

DRAFT

BOZRAH BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 19, 2020

A special meeting of the Bozrah Board of Education was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Chairwoman Jeanne Goulart with the following members in attendance: Mary Elizabeth Lang, Robin Barry, Jonathan Gilman, Thomas Finn and Nicholas Savoie. Due to health and safety concerns from the COVID-19 virus, all members attended by phone conference in order to comply with orders to practice social distancing. Absent: Joaquim Santo. Also attending the phone meeting were Dr. Ruth Levy, Interim Superintendent; Mrs. Catherine Dowler, Principal; Mrs. Eileen Hargreaves, Dir. of Special Education; Mrs. Michel Leask, Dir. of Technology Services.

Dr. Levy provided an update of the mandatory closing of CT schools, which at this time is until March 31st. By orders of the Governor and guidance from the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Levy states we have moved from an interim learning experience whereby teachers have sent home packets of work for two weeks to students to now “Distance Learning”, a more focused student/teacher experience. Students will be asked to utilize Google Classroom for assignments and communications with teachers, which will provide a more formalized instructional approach. Utilizing the Distance Learning program will allow schools to receive a waiver from the State and enable us to end school at the normal scheduled time rather than making up the out-of-school days. The Board discussed various program options to offer teachers, parents and students so they may continue to provide educational opportunities.

In house: the kitchen staff is providing brown bag lunches to several families; the custodial team has cleaned the school top to bottom; some teachers have stopped in to gather more of their materials.

The Board discussed accommodations for special education students and providing confidentiality statements for parents to sign.

Mrs. Leask distributed a survey to families to see if anyone needed help to access the Internet or needed access to any electronic devices.

Dr. Levy discussed with the Board the need to create a Memorandum of Understanding for certified staff, which is necessary when working conditions change. The MOA will clarify working conditions and expectations for teachers while under the school closing period.

Also necessary, is a Memorandum of Understanding for non-certified staff. The non-certified staff will receive payroll for two weeks since the closing of school and it is hoped to be able to continue to receive pay. The Board suggested that non-certified staff could continue working, i.e., to help in areas such as custodial work, landscaping, supporting students with help on-line or supporting teachers with additional resources and updating websites. Dr. Levy will create the MOAs and provide them to the Board for review and approval.

MOTION #1:

M. E. Lang made a motion to support and sign the COVID-19 waiver from the Department of Education to provide Distance Learning. R. Barry seconded the motion. The Board voted by roll call: In Favor-J. Goulart-yea; M. E. Lang-yea; J. Gilman-yea; T. Finn-yea; R. Barry-yea; N. Savoie-yea. Opposed: none. Abstained: none. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #2:

M. E. Lang made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 a.m. J. Gilman seconded the motion. The Board voted by roll call: In Favor-J. Goulart-yea; M.E. Lang-yea; J. Gilman-yea; T. Finn-yea; R. Barry-yea; N. Savoie-yea. Opposed: none. Abstained: none. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Zieber

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Superintendent's Secretary