

Special Meeting of the Board of Education - Northport High School - 7:00 p.m. (Friday, February 5, 2021)

Generated by Beth M Nystrom on Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Members present

David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Members absent

None

Also present

Mr. Robert Banzer, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Irene McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Dana Boshnack, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Mr. Robert Howard, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Mr. Louis Bonadonna, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services

Mr. Steven Goodstadt, Ingerman Smith, LLP

Public Attendance: 15 in person, approximately 279 virtually

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – President Badanes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Mr. Badanes led those present in the **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**; and
3. Pointed out the **EMERGENCY EXITS**
4. **IF NECESSARY, THE CHAIR MAY ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Note: It is anticipated that the Board will meet in public at 6:00 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room at Northport High School to act upon a resolution, upon majority vote, to immediately convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons.

Action: 4.01 Motion to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons.

Motion by David Badanes, second by David Stein.

Final Resolution: Motion passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

5. SPECIAL REPORTS

Information: 5.01 Update on School Reopening

Mr. Robert Banzer, Superintendent of Schools, presented an update on the school reopening. Mr. Banzer stated that the information from the survey was very helpful and he thanked everyone who participated. There were very reputable people with different thoughts. Mr. Banzer stated that there is no one measurement you can use, and he looks at the community. He looks at the positivity rate in the county and how that affects our students and staff. The data can be found every day. It is down 46% since January 8th from 10.6 to 5.7. The district rate is going down and when we count the numbers, we count staff and students. There was a communication sent to the public and staff that we now offer rapid COVID testing at the Brosnan building on Wednesdays. The company doing the testing will also be able to engage in the

vaccination process when that is available. Mr. Banzer stated that members of the community are being vaccinated but he wishes the distribution were better and seamless.

The monitoring of COVID cases is directly tied to contact tracing. The contact tracing is very different from the beginning of the year. We want to have a normal year, its getting closer but it will not be the same. Mask wearing is the most critical piece.

**NORTHPORT-
EAST NORTHPORT**
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Reopening Update
Special Board of Education Meeting
February 5, 2021

Results of Survey to Families in Grades 7-12

SURVEY RESULTS		Q: Which of the below is the preferred instructional model?			
Q: School	Q: What is your child's current instructional model?	Fully In-Person Students in person 5 days per week. Distancing less than 6 ft.-Minimum of 3.5 ft.	Hybrid	Daily Remote	Total
East Northport Middle School	Daily Remote	2	2	5	9
	Hybrid	155	37	2	194
Northport Middle School	Daily Remote		2	6	8
	Hybrid	165	35	1	201
Northport High School	Daily Remote	20	9	37	66
	Hybrid	589	166	5	760
Total		931	251	56	1238
		75.2%	20.3%	4.5%	



Q: Does your child take a bus to school?



■ NO ■ YES

Considerations:

COMMUNITY

- County positivity rate (5.7%) trending downward
- In district access to COVID testing since January (Available on Wednesdays at WJB).
- Vaccinations for eligible members of community.

7 Day Rolling Average % Positive COVID	Suffolk County Based on number of cases vs. # of people tested	School District Based on reported cases to the district vs. Total Enrollment & Staff
January 8, 2021	10.6%	0.59%
February 4, 2021	5.7%	0.31%
Change	-46.2%	-47.5%

Considerations:

SCHOOL

- Contact tracing/quarantine protocols makes a difference
- Success in our ability to sustain full in person learning at Grades K-5 since September and Grades 6 (December 7th).
- Ongoing monitoring of Impact on student in- person attendance and staffing implications.
- Physical health/ mental health of students and staff.
- Updated research: CDC, JAMA, etc.
- Consultation with medical professionals.

Considerations:

SCHOOL

- Review/ discern other school district models.
- Increase access to COVID testing in district (Wednesdays at WJB).
- Vaccinations for eligible staff continue.
- Community feedback.
- Learning modality options still exist: Classes are live streamed- access to classes from home.
- Continue to monitor, assess and adjust, if necessary.

Health & Safety Protocols

- Continue vigorous cleaning protocols including high touch areas throughout the day
- Continued use of HEPA filters
- Use of barriers in classrooms and lunch rooms
- Lunch at desks at least 6 feet apart with barriers
- Distance in classrooms as far apart as possible but not less than 3.5 feet
- Directional hallways wherever possible- no congregating

Health & Safety Protocols

- Contact tracing/ quarantining protocols remain in place
- Ongoing communication with Health officials and adherence to evolving guidelines (CDC, NYS, County etc.)
- Continued adherence to guidance and protocols
- Limitations to outside visitation
- Mandatory mask wearing protocols (school grounds and busses)
- Health Screening: Stay home if you have symptoms
- Hand Hygiene

*Proposed Transition Plan to Full Return for Grades 7-12

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
February Winter Break February 13-21				
22 District fully remote after winter break (K-12) Grades 7-12 Follow Wed. Remote Schedule with office hours)	23 District fully remote after winter break (K-12)	24 Grades 6, 7, 9 and 12 will be in-person. Grades 8, 10 and 11 are remote.	25 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person	26 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person
March				
1 Grades 7-12 (Follow Wed. Remote Schedule with office hours)	2 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person	3 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person	4 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person	5 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person
8 Grades 7-12 (Follow Wed Remote Schedule with office hours)	9 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person	10 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person	11 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person	12 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person
15 TRANSITION TO 5 DAYS* All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person	16 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person	17 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person	18 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person	19 All secondary students (grades 6-12) in-person
* Subject to change based on conditions related to COVID, staffing and any other circumstances for the remainder of the year. Circumstances may necessitate a return to Hybrid and or All Remote for all or part of a school, class or individuals.				

