

KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MEETING MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING – February 22, 2021

Notice of Meeting

The New Jersey Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend the meetings of, public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Knowlton Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted with The Express-Times and The Star Ledger and distributed to the Knowlton Township Elementary School, the Delaware Post Office, and the Knowlton Township Municipal Building. This meeting will commence at 7:00 P.M. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be held remotely. The public will be able to access the agenda, as well as electronically view and participate in the public portion of the meeting via a link posted on the District's website at www.knowltonschool.com or by dialing in using the following phone numbers: 929-205-6099 Webinar ID: 832 8125 4039 Passcode: 870320943. Any members of the public wishing to submit written comments prior to the start of the meeting must email such comment to the attention of the Board Secretary at brennanm@knowltonschool.com. Any such comments that are received by Monday, February 22, 2021 at 12 noon will be read aloud at the meeting for three minutes.

Call to Order

Mrs. Smith called the meeting (Webinar) to order at 7:04 p.m.

Flag Salute

Mrs. Smith invited everyone to join her in the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Matthew Baley, Mrs. Dawn Bates, Mr. Don Biery, Mrs. Rhonda Moritz, Mrs. Tammy Smith, Mrs. Alison Stiehl (7:06 pm), & Mrs. Ronni Wittreich.

Absent: None.

Others: Mrs. Jeannine DeFalco, Superintendent, Mr. Michael Brennan, Business Administrator, Mrs. Dana Carroll, Vice Principal, Mrs. Reber (virtual), Teachers (virtual), Parents (virtual), & Public (virtual).

Mission Statement

We are committed to provide an engaging, comprehensive education aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in a healthy, safe and nurturing environment in which all students are encouraged to be critical thinkers and self advocates. Instilling a passion for learning will inspire and guide students to become responsible and compassionate citizens in a constantly changing world. Students have the opportunity to achieve their maximum

academic potential both here and in their future education while developing confidence, competence, and character.

Public Participation

None.

Correspondence

None.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. DeFalco gave the following report:

* As of March 1, 2021, 90% of our student population will have returned to in-person learning.

* ESSER II (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funding amounts were released, along with Learning Acceleration and Mental Health Supports & Services allocations. We will review carefully and begin determining how we can best utilize these allocations to support our staff and students.

* I am participating in a four week SEL Health Series facilitated by Dr. Jared Scherz. This is a program being brought forth by the New Jersey Association of School Administrators. Today was the first session for the North.

* A new program this year called PTA Reflections was available for students to participate in. Cyrus Wittreich submitted a drawing in the visual arts category in the Primary (Pre-K – 2nd) Division. He has received an award of excellence for his submission and his entry advanced on to the county and state levels.

* We have some great technology platforms in use with both our in-person and virtual learners. Nearpod has identified the following teachers as top users: Debbie Lennox and Lisa Garrison. Flocabulary has identified the following teachers as top users: Misty Baker and Terri Kwasnik. Our IXL leaders for questions answered by class are Katy Jones students with 49,941 and Pam Janeiro's students with 37,468.

* Some questions have been asked regarding sixth grade promotion. At this time, we are awaiting guidance from the Governor's office regarding what this year's celebration may look like. We do know that social distancing and masking requirements are expected to remain in place.

* Mrs. Tate has found a way to create and show our students' artwork as an alternate to the traditional Art Show. She had hoped to utilize Artsonia but due to some unexpected issues she opted not to. She will be joining the March board meeting to share Art Show slide show.

Vice Principal's Report

Mrs. Carroll gave the following report:

- * Because of the virtual and snow days, I have extended our mid-year assessments due date until March 5th.
- * I am currently working with Mrs. Tate and Mrs. Lestrangle on review of the new Visual and Performing Arts Standards. The state has put out new standards overhauling these subjects.
- * I attended the Administrator Coffee Hour through the School Support Social Network. It was an informal discussion about issues we are facing in our schools.
- * Teacher schedules are all updated and reflect our 5 day a week in-person return.

Board Secretary's Report

Mr. Brennan gave the following report:

- * NJSBA board census was updated to reflect our new board structure post our January 4th reorganization meeting.
- * A reminder to please complete your 2021 School Ethics Personal/Relative & Financial Disclosure Statements as soon as possible.
- * For 2020 tax year, 1099s (Misc. Income) were compiled and sent out to individuals and our vendors.
- * Per our existing CBA, the district processed the sick time payout amount pertaining to Mrs. Davalos's employment. I also processed the summer salary reimbursement due to her family.
- * Attended a REAP webinar in preparation for our upcoming SY 21-22 submission. We anticipate our REAP grant funding being reduced by \$2,524.

Facilities:

- * None

Committee Reports

Mr. Brennan gave the following Facilities Committee report:

- *Mini bus repaired and now ready for school opening
- *Mini bus super cleaned and disinfected prior to school opening and our bus returning to use
- *Repaired East Wing bathroom that had a small leak

*With Winter Storm Orlena dumping 27 inches of snow in Knowlton; I'd like to thank both Tom Bartha & our KTEA staff for their work with our district. Frank, Geoff, & Bob did a fantastic job with cleanup allowing us to successfully open on Thursday following the storm.

