

The Board of Education of Moorestown Township
Moorestown, New Jersey
MINUTES
Video Conference
July 30, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Moorestown Township Board of Education is called to order. This meeting is called in conformance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” with adequate notice provided as follows:

- Notice posted on www.mtps.com homepage on July 27, 2020
- Notice filed with the Courier Post on July 29, 2020
- Notice filed with the Burlington County Times on July 29, 2020

II. Moment of Silence

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Roll Call

Present Mr. Jack Fairchild (arrived 6:40 p.m.)

Absent Mrs. Dria Law

Present Mrs. Katherine Mullin

Present Ms. Lauren Romano

Present Dr. Mark Snyder

Present Mr. Mark Villanueva

Absent Mr. David A. Weinstein

Absent Mrs. Caryn Shaw, Vice President

Present Dr. Sandra Alberti, President

Present Mr. John Comegno, Esq., Solicitor

Present Dr. Scott McCartney, Superintendent

Present Mr. James M. Heiser, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Present Ms. Carole Butler, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Present Dr. David Tate, Director of Special Education

Present Mrs. Debora Belfield, Director of Personnel

Present Mr. Jeffrey Arey, Director of Instructional Technology

V. Superintendent’s Report

1. Re-entry Plan Presentation

Dr. McCartney welcomed the community and introduced all medical professionals serving in the virtual meeting as panelists.

• **Medical Panel**

- Dr. R. Aboujaoude, Infectious Disease Specialist, Debora Heart and Lung Center, gave an update on how coronavirus is transmitted, asymptomatic transmissions, necessary protective measures to prevent transmission, and what happens when you are exposed to the virus. Dr. Aboujaoude stressed the importance of wearing a mask, social distancing, and practicing proper hygiene including frequent hand washing and sanitizing.

- Dr. Elizabeth Pollard, Internal Medicine, stressed the importance of vigilant handwashing, sanitizing, staying at home if you are sick to help stop the spread. Dr. Pollard provided a summary of recommendations, which included universal masking of all staff and students, properly sanitizing surfaces, reviewing HVAC equipment, prioritizing elementary, ELL population considerations, special needs considerations, proper signage, one-way directional paths in the halls, and reducing use of large space areas.
- Dr. Deborah Sambucci, Cardiologist, stressed the importance of prioritizing the safety of our children, but also the safety of our staff. Dr. Sambucci reviewed the complications that make some staff high risk in the event they test positive for COVID. Dr. Sambucci stressed the importance of contact tracing, limiting the exposure of staff members with one another, and limiting how teachers interact with students.
- Dr. Deana Gifford, Pediatrician, recommended procedures and guidelines from the American Pediatrics Association for important information related to COVID infections in youth populations. Dr. Gifford stressed the importance of regular vaccines and contacting your pediatrician for additional information. Dr. Gifford stressed the importance of teaching children to wear masks and how to properly wear them and proper hand hygiene.
- Dr. Anthony Bonett, Moorestown School Physician, stressed the importance of washing hands, using sound information to guide decision-making, and the importance of being flexible due to rapidly changing information.
- Lisa Walko, Moorestown High School Nurse, stated that we have had enormous success running summer programs and that students have been doing a great job wearing their masks and practicing good hand hygiene. Mrs. Walko thanked the parents for teaching their kids how to best wear their masks and wash their hands.
- Beth Phillips, Baker Nurse, stated that school nurses have prepared a letter and guidance documents to be put into practice for the school year. Mrs. Phillips stated that a balance is going to be needed during the upcoming school year because not all students will receive services in the nurses' office, but they may receive the same services in other areas as the goal is to eliminate the amount of contact in the nurses' suite.
- **Building Schedules**
 - Carole Butler provided a presentation entitled "Scheduling Frameworks – Fall 2020" to the Board and public.
 - Brian Carter presented to the Board and to the public on the District's plan at Grades Pre-K through 3.
 - Susan Powell presented to the Board and to the public on the District's plan at Grades 4 through 6.
 - Matt Keith presented to the Board and to the public on the District's plan at Grades 7 through 8.
 - Drew Seibel presented to the Board and to the public on the District's plan at Grades 9 through 12.

