

**TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
PLANNING SESSION MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2020**

NOTICE OF MEETING:

TO ALL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

The planning meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Union was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM pursuant to the notice sent to each member. Action was taken.

Mrs. Minneci called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Dr. Guy Francis, Mrs. Sherry Higgins, Mr. Ronnie McDowell, Mrs. Nancy Minneci, Dr. Kalisha Morgan, Mr. Vito Nufrio, Mrs. Linda Richardson, Mrs. Kim Ruiz, Mrs. Mary Lynn Williams

ABSENT AT ROLL CALL:

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Mr. Gregory Tatum, Mr. Gerry Benaquista, Mrs. Moses, Mr. Manuel Vieira, Mrs. Kim Conti, Mrs. Ann Hart, Mr. Craig Wojcik, Mrs. Sandra Paul

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Lester Taylor, Esq.

Mrs. Williams led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Vieira read the statement required under the "Open Public Meetings Act", a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

Dr. Francis read the District's mission statement.

Mrs. Minneci stated Mr. Tatum do we want to answer some of the questions that were asked on Tuesday now or at the end? Mr. Tatum stated that is your prerogative. Mrs. Minneci stated I think we should answer as many questions as possible before we start our discussions. Unless you think some of these questions will be answered during our discussions? Mr. Tatum stated with the overview, we hope that some of the questions will be answered but sometimes we get feedback that people don't understand.

Mrs. Minneci stated thank you for sending out the email about the plan and the robo call to clarify some of the information that some members of the public didn't understand. Mr. Tatum stated we have been getting a number of questions/concerns. Part of the presentation that is about to follow, hopefully will give more specifics about the school level program.

Mrs. Minneci stated we will do the discussion items first and anything that is not covered from those questions, we can clear it up at the end of the discussion.

Mr. Tatum stated a quick overview of the plan tonight.

Discussion Items:

1. Hybrid/virtual School Program
2. Goal setting
3. Policies – COVID 19
4. Out-of-district special needs children
5. Plan for parents needing more than hybrid classes
6. Neighborhood schools

1. The virtual school program – Mr. Wojcik will be presenting an overview of the actual concept and the Board has seen the first part of this. Tonight is to talk a little bit more about how the buildings will operate and some mock schedules will be put forth.

2. Under the goal settings – I realized that we get to this point every year and I think at this stage of the game we should really discuss some of the goals that the Board may have going forward. All of our goals right now are going to be centered around the operations of the COVID-19 policy. It would be nice to get a sense where the Board would like to go in the following years ahead. As you do transition in the administration, that you want to also bring those people on board and have them follow into the goals that the Board sets for the district and then ours can be based upon that.

3. COVID-19 policies – what we are looking to do is, and we have been talking about this for a couple of months now, developing policies and Mr. Taylor can certainly guide us through what we need to get in place immediately in consideration that we have new procedures put in place and policies are part of those procedures.

4. Mrs. Conti will give an overview on out-of-district placement of students. I hope that from our discussions that she and I had, to touch upon some of the questions that we have been having regarding supplemental services throughout the course of pandemic and how is it going to be safe. Around May we finally got the go ahead to have supplemental services done virtually. The big question now, if we are in virtual and a school is open, how is that going to work.

5. A plan for parents needing more than hybrid classes; that was put on the agenda before we had our meeting on Tuesday but we can engage in a discussion of the plans that we had put in place. Concepts are being developed with some providers. Mrs. Moses will give us a little more on that – safe space in a virtual environment for students.

6. The idea that we didn't present wholly to the public but we will tonight and that is the idea of a neighborhood school concept.

I will ask Mr. Wojcik to start with number one. Board members, the goal is to have some feedback discussion with you tonight regarding these things and things you want to know about as you get questions and maybe some questions that have been raised to you and we haven't entertained yet. The questions that we were going to answer at the end, may be better off after we have had some discussions.

Virtual Instruction presentation is appended to minutes and can be viewed on Zoom.

Mr. Wojcik stated as mentioned the other day, the Teacher Technology Team has been working very hard all summer long. Rafael Rios and Jessica Mongiovi, their knowledge and presence and personality are the main reason why we have seen so much success this summer. They provided all 40 of the trainings. I have been in there assisting them. They have been averaging about 100 people to attend these meetings every day. We reached close to 500 staff members. We had an average of 200 a week. They are creating consumable content for the teachers, uploaded to our YouTube page and they are going to start creating content for the students and parents so that they will be prepared as we go into the school year to make sure they know what they need to know to help provide virtual instruction.

The new digital platforms – I went into detail at the last meeting. So I won't go into much detail today but GSuite – we have had for a long time but we are switching over to Enterprise for Education and that will give us access to plagiarism checker and ensure that our students data is secure inside the United States. Nearpod is a great synchronous and asynchronous platform that our teachers can use to move between a synchronous environment and then reuse that lesson to provide asynchronous for those students that couldn't be in attendance that day. GoGuardian Teacher allows us to see our students' screens, be able to push things out to them, manage them from a distance, create those four walls of the classroom that we official knocked down in this virtual environment. Newsela lets you read content on different levels based on the students' scores but you can read the same content so the class can read together. Flocabulary is a nice change of pace to reinforce, as a supplemental tool, information across all areas and creates popular raps for the students to listen to. Zoom – we are working to bring that into district. We are still waiting on the licensing. Sandra and I have been in contact to make sure we get that. As soon as that licensing is approved, accounts will be created and we will be pushing that out to the students.

What will virtual instruction look like? For elementary, pre-k through 1, we are still waiting for funding to come in to purchase Chromebooks. Paper options should be available for all students that don't have access to a device. The students that have access will receive an academic schedule from their teacher that will outline their week or month depending on their teacher. Each day begins with a video conference – focus on SEL. Each instruction period will begin with a live video conference and then break off to utilize Nearpod , digital whiteboard and GoGuardian to observe them. Each day will end with a video conference to deliver the final instructional period and/or provide a daily reflection on the lessons.

As to the building schedules, we have proposed schedules from some of the principals for elementary and Jefferson schools. They will provide time for synchronous and asynchronous instruction, as well as morning meetings, breaks, lunch and wrap ups.

Jefferson's proposed schedule considers the leadership period, to continue their Leader in Me program, as well as their switch class format which is implemented at Jefferson for many years.

What will virtual instruction look like at the middle and high schools? Students will receive a weekly and monthly virtual schedule, similar to elementary. However, their schedules will be broken down by minutes. The teachers will send out their period schedule broken down by what the expectations should be throughout the period. The students would have schedules from their teachers throughout the day. The students will check into Genesis during the homeroom times, they won't be logging into a video conference but they will check into Genesis to mark themselves present for the day. First period they will begin their live instruction or meeting and eventually break out into smaller groups or independent work where they can take advantage of the many digital platforms. The building schedules – we have proposed schedules for both middle and house schools. The periods are proposed to be extended periods, there are breaks in between periods, as well as lunch time is being provided. The high school will rotate on an A/B schedules.

Mrs. Higgins stated as far as sports Mr. Tatum, is that something that you are going to talk about later. I know they are having practices and things. Mr. Tatum stated there seems to be a variation of what we are going to have and what we are not going to have. Mrs. Ionta and I have been in discussions. The last we heard was sports were going to be a go and then they were not a go. Hopefully we will get a better answer and framework. The outdoor programs seem to be o.k. I think the indoors will be in question. Every time I turn around I hear something different. Gerry has been monitoring it too. Mr. Benaquista stated it is ever changing. They are looking into breaking some sports into four different seasons. A lot is based on inside. The outside sports, there is less travel, keeping it more local. Once the season truly starts and the teams start getting workouts, I think things will change. I'm getting information from Mrs. Ionta as we speak, maybe we can bring this back at the end of the meeting.

Mrs. Higgins stated thank you, I know it is going to be evolving. Mr. Tatum stated we try to give you as much as we know at a particular time. Every time you turn around you are dealing with a different set of circumstances. When I spoke with the County Superintendent, he said I might call you tomorrow with something totally different.

Mrs. Ruiz stated Kawameeh Middle School posted yesterday on their Instagram page that their projected start date for middle school sports is September 13th. Mr. Benaquista stated right now, outdoor sports are scheduled to start September 14th. Volleyball and gymnastics have been moved to February. I'm getting a document, once I receive in my email I can share it.

Mrs. Ruiz stated Mr. Wojcik, thank you so much, I think that presentation answered a lot of the questions that we parents had. I really do appreciate it, it explained a lot. I don't think pre-k falls under elementary, what are we doing about our pre-k students? Mr. Tatum stated pre-

k is a separate entity altogether. Craig, check your email, I just sent you something I just got on pre-k. They are a separate entity and governed by regulations for pre-k. There have been changes – class size, how much time they can spend on the technology equipment.

Mrs. Moses stated Ms. Walker is in charge of the pre-school program and supervising that program. The teachers have been kept abreast throughout the entire summer with information from the State. The State has been feeding our teachers, the supervisor and myself with information.

They only want the pre-schoolers to be on technology device for only an hour and twenty minutes for the entire day. That is a minimal amount of time. The teachers will spend those hours with them but also give them an opportunity to get on some platforms for direct learning.

Mrs. Ruiz stated we have a virtual learning plan for elementary, but the letter we received said that students from grades 2-12 would have computers so what are we doing about our kindergarten and first grade students, when will they get their computers. Mr. Tatum stated we did receive the award of the digital divide. The original plan was to move devices down to the primary grades so that everyone would have a device. We are hoping the high school Chromebook will come in and once they come in we will be able to service those other children. They will eventually be getting brand new devices but because we don't know about the back orders, a lot of the equipment is coming in daily but on precautionary measure, we want to have something in place if they are not here. When I meet with all the superintendents in the County, it is not just us, it is Statewide – issues for computers coming in because they are in high demand right now because of the pandemic. Our regular Chromebook schedule was we would take the high school Chromebooks and move them down because we have another year of shelf life available and we can get through this year and that is why I'm saying 2-12 right now.

Mr. McDowell stated those two T3 trainers, are they district employees or from the outside? Mr. Wojcik stated they are district employees. Mr. Rios is a high school English teacher and Jessica Mongiovi is an elementary technology teacher.

Mr. Tatum stated those grades that don't have individual devices, for those who have devices, they still have access to all of the technology platforms we currently have in place. If we are fortunate enough if those items come in, those students that don't have access to a device, get the ones that we have available to them first. Our goal is to insure that everyone has access to an individual device. We also shared that we received an additional \$300,000 from the County Freeholders and we are waiting on that. Mrs. Guilfoyle is working on those awards. We do have the money coming our way. We will eventually be able to provide everyone.

Mr. Nufrio stated with regards to the announcement that we received today, indications that we are awaiting the actual money. The award was given. Can you give us a total sum of the award, including the Freeholders? Mr. Vieira stated the CARES Act was about \$725,000 and the digital divide - we haven't received award yet but it will be close to \$1 million. Mr. Tatum stated and the Freeholder money was around \$300,000 – so for a total of around \$2 million.

Mr. Nufrio stated we are in a pretty good place for the equipment that is required for our children – correct? Mr. Tatum stated I will say yes. The district had funding for the equipment for the high school so the additional money we have is in addition to the money we already allocated for the purchase of the new Chromebooks. Mr. Nufrio stated it won't replace it, it will be added to it. Mr. Tatum stated exactly. What we allocated is still available and that is the order we are waiting on right now. Even before we got any money, the plan was to move those devices for that year to the lower elementary grades but then the funding came through, we received the CARES Act money and the equipment coming through is from the CARES Act but this additional digital divide money, we have the award letter in hand but have not received the funds yet. The Freeholder money, we have an award letter but the money has not arrived yet.

Mr. Nufrio stated Mrs. Paul, are we looking at delays in receiving of the equipment once we can put the orders in? Mrs. Paul stated there is going to be a delay because of the demand throughout the entire nation besides the State of New Jersey. There has been a massive demand for these devices because school districts decided to go virtual rather than have in-class instruction in school. I heard from some vendors stating that we can't get Chromebooks until February. I'm hoping that changes over time.

Mr. Nufrio stated can we put the orders in before we receive the money so we can be on top of the list? Mrs. Paul stated I can't make that decision. Mr. Tatum stated the funds have to be in the account to generate a purchase order. Mr. Vieira stated you have to have the grant awarded before we place an order.

Mrs. Williams stated if we are not getting Chromebooks until February, approximately how many children will be affected by not having devices? Mr. Tatum stated I may have the number here in these papers so I'll keep looking and we can continue.

Mr. Benaquista stated Mrs. Ionta has joined us and she will give us an update. Mrs. Ionta stated today the NJSIA gave us an update – a return to play plan. It states that we will full go with outside sports. They broke the year up to four seasons instead of three; that being gymnastics and volleyball will now be our “third” season and they will begin February 16th. We will have our regular fall season. The coaches have been working since July 13th. The official season will open September 14th. Games start around October 2nd. As far as State tournaments and tournament play, those things are up in the air right now. I'm not really sure if that is going to happen or not but they are moving forward like it will. Each season will be a little more condensed. Normally basketball/wrestling will start right before Thanksgiving. Now the actual date is December 3rd. They will end before the third season which is February 17th and then we will begin spring sports after that. They have not given us any indication on spectators. As soon as I get that information and if Board members would like a copy of the “return to play” I will email it to you.

Mr. Benaquista stated it does say that out-of-state competitions are not allowed. Mrs. Ionta stated it does say that. Last year was the first year we went to Rutgers University – that team from Staten Island. Normally we don't do that but this year they said there is no out-of-state play.

Mr. Benaquista stated track usually goes to the Penn Relays – would that be allowed? Mrs. Ionta stated we will have to see – we will get more guidance as we move forward and that is not until spring. With winter track we do some things at the armory in New York City but those are outside events, they are not state sponsored events. We will take it slowly and see how it goes. As far as middle school sports, we decided not to start them until the actual start date of September 14th. Sometimes I have them workout in the summer, that was too much to do this year. The kids do a 7-day COVID form, and then a daily COVID form. We take their temperature every day. They come down to the field house and they have to check in. There was a huge process this year and it worked out really well and it was smooth. I can't be any happier on how we worked out with the summer. We will go from there. All sports, except volleyball, in the fall will start.

Mr. Nufrio asked what about basketball? Mrs. Ionta stated will start December 3rd. We made a decision, Mr. Tatum, Mr. Benaquista and I not to have basketball or wrestling workouts over the summer because it was too much risk of things happening. Wrestling has a meeting tomorrow night and they are going to be talking because that is a sport that we can run into some difficulties so it is up in the air right now.

Mrs. Minneci asked Mrs. Ionta to email the document to the Board members. Mr. Benaquista stated send it to Mrs. Cappiello and she will forward it. Same is appended to the minutes.

Mrs. Richardson asked is soccer going to start? Mrs. Ionta stated in the fall football, boys and girls soccer, field hockey, cross country, girls tennis. Mrs. Richardson asked what about the travel teams? Mrs. Ionta stated they don't have anything to do with us. Our soccer team has been practicing since July 13th. We don't have any competitions but they are getting back into conditioning and working as a team. They come in four days a week.

Mrs. Higgins stated a friend's son is practicing soccer outside and I guess they are safe. Mrs. Ionta stated there are procedures that we follow. When we came back to athletics there were three phases – Phase I requirements were stricter. They filled out a 7-day form, a daily form, get their temperature taken and everyone has a mask on. In Phase I they were in pods – 10 kids in a pod and stayed six feet apart but they were allowed to take their masks off. Then we came to Phase II and the restrictions lightened up a little bit. They were allowed to do the same things but they were allowed to add equipment – use of balls. Now they are allowed to be in team competition and more kids can be in the same groups. We follow the same procedures – they come in and get checked and they have a mask on. They go to their respective area and take the mask off and work out. They bring their own gallon of water because they cannot share water bottles or water provided by us. We do have these huge water containers made by Water Boy. We purchased a way to attach something so you can step on it and the water shoots out far enough where you can get a drink and you are far enough away from the hose and they are being attached now so we will have water but for now the kids bring their own water.

Mrs. Higgins stated I appreciate that because the kids really need it. Mrs. Ionta stated they do need it and we can see it in their faces. They are so happy to be back. We start in the morning at 6:30 a.m. and they are lining up to come in. They are happy and excited. Mr. Tatum

and Mr. Benaquista have been committed so we are going to do this because some schools have backed off and said they weren't doing anything. We are committed to do it.

Mrs. Minneci stated I can attest to the procedure because I see it almost every day when I go over to the track to walk and I see the kids lined up and you have the tent where you are taking temperatures. You are following all the protocols.

Mrs. Higgins stated sometimes the mental health is very important. Mrs. Ionta stated I agree.

Mr. Nufrio stated send us the schedules, even though they may be a work in process, because they can change overnight. Can you also post it on the website so the community can access it as well. Mrs. Ionta stated we will put the return-to-play protocols up by tomorrow afternoon. The actual schedules, the NJSAA has mandated that there will be two games per week only and one week where you can have three games just in case you get a rainout but they didn't want to overload the amount of games and competitions against other schools. Football remains at one game. The other thing that we will be careful of is we are going to try to play mostly play Union County schools and stay within our area because busing is still going to be an issue. We will try to maneuver around that. I spoke with transportation today and we are trying to iron that out.

Mr. Nufrio stated you have your hands full as everyone else does with the academics. I wish you the best of luck. Mrs. Ionta stated thank you.

Mr. Tatum stated thank you for coming on tonight. Mrs. Ionta stated I should tell middle school families that are listening, we are trying to work out because we are not going to be in school and the middle school teams either work out of Kawameeh or Burnet but we will run a shuttle probably around 3-3:10 p.m. to pick up – Burnet runs the football program so the kids from Kawameeh have to get on a bus and we will transport them to Burnet and opposite, we will have the soccer kids bused to Kawameeh. If anyone has a question they can either email me or call me I'm in the office every day.

Mrs. Higgins stated my kids have been in the school system for a long time. I have always had the utmost respect for you so thank you for everything. Mrs. Ionta stated thank you very much, I appreciate that. Mrs. Minneci stated thank you Mrs. Ionta.

Dr. Francis stated because we have this A/B schedule and we are going 100% right now remotely, are we keeping that type of schedule with anticipation that a hybrid will happen in November? If not, why aren't we going full time? Mr. Tatum stated we talked about that earlier today. The goal is to try to build a schedule as close to what would happen with a virtual/hybrid program to begin with. The original premise was to have a couple of days in school and a couple of days out of school and also have the virtual piece.

The virtual school is built around that same concept. Until you go back to normal, it would be ludicrous in my mind to go back to a different type of schedule if you go back to hybrid program and that is where we are going to benchmark where we are. So on October 15th

if it looks like everything is straight and there isn't any additional bug that might be in the hybrid program, but by the same token, I wouldn't want to say now that you have been in school for two months to change the routine. I doubt we would carry it out until such time it is lifted and where we are back to a normal school day.

Mr. Nufrio asked will you, the administration and the Board be apprised of any incidental discoveries of contamination? Who will collect that data? Will that be done by the trainers? Coaches? Parents? It should be a collective. Mr. Tatum stated all of the above. Right now we talked about a contact tracer which right now is currently Mrs. Ionta is serving in that role. One of the things we talked about down the road, we may need more than one contact tracer considering the size of our district. Some of the money that has come through, could possibly be used for that purpose. All this money we are getting is about COVID-19. In addition to Chromebooks, other supplies can be purchased from the money for the pandemic. The procedure right now is that it goes to Mrs. Ionta, to report to myself and provide information to the health officials and then comes back and guides us through the steps we have to take. This procedure has been in place since this has taken place. Mr. Malcony has been involved in all health procedures we have put in place at this point. When the pandemic first started, we didn't make a move without our health inspector. We worked collaborative with him through this process. In the many County roundtables that we have had, and we have three in the last two weeks where normally we only have one a month.

Mrs. Ionta stated when we spoke at the Town meeting and since July 13th there was one incident that we had where a young man went home and had a temperature and his parents called the coach right away. So I just want you to know what the procedure was. The coach contacted me right away and in turn I contacted Mr. Benaquista, Mr. Gabest from the Town. We didn't know if this kids was positive or negative. He just had a temperature. We spoke to the parent and each student at that point were in a pod so there were 10 kids in a pod – so there were 9 others in his pod. That night, we contacted every one of those families and said we didn't have a positive but we did have someone with a temperature – keep an eye on your child and that was the advice from the health department. Nothing happened the next day, everything was fine, and as time went on the child didn't have COVID-19, he ended up having strep throat and these are things that we will have to deal with right now. Kids just get sick, it doesn't mean that they have COVID-19. As far as contact tracing, I did that all through March, April, May, June. If we come back to school it will be pretty hectic. We may need one person in each building to contact me, which will then go to Mr. Tatum and I have the direct line to Mr. Gabest from the Town. Mr. Tatum will decide whether he wants to put it out to who he has to tell. Mr. Tatum stated that would be based upon regulations – privacy rights.

