

SPEED S.E.J.A. #802

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting
SPEED Governing Board
SPEED Building/Zoom Teleconference
7:00 p.m.

July 16, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bean called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

On roll call the following answered present: Ms. Taylor, District 144; Mrs. Havighorst, District 153; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Ms. Dupee, District 163; Ms. Tammy Jones, District 168; Ms. Sanders, District 170; Ms. Turner, District 194; Ms. King, District 206; Ms. Coleman, District 227; Ms. Bannon, District 233

Absent: Ms. Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Dixon, District 167; Mr. Sherman, District 169; Mr. Sons, District 172; Ms. Roop, District 201U

Dr. Halliman, Superintendent was present as well as the following SPEED Staff: Ms. Brenda Murillo, Director of Business and Finance; Dr. Maureen White, Director of Programs and Services; Ms. Vanessa Duffin, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Joe Kekelik, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Principals and Assistant Principals: Ms. Amina Payne, Principal at IND., Ms. Nicole Taylor, Principal at ALL, Ms. Linda Wilson, Principal at ELC, Mr. David Hook, Assistant Principal, PAL.

Also present: Mr. Eric Grodsky, Attorney from Hauser, Izzo, Petrarca, Gleason & Stillman, and LLC.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

No visitors were present at the meeting.

PRESENTATION

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Halliman noted that we have begun forming a COVID-19 Educational Task Force which consists of Administrators, Teachers, a Union Rep., Related Service personnel i.e. nurses and speech therapists, Nurses, Building and Grounds personnel, Technology, Paraprofessionals and a board member. We are working on securing a student. We have started our process and are meeting Tuesday and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. weekly. We anticipate the completion of our final document by July 30th. We have six subcommittees which are Operations and Maintenance, Instruction and Student Services, Personnel and Human Resources, Food Service, Transportation, Technology and Communication.

Dr. Halliman reviewed the most current Parent Survey result data. The Parent Survey has yielded 153 parent responses thus far, which is almost 50% of our parent. Of the 153 responses, 38% of

our parents stated that they would prefer full remote learning. 62% wanted some form of in-person learning. More specifically, 39% would prefer a hybrid approach (some days in/some days at home). 23% of those who want some form of in-person instruction would prefer 5 day a week of in-person instruction. Dr. Halliman stated that she notified the Taskforce members that they would be kept up to date on what the five other Cooperatives in our region are doing as well as what our member districts are doing as well. Southwest Cooperative has decided to reopen fully remote this Fall. Right now, all their staff will be remote as well. They are the only Cooperative that has decided at this point. The other cooperatives in the region, ECHO, Eisenhower, AERO, and SPEED have not made a final decision but we are all leaning toward a hybrid (remote and in-person). Dr. Halliman stated that she has no knowledge of any district whether Cooperative or Regular Ed. District that has only full in-person instruction. As far as SPEED, we have created a document for our member districts to share their decisions. All reporting districts at this point have a blended model option available. Dr. Halliman asked if there were any board members that had information concerning their districts Fall reopening options to please share it with her as it helps in our planning. Additionally, we have satellite classrooms at four of our member districts. We have 1 satellite class in District 227, 1 satellite class in District 161, 1 satellite class in District 153 and 3 satellite classrooms in District 144. Although we are interested in everyone's plans, we are working closely with those 4 districts because we have SPEED classrooms in those districts.

Ms. Bannon, District 233 indicated that they have not decided at this point. They have heard from a lot of parents and teachers. They have committees and the administration has 2 plans, a hybrid plan, and a total remote plan. They are meeting next week. She stated that in her opinion, she is for the total remote plan. She is a nurse that works a lot with COVID patients; she has a nursing unit of COVID patients. She feels the health and safety of our students is the number one concern. Her question is what happens if someone comes up positive if we get kids together, even though they are socially distance, what is our plan? Someone will come up positive.

Dr. Halliman responded that ISBE Guidance is pretty clear about what we need to do and that is if someone test positive or has been in close proximity with someone that has tested positive, we have to shut down. Depending on how the district is set up, some classrooms or districts may have to shut down. The guidance is if you have been within 6 feet of someone for more than 15 minutes that have tested positive, then you must quarantine. We have not logistically completed our plans however they are being based on these parameters.