- **Questions and Answers**

- If a parent makes a choice on the survey, are they locked in? Dr. McCartney responded that it is much easier to move a student from hybrid to remote, but more complicated to move from remote to hybrid. If a student needs to move from hybrid to remote, this will be accommodated as quickly as we possibly can. If a student needs to move from remote to hybrid, this may take time due to the various scheduling adjustments, transportation adjustments, class size adjustments, etc. Transitions back to an in person setting would be around trimester or semester breaks.
- What will class sizes look like? Dr. McCartney explained that we are keeping class sizes in mind to accommodate social distancing. Dr. McCartney also explained that much of the class sizes and remote class sizes is dependent on teacher certification and how many staff members feel comfortable to return to work. The district is going to do its best to not have multi-age remote classes, but it could become a necessity dependent on staffing and certification. Ms. Butler explained that teachers teaching full remote will be properly certified.
- What are the specific plans around counseling, SEL, mental health support, etc.? Dr. Tate explained that professionals and teams will be activated in each building to identify students that need help. These teams will be meeting on a weekly basis to make sure we are reaching those children that need the help. Dr. Tate explained that he fully expect SEL to be in place by September by utilizing common language and making sure students are heard.
- Are there plans for new student orientation? Dr. McCartney explained that there would be transitional plans and that some transitional plans did occur in the Spring. Matt Keith explained that the first two days of school are heavy in introductions with procedures, policies, tours of the building, schedules, etc. Additional procedures are going to be stressed related to hygiene, cafeteria rules, hallway procedures, etc. Susan Powell explained that some of the introduction meetings may be virtual, but we are working with counselors to put together an introduction program that explains procedures, policies, tours, expectations, etc. Heather Hackl and Shelly Rowe explained that assessments are happening virtually, but they are putting together videos to show the signage, classrooms, tours, etc. Shelly Rowe explained that Kindergarten students will have something special for them as a meet and greet. Dr. Tate explained that the district will be doing a Parent Academy as well to introduce the parents.
- Are there any plans to better support parents and families to help them understand Google Classroom? Ms. Butler explained that the District is creating plans to help support parents in remote settings. Plans include creating videos for parents to support them in remote settings.
- What can be told to parents regarding processes for contact tracing, how positive test results will be addressed, etc.? Dr. McCartney explained that this has been a frustration of the district as well because we are still awaiting additional information from the State and Department of Health. Dr. McCartney explained that sick students will be asked to not be in school and tested by their physician. The student will be shifted into a remote schedule, but the health of the student is priority. If a student is at home and is sick, we are going to monitor the student with the parents and the Department of Health has strict reporting requirements related to communication and

contact tracing. Mrs. Walko explained the importance of data collection and how that information will be reported to the Department of Health when necessary. Mrs. Phillips explained that nurses won't be able to differentiate between a COVID cough or a common flu cough and that under the current circumstances the district is going to be extra cautious under the Department of Health algorithm and guidelines.

