

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
ZOOM MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020
5:00 PM**

Richard Angotti, Jr.	Present
Hilary Emery	Present
Kevin Gregory	Present
Peter Jamieson	Present
Warren Steward	Present
Francis Boynton, Superintendent	Present

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Warren Steward, Chairperson.

II. Adjustments to the Agenda

Moving public comment to reopening of school section of the meeting.

III. Public Comment

Moved to Item VII - Reopening Plan.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the School Board Meetings July 28, 2020, barring any errors or omissions.

Motioned by: Richard Angotti

Seconded by: Peter Jamieson

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

V. Payroll Warrant

Motion: It was moved to direct the Superintendent of Schools to authorize payment by the Town Treasurer to each party listed herein, the sum set against each name contained in School Payroll Warrant #21-4 in the amount of \$131,875.88 on August 13, 2020.

Motioned by: Richard Angotti

Seconded by: Kevin Gregory

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VI. Payable Warrant

Motion: It was moved to direct the Superintendent of Schools to authorize payment by the Town Treasurer to each party listed herein, the sum set against each name contained in School Payable Warrant #20-45 in the amount of \$218.62 for FY 20 and #21-5 in the amount of \$80,912.01 for FY21 on August 13, 2020.

Motioned by: Richard Angotti

Seconded by: Peter Jamieson

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VII. To see if the Board will approve a school reopening plan

Motion: To approve the school reopening plan as presented

Motioned by: Richard Angotti

Seconded by: Peter Jamieson

Board Discussion:

The Chair allowed public discussion starting with the Board.

The Superintendent explained the plan as a hybrid model with all students attending school with the choice of in-person or virtual, allowing safe numbers for in-classroom instruction. We have purchased technology to allow for virtual in-classroom instruction. CANVAS will be used as the virtual learning system. If a teacher can't be in the classroom, an Ed Tech will be physically in the class and the teacher can teach from home. This will be an 8 week period assessing at weeks 4 and 6. Students will have to stay with their choice of in-person or virtual for the full 8 weeks. Fridays will be virtual for all students for the morning and the afternoon will be a workshop for all staff.

We will follow CDC guidelines as best we can. If a student won't wear a mask, they will be asked to go home. The Friday, Saturday and Sunday cleaning period will be helpful in deterring the virus.

In conjunction with this plan, we will need a calendar change to get the staff trained before the opening of school with the first day of school slated for September 8.

We have many supplies ordered. Some have arrived and some are on their way.

We have a grant for \$449,000 for COVID expenses only which needs to be spent by the end of December.

Region will have their blue and white days and Region students will follow their calendar.

If individuals travel out of state, they will have to quarantine for 14 days. Visitors won't be allowed in the school.

We may have some freedom from the State regarding the length of the school day.

The decision regarding athletics has not been made yet. We are waiting for information from the MPA.

Board comments:

If cases come up during the 8 week period, the parents should have the ability to move to virtual. Going to in-person would be more difficult than changing to virtual.

Concern that 8 weeks is too long a period. Would 4 weeks be more reasonable? The Superintendent explained the process will be reviewed at weeks 4 and 6.

A question regarding how lunch will work. The Superintendent is recommending a standard meal most likely served in the classrooms. He has a meeting set with the Food Service Manager.

Concern the rooms have not yet been set up yet, even though they have been measured.

The plan is to have middle school and high school students change classrooms because of specialized classrooms, such as Science. Teachers and administration will be required to do a lot of monitoring of mask wearing.

We are not required to take temperatures of students, but thermometers have been purchased for bus drivers and teachers plus quality ones for the School Nurse.

We will have to make sure to have 6 feet distance in the classroom for students taking off their masks to eat.

If there is no transportation for grades 6-12, do we know how this will affect students? We may have to make some accommodations for those students. A 4th bus run will be added.

Question regarding how long school can run with the supplies we have on hand. The Superintendent stated we have 3-4 weeks' worth of PPE. The big concern is the screens for the classrooms. He is confident we will have sufficient materials here to meet our needs.

