

Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 20, 2020

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The Rootstown Local Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria on April 20, 2020. Present were Tom Siciliano, Amanda Waesch, Scott Krieger, Steve Vasbinder, and Eric Kline. Also present were Andrew Hawkins, Superintendent, and Connie Baldwin, Treasurer.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: E. Kline, T. Siciliano, A. Waesch, S. Krieger, S. Vasbinder

RESOLUTION 2020-04-061
ADOPT THE AGENDA

It was moved by T. Siciliano seconded by E. Kline to adopt the agenda.

Yeas: T. Siciliano, E. Kline, S. Krieger, S. Vasbinder, A. Waesch

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

Coronavirus Update: After a welcome introduction to the remote meeting by the board president, A. Hawkins offered an update on the Coronavirus Plan. First, he thanked the staff, students, and community. As of March 17, the district started a remote learning program. Today the Governor announced schools would not reopen through the end of this school year. The administrators have been working on a plan for end-of-the-year events. HB197 passed meaning no testing, no report card, and no third grade guarantee. The district thanks the local churches who have volunteered to provide food bags for pick up by the community. Thank you to Passion Church, United Methodist, Community Bible, Grace and First Congregational. A. Waesch and E. Kline echoed these thanks.

Community Comments: The community was invited to email the treasurer with any community comments. There were none.

Treasurer's Reports/Recommendations:

RESOLUTION 2020-04-062
APPROVE FINANCIALS

It was moved by T. Siciliano seconded by S. Vasbinder to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the following meetings:

March 16, 2020 – Regular Meeting

Also, approved the monthly financial reports as submitted, with the authorization for the payment of bills and appropriation modifications as necessary.

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Yeas: T. Siciliano, S. Vasbinder, A. Waesch, S. Krieger, E. Kline

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

RESOLUTION 2020-04-063
APPROVE DONATIONS

It was moved by E. Kline seconded by T. Siciliano to approve the following donation:

\$229.00 from Tina Gearheart and her team at Akron Children's Hospital for the Cardboard Challenge

Yeas: E. Kline, T. Siciliano, S. Vasbinder, A. Waesch, S. Krieger

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

RESOLUTION 2020-04-064
APPROVE APPROPRIATIONS

It was moved by T. Siciliano seconded by E. Kline to approve the following appropriation adjustments based on the increase and/or decrease in corresponding revenues adjustments:

018	Principal's Fund	Increase	\$2,000.00
451	OneNet Grant	Increase	\$5,400.00
467	Student Wellness	Increase	\$51,433.72
499	Safety Grant	Increase	\$5,094.16
516	IDEA	Increase	\$17,236.31
572	Title I	Increase	\$9,374.52
587	IDEA Restoration	Increase	\$2,553.85
590	Title IIA	Increase	\$3,065.45
599	Title IV	Increase	\$257.95

Yeas: T. Siciliano, E. Kline, A. Waesch, S. Krieger, S. Vasbinder

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

Superintendent's Reports/Recommendations:

RESOLUTION 2020-04-065
APPROVE POLICIES

It was moved by S. Krieger seconded by T. Siciliano to waive the first reading, approve the 2nd reading, and adopt the following policies:

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Employment of Administrators

Revised

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2464	Gifted Education and Identification	Revised
3120	Employment of Professional Staff	Revised
3120.04	Employment of Substitutes	Revised
3120.05	Employment of Personnel in Summer School and Adult Education Programs	Revised
3120.08	Employment of Personnel for Co-Curricular/ Extra-Curricular Activities	Revised
4120	Employment of Classified Staff	New
4120.08	Employment of Personnel for Co-Curricular/ and Extra-Curricular Activities	Revised
4124	Employee Contract	Revised
4162	Drug and Alcohol Testing of CDL License Holders and Other Employees who Perform Safety Sensitive Functions	Revised
5460	Graduation Requirements	Revised
5460.02	Students At-Risk of not Qualifying for a High School Diploma	New
6107	Authorization to Accept and Distribute Electronic Records and to use Electronic Signatures	Revised