Mrs. DeFalco gave the following Community Outreach Committee report:

* Remembrance: Creation of an area of tranquility in remembrance of Diane which will include school and community in development. There already are individuals interested in contributing donations for materials, plants, bird feeders, etc. for this area. Scholarship to be awarded by the KTEA.

* Mask Fundraiser: Jeannine alerted the committee that the Knowlton Knights mask fundraiser has hit a roadblock with the new required minimum. Since the last meeting, Ronni was able to find a new possible vendor.

*Early Act Souper Bowl: Jeannine provided an update with counts of cans collected and noted that the original collection date was extended due to snow and the desire to continue the collection.

Mr. Biery gave the following Instructional Committee report:

* Provided an overview of Instructional meeting

Mr. Biery gave the following Finance Committee report:

* Provided an overview of Finance meeting

Knowlton Knight Awards, Mrs. Carroll

Mrs. Carroll presented a citizenship award (virtual) to Ella Dodd, Brayden Flyte, and Sara Pearson Congratulations to Brayden, Ella, & Sarah. Great job!

Staff Spotlight, Mrs. Carroll

Mrs. Carroll presented a certificate (virtual) to our staff spotlight recipient, Mrs. Pam Janeiro. Congratulations to Mrs. Janeiro!

MOTIONS

1. Resolution

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith seconded by Mr. Baley and carried unanimously to request the adoption of a resolution for Governor Murphy to include Public School District personnel in the official expert vaccine allotment panel's definition of frontline workers:

WHEREAS, the Knowlton Township Board of Education recognizes that the United States, the State of New Jersey and local health authorities, as well as the World Health Organization, have declared a public health emergency regarding the Coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the federal and state authorities have put in place guidance detailing the precautionary measures schools must implement to stop its spread of this disease; and

WHEREAS, public schools have a profound impact on millions of students, families and staff and are charged with the care, education, nourishment of their students and are an integral part of the health and safety of our communities; and

WHEREAS, our district has responded to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, providing students and staff members with the technology and resources necessary to ensure the efficient delivery of instruction, virtually and in-person; and

WHEREAS, the board has a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and ensuring that the district can provide staff and students with a safe and effective educational environment that supports student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the board recognizes that this health emergency made it necessary to close schools and reinvent the educational programs in a virtual setting and that this may have an adverse impact on student achievement and the emotional and social wellbeing of students; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan published by the State of New Jersey Department of Health (December 15, 2020, pgs. 36-37) prioritizes the availability of vaccines to “essential workers” in Phase 1B of the vaccine protocol; and

WHEREAS, school district staff at all levels are essential to the day-to-day operations of this district, responsible for the thorough and efficient education of all students and their social and emotional wellbeing, are critical for virtual and in-class instruction and are “essential workers;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Knowlton Township Board of Education finds a substantial public purpose exists to request that Governor Murphy give appropriate priority in the statewide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to all public school district personnel.

COVID-19 Vaccination Plan published by the State of New Jersey Department of Health, see: <https://nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/NJ%20Interim%20COVID-19%20Vaccination%20Plan%20-%20Revised%2012-15-20.pdf>

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the member of our legislative district and legislative district delegation, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Governor Phil Murphy, and to the New Jersey School Boards Association

2. Approve Updated Curriculum

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith seconded by Mrs. Bates and carried unanimously to approve district implementation of updated World Language curricula to include new standards for September 2021 implementation.

3. Semi Waiver

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith seconded by Mr. Baley and carried unanimously by roll call vote to apply to the Interim Executive County Superintendent for a SEMI Waiver for the 2021-2022 school year based upon the fact that the district will have 10 Medicaid eligible classified students, based on the revenue projections provided by the Department of Education.

4. Merit Goal

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith seconded by Mrs. Bates and carried unanimously by roll call vote to recognize the designated quantitative Merit Goal #2 for the Superintendent, as stated in the report dated October 1, 2020 has been achieved and to authorize submission to the Executive County Superintendent for approval and authorization of payment.

5. Approve Bills

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith seconded by Mr. Baley and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve the bills for payment as follows from January 26, 2021 through February 22, 2021 General Fund bill list of \$383,019.65 and Cafeteria bill list \$3,159.33.

6. Approve Minutes – January 25, 2021

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith seconded by Mrs. Bates and carried unanimously to approve the Regular Session Minutes of January 25, 2021.

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

ABST: 0

Motion carried.

Monthly Certification

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, I certify that no budgetary line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a) as of January 31, 2021 (Policy 6820).

Board Secretary

Date

7. Accept Report of the Secretary and Report of the Treasurer

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith seconded by Mr. Baley and carried unanimously by roll call vote to accept the monthly A-148 Secretary's Report for the month ended January 31, 2021 and the A-149 Treasurer's of School Monies Report for the month ended January 31, 2021 in compliance with the NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c). The Board of Education, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, certifies that no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c).

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Upcoming Meetings

March 8, 2021: Board Committee Meetings, 6pm

March 22, 2021: Board Meeting, 7pm

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith seconded by Mr. Baley and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Brennan, MBA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Approved: