon as a group.

### CERTIFIED STAFF

1. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a revision in position for **Melissa Cook** from Behaviorist to Autism Teacher/BCBA for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a revision of the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for **Jacqueline Gesualdo** from 0.67 FTE to 0.45 FTE for the 2020-2021 school year.

### APPOINTMENTS

3. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Kayla Eckert** to the position of English Replacement Teacher at Kinnelon High School, at a salary of \$55,092 (prorated), B.A. Degree, Step 1, effective on September 10, 2020 through on or about November 23, 2020. This action is pending successful

completion of all required criminal background checks and approval by the New Jersey Department of Education.

4. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Thomas Lubanski** as a long-term substitute in the position of Teacher of Audiovisual/Broadcast Production at Kinnelon High School, at a per diem rate of \$200 per day effective on or about September 14, 2020 through on or about November 1, 2020. This action is pending successful completion of all required criminal background checks and approval by the New Jersey Department of Education.
5. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Annika Levitt** as a virtual support teacher for kindergarten at Kiel and Stonybrook Schools, at an hourly rate of \$40 not to exceed 15 hours per week effective on or about September 16, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year. This action is pending successful completion of all required criminal background checks and approval by the New Jersey Department of Education.

#### ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

6. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves payment to **Nino Capra** for 4 ½ hours of CPR/AED training for our winter coaches at a rate of \$55.09 per hour for the 2020-2021 school year.
7. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves payment to **Jackie Gesualdo** to attend a staff **Professional Development Day** beyond her contracted hours at Stonybrook School, for the following days and hours:

September 3, 2020	-	2 hours and 45 minutes
September 4, 2020	-	2 hours

8. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves payment to the following staff members to attend a staff **Professional Development Day** beyond their contracted hours at Pearl R. Miller School on September 4, 2020.

Lindsay Averbach	2 hours and 40 minutes
Keri Romano	2 hours and 40 minutes
Jolene Strunz	2 hours

## NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

### RESIGNATIONS

9. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the resignation of **Gail Weiss**, Para-Professional at Kiel School, effective September 1, 2020.
10. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the resignation of **Ann Bendi**, Playground/ Cafeteria Aide at Stonybrook School, effective September 1, 2020.
11. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the resignation of **Darlene Merner**, Playground/ Cafeteria Aide at Stonybrook School, effective September 1, 2020.

### APPOINTMENTS

12. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Pamela deWaal** to the position of replacement part-time Administrative Assistant at Kiel School, at a salary of \$23,165, pro-rated, (Step 1 of the Sec/Cler 10 month Guide), effective September 10, 2020 through March 1, 2021. This action is pending successful completion of all required criminal background checks and approval by the New Jersey Department of Education.
13. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Maria Catalano** to the position of Bus Aide at a rate of \$15 per hour for 2 hours per day effective September 10, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
14. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Karen Jameson** to the position of Bus Aide at a rate of \$15 per hour for 4 hours per day effective September 10, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

### COACHES/CO-CURRICULAR/SUBSTITUTES/CLINICAL INTERNS/HOME INSTRUCTORS

15. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the placement of the following **clinical interns** for the Fall 2020 semester.

Elizabeth Tieu - William Paterson University - Music/Instrumental  
Clinical Practice I - Fall 2020 with Christine Sulling at Stonybrook

Christine Celona - Misericordia University - Speech Language  
Clinical Practice I - Fall 2020 with Abby Gitkin at Pearl Miller Middle School

Cassi Deighan - William Paterson University - Principal Shadowing  
Fall 2020 (1 day) with Jodi Mulholland at Stonybrook

Rachael Parent - Ramapo College - Administration Internship I & II  
2020-2021 school year with Corde Reed, Special Services Director

16. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following to the position of **Substitute Teachers** for the 2020-2021 school year. This action is pending successful completion of all required criminal background checks and approval by the New Jersey Department of Education.

Joe Pedalino

Chase Bridgers

Michael McGuire

17. The Kinnelon Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **Ed Shapely** as a **Home Instructor**, at a rate of \$55.09 per hour for the 2020-2021 school year.

MOTION BY MRS. FISCHBECK, SECONDED BY MR. GIGANTE TO APPROVE ITEMS #1 THROUGH #17 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE WITH ALL PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

- B. FINANCE COMMITTEE  
(Mr. Petruccelli - Chair, Mrs. DeAlessi, Dr. Hughes)

Agenda Item #1 was added to the Agenda. It represents the Finance Committee's recommendation.

1. **WHEREAS**, there is a dispute over a classified student's placement for the 2020-21 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, the parents and the District have negotiated a settlement agreement resolving the student's placement for the 2020-21 school year and all other disputed issues, and

**WHEREAS**, the settlement agreement is in the best interest of the District and will avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation in this matter; and

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that this 10th day of September, 2020 that the Board approves the Settlement Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A, *confidential student information*) and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Kinnelon Board of Education; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that with the approval of the Agreement, School District officials are hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to effectuate the terms of the Agreement.

MOTION BY DR. HUGHES, SECONDED BY MR. GIGANTE TO APPROVE ITEM #1 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE WITH ALL PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

## VIII. REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 AGENDA

The Board reviewed the motions slated for the September 24, 2020 Regular Meeting.

## IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel  
(Dr. Hughes – Chair, Mr. Nussbaum, Ms. Donus)
  - The committee has not met.
- B. Education  
(Mrs. Fischbeck – Chair, Mr. Nussbaum, Dr. Hughes)
  - There is nothing new.
- C. Policy  
(Ms. Donus – Chair, Mr. Gigante, Mrs. Fischbeck)
  - They are reviewing policies and there will be some ready for revision soon.
- D. Finance/Budget  
(Mr. Petruccelli – Chair, Dr. DeAlessi, Dr. Hughes)
  - The Committee is meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- E. Security/Facilities  
(Mr. Gigante – Chair, Dr. DeAlessi, Ms. Donus)
  - Nothing to report at this time.
- F. Negotiations  
(Mr. Petruccelli – Chair, Mrs. Fischbeck, Ms. Donus)
- G. Delegates
  1. New Jersey School Boards Association  
(Dr. Hughes)
  2. Morris County School Boards Association  
(Mr. Petruccelli)
  3. Legislative Representative  
(Mrs. Fischbeck)
  4. Morris County Educational Services Commission  
(Mr. Petruccelli)
- H. Coordinating Committee  
(Mr. Nussbaum - Chair, Mr. Gigante, Mr. Petruccelli)
- I. Teacher Liaison Committee  
(Mr. Nussbaum)
  - There is a meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

- J. Kamelot  
(Mr. Gigante)
  - Mr. Russo is working on a few things.
- K. Kinnelon Education Foundation  
(Ms. Donus)
- L. Student Representative

#### **X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A discussion took place regarding sports and home schooled students. There are two families in town whose children want to participate in sports.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. GIGANTE, AND SECONDED BY MRS. FISCHBECK TO REVIEW REQUESTS TO ALLOW A CHILD WHO IS HOME SCHOOLED TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE WITH ALL PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

Dr. DeAlessi indicated that the parent should attest to the student's academic standards.

#### **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. DiGiuseppe attended a meeting with the Borough regarding roadwork on Kiel Road beginning September 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **XII. PETITIONS AND HEARINGS OF CITIZENS – NON AGENDA ITEMS**

Comments were made regarding:

- Want the services for Special Education looked into.
- Maybe students can turn their phones off.

#### **XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Mrs. Fischbeck – Thanks for a good first day. She knows the teachers are working as hard as they can and understand their frustration. Keep on communicating.
- Mr. Gigante – The Board of Education members are accessible. There is some bad information out there. It's the first day of school.
- Dr. DeAlessi – Cases versus contacts clarification. Use of face masks is most important.
- Dr. Hughes – Thanked Dr. DeAlessi for emphasizing masks and talking science. He thanked everyone who attended the meeting tonight. Remember it is day one.
- Mr. Petruccelli – We were able to open in person, but we need to operate safely.



**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY DR. HUGHES, SECONDED BY MRS. FISCHBECK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:37 P.M. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE WITH ALL PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry A. Keane  
Board Secretary