Mr. Nufrio stated you did hit the point of how are we going to be sure that are kids are going to be safe, especially given the fact that at the collegiate level, they cancelled programs when 4-5 of the players tested positive. We rely on your expertise and that of Mr. Tatum and the entire administration. Hopefully we won't have a problem. Mrs. Ionta stated I hope not.

Mr. Tatum stated I want to go back to technology. The high school Chromebooks have been on order for a while, what is the anticipated time for them to come in? Mrs. Paul stated the timeline is the end of August. I'm waiting for the company to let me know when they are

coming into the building. Mr. Tatum asked how many? Mrs. Paul stated 2,400. Mr. Tatum stated I asked that question because the number raised before is about 858. My question becomes if indeed we get those in, will we be able to cover those two grades that we don't have the Chromebooks for? Mrs. Paul stated yes we will. Mr. Tatum stated that is the piece I was trying to emphasize that before we got this money, that was the plan – to move those Chromebooks back into those grade levels that did not have them. We also during the first phase of this, if there was a family that didn't have any electronic device in their home, we would move some of the Chromebooks to a lower grade. I believe we only gave Chromebooks to families that didn't have a device when we did that survey. Now that everyone down to grade 2 would have a device, they would only be moved to grade 1 and K to cover the students when available and that is my hope to provide devices until we get the brand new ones. At least we have Chromebooks with a shelf life of one year. Mrs. Paul stated yes.

Mr. Tatum stated do you want to talk about goal setting from the Board's end of it – discuss some of the desires they may have.

Mr. Minneci stated next on the agenda, any suggestions, concerns the Board members would like us to set as goals so we can continue to move forward.

Mrs. Ruiz stated I think an immediate goal, since Mr. Tatum tendered his resignation, I think that should be, in addition to getting our kids and staff ready for virtual learning. Our immediate goal is beginning a search for Mr. Tatum's replacement and how exactly will we go about that.

Mrs. Minneci stated I'm glad you brought that up. I was on the phone with NJSBA and I was going to ask Mr. Tatum and Mr. Vieira at our next meeting, in executive session, to have someone come in and speak with us on certain procedures that we can follow for this. I know we have a lot of things going on but this is important. At our next Board meeting, with Mr. Tatum and Mr. Vieira's input, I would like to add that to our next agenda in executive session.

Mrs. Higgins stated when would we start that search and would some of us have to be recused? Mr. Taylor stated these are good questions. Technically this is a special meeting for which the Superintendent's search was not advertised as part of the agenda. I would suggest to hold off on this conversation until the next meeting. It sounds like we are already underway with respect to have a consultant from NJSBA to come in to talk about all of the above. We obviously have a little bit of time because Mr. Tatum is not retiring until January 1st. Just to maintain the procedural regularity of this meeting, this is not on the agenda for discussion tonight.

Mrs. Ruiz stated as part of goal setting we need to set goals. Mr. Taylor stated goals are district goals. Goals are not personnel related and the superintendent search is a personnel matter. I'm trying to advise the Board to be in compliance of the OPMA's advertising requirements for a special meeting. This special meeting was advertised for purposes of your reopening plan and it was amended to include the discussion of a pending litigation matter involving an ethics complaint. Superintendent search process was not on the agenda. My point is a district goal is not hiring a superintendent that is a personnel matter. I want to make sure no

one accuses this Board of any ethics violations or any violations of the OPMA since the superintendent search process was not advertised for discussion this evening.

Mrs. Minneci stated any more goals? Dr. Morgan stated I would like to discuss a couple of months ago there was an open letter by parents of the community and this was brought up during the meeting and it was never addressed. Many districts around us have been having discussions regarding anti-racism and supporting students of color in their district. I would like to make this a goal. Mrs. Minneci stated I added that to the list.

That brings us to #3 – we talked one time and we were going to ask Mr. Taylor to give us some guidelines for creating policies for COVID-19 or adding them to policies that are already in place. Mr. Taylor stated that would be more appropriate for closed executive session.

Mr. McDowell stated the NJSBA put out a guideline on policy for COVID. We may want to take a look at.

Mr. Tatum stated we have something we can share with the Board something that we received - Mr. Benaquista and I, that actually lists of some of the areas that you want to consider. They center around the health and safety and instructions and the broader areas of technology, transportation – those are the areas that you will be discussing. Not to go into any of the details, but those are some of the topics that would need to be explored. We have that list that we can share and also research the school boards. I think I saw what you were referring to. Mr. McDowell stated I thought it was pretty good. They always come up with policies and I think we should take a look at it.

Mrs. Higgins stated most of the schools in New Jersey – don't we have the same policies and procedures? Mr. Tatum stated for the most part that is right. The boiler plates seem to be universal. We try to take that policy within the regulations of the law and apply it to the needs of the district. A student discipline policy – procedurally might say a suspension is 1-10 days – you adjust for the age level and now they say the lower grades can't be suspended. We all have the same guidance but it is the interpretation of the district is how it is developed.

Mr. Taylor stated there are certain critical policies that are mandated by the New Jersey State Board of Education. Typically passed around through Strauss Esmay or NJSBA. However those policies are subject to modification by the Board to meet local needs and mandates, as long as they are not below the legal threshold. I would like to reserve this for closed session under the attorney client privilege exception because there are a lot of moving pieces right now with COVID, school reopening, hybrid learning, remote learning, in-person learning etc. I would like to give the Board a brief overview in closed session.

Mr. Nufrio stated as Policy Chair, this is why we have mandated, recommended and bylaws. The mandated do not leave much room for changes – we are guided by statute. Recommended – they can have some tweaking and so can bylaws. As long as they do not in any way violate.

Mrs. Minneci stated #4 – is Mrs. Conti here. Mrs. Conti stated I believe I'm discussing the out-of-district students who attend out-of-district schools and placements in relation to remote learning or hybrid or in-person learning. For the students that attend out-of-district schools, they will be attending the school per the learning plan option that has been provided by each of the schools to the parents. The parents would select from the two plans. One plan is virtual or the second plan, which can be different in the different schools, it could be hybrid mix, an A/B schedule within that, alternate weeks and it can be in-person. As you can imagine, that creates a challenge for transportation because everyone is on a different schedule. The transportation forms will be updated. We are in constant communication with the transportation department. I must give a positive feedback to our transportation department. They are doing an awesome job. It is a very big task. We are happy to announce that we are meeting that challenge and we continue to work on it. The out-of-district schools continue to send us plans and say forget that plan we sent two weeks ago, we have a new plan. As Mr. Tatum says everything is moving and it is a lot of moving parts. We are keeping up with that and it is our goal to transport the students per their IEP's and the out-of-district schools will provide to the greatest extent appropriate.

Mrs. Williams stated when children are at out-of-district schools, the schools send the information to our district and then we send the information out to parents? How are we communicating with these parents out-of-district. Mrs. Conti stated the out-of-district schools, it doesn't just streamline through us, they often will send the information out to the parents, to the Director of Special Services and to the case managers but we don't want any slip ups or any miscommunications along the way. We are compiling the information through one central point. There is a supervisor and a secretary and the summer case managers that are collaborating and we are keeping all that information. We are keeping track of the most recent reopening plan of the out-of-district schools that are provided. We make sure we have the students' schedule and learning plan option so we have the hours and we are also communicating and sharing that with the transportation department. The case managers are making sure that they are looking at the transportation form and the transportation forms are updated appropriately to the students' needs in conjunction with the program. It goes out through multiple points and we want to make sure that we are catching all that information and that everyone is being communicated with.

Mr. Tatum stated a couple of questions came my way regarding the additional support services – speech and I think we responded to a parent regarding that. It wouldn't be a bad idea to fill in because a lot of people may want to know about that moving forward because if they are doing a virtual program, how the supplemental services will be provided moving forward.

Mrs. Conti stated around April 3rd the NJDOE did allow for the provision of tele-therapy for related services and that was a big help. Once they allowed for that, we did have to make provisions and do some training. We began to roll that out and that is for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language services, counseling, behavioral services – so that they can be carried out to the greatest extent appropriate for the IEP. These services per the IEP can be carried out either on an individual, group basis or integrated – where I mean the related service provider pushes into the Google Classroom and translate it into the virtual world. The related service providers will push into the classroom to support the students. It is all based on what the IEP needs are.

We did provide technology training. The supervisors collaborated with Mr. Wojcik and we were able to train in the spring. The technology training was really robust over the summer and if we plan to continue that training for all staff and related service providers and support staff as well then the capabilities to provide instruction, programming and related services per the IEP to the greatest extent appropriate continues to expand. We received positive feedback from the staff and parents regarding the extended school year services. It was very interactive and we will continue to go into that direction and to continue making it as interactive as possible. There is synchronous and asynchronous learning. To be interactive with the students is the goal.

If students need adjustments to their IEP, have needs or accommodations for their programming, parents should reach out to their case managers. As always we will conduct an IEP meeting if needed to take a look at what the student may need and we make those adjustments just like the brick and mortar world.

Mr. Tatum stated does the Board have any comments or concerns or want to discuss this any further. Any input on what we are doing at this point – you can state your case. No questions from Board members. Mrs. Minneci stated thank you.

The plans for the parents - #5 – Mrs. Moses will speak about this. Mr. Tatum stated I know we have been in contact with both the local YMCA, as well as the Boys and Girls Club. We did have a meeting with them but Mrs. Moses communicated with our counsel on this and maybe she can give us an idea on where we are in the process.

Mrs. Moses stated in regards to the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club – as we are planning for our virtual and hybrid plans and deciding on what to do and how to do it and waiting for the State to give us guidance. We also thought about our families and we knew we had to do some virtual learning. How do we support our families that have to go back to work, even when the kids were in virtual? What we did was we reached out to our community and we started to have conversations with the Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA. We had a meeting with them and we worked on this as a community.

They presented themselves to the Education Committee on Monday. In that presentation they told us they worked together, they have the same prices as what they would charge families and this space would be a virtual safe space. If a family has to go work, maybe they work 5 or 3 days a week, but they would have a place where their children could go to and still continue to do their virtual learning and will be facilitated by an employee of either the Boys and Girls Club or the YMCA.

They provided a survey for our families in the district. The families completed the survey and they got the results. I want to share that out of 400 plus families that 225 or more inquired about the service. That is what we have for the families.

After they presented to Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Minneci and Mr. McDowell, they were saying that the space would be at their place. The Boys and Girls Club do not have the State guidelines to go into the school, they would have it at their facility. The YMCA can have it either at their

facility or at our school facilities. Afshan, our attorney, attended the meeting and her concern was if we don't have hybrid and the schools are not open, it is best that they use their facilities. That was discussed and they were fine with that.

The next step the Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA would like to do is send out a message to our families within our school district and letting them know that they can contact them for more information about fees. The YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club are working with the State to try to find funding to subsidize. They are in contact with them and I believe other schools are too. They are looking for subsidizing for families that qualify for that because we know these are very difficult times. They would like to have the Board of Education permission to move forward in doing robo calls to let them know that they can move forward if they are still interested in contacting the Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA. They will keep us posted of the sliding fee for the families.

If the Board will allow, if literature has to go out, they can send it to us and we can send it out via electronically or robo calls to our families to make sure that they know that there is support there.

I do want the Board of Education to know that both facilities are working really hard to try to get funding to help our families and that is so appreciative. If the children go to the facilities and they get lunch, they will have a runner go pick up the kids lunch and bring it back to the facility. They will still get their lunch from the school. We have lunch programs at every school and our children don't have to travel to that side of the Town, they can go to whatever school they want to get their lunch and breakfast.

Mrs. Ruiz stated thank you Mrs. Moses. If they are able to do this for our students, it is very limited space. Those parents that are interested should as soon as they get the letter, they should contact either the YMCA or the Boys and Girls Club because there are only like 30 spots for each of them and we have over 200 people that expressed an interest in it.

Mrs. Moses stated I think the Boys and Girls Club said they had room for 80 students. Mrs. Minneci stated 80-85, they just have to have the area approved. Mrs. Ruiz stated but right now they only have 30 approved.

Mrs. Minneci stated it is a nice ratio of staff members to students – 1:10 and 2:10. They have up to an 8-hour day to be there. Parents don't have to worry about picking them up at 2 or 3.

Mr. Taylor, at what point in this meeting do we need to do that? The Boys and Girls Club and the Y would like to have us vote to give them permission to do a robo call through the school system on a program that they are offering for our students that are virtual learning but need a place to go because parents work. Mr. Taylor stated I don't see a problem with that because they are a non-profit organization and you are just helping to disseminate information to the community. I don't even know if you need a motion. Mrs. Minneci stated we can just agree to allow that. Mr. Taylor stated I don't see that being a major issue.

Mrs. Minneci stated Mr. Tatum if everyone is in agreement, can we give them the permission to do the robo call and put the information out on the website? Mr. Tatum stated I think we have no problem with that. If it is going to go over our system we need Mrs. Hart to do it.

Mr. Taylor stated it may be advisable for the Board to pass a resolution. I say that because of recent/passed history in the district regarding the interplay between community organizations and non-profits, etc. When the administration allowed them access to a building or didn't allow them access, I would hate for a good deed to go punished. It may be advisable for the Board to pass a resolution to authorize/direct the administration to collaborate with the YMCA or the other organization to facilitate the dissemination of information to the community. I don't know if that was on tonight's agenda to be acting upon this evening. I think in the interim, could and should proceed with it and perhaps be on the agenda at the next regular meeting to be rectified. Mrs. Minneci stated it can proceed? Mr. Taylor stated yes you should proceed but I want to keep everyone honest so that there are no accusations from any one from the public that the Board didn't allow my group to do something last year but now you are allowing this group. It sounds like the members present have no objection to it so the administration can proceed and it can be on the agenda to be ratified at the next meeting.