Yeas: S. Krieger, T. Siciliano, S. Vasbinder, A. Waesch, E. Kline

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

RESOLUTION 2020-04-066
COVID19 RESOLUTION

It was moved by S. Krieger seconded by E. Kline to approve the following resolution for COVID19:

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has confirmed cases where individuals have tested positive for novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on Monday, March 9, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D Declaring a State of Emergency concerning COVID-19 to help contain the spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, March 12, 2020, Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, MD, MPH, issued an Order banning mass gatherings bringing together more than one hundred (100) or more persons in a single room or single space at a time in Ohio in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio such as a such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theater, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space; and

WHEREAS, ODH Director Acton further stated that "For the purpose of clarity, a mass gathering does not include normal operations at airports, bus and

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train stations, medical facilities, libraries, shopping malls and centers, or other spaces where 100 or more persons may be in transit. It also does not include typical office environments, schools, restaurants, factories, or retail or grocery stores where large numbers of people are present, but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another;" and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, March 12, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine announced that due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, he has ordered the closure of all kindergarten through 12th grade schools to students for a period of three (3) weeks effective at the end of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday April 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeWine also announced that during the extended period of closure, school districts should work to provide education through alternative means, school district leadership may make decisions on whether to use their school buildings, and staff members should continue to report to school as directed by school district administrators; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Education has developed guidance for K-12 schools to ensure the continuity of important student services, including a strategy for providing meals to students who receive free and/or reduced breakfast and lunch through K-12 schools; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Governor DeWine's Order of March 12, 2020, the Administration closed the District's school buildings to students from effective at the end of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday April 3, 2020, and will provide students with instruction through alternative methods during the building closure; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has also directed teaching staff to continue to provide education to students using alternative methods and has directed non-teaching staff to continue to report to duty; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.24(B), "whenever due to an emergency it becomes imprudent, inexpedient, or impossible to conduct the affairs of local government at the regular or usual place or places thereof, the governing bodies may meet at those previously designated sites or places, or at any other convenient site or place, on the call of the presiding officer or any two members of the governing bodies" and "[s]uch powers and functions may be exercised in the light of the exigencies of the emergency without regard to or compliance with time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law pertaining thereto, and all acts of that body and officers shall be as valid and binding as if performed within the territorial limits of their political subdivision."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board deems it prudent and in the best interests of the School District's students, staff, and residents to implement measures to help contain the spread of COVID-19.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board adopts and affirms the actions taken by the Administration to comply with Governor DeWine's Order of March 12, 2020, by closing the District's school buildings to students from effective at the end of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday May 1, 2020, and providing students with instruction through alternative methods during the building closure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board adopts and affirms the actions taken by the Administration to direct teaching staff to continue to provide education to students using alternative methods and direct non-teaching staff to continue to report to duty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with R.C. §5502.24(B) and as a result of the State of Emergency and closure of school buildings, the Board suspends its normal requirements to comply with the meeting location, notice, public attendance, and public participation requirements set forth in the Open Meetings Act (R.C. §121.22). In particular, the Board shall:

A. Hold meetings either at the Board Office, one of the school buildings, or another location within the County.

B. Solely post the notice of its meetings on its website;

C. Limit physical attendance at Board meetings to Administrators only. Staff members, parents, students, and members of the public will be permitted to attend Board meetings through electronic means. In other words, to avoid large crowds of individuals from being able to come in contact with one another, those wishing to attend a Board meeting, will be taken to a different room and permitted to either listen and/or view the Board meeting through electronic means.

D. Limit public participation at Board meetings by requiring individuals to submit written questions for the Board's consideration via email to the Treasurer at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the Board meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with R.C. §5502.24(B) and as a result of the State of Emergency and closure of school buildings, the Board also suspends:

Its procedures for reviewing and adopting policies in two (2) readings. Policies will go before the Board for one reading only.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the above-referenced procedures to take effect immediately and remain in place through Friday, May 1, 2020, unless the Governor's Order concerning the closure of school

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buildings is extended beyond such date, and that if the Governor's Order is extended this resolution shall automatically be extended to the new end date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is hereby found and determined that all formal action of this Board concerning and/or relating to the adoption of this Resolution was taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Yeas: S. Krieger, E. Kline, A. Waesch, S. Vasbinder, T. Siciliano

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

RESOLUTION 2020-04-067
ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION

It was moved by E. Kline seconded by T. Siciliano to approve the Alternative At-Home Instructional/Distance Learning during school closures as follows:

WHEREAS, on Monday, March 9, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D Declaring a State of Emergency concerning COVID-19 to help contain the spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, March 12, 2020, Governor DeWine announced that due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, he has ordered the closure of all Kindergarten through 12th grade schools to students for a period of three (3) weeks effective at the end of the school day on Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday April 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, Governor DeWine extended the school closure through May 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, during this extended period of closure, Governor DeWine has indicated that schools should work to provide education through alternative means; and

WHEREAS, Ohio law requires districts to be "open for instruction with pupils in attendance, including scheduled classes, supervised activities, and approved education options" each school year for a minimum of 455 hours for half-day kindergarten, 910 hours for all-day kindergarten and grades 1-6, and 1001 hours for grades 7-12 between July 1 and June 30 of each school year; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 8210 – *School Calendar* states in relevant part that "[w]hile the Superintendent may close schools due to disease, epidemic, hazardous weather conditions, law enforcement emergencies, damage to a school

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building, utility failure, or inoperability of school buses or other equipment needed for school operations (collectively, "a calamity"), the schools nevertheless must be in session with students in attendance for at least the minimum number of hours required by Ohio law;" and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.482 permits a board of education to adopt a plan to require students to access and complete classroom lessons posted on the district's web portal or web site in order to make up hours in that school year on which it is necessary to close schools for disease epidemic, hazardous weather conditions, law enforcement emergencies, inoperability of school buses or other equipment necessary to the school's operation, damage to a school building, or other temporary circumstances due to utility failure rendering the school building unfit for school use up to a maximum of the number of hours that are the equivalent of three school days; and

WHEREAS, Section 15 of Ohio House Bill 197, signed into law by Governor DeWine on March 27, 2020, permits a board of education to adopt a plan for distance learning for students during the school shutdown to make up/complete an unlimited number of hours in lieu of attendance on days when buildings are not open to students during the 2019-2020 school year, even if it had not adopted one previously pursuant to Revised Code § 3313.482; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Department of Education guidance indicates that schools may use "blizzard bags" during this extended school closure, beyond the normal three days; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to honor the Governor's request to keep learning in place and to satisfy the minimum hour requirements, the Board of Education desires to approve alternative at-home distant learning opportunities that are meaningful and engaging for the period of school closure due to the COVID- 19 pandemic including but not limited to blizzard bag options and virtual learning opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Ohio House Bill 197, Section 15, the Board of Education of the Rootstown Local School District hereby approves the provision of distance learning retroactive to March 17, 2020, and continuing through the period of extended school closure due to COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Education that the Emergency Closure – Alternative At-Home Instructional/Distance Learning Plan that has been developed and presented by the Superintendent and that includes but is not limited to a reliable method of tracking student attendance and engagement and provides a viable option for students who do not have devices or internet access or students who have limitations on their ability to participate is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Emergency Closure – Alternative At-Home Instructional/Distance Learning Plan is intended to comply with R.C. § 3313.482 and H.B. 197 to address make-up hours and is further intended to