- If a student is in a hybrid model and must quarantine, will they have access to full choice? Dr. McCartney stated they would.
- What does the teacher training look like around the new model? Dr. McCartney explained that teachers are trained in handwashing, blood borne pathogens, etc. and that we will be adding some additional training to those regular/routine training.
- How is the cafeteria use being managed? Dr. McCartney explained that in class food service was reviewed, but there were many issues surrounding food delivery, cleaning procedures, money collection, etc. We looked at our cafeterias and believe we can safely social distance the students in the cafeteria. The cafeterias have been reviewed and reconfigured to maximize space to social distance our students. Modifications have been made to how food is served, wrapped, prepared, etc. Lunch line and social distancing modifications have been made as well.
- Will there be a dedicated teacher assigned to a remote class? Dr. McCartney explained that Grades 7 - 12 will be parallel and the choice remote student has the ability to work with their traditional teacher. Grades 1 – 6 would have a teacher who would be assigned directly to that remote cohort of students.
- How do assessments work in full choice and labs? Dr. McCartney explained that formative assessments will still be utilized for in person and full remote. Drew Seibel explained that science labs and PE classes will be modified to be single period classes. Roles will given to remote students to support the lab while being remote. This will allow a combination of online and in person lab experiences while also getting PE started right away.
- What will full remote science labs look like? Drew Seibel explained that they are working on incorporating teacher-led activities that use common household materials to do simulations at home. Many labs at school have to be modified to cater to social distancing and safely interacting.
- Will attendance policies be altered and will senior privilege be available? Drew Seibel explained that senior privilege is still being worked into the schedule for next year. Dr. McCartney explained that attendance has not been modified by the State at this point, but further guidance should come from the State. Dr. McCartney explained that we are going to be as flexible as we can, but still need to take attendance in accordance with state mandates.
- Within the models, are there opportunities for parent choice? (i.e. students walk home for recess, students do remote learning but attend for resource, students allowed to opt out of Friday only, etc.) Dr. McCartney explained that if we have a full day of school scheduled, we would expect it to be a full day. Dr. McCartney explained that we don't currently allow students to leave and walk home, but the district will continue to evaluate and assess it. Dr. McCartney explained that we haven't had much discussion around resource

in person for remote students. Dr. Tate explained that it could be a challenge due to transportation, but he would look into it.

- How will consistency be examined across grade levels compared to spring? Dr. McCartney explained that we have had a couple months to learn and the expectation is that all staff will participate in this process and use all tools available to them. Accountability and sustainability will be paramount. Dr. McCartney encouraged parents to use the chain of command and discuss concerns with teachers, principals, Director of Curriculum, and himself.
- Why are Grades 1 - 6 not the same as 7-12 (parallel)? Ms. Butler explained that the District thought hard on this and having parallel models at the elementary levels was a significant concern due to the age group when compared to the secondary levels. Dr. McCartney explained that we have done our research and believes we have a differentiated model that will be effective at those levels. Dr. McCartney explained these models will all be assessed on an ongoing basis for adjustments. Brian Carter explained that synchronous learning is great for interaction, but it isn't necessarily effective for instruction in a large group.

VI. Public Comments

- a. Dimitri Schneiberg of 10 Windermere Drive stated that he posted something on Facebook that outlined what he doesn't like. The most critical aspect is synchronous learning at Grades 1 - 6. I respect the elementary principals, but none are distance learning experts. I am not aware of anyone that is a distance learning expert on any committees. This is a field that I have 15 years of experience in. I am thrilled with the Grades 7-12 parallel model. For choice model, students will have the same classes. Please invest in making Grades 1-6 synchronous.
- b. Tammy Solitro of 28 Bramley Road stated she is an Internal Medicine physician. Using the cafeteria defeats the purpose of all of our safety processes and procedures. I appreciate the principals' input in transitioning and their mental health, but I feel it is inappropriate. She would like this to open up for further discussions.
- c. Diana Davis of 32 Revere Avenue stated she has a master's degree in adult education learning and teaches online and in person. I tend to agree that your model at the elementary level is appropriate, mainly for the safety. I agree it isn't the best delivery, but I have college students that struggle with online. This is about the children and their safety, not necessarily convenience.
- d. Tami Schoenfield of 713 Walton Court stated her child's teacher last year was very helpful in remote learning and teachers in the other grades and schools should try and model that. I personally like the non-structured model, but we need a plan for teachers to prepare for the upcoming school year.

VII. Adjournment

Moved by: Mr. Fairchild

Second: Ms. Mullin

Vote: 5 - 0

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heiser, CPA
Board Secretary