Mrs. Minneci stated I know the two directors from those organizations were so accommodating. Their presentation was very insightful so I thank you for reaching out to them and coordinating all of this.

Mrs. Ruiz stated it goes back to the proposed schedules – what about phys ed and specials like art, music – how are those going to be incorporated? What if my son has phys ed first period or third period, is there going to be an actual phys ed class? Mr. Tatum stated I believe that is incorporated into the course of their schedule. I think you are talking about delivery. I will get clarification from the supervisor but they did do some virtual programs previously. It will probably be of virtual nature. I know there is an ability to do that now with the platforms that we have to even do individual work.

Mr. Benaquista stated Mr. Rago as well as Mrs. Ionta did purchase some platforms that can be used to facilitate their classes. There will be some new things coming in those elective areas to make sure that the delivery is there. Mr. Tatum stated there are platforms where they can do one-to-one. More will be coming down the road. The schedules that you saw really incorporates how the day will operate.

We had a presentation by Mr. Carew on the neighborhood schools. Right now we are going into a virtual environment; however, one of the things that we talked about was that there were a number of issues with families with the need of multiple schools that we were considering using our schools in a K-8 format so that children that live closest to the school that they live near that they can attend school there during the pandemic so therefore it would cut down on the travel as well as the need for children to go to different schools. I thought it may be a good idea going forward to reexamine that concept and Mr. Carew is here to give a quick overview.

Mr. Carew stated this is a brief overview of what community schools would look like – pre-k to 8 model.

Converting all pre-k-4 elementary schools to pre-k to 8 buildings in order to accommodate the demands of reopening during the pandemic. This would allow for nine pre-k-8 elementary schools and one high school. The benefits are transportation, student and staff safety and health/contact tracing; reduce class size K-8, financial benefits.

Transportation – schools would be close enough that most students would be able to walk with the exception of those residing at the Pointe and the train station. This would free additional drivers to transport high school students. It would allow for social distancing on the buses with masks, hand sanitizer and other measure taken to keep students safe. Families would be together (attending pre-k to 8 school). The expense for outside contractors would be handled in-district and there would be minimal to no delay in pick-up and drop-off.

In terms of safety and contact tracing, with the current model pre-k-4, if there happens to be a COVID-19 spread in a particular section of the Town, having students attend schools in different parts, there would be more widespread cases. If students from the same family are attending multiple schools are found to be positive, each of those schools would face the possibility of being closed down and contact tracing would be more difficult.

The benefits of pre-k to 8, students attending schools closest to home, contact tracing would be easier and more efficient in various communities spread occurring in an isolated section of the Town. Cases could be contained to a particular section amongst students and staff. There would be less schools that need to be closed down if there was a COVID-19 spread. You would minimize the number of students per building. Families would be able to stay together and it would be easier access to pick-up if necessary.

Benefits to class size – it would allow for less students per grade level in a building, it would assist in the required social distancing and limit students present in school per day. You would have less students and allow for more frequent sanitizing and bathroom monitoring, cleaning and hopefully lessening the spread of COVID-19 and smaller classes would benefit students, teachers and support staff.

Financial benefits – pre-k-8 – it would eliminate the need for additional buses and drivers with the new health and safety standards that are required during this pandemic. It would become a school community of care that extends beyond the brick and mortar. To the home of every student, this would involve counseling, nursing, security, administration and it would allow for all pre-k students to attend their community schools. Presentation appended to minutes and can be viewed on Zoom.

Mr. Tatum stated thank you for sharing that presentation. It also covers some of the other areas that we were working on regarding the response to the pandemic. What we find, as things change and the virtual option was open, we started backing away from this model. As the committees were working, this is something that we were working on simultaneously but we wanted people to know that it is an option that was put on the table, it is out there, it could be

something that happens if this continues down the road, throughout the course of the year. This is an option that you have available that would bring great benefits to some of the needs of the families in the district.

Dr. Francis stated students K-8 – how do you translate the same amount of students, how are you freeing up more room in the classrooms? Mr. Tatum stated it is because you have 6 of 1 and 2 of this and 1 of that, you now have 9 schools that are housing students across the district in the various grade levels. Looking at the breakdown of the actual neighborhoods, how many students live in that neighbor. In the areas that have more of a particular grade level, instead of there being just one or two schools in the area, now there are 3-4.

For example Connecticut Farms – it is a school that houses students from that area and other areas near Washington School – that is the splitting point. You now have in addition to those schools, Kawameeh, Washington, Livingston – some of those students that would normally be in Jefferson, now they are staying in that building and in a small group. All those students going to Jefferson will be at their home schools. I actually have the numbers that will be in every building and it is somewhere in the neighborhood of 450-500 range. Burnet Middle School would have about 380 students under this model.

Mr. Benaquista stated that would involve slightly changing some of the lines – just because of safety for the kids. Mr. Tatum stated instead of having students cross over Morris Avenue, they would be on the other side of Morris Avenue. Just like the students crossing over the bridge, we would be able to accommodate them to stay in areas where they don't have to navigate the bridge going into the Jefferson School areas. Stanley Terrace was another area that you could go in either direction but again there is Franklin School and Jefferson School. Our transportation department has the ability to put them into the areas that they live and that is where we got those numbers. But that is in a pandemic situation.

In 8th grade they would still be switching classes and having different teachers. That changes the concept of course of the middle school education but all the research that speaks about middle schools is it was designed to prepare for high school and the research found that it really does not necessarily have the best educational outcome when it comes to housing students in that manner. This would be for the convenience of families.

Mr. McDowell stated you said Jefferson would have that amount of kids but which school would be the most crowded? Mr. Tatum stated I believe when you get to the 500 range, probably Franklin and Washington but I don't have the numbers on me but no school would hit the 600 mark. Remember a few years ago we had a capacity study and it really speaks to how many students we can have in a building and that is with the current special needs programs. Our building capacity is greater than what they were many years ago but because of the use of the programs and how many students you can have in those classrooms, so when we give those numbers that we give now, that is incorporating all the special needs programs with the smaller classes and we have room to grow.

Mr. McDowell stated I guess some schools would have three 3rd grade classes and some would have four 3rd grade classes – would that be possible? Mr. Tatum stated that is correct.

We are trying to equalize as much as we could or until you schedule and get to the older grades and we talk about core subjects and what is referred to as quads. Those are the areas that you want to have your four academic teachers, teaching major subjects and at the higher level.