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provide for making up any number of hours schools were closed in the 2019-2020 school year in compliance with the school closure order and to satisfy requirements for continuation of operations during extended school closures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board provides its full support of its administrators, teachers, and support staff and greatly appreciates the considerable time and effort they are devoting to this ever-changing situation to ensure our students' education continues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is hereby found and determined that all formal action of this Board concerning and/or relating to the adoption of this Resolution was taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Yeas: E. Kline, T. Siciliano, A. Waesch, S. Krieger, S. Vasbinder

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

RESOLUTION 2020-04-068
REDUCTION IN FORCE

It was moved by T. Siciliano seconded by E. Kline to approve the following resolution for Reduction in Force:

WHEREAS, the Superintendent recommends that three (3) limited teaching contracts be suspended pursuant to a reduction-in-force for financial reasons; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent recommends that two (2) non-teaching contracts be suspended pursuant to a reduction-in-force for financial reasons; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 3319.17, the Board of Education determines the need to reduce the number of employees through the reduction of certain teaching positions and the suspension of employment contracts for financial reasons not otherwise avoidable through attrition; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 3319.172, the Board of Education determines the need to reduce the number of employees through the reduction of certain non-teaching positions and the suspension of employment contracts for financial/economic reasons not otherwise avoidable through attrition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the recommendations of the Superintendent and reduces teaching and

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non-teaching positions and suspends teaching and non-teaching employment contracts for financial reasons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with RC. §3319.17 and Article 17 – *Reduction in Force* of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Education and the Rootstown Education Association (“Association”), the following teaching positions are reduced, for financial reasons, effective at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year:

1. One Elementary Teacher;
2. One Middle School Teacher; and
3. One High School/Middle School Teacher.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education suspends the employment contracts of the following individuals in accordance with R.C. §3319.17 and Article 17 – *Reduction in Force* of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Education and the Association, for financial reasons, effective at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year:

1. Paige Byers;
2. Toni Gates; and
3. Kelli Repphun.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with RC. §3319.172 and Article 16 – *Layoff and Recall* of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Education and the Ohio Association of Public School Employees Chapter 569 (“OAPSE”), the following non-teaching positions are reduced, for financial reasons, effective at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year:

1. One Educational Aide; and
2. One High School Study Hall Monitor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education suspends the employment contracts of the following individuals in accordance with RC. §3319.172 and Article 16 – *Layoff and Recall* of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Education and OAPSE, for financial reasons, effective at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year:

1. Amanda Story; and
2. David Mullenix.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent or Treasurer is authorized and directed to notify the Association and the above-named affected individuals of the Board’s action and to advise them of further rights available under law and the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is hereby found and determined that all formal action of this Board concerning and/or relating to the adoption of this Resolution was taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Yeas: T. Siciliano, E. Kline, A. Waesch, S. Vasbinder, S. Krieger

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

REPORTS:

A. Hawkins: Reminded voters of absentee ballots and Election Day

C. Baldwin: Informed the board the IDEA presentation that is normally held in April is awaiting further guidance from ODE regarding community comments. The presentation is anticipated to take place in May.

S. Krieger: Also reiterated deadlines for absentee voting

OLD BUSINESS:

Strategic planning:

A. Waesch – Feels first meeting went extremely well and we need to keep moving. Feels there will be new issues developing due to the current environment and wants to be proactive in addressing.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Hawkins: Read a proclamation regarding Staff Appreciation Days

RESOLUTION 2020-04-069
EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by T. Siciliano seconded by E. Kline to go into executive session to consider the employment of a public official. Invited into executive session: A. Hawkins and C. Baldwin

Yeas: T. Siciliano, E. Kline, S. Krieger, S. Vasbinder, A. Waesch

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

The board president called the meeting back into regular session at 7:25

RESOLUTION 2020-04-070
ADJOURNMENT

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It was moved by T. Siciliano and seconded by S. Vasbinder to adjourn the meeting at 7:27.

Yeas: T. Siciliano, S. Vasbinder, E. Kline, S. Krieger, A. Waesch

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

Amanda Waesch, President

Connie Baldwin, Treasurer