Ms. Sanders, District 170 asked what procedures or safety measure are being put in place for in-person instruction and how would we separate and respond to someone that has tested positive. What is in place if the children do return? Are masks required? Most students at younger ages are not keeping mask on and those students who are less functioning are less tolerate.

Dr. Halliman responded that these are strong concerns for staff members at cooperatives. One of the things we thought would be most helpful would be face shields. When ISBE initially sent out the guidance face shields were acceptable however ISBE then retracted that guidance and said we cannot use face shields because they do not protect as much a mask. The guidance has been updated again with some exemptions such as a medical condition or a child that is ESL or DHH, they have made some exceptions. It does not minimize the fact that shields are less effective. We specifically asked in the survey if a child can wear a mask or not? We need that data to make the best decision. We really are not considering fully in person.

We tentatively have our school schedule where our teachers start on August 13th and students starting on August 17th weather remote learning or hybrid. We will need to convene a special board meeting to present our plan before moving forward. We would like to have a joint Operating Committee and Governing Board meeting together to present our plan and get the

approval to move forward. In the meantime, our planning teams are planning for both options so we will have a plan ready either way.

Ms. Bannon, District 233 asked if we surveyed the teachers and parents? Do you think you could share both results with us?

Dr. Halliman responded that we have surveyed both teachers and parents. We have a Communications and Technology Committee that is working on the output of the data.

Ms. Bannon, District 233 -- When you talk about remote, are you referring to teachers being remote in the classroom with students at home but socially distance from other classrooms as opposed to being remote at home with other challenges

Dr. Halliman responded that right now we are thinking of just students being remote and staff being in person doing remote from the classroom for several reasons. If you have your A group in class, you are doing a synchronous lesson to the group at home. There has also been research that when staff are in their work setting/classroom, they have all their materials at hand to make their lessons more effective. We will start this way. The only way our staff will work remotely from their homes is if someone test positive and we must shut down or if our state or our region goes below Phase III. Phase III allows for 10 people but if we go below that none of us will be able to work in person, it will be like we were in the Spring.

Dr. Halliman stated that she had spoken with Mr. Bean concerning whether our liability insurance would cover COVID health related claims. Franczak Law firm sent a communication out stating that some liability cooperatives sent out a letter to their member districts stating that would not be able to cover these types of claims. We have reached out to our liability cooperative, ISIC, but they have not responded but we expect a similar response.

Mr. Bean stated that as meticulous as society is, he would expect that if any student contracted the virus, a lawsuit would come our way. Mr. Bean asked Atty. Hauser asked to provide us with a protocol that we should follow to be able to demonstrate that we were not negligent in terms of putting together an approach that we would be able to use as a defense in a lawsuit.

Atty. Hauser replied that he does not believe that any insurance carrier will cover a COVID related illness. This means you would have to pay for the defense of it as well as any judgement or settlement that is entered in the case. Negligence will not be the standard that you are judged by it will be a higher one, namely Willful and Wanton. The courts are all over the board. If we were to get sued, we need to make sure we filled all the guidelines to the letter. This becomes problematic because some guidelines conflict with others. Atty. Hauser shared a few of the conflicts within the guidelines/guidance. He further shared that there is an appellate court opinion that states that is automatically Willful and Wanton conduct. There are 50 pages of guidance from the State Board of Ed with regulations, 15 pages from IDPH and another batch from the CDC. The odds of someone violating one of these regulations is high.

Atty. Hauser shared some of the possible defenses are Willful and Wanton immunity or you contracted COVID somewhere else, not from us. A weaker defense maybe we did the best we could, and it is what happened, or you assumed the liability by sending your child here. Atty. Hauser reviewed the possible Legal avenues in supporting these defenses however he stated that he could not paint a "rosy picture". There is a lot of potential liability out there.

Dr. Halliman stated that on the opposite side of this issue, SD #201U had a case trickling up that a student claimed their right to a Free and Appropriate Public Education was violated when the

schools closed in the Spring. There is a balancing act here. We do not want anyone to become ill or lose a life however we must look at what is the best Free and Appropriate Public Education.

Ms. Dupee, SD#163 asked if teachers, therapist, or anyone who has children that are remote learners. How do we juggle their needs with the needs of our students?

Dr. Halliman responded that there was a government act that helps in this situation. Employees can reach out to HR for the paperwork. Atty. Hauser stated that it is the Families First Corona Response Act which provides for 80 hours of paid leave. Employees can reach out to Human Resources for information.

Ms. Dupee expressed concern as to how we would retain teachers that have this situation.

Ms. Bannon added that there are resources within the act for childcare and a lot of different things. The reason the CDC has those strict guidelines is because that is the only way its safe to get people together. Its hard to follow those guidelines exactly because we are dealing with children and students that may not want to obey the rules. One final question was raised concerning the education hours. Are they the same hours?

Dr. Halliman responded that the latest guidance states that we must have clock 5 hours of instruction which includes the time that children are during work independently.

Dr. Halliman reported on two final items concerning staff. Ms. Payne and Ms. Taylor will be in new roles next school year. Ms. Payne will move from Independence to the Academy of Life Long Learning and Ms. Taylor will move from the Academy of Life Long Learning to Independence. Also, this is the first Board meeting for our new Human Resources Director, Ms. Vanessa Duffin and our new Director of Business and Finance, Ms. Brenda Murillo.

PRESENTATION – FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Murillo thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Ms. Murillo reported that the actual months reporting are unofficial and minor changes may result. The unofficial fund balance as of June 30th is \$5.6M; estimated expenses are at \$23.7M of the budgeted \$25.3M which is approximately 96% of the expended budget.

Ms. Murillo stated that there is uncollected revenue for FY20 which will be applied in the FY21 school year. This is an annual process of collecting unpaid tuition and Medicaid reimbursements. She has begun working on collecting the funds and she will continue to work with team to follow-up on unpaid tuition invoice payments and Medicaid reimbursements.

Dr. Halliman further explained that we typically bill a month in arrears. We do not anticipate any problems in this area. We are waiting to receive our Medicaid payments which have been applied for already.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:41 p.m. Ms. Taylor, District 144 moved, seconded by Ms. Jones, District 168 that the Governing Board goes into Closed Session to discuss the employment, compensation, and/or performance of a specific employee of SPEED and to discuss pending, probable, and/or imminent litigation, and/or matters regarding students. Any items needing approval will be voted on during open session.

On roll call vote:

Ayes: Ms. Taylor, District 144; Mrs. Havighorst, District 153; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Ms. Dupee, District 163; Ms. Tammy Jones, District 168; Ms. Sanders, District 170; Ms. Turner, District 194; Ms. King, District 206; Ms. Coleman, District 227; Ms. Bannon, District 233

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Dixon, District 167; Mr. Sherman, District 169; Mr. Sons, District 172; Ms. Roop, District 201U

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Taylor, District 144 moved, seconded by Ms. King, District 206 that the Governing Board approves the Consent Agenda items A, through E as presented.

- A. Personnel Report
- B. Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2020 as presented
- C. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of June 25, 2020 as presented
- D. Approval of Recurring and Non-Recurring Bills for June, 2020
- E. Approval of Imprest and Activity Funds for June, 2020

On roll call vote:

Ayes: Ms. Taylor, District 144; Mrs. Havighorst, District 153; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Ms. Dupee, District 163; Ms. Tammy Jones, District 168; Ms. Sanders, District 170; Ms. Turner, District 194; Ms. King, District 206; Ms. Coleman, District 227; Ms. Bannon, District 233

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Dixon, District 167; Mr. Sherman, District 169; Mr. Sons, District 172; Ms. Roop, District 201U

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Managed Print Services

Ms. Havighorst, District 153 moved, seconded by Ms. Jones, District 168 that the Governing Board approves managed print services with Proven as recommended by the Superintendent.

On roll call vote:

Ayes: Ms. Taylor, District 144; Mrs. Havighorst, District 153; Mr. Ron Bean, District 162; Ms. Dupee, District 163; Ms. Tammy Jones, District 168; Ms. Sanders, District 170; Ms. Turner, District 194; Ms. King, District 206; Ms. Coleman, District 227; Ms. Bannon, District 233

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Vlietstra, District 161; Mr. Dixon, District 167; Mr. Sherman, District 169; Mr. Sons, District 172; Ms. Roop, District 201U

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

AUDIENCE

None

INFORMATION

None

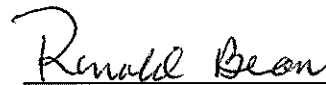
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bean adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.



Ms Deborah Havighorst, Secretary
Ms. Cassandra Giles, Recording Secretary

Date: 9/13/2020



Mr. Bean, President
SPEED Governing Board