Mr. Nufrio stated I'm recalling the first time we spoke about this. I brought it to the attention of the Board and whoever else was present. Physical changes are going to be required to accommodate the lower grades for bathroom facilities which is costly and requires quite a bit of time. The children in kindergarten and first grade would have the bathroom facilities available that would accommodate their height, etc. Does this mean we are going to prepare for this, then we will undergo these changes irrespective of whether we continue with that neighborhood school concept or do the changes so we can be prepared for it. Mr. Tatum stated there are waivers that can be obtained for use of the facilities as long as it is understood that the teachers will then be directing and also the proximity to the bathrooms. One thing we did do was to bring the architects in. The key thing that came up was the bathrooms for the lower grades should be on the first floor not anywhere else in the building. Right now we are talking about an emergency plan if needed. We would look to get any waivers that are needed to accommodate the needs of the students. Right now we are going with the virtual program but to bring it back up just so people understand that there is another alternative should we need it. Many of the schools in this district were K-8 buildings; I know some have been converted over the years. Most of them are in a position to accommodate the K-8.

Mr. McDowell stated Jefferson is already designed that way. The issue would be Burnet and Kawameeh. Mr. Tatum stated you are absolutely right. When Jefferson was built the classroom closets have plumbing in them, as part of the design, because there was talk that it might be turned into a neighborhood school so we could use it either way.

Mr. Nufrio stated I guess I was more concerned about the two middle schools and I'm sure the facilities are not accommodating for the smaller children. Mr. Tatum stated you are correct. When we looked at the original reorganization plan, we were only looking at one building that needed to be converted and that would be Kawameeh because Burnet was designed to be a middle school because of the capacity.

Mr. Nufrio stated perhaps we should make those changes in the event that it is required rather than simply seek waivers so the children would be comfortable in the buildings should we need to go in that direction. Mr. Tatum stated this is a discussion that we had at a later time, because that is not what we are proposing, this is what we are discussing for down the road in case we need it.

Mr. Nufrio stated given the urgency and the conditions, I would suggest that as a choice that we should at least consider doing something like that because it could always be helpful for any changes down the road. Mr. Tatum stated so noted.

Mrs. Minneci stated so this brings us to the questions from Tuesday night which I think many of them were answered tonight. Mr. Tatum stated I know there were a few questions on that list that we were not able to respond to because it had to do with personnel matters.

Mrs. Minneci stated technology from pre-k to first grade – that has been covered. The second one – the procedure for the super, that we talked about that. We talked about the virtual – yes it is all virtual. How many teachers are in the district and who is replacing the 300? I think that 300 was about going into the building. Mr. Tatum stated let's go to Mr. Benaquista because he has been monitoring that. These were requests and some were also medical. What we have tried to do is maintain some of these retirements and leaves. Tuesday night we were bringing staff members back to replace those people who were going on indefinite leaves. Those people going on long-term leaves, rather than going out to the substitute service, if we have a teacher that is available that can move into that salary, we would move those teachers back in.

Mr. Benaquista stated it was 300 requests and it was all types of employees, it wasn't just teachers. It was some paraprofessionals, guidance counselors, many different concerns from different types of employees. It was many different reasons, some came from teachers that are currently pregnant, some have diabetes, some are of an age with other illnesses, a lot of lung, breathing issues, a lot of anxiety issues with COVID, some of our teachers are dealing with issues with childcare. Most of them were medical. Since the 300, I have gotten updated medical notes from employees with medical documentation; that was one of the things I requested. They are following up with medical documentation. They are getting notes from doctors about the health conditions they are dealing with and it would benefit them to teach virtually. We are still around 300. A lot of people are taking direction of their primary care physician or specialized doctor.

Mr. Tatum stated although we have that number of people that requested leaves, also incorporate those who would teach remotely so we really don't have 300 people that we are short because in the virtual world they can teach from their location. Mr. Benaquista stated correct. They were requesting because of their medical condition or situation to teach virtually. Some did put in year-long leaves because they couldn't manage with what was going on with COVID as well as work. We do have most of those requests were to teach virtually.

Mr. Tatum stated we will look again at those and hopefully that will help people understand what we meant by that.

Mrs. Minneci stated #5 – will central five be following elementary – we already went over the schedule of the different schools. Mrs. Paul talked about the start for ZOOM. Number 7 is the same thing about devices for pre-k – we covered that. Number 8 – is anything we touched on – it was can teachers teach virtually from the classroom. Mr. Tatum stated that is one we are still working on and it is personnel related. It is an area that is being tossed back and forth because the idea is we are starting a virtual concept but that is still one more of the “buzz” that will need to be discussed a little further. We will have advice from our counsel on the ability to do one or the other.

Mrs. Minneci stated #9 – the insurance company that has been hired, have they fallen short on delivery and would we evaluate their services? I know we always evaluate services. Mr. Vieira stated correct. I have a feeling the question is about the health insurance broker but I don't know if it is the new broker or the old broker. The old broker is Willis Towers, the new

broker is Fairview. Mrs. Minneci asked would we evaluate their services? Mr. Vieira stated we do continuously.

Mr. Benaquista stated there has already been a meeting with the new broker to set up the transition plan. There are a lot of things coming with the new health benefit plan that the Governor signed. We are working all that out. There was a meeting that Mr. Vieira, myself and HR attended to introduce ourselves and put everything in motion on how we are going to transition to the new broker.

Mrs. Minneci stated the last one Mr. Taylor covered this – about the suit in the paper so we are done and we answered all the questions.

Mrs. Ruiz stated we had a parent who emailed us with a long list of questions. You didn't give answers to many of those questions that she had. Mr. Tatum stated I responded to her on Tuesday night. I said to her in my response was that I would convene a meeting and bring people together from the various departments that she is asking about to come up with a set of answers for her. The questions require more to give her a response but she will be responded to.

Comments from Public

Lynn Cornacchia stated since the tech live meeting was moved to September 3rd and our contract starts on the 1st, are we required to do anything the first and the second. The secretaries want to know if they can socially stay 6-feet apart, are they allowed to work in their buildings to get all the paperwork that needs to be done – transfers, etc? The packets to be picked up – the materials, workbooks, books, Chromebooks at their designated schools is that up to the building principals or a set time? Right now we are all doing virtual, what happens when we go back if we do the hybrid and virtual? Are our classes being split? How is that going to work? There was mention of a meet and greet – is that virtually or in person?

Mr. Tatum stated what you are asking will be answered in the coming days. We are working with the building administration regarding the development of all the things she mentioned. We are also working with the local UTEA on some of these things. About the secretarial staff, there has been guidance provided throughout the summer because we have allowed secretaries/staff to go in. I believe the 6-foot distance rule will have to apply. There have been individuals that have reached out and provided accommodations for them

Mrs. Ruiz stated I can answer one of her questions – the meet and greets are scheduled to be virtual at least that is what we discussed in our Education Committee meeting and parents will receive an electronic correspondence about dates, times, etc.

Sienna Buca stated the schedule for the high school – the SCL committee, when talking about reopening, asked for a student check-in every day just to talk about everything that is going on because if your brain is not in it you are not going to be able to learn and a 10-minute homeroom is probably not adequate and high school students in this environment definitely need that outlet so if there is a way to look at the schedule again, I highly suggest it, because our students are going to need that. Also thank you Mrs. Higgins for talking about the health component about sports. I think we need to go a level deeper in everything we do because this is

a really difficult time for everyone so we should make sure all the supports are in place in every step of planning.