THANK YOU



QUESTIONS

There was a discussion regarding State and Department of Health guidelines, contact tracing, lunch periods, remote learning, and communication to parents. The importance of getting communication out to parents and students for them to get a sense of what is coming and how things will look familiar but it will not be the same.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT/PARTICIPATION - Please Note: Community members are invited to share their questions, comments, or concerns with the School Board. To participate by Zoom please sign up using the following link: <https://forms.gle/k8VzssX3nj21fbgW9> by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. When speaking, citizens should state their name and address for the record and limit their presentation to 5 minutes. Where possible, the Board will answer factual questions immediately. A written response may be provided when information is not available. If a response would involve discussion of Board Policy or decisions which might be of interest to citizens not present at the meeting, the Board may place the item on a future meeting agenda.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Irene Lenna	Stated that she is relieved to see a reopening plan and for students to return to some sort of normalcy. She stated that many questions have to be addressed and every staff member needs to be on board to reintegrate the children.
Jen Patterson	Read a letter she sent to Mr. Izzet Mergen regarding resuming extracurricular activities such as art and music with the start of high risk sports. Students should be able to attend clubs, rehearsals and practices.
Craig Mooers	Stated that the whole community is leaning toward full in-person learning and those who do not feel comfortable can opt out. Stated that extracurricular activities shape students and asked if there is a plan to bring back clubs, band and music in-person.
Rebecca Gibson	Stated that she is thrilled about the reopening. Asked if the Board will be reviewing the secondary grading policy and adopt a policy that reflects the

increased performance due to full time learning versus the decline in academic performance due to online instruction. She asked the Board to focus on the mental health needs of the children.

- Moriah Heuer Stated that its very encouraging to hear that a lot of work is being done to get students back in person. Asked that the Board explain to parents what live streaming would look like. Asked about classroom spacing and overflow classes. Asked about starting in person clubs and continuing to pursue mental health options for the students.
- Shawne Rosenblum Stated that she is dismayed that the Board made this decision based on popularity and not on guidelines. The majority of students are using the hybrid model and this option is being removed. Schools are thought to be relatively safe if proper protocols are in place and if students are 6' apart. Families should not be forced to choose between their student's health.
- Dr. Adrian Popp Stated he is the chair of infectious disease at Huntington Hospital. School related transmissions have been minimal because of the hybrid model. There won't be social distancing and that is important. We are in the middle of a second wave and it is still not well controlled. Vaccinations have started but not many teachers are vaccinated and it may be months before they are. The rates are coming down but new variants are coming up. We have to be very careful when students are returned to school.
- Stacey Weisberg Thanked the Superintendent and the Board for working together on this huge endeavor to make the school district whole and to bring everyone back safely. Hour and hours of discussion has taken place on how to do this the right way.
- Greg Perles Stated that he has deep concerns about the decision to bring the students back full time. The hybrid model is a balanced model and the decision made will drive some parents to choose health over school. The aggregate impact of this decision will have an adverse effect. There are multiple new strains and we are in the middle of a second wave.
- Brett DeMarco Thanked Mr. Banzer for the well thought out presentation. Science stated that there is no spread in schools. He heard that there has not been one child that has gotten sick from contact tracing. Masks and plexi-glass are enough protocol to not to have to contact trace. Asked if the protocols will change going forward if positivity rate drops.
- Mr. Banzer stated that contact tracing is done through the Suffolk County Department of Health and they changed the protocols.
- Denise Schwartz Stated that she is glad the students will be getting more days in school but the plan should have been written in August and we should have been ready to do this. The survey in the fall should have included a full in-person option. Clubs need to be in person again and we do not need remote Mondays.
- Nicole Raganella Stated that the district is at a .5% infection rate and the community as of today is at 5% infection rate. State regulations say to use plexi-glass or social distancing and we have both. Other districts have done 3' social distancing and they have been successful. Thanked the Board for making this decision.

There was a brief discussion regarding livestreaming, use of overflow rooms, masks, and plexi-glass, and teaching zones.

7. ADJOURNMENT - Board policy requires adjournment by 10:30 pm, unless meeting is extended by vote.

Information: 7.01 Upcoming Meetings

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 11, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Northport High School

SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET

Thursday, March 4, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Northport High School

Budget Discussion: Buildings and Grounds, Transportation, Security

SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET

Thursday, March 11, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Northport High School

Budget Discussion: Instruction, Technology, BOCES, Special Education

SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET

Thursday, March 18, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Northport High School

Budget Discussion: Personnel & Benefits

SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET

Thursday, March 25, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Northport High School

Budget Discussion: Revenue, Fund Balance & Reserves

Action: 7.02 Adjournment

Recommendation to adjourn meeting

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

At 9:05 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk