

**KINNELON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORK SESSION  
7:00 P.M.  
JUNE 10, 2021**

**MINUTES**

Please be advised that the Kinnelon Board of Education work session meeting scheduled for June 10, 2021 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 7:00 p.m. on Thursday through Zoom Webinar, a video and audio presentation application. The link for the webinar can be found on the Kinnelon Public Schools website just below the picture on the District Home Page.

The Work Session Meeting of the Kinnelon Board of Education was held via Zoom Webinar on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

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

Mr. Michael Petruccelli, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 January 10, 2021, 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 Mrs. Karen D'Amico Mrs. Jean Donaldson Mrs. Michelle Donus Mrs. Megan Fischbeck Mr. David Gigante
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ABSENT	None
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ALSO PRESENT	Kerry A. Keane, Business Administrator/Board Secretary Diane DiGiuseppe, Superintendent
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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from a 5th Grade student regarding a Boy Scout project for the Crayon Initiative. This involves the collection of crayons which are melted down and made into large crayons for use by the disabled.

Board discussion: Mr. Petruccelli asked to have a motion added to the agenda regarding mask wearing for the rest of the school year and during the summer programs.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PETRUCCELLI AND SECONDED BY MRS. DONALDSON TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE AN ACTION ITEM IN NUMBER 7 REGARDING DISCRETION FROM GOVERNOR MURPHY AND MASKING. THIS IS NOT MS. DIGIUSEPPE'S DECISION. SHE COULD LOSE HER LICENSE IF SHE GOES AGAINST HIS EXECUTIVE ORDER. MOTION TO ADD WAS CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE WITH ALL PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

V. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. DiGiuseppe reported on the following:

- Pearl Miller move up day
- Stonybrook students visit to Pearl Miller
- Kinnelon High School Musical
- Senior awards will be live
- Kinnelon High School spirit week
- Many students were recognized for the National Latin Exam
- Kiel field day was great
- SOARS at Pearl Miller
- Art shows at Kiel and Stonybrook were a great success
- Dunk tank at Pearl Miller

Science presentations:

Mrs. Travaille, Supervisor, introduced the Waksman Scholars.

Science research starts in grade 8. Authentic Science research in grades 10-12. Twelve college credits can be earned through SUNY Albany. Fourteen credits can be earned through the Allied Health Program at Rutgers.

We have many clubs and after school programs including Robotics, Waksman Scholar and Barcode for Life.

Mr. Manning is the Waksman advisor. Approximately 25 students meet through Science research club and can publish data.

Pearl Miller – Mrs. Naso is the teacher advisor for the Science Research. Student presented on water resistant face masks.

Kinnelon High School Science research – Mrs. Kowalski is the advisor. Three students discussed their work on:

Food waste and green house gas  
Five species of fish and sand mining  
Algae growth in Kinnelon Lake

Ms. DiGiuseppe also reported:

- Turf Field has “K” in the middle of the field
- June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will be in person in Kinnelon High School auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

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

Comments were made regarding:

- Many comments and questions were addressed regarding the change in mask wearing mandates.
- Will there be a Zoom option for Board Meetings going forward?

**MOTION BY MR. PETRUCCELLI, SECONDED BY DR. HUGHES TO EXTEND PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AND ADDITIONAL 15 MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE WITH ALL PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

- Live meetings at the Borough are on Facebook.
- Opening plan for 2021-2022 should go out to parents for review.

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS**

**THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PETRUCCELLI AND SECONDED BY MR. GIGANTE:**

1. Based on the statement by Governor Murphy on Monday, June 7, to allow students and staff not to wear face masks due to the heat that New Jersey is experiencing, and due to the complications of determining which rooms are considered to be the subject of excessive heat, the Kinnelon Board of Education resolves to make masking optional for the remainder of the school year and the

summer of 2021. Parents, students and staff who feel that it is in their best interest to continue wearing masks can and should continue to do so.

**MOTION WAS CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE WITH ALL PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

### VIII. REVIEW OF JUNE 24, 2021 AGENDA

The Board reviewed the motions slated for the meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. D'Amico asked a question regarding #13 in Personnel for additional hiring.

### IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel  
(Mr. Petruccelli - Chair, Mrs. Donaldson, Dr. Hughes)
  - The committee revised the recommendation form. They discussed potential new hires and RICE notifications to potential new hires. That is not the standard process. Not recommending, new forms should lead to good decisions.
- B. Education  
(Mrs. Fischbeck – Chair, Dr. Hughes, Mr. Gigante)
  - Committee is meeting on June 21, 2021 and will discuss Pearl Miller gifted program.
- C. Policy  
(Dr. Hughes - Chair, Mrs. D'Amico, Mr. Petruccelli)
  - Committee will meet after Graduation.
- D. Finance/Budget  
(Mrs. D'Amico - Chair, Mrs. Donaldson, Mrs. Fischbeck)
- E. Security/Facilities  
(Mr. Gigante – Chair, Mrs. D'Amico, Ms. Donus)
  - Turf field – lights coming soon
- F. Negotiations  
(Ms. Donus - Chair, Mrs. Fischbeck, Mr. Petruccelli)
- G. Delegates
  1. New Jersey School Boards Association  
(Dr. Hughes)
  2. Morris County School Boards Association  
(Mrs. Fischbeck)
  3. Legislative Representative  
(Mrs. D'Amico)
    - Legislation to extend education past 21 years old
  4. Morris County Educational Services Commission  
(Mrs. Donaldson)
- H. Coordinating Committee  
(Mrs. Donaldson - Chair, Mrs. Fischbeck, Mr. Petruccelli)
  - Police Chief spoke of traffic issues with pick-ups.

- NO DOGS on school property
  - KFresh farmers market support
- I. Teacher Liaison Committee  
(Mr. Gigante - Chair, Ms. Donus, Mr. Petruccelli)
  - J. Kamelot  
(Mr. Gigante)
  - K. Kinnelon Education Foundation  
(Ms. Donus)

## **X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mrs. D'Amico had unfinished business – February 11<sup>th</sup> vote taken to file declaratory petition against her. Personal information was attached to the petition and has asked that it be removed. Legal fees were incurred. The Commissioner is sending to AOL for a hearing. Board of Education doesn't have the authority to bring it forward.

The Commissioner thinks the case does have merit which is why it was sent to AOL. It is a continuous matter.

New Child Study Team Director – we discussed an audit being done. Would like it back on the table. Special Education parents want a climate survey done along with CST staff.

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. D'Amico – June is PRIDE month – do our Counselors have special training for LGBTQ students? Can students from Gay Alliance come to the Board of Education meeting?

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

- Several comments were made regarding the mask policy.
- Science virtual program last night was wonderful. Thank you to all of the Science Teachers.
- Board of Education suing another Board Member? Special Education audit is important.
- Virtual learning teachers were great.
- Support for Special Education audit/survey and concern regarding due process.

## **XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Fischbeck thanked the students who came out for the Science Presentation and inviting the Board of Education to the entire presentation. Talk to kids regarding other decisions about wearing masks.

Mrs. Donaldson – Excited for the Turf Field. Congratulations to the Science Students.

Mrs. D'Amico – Impressed with the Science Presentation. Emphasize inclusion regarding mask wearing.

Mr. Gigante – happy with conflict Counsel. Baseball/Softball playing for State Championship. High jumper competing for States.

Mrs. Donus – Congratulations to Varsity Baseball.

Dr. Hughes – Musical at High School was great. Science program!! Support for PRIDE month. Mr. Gigante's work with turf field.

Mr. Petruccelli – Thanked the student presenters and teachers. Congratulations to the Baseball/Softball teams.

Donation from School Resource Officer Curving - dunk tank.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY MRS. DONALDSON, SECONDED BY MRS. FISCHBECK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:34 P.M. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE WITH ALL PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry A. Keane  
Board Secretary