How will the CANVAS training work with the time frame? The Superintendent explained the sample has been forward to staff to start working on it. We have hired a college professor in Seattle who is going to help with getting staff trained. Friday afternoons are important to help staff with training and this transition time.

Concern for lack of communication with the process.

CDC will be contacted if we have cases then we will go with their recommendation.

Public comments:

Katie Carr the School Nurse stated she is concerned with some of the gaps in the plan. She would like to see the parents having to get a doctor's note to wear a face shield get removed. We need to be a united force to get students to wear masks. It will be difficult to keep students 6 feet apart when they are eating. She wants to be assured she won't be held liable. The Superintendent assured her she is covered under our liability insurance.

Missy Wheaton read a statement stating she has safety and instructional concerns.

Dawn Boyington asked questions regarding educating her PreK child.

Ann Sutherland spoke with the Superintendent concerning Speech. The students with articulation issues will not be able to be understood with a mask. They need a face shield. Katie Carr stated they can wear face shields, but the parents need to know it isn't effective in stopping the virus.

The Chair noted there won't be a perfect plan. The plan we have gives parents a choice. We need to start somewhere.

Richard Angotti stated he would like to poll the Board regarding public comment. The Board stated they would like to hear further public comment.

Terry Given stated we have no concrete plan. Concern regarding room size to house everyone. Concern for details. Would like a plan that aligns with the CDC and a manual.

Stephanie Jamieson has a Kindergarten student. Will there be an opportunity for parents to go to the classroom to see how the rooms will be set up and the details? The Superintendent expects it won't be an option because of cleaning the building. Part of the plan is no outside visitors.

Tom Malcolm was concerned as a public health officer. Concern about thorough cleaning of school. If we have to open school late, then it won't be the end of the world. The Superintendent stated that there is a cleaning period of 3 days for Friday-Sunday to help and it is in the plan.

Richard McGibbon discussed plexiglass barriers.

Jolene Maynard discussed bathroom use.

Tricia Cyr wondered if the School Board would approve waiting another 4 weeks or so due to the uncertainties or possibly all virtual for first 4 weeks. The Superintendent stated if we push it back that long, we will be into July. Concern for childcare for students for all virtual plan. Our plan is giving parents a choice.

Concern regarding heat exhaustion from mask wearing. The Superintendent said we are still waiting for CDC recommendations, but water bottles will be allowed.

Question regarding why we aren't doing universal health screenings in the morning. What content will be sent to parents for health screenings? How do we control bathroom use? Will faculty have a health screening?

The Superintendent stated Pesticide Control has put a stop to the use of our new foggers.

Amy Anderson asked about confidentiality in the classroom with cameras on.

Trying to get ahead of the plan – meeting with other Superintendents and keeping up with changes and what is happening in other states.

Beth Peavey stated the plan was meant to be flexible and fluid. We don't have all the answers but we do the best we can for the safety of our staff and students. It's not meant to be a hard and fast rule. Understandable that people are concerned, but that is why the plan was made with a choice.

If the plan is approved tonight, a parent letter will be prepared regarding the plan and the home health screen information. The student chart regarding positive COVID symptoms will be included.

The Superintendent stated he would need comments from the Board to go forward. The Board would like to have more work on the plan. Many felt they should hear more voices.

Motion: To table the motion for one week to make changes to the plan so the Board can review it for next week and to add more people to the committee.

Motion by: Richard Angotti **Seconded:** Kevin Gregory

Discussion:

Peter Jamieson stated he would like to be on the committee as a Board member.

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VIII. To see if the Board will approve a revised 2020-2021 school calendar

Motion: To table the revised school calendar until next week.

Motioned by: Richard Angotti **Seconded by:** Peter Jamieson

Board Discussion:

Motion and second removed.

Motion: To approve the revised 2020-2021 school calendar.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Richard Angotti

Board Discussion:

Will the calendar need to be revised again?

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM

Motion by: Richard Angotti **Seconded by:** Hilary Emery

Voted: 5 – Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Francis N. Boynton
Superintendent of Schools