

SCS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 26, 2021
6:00PM
171 Watson Road, Dover NH: Meeting conducted over Zoom

Members Present:

Gretchen Carlson, Parent Member, Chair
Briana Moynihan-Sienkiewicz, Parent Member, Treasurer
Josh Roberge, Parent Member, Vice Chair
Jessica Foster, Parent Member, Secretary
Jessica Pine, Head of School, Ex Officio
Mary Dellea, Teacher Member
Kasey Bilodeau, Teacher Member
Dan Bromberg, Parent Member
Chad Roberge, Parent Member
Peter Sweet, Community Member
Theresa Lorvig, Facilities Director
Dennis McCann, Community Member
Meghan Samson, Community Member

6:04PM Call to Order

6:05PM Discussion of Reopening Plan

- Jess Pine shared her presentation of the Reopening Plan
- Goal: Get students back in while sufficiently mitigating COVID risk
- Reviewed target metrics to be considered when assessing bringing students back in.
- Theresa Lorvig reviewed how several other schools/districts are handling having students in school.
 - Main consideration is space. If you can spread out, having kids in school can be done safely.
 - We did not learn about any new practices we could do that we have not already been considered or tried.
- Briana – we should look at Newington as well b/c they have a similar set up with classroom sizes, students coming in from a variety of communities, no cafeteria space etc., and they have been successful at having kids in school and not having to shut down.
 - Theresa agreed to reach out to Newington.
- Proposal:
 - Keep Pre-k & K at 4 full days
 - 1st/2nd grades go from half day to 4 full days or resume hybrid.
 - 3rd/4th grades currently remote until 2/19. Go to hybrid on 3/1 and consider 4 full days in April if staffing and space allow.
 - 5th/6th grades currently remote until 2/19. Go to hybrid on 3/1.
 - 7th/8th grades currently remote until 3/12. Go to hybrid on 3/15.

6:31 Public Comment

- Kristi Brooks, (3rd grade parent). Does returning to hybrid mean going back to the same model we had in the fall?
 - Jessica Pine: YES

6:34 Public Comment Closed

- Jessica reminded everyone about the upcoming Q&A session about supporting children through remote learning with Dani Rooney.
- Josh Roberge: What can we do as a Board, School, Community to try to mitigate the critical issues like staffing? How can we come together to remove these roadblocks?
 - Discussion: The critical roadblocks (space, staffing) require more funding, or fewer students.
 - Some things that are not practical for this year, could be possibilities for next year with more time to plan. (Assuming that COVID-19 and future variants will continue to pose a risk.)
- Dennis: Could we find a modular unit to provide us with more flexible space?
- Gretchen: is the staffing issue a funding issue or more an issue of availability of talent?
 - Jess: It's a combination. We should look at increasing our pay rate for substitutes and possibly our pay structure for teachers.
- Dan Bromberg: Agreed with thinking about longer term solutions.
- Peter: There is a lot of data showing transmission rates are very low among young kids. We need to be more creative with our thinking about safety. Social-emotional concerns are growing. Are we doing more harm than good?
- Briana: Agreed that the mental health concern is increasing.
- Gretchen: pushing into school faster is not necessarily going to solve the mental health concerns that are being caused by the pandemic in general.
- Theresa: It's not appropriate to lump us in with other schools that may have some success b/c there are so many factors and every school is different. We should be looking at some of the longer-term ideas that we are talking about, but for now, the plan put forth reflects the current situation with staffing and space.
- **MOTION: Dan Bromberg made motion to support the plan as presented by Jessica Pine**
 - Seconded by Dennis McCann
 - Roll Call:
 - Gretchen Carlson: Yes
 - Briana Moynihan-Sienkiewicz: Opposed
 - Josh Roberge: Yes
 - Mary Dellea: Yes
 - Kasey Bilodeau: Yes
 - Dan Bromberg: Yes

- Chad Roberge: Yes
 - Jessica Foster: Yes
 - Dennis McCann: Yes
 - Peter Sweet: Abstained
 - Theresa Lorvig: Yes
 - Meghan Samson: Yes
- Anything we can do in the short term to do even more to help ensure safety?
 - Theresa: we will be re-evaluating the research on the effectiveness of partitions.
 - Dennis: Could we use a school bus in the parking lot to provide extra, sheltered eating space?
 - Theresa – interesting idea. We will investigate.
 - Dennis: We should be looking at grants and other funding sources to pay for some of the longer-term solutions we have talked about.
 - Peter: proposed that we talk about the role of the Board Members at the next meeting. We should talk about getting more training, expectation setting.
 - Dan: Suggested that we start this conversation with the Strategic Planning process that’s kicking off in the next few months.
 - Discussion about scheduling a virtual Board retreat.
 - Discussed pulling together bullets/training based on published materials.
 - Briana:
 - We should discuss having another family survey to assess how families are feeling about the current model and the plan for the Spring before we make decisions about returning in March.
 - Jess we just need to be careful that we aren’t asking for ideas that aren’t achievable.

Action items

- Next meeting February 9th
- Agenda Items
 - Look at finances to assess the current situation and ability to
 - Identify high-need students and discussing possible solutions.
 - Talk about the possibility of another family survey to gauge how families are feeling about the plans to phase in students.

7:32 PM Meeting Adjourned