Nellis Regis Darby stated thank you to everyone for the presentations tonight. I noticed that the elementary school is going to be implementing what is known as the gradual release as they go virtually. The meeting on August 3rd I think it is key that the administration and whoever is leading those meet and greets are able to explain to the community and the stakeholders what that means for themselves and their families as we implement synchronous instruction because I think if they don't understand that particular model, it becomes very difficult to plan and schedule for their students. I implore the district to please have those administration to please explain what it means as a gradual release for the families. The high school schedule – 7:50-8:10 for the homeroom – I think that it is not enough time because I was reading about the plan that was sent out about a month ago that how important SCL is and we know how important that is going to be as the kids transition back into learning. The 10 minute time doing their Genesis and doing attendance is not enough time. I ask that the district look at the high school schedule again. This is a vulnerable time for the students as they are making decisions and trying to transition from different grades and even the college level that we take a look at that – a component within that schedule. I think you touched on goals – 2020-2021 school year – where will those goals be posted. Thank you for your presentations tonight – Mrs. Ionta, Mr. Wojcik and the others that presented.

Mr. Tatum stated on the schedule – over the course of time, this is the kind of information that people wanted to hear. Of course we need full direction on where we are going. The SCL component is one that I know a lot of planning and organization has taken place over the last couple of months for this. I have to go back and look to see how it will be interwoven within the schedule and we will bring more information back on that. It is certainly a very important component. Thank you Mrs. Regis-Darby and Miss Bucu for your input.

Amir Walmack stated my son is starting pre-k, when we receive the packets will the parents be doing the teaching or will this be done virtually? Is it possible if my son goes to daycare until they start the in-class, will he lose a spot? Because teaching at home is very difficult so is it possible for him to go to daycare until he starts the in-class and then be able to go to school? Mr. Tatum stated I think that will be subject to regulations because the pre-k program is governed by the State of New Jersey. I would defer back to the supervisor and/or Mrs. Moses who oversees that. We can entertain this question with the family privately.

Danielle Angrisano stated I would like to acknowledge your resignation Mr. Tatum, it is a huge loss, Mrs. Mosses – you also. I would like to express my concern about pre-k through 1 without the ability to have a computer. I will obviously do whatever I can for my first grader but what about these children that don't have the means to get it. We are just going to get a packet. Will they have any virtual connection with their teacher or their peers? This is huge for their social and emotional learning. I have a big issue with that. I have a fifth grader that is starting in Jefferson. If you are talking about this redistricting plan, would that also mean that when we go in-person, she will be removed and go into Washington after she has been now with Jefferson school? I'm concerned about all of them, children with IEP's, gifted and talented and most

concerned about the different platforms in virtual learning. Are these children going to have a chance to understand beforehand.

Mr. Tatum stated the move from Jefferson to Washington School – right now that is only in a conceptual framework that we put together and it probably is not going to happen this year because we are on a virtual format. That was one of the things we had under consideration in the event that everyone had to come back to school; to keep the school classes small, keep the enrollment small, to be able to provide lunch – all those things. What we are saying is if indeed we were forced into an order to bring everyone back to school under these conditions, that is in the back pocket as a resource but there is no plans right now to move forward with that at this stage of the game.

Regarding the kindergarten and first grade, we quantified that the number is around 850 range and I have been informed by technology department that there is a very good chance that we will be getting 1700 Chromebooks in next week – the target date. If that is the case, we don't have to redistribute the Chromebooks to the high school students, it will go right to the lower grades. We are trying to make sure we put out the information as to where we are because unfortunately we are under a statewide shortage and thank goodness we already had a Chromebook plan in place. As far as the platforms, our teachers are being trained in those areas. I will require that teachers take their time and introduce and work with families so that everyone will be able to work closely with the children – both the teachers and the support care to make this temporary situation work. We don't know how long but when this is over we can finally say we can go back to school and this school year the children would go back to their current school that they are enrolled in.

Ann Margaret Shannon stated as a product of a K-8 neighborhood school, I think it is an awesome idea to have community schools. In the middle schools, 6th graders can't possibly being as much as 8th graders as the 1st graders could be looking up to them. Elementary schools 4th graders cannot help the 1st grade teachers the way 8th graders could be. We often have 4th graders read to our little kids but I think it is awesome if 8th graders could take on that role. I don't know when we could successfully pull this off but I think K-8 neighborhood schools is an awesome idea and I do hope it is permanent.

Natercia Lopes stated I want to thank everybody for all the efforts and work. Thank you Mr. Tatum for all your work and I'm sorry to see you go as is Mrs. Moses. Virtual to me is the greatest thing because I would not send my kids to school. I wouldn't think about sending my kids to school in this situation that we are in now. I appreciate the virtual learning. I have been listening to everything everybody is saying. I hope that we have the teachers ready for the virtual learning. I am going to be on top of my kids and making sure that they are learning and paying attention. I expect the teachers to be there and be responsible and make sure that the kids are there and learning.

Mr. Tatum stated there was a handout that we need to approve. Because of the nature of executive session tonight, I think we need the full Board for this portion. We have a few positions that were omitted from Tuesday night due to an oversight. One of the things we talked about in our personnel committee meeting regarding administrative staff, if we can entertain a

motion just to approve the appointment/reappointment of these district employees so that they are ready at the start of school. We may have other things we may need to undertake after the school year starts because there are still some movements. Mr. Benaquista stated if we get some late leaves we may need to take action.

Mr. Nufrio was unavailable at time of vote.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolution was moved by Mr. McDowell, seconded by Mrs. Ruiz, for adoption:

P-1A. PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Personnel Actions be approved in accordance with the information appended to the minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Taylor stated if I can make a statement for the record – to the extent that this is a personnel matters and to give consistent advice, I commented earlier about the superintendent search not being appropriately advertised for this evening’s meeting, my interpretation of the OPMA requires a special meeting agenda to be advertised to extent known. These personnel related matters are directly related to the reopening plan which was of substance to tonight’s meeting and are integral and critical to the implementation of that plan. I just wanted to make sure we tied that together as to the basis for the actions being taken tonight.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. McDowell, Dr. Morgan, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Minneci

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Higgins

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mrs. Higgins, seconded by Mrs. Ruiz, that the Board go into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. to discuss the following subject matters without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b.

- Pending or anticipated litigation and matters falling under the attorney-client privilege – ethics complaint against certain Board members.

Please take notice that minutes will be taken of the discussion conducted during the executive session and the Board will disclose the minutes of the executive session when the disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests of the Board of Education and provided that such disclosure does not violate federal, state or local statutes and does not fall within the attorney/client privilege.

Action may be taken when the Board reconvenes in public session.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mrs. Higgins, Mr. McDowell, Dr. Morgan, Mr. Nufrio,
Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Minneci

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Morgan and Mrs. Higgins left during executive session (10:36 p.m.)

The Board returned to public session at 10:47 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board in public session it was moved by Mrs. Richardson, seconded by Mrs. Ruiz, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

AYE: Dr. Francis, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nufrio, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Williams,
Mrs. Minneci

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MANUEL E. VIEIRA
BOARD SECRETARY