Members Present: Mr. Rausch, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Mr. Dever, Ms. Dalpe-Healy
Mr. DiGiacomo

Members Absent:

Administrators Present: Dr. Gould, Ms. Wiklund

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:
Mr. Rausch called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and stated that we are meeting through a conference call with google hangouts or by phone. This is being recorded and you may view by live stream at this time on Sandwich Community TV.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC FORUM:
Mr. Rausch stated this is not the traditional public forum and Dr. Gould further explained that the community will see a link to enter a comment/question and we will read this aloud.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:
Dr. Gould reported on the COVID19 and what the latest information is to date. This has been a whirlwind week and a half where we have had to change the way we educate our students. She gave a shout out and thank you to teachers for making sure the students have what they need. Today we heard from the Governor that schools will be closed until May 3rd and we are not sure where this will go after that. The phrase “At Home Learning Experiences” is where we need to be, not the same learning as what happens in school. The students are learning differently at home by cooking, nature walks, etc. but still learning.

We need to assess what is online and if families have internet access etc. We are working on this. There are many unanswered questions such as spring sports, what are we doing? The senior’s are feeling bad and wondering what we can do now, we are trying to figure this out. Credit is to go out to all staff for everything they are doing.

Ms. Bader asked if we plan on involving the union with what the expectations will be for everyone? Dr. Gould indicated that this is in process now and will be working with the union.

Dr. Gould expressed that the guidance on all these unanswered questions will come from the commissioner.

Ms. Ames asked if we will change learning goals for next fall and about teacher evaluations? Dr. Gould expressed that we will be behind at the start of the new school year if we do not finish this school year. As far as teacher evaluations, we are not at a place to talk about it as this will come from the commissioner.

A discussion on special education students and if there will be parent tools for them to help students at home? The staff with the guidance from Mr. McNamara are working on producing some tools for parents.

Dr. Gould will continue to keep everyone updated.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:
Ms. Bader gave a shout out and thank you to the teachers and everyone involved for reaching out to the students. This is a reaction from the heart and has made a huge difference.
Ms. Dalpe-Healy thanked Dr. Gould for a great job of keeping in touch, you are always there and release all the information. The teachers have gone above and beyond and are doing the best they can. Very impressed and the food service staff has been unbelievable.
Mr. Rausch mentioned that the community is coming together with everyone helping each other out.
Mr. Dever gave a shout out to the teachers and Dr. Gould who has a steady calm voice. A thank you to the community, parents, social workers and many more.

NEW BUSINESS:
• Policy Updates:
  Mr. Rausch mentioned that Ms. Bader, Dr. Gould and himself met last night for a Policy Sub Committee meeting to look over the Policy DGA which is related to the signing of the expense warrants. Language was added to the policy as follows in red:

  A majority of the members of the Sandwich School Committee will sign expense warrants presented for approval at a School Committee meeting. If the Chair determines that the majority of members cannot sign the warrants due to absence or emergency, the Chair or his/her designee may substitute his/her single signature for the signatures of the majority.
  The municipal treasurer signs all checks drawn against school department funds. No other signature is valid.

  We approved the updated policy last night and would need a school committee vote on the policy tonight.

  Dr. Gould mentioned that there is another Policy DK that we must revisit at another time that also has language for signing of expense warrants.
  Ms. Ames added that this is a lot of fiduciary responsibility on the chair to sign on behalf of everyone.
  It was further explained by Dr. Gould and Mr. Rausch that this is not on a normal basis, just when emergency circumstances arise.
  Mr. Dever was fine with the language and felt comfortable.

  Ms. Dalpe-Healy made a motion to approve the Policy DGA as discussed, written and presented. Second by Mr. Dever.
  Discussion: Ms. Ames mentioned that we need to waive the 2nd reading first before this motion.
  Mr. DiGiacomo made a motion to waive the 2nd reading. Second by Mr. Dever.
  Vote: Aye: Mr. Rausch, Ms. Bader, Mr. Dever, Ms. Dalpe-Healy, Mr. DiGiacomo
  Nay: Ms. Ames 5-1-0 vote passes
  Mr. Dever made a motion to approve the Policy DGA changes as presented.
  Second by Mr. DiGiacomo.
  Vote: Aye: Mr. Rausch, Ms. Bader, Mr. Dever, Ms. Dalpe-Healy, Mr. DiGiacomo
Nay: Ms. Ames 5-1-0 vote passes

OLD BUSINESS:
- Student Opportunities Act:
  Dr. Gould mentioned that we will revisit the Student Opportunities Act at a later date once she learns of the new deadline for submitting the short form.
- Job Description - Reading Specialist - 2nd Reading:
  Dr. Gould stated that at the last school committee meeting we talked about the Reading Specialists Job Description. I have sent this onto the union but have not heard back at this time. Only one change has been made to this, the position was originally stated as full time but should be school year as indicated in red. It was decided to hold off on this for now until the union responds back to us. Mr. Rausch stated we will table this for a future meeting.

WARRANTS:
Ms. Ames asked if we could separate out the school warrant and the student activity warrant when voting. Dr. Gould mentioned that the student activities warrant is being pulled as there are some questions on the expenses for prom and school musical. Ms. Bader asked about the out of district expenses for special education, what date are these paid up till on the warrant? Dr. Gould stated we are paying expenses up to March until we have further guidance on these expenses. Ms. Ames asked about the bus transportation contract expenses. Right now we are paying up to March for the contract expenses until we receive answers to our questions regarding the contracts for services. The business managers are continuing to have lengthy discussions on this but there are no answers as of yet explained by Dr. Gould.
Ms. Ames made a motion to approve the school warrants as presented but not including the student activity warrant. Second by Ms. Bader.
Vote: Aye: Mr. Rausch, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Mr. Dever, Ms. Dalpe-Healy, Mr. DiGiacomo
6-0-0 Unanimous

ACT ON THE MINUTES OF 3/11/20 & 3/16/20:
Mr. Dever made a motion to accept the School Committee Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2020 as presented. Second by Ms. Ames.
Vote: Aye: Mr. Rausch, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Mr. Dever, Ms. Dalpe-Healy, Mr. DiGiacomo
6-0-0 Unanimous
Ms. Bader made a motion to accept the School Committee Emergency Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2020 as presented. Second by Mr. Dever.
Vote: Aye: Mr. Rausch, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Mr. Dever, Ms. Dalpe-Healy, Mr. DiGiacomo
6-0-0 Unanimous

PTA/PTSA/SPECIAL EDUCATION PAC/SCHOOL COUNCIL/BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS: None
LIAISON/ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

OTHER TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR: None

PUBLIC FORUM:
Dr. Gould read aloud one comment entered into our remote public forum:
Lisa Kent: Please postpone the prom and graduation and do not cancel them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CLOSING REMARKS:
Dr. Gould gave a reminder to all that from 11:00-1:00 at the SHS out back, lunch will be available to pick up. We have had many food donations as well.
Mr. Rausch expressed that the first remote school committee meeting tonight went well. Great job done, with everyone coming together.

ADJOURNMENT:
Ms. Ames moved to adjourn at 8:03pm. Second by Ms. Dalpe-Healy.
Vote: 6-0-0 Unanimous

Meeting is adjourned and the next school committee meeting will be held on April 8, 2020

Respectfully submitted by,

Holly Lenk

Holly Lenk
School Committee Secretary

DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING
Policy DGA
Reading Specialist Job Description
March 11, 2020 School Committee Minutes
March 16, 2020 School Committee Emergency Meeting Minutes

MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ON 4/8/2020
Holly Lenk