



Talawanda School District

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TALAWANDA EMPOWERS!

TALAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION

Talawanda High School- July 9, 2020

7:00 p.m. Public Session

BOE Meetings will be videotaped.

Mr. Chris Otto, President, Dr. Mary Jane Roberts, Vice President, Dr. Rebecca Howard, Dr. Kathleen Knight-Abowitz, Mr. Patrick Meade

1. Opening of Meeting

A. Roll Call

2. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

3. Reconvene in Open Session

A. Approval of Agenda- Approved 5-0

B. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Reports

A. Butler Technology & Career Development School Report - Mr. Meade

- BT did cancel the in-person graduation. They plan to open, but have a backup plan in the event that things change. BT is having a book study on anti-racism.

B. Legislative Liaison Report - Dr. Knight-Abowitz

- Local control is favored for community and school plans by Governor DeWine. There will be funding reductions (3.7% already and will continue). HB606 provides liability protections around COVID-19, but the bill is not finished. The “Heroes Act” will make some funding available for Ohio Schools, and we hope the Ohio Senate supports this. Regarding the CARES ACT, private schools are eligible for funding, but public schools and OSBA are debating this.

C. Arts & Athletics Liaison Report - Dr. Howard

- TSD hasn't had any issues during conditioning with select sports so far.

D. Student Achievement/Academic Liaison - Mr. Otto/ Dr. Roberts

- Dr. Roberts thanked Mrs. Gregg for her help in answering questions about CCP, and there is more information to come in the future.

5. Resolutions & Presentations

A. Food Service Department Update - Mary Lynne Bierman

- Mrs. Bierman coordinates district food services. She shared some highlights from the food services during COVID-19. The district is down \$12,600 in sales, which isn't too bad considering the pandemic we are experiencing. We served 33,000 breakfasts and lunches during the pandemic. Our team did a great job to meet the needs of students. There was a net loss of just over \$33K, but part of this was due to replacing a large piece of equipment.
- Dr. Theroux thanked her and her team for the excellent work/service during this time.
- She was so pleased that people came together to feed students during this time!

B. Update on Food Service During the COVID-19 Pandemic - Stephanie Jones & Amy Macechko

- Mrs. Macechko shared that during 14.5 weeks we provided meals to our students in need in a variety of convenient locations. Some meals were delivered for those folks who had trouble making it to a site. The support from everyone was excellent! Over 90 staff members helped out. Crossroads Church came every week. The Oxford Chamber and MU Athletics helped with supplies and books for kids.
- Food service worked to prepare food, so that each Monday our volunteers could come and pack the food in individual bags to go to our pick-up sites. This was done rain or shine!
- She is so very proud! Around 6000 kids were fed each week.
- All of the meals were balanced with the food groups. The fresh produce was great!
- No one was turned away. We are so pleased to be able to provide this help. Thank you to our volunteers and community partners.

C. Welcome to Visitors and Public Participation

- Brenda Wright Hamilton, Ohio -As President of the Talawanda Classified Staff Association I would like to express my appreciation for the many years of service to the retiring Classified staff. Thank you to Lynn Stivers for helping the staff and students in the front office of the High School for 14 years. A special thank you to Butch Hayes and Francis Williams for their 31 years each of service and their many, many, years of guidance and leadership on the Executive team of the Talawanda Classified Staff Association . Another special thank you to Harla Isaacs for her 24

years of service and for the past 5 or 6 years of leadership and guidance as the Vice President of the current TCSA and her insight and help shared with me and the Executive committee. They will all be greatly missed. I would like to invite them all to come back and sub or rehire to share their knowledge and experience with future generations at Talawanda.

- Aaron Abbott, I would like to express my concern to the School Board and the Superintendent about their potential vote to approve Option 1 Face to Face School, in agenda item G-Approval of Two Options for August 2020 SY Opening. Specifically, my concern is the lack of a mandatory student face covering requirement irrespective of the current Advisory Level. We know that the classrooms will not allow for six feet of social distance and the CDC's guidelines for schools' states, "Face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as feasible and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult." The use of face covering is not a sign of fear or a political statement, rather it is an issue of public health and economics. While no single measure is a silver bullet, wearing a face covering prevents community spread and protects the lives of teachers, students, families, and the vulnerable in our community along with allowing us to open up economically and get back to learning. For the good of our community, I urge you to amend your plan and require the use of face coverings irrespective of the health advisory level. My second item is a request for more clarity around Option 2 Online Option, in agenda item G-Approval of Two Options for August 2020 SY Opening. It is clear our teachers did a tremendous job making an abrupt change from face to face to online this past school year but now that Talawanda had the summer to prepare for the new reality under COVID-19, what is the pedagogical approach for your online option starting this fall? My assumption is that if you plan to offer two options then there must already be a plan in place to ensure that they both deliver an equitable learning experience. I'm interested in having that plan be shared with the community. What percentage of instruction will be synchronous versus asynchronous? What LMS platform will be used and how will teachers engage students with meaningful learning in the virtual environment? I recognize these are challenging times and my comments are lengthy, so I appreciate you taking the time to hear to my comments and look forward to hearing you responses in the future. Thank You.
- Robin Lindquist-Grantz, Hanover Twp. Good evening. Children entering 4th and 6th grade. As a family, we are concerned about the COVID-19 trends within the county and region. Since our response to the district wide survey, news has continued to unfold and we continue to assess whether our children can safely attend school in person this Fall. We fully believe that our children will do best in school, especially our 6th grader who will need to adjust to a new school and schedule. However, in order to balance economic security with health and safety, we believe in-person attendance can only be done. However, in order to balance economic security with health and safety, we believe in-person attendance can only be done if, at the very least, masks are required for every student except for developmental or health reasons) and temperature checks are done every day. Given the fluidity of the situation, we also urge the district to consider flexibility in planning rather than an all or nothing approach for the entire academic year. For example, allow families to choose remote school during the first trimester while our county is at a Level 3 emergency and return to in-person school in the second trimester (if the emergency level decreases). Thanks!

- Hi, this is Amy Shaiman, I live in Oxford and have a child at Kramer. I wish to echo the comments of Mr. Abbott about the importance of requiring face coverings or adapting the plan so that children are not packed at regular numbers in classrooms.
Our family has medical risks and as we have evaluated our options, our doctors have repeatedly asked us two things - will the students be distanced in the classrooms and will all students, teacher, and staff be required to wear masks? We are not the only family who is at high risk. The district's plan does not seem to allow for classroom distancing and does not require student masks. We realize the challenges of doing this, but the lack of these requirements/options puts our family at risk.
- Brandon Ney- I implore the school board to mandate masks for all students and faculty.

6. Report of the Treasurer

A. Approval of Minutes- Approved 4-0, Mr. Otto abstained

B. Approval of Gifts- Approved 5-0

Anonymous Donation	For Rebranding	\$500.00
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C. Approval of Appropriation/Budget Modifications- Approved 5-0

D. Approval of Then & Now Over \$3,000 Approved 5-0

E. Approval of Financial Report for June 2020- Approved 5-0

F. Approval of Amended Omnibus Agreement with BCESC- Approved 5-0

G. Approval of Purchased Services Agreement with BCESC for Physical Therapy Services- Approved 5-0

H. Approval of Fund to Fund Transfer-Cafeteria Advance to Close Out the 2019/2020 SY- Approved 5-0

I. Approval of RFP from ALC for Student Services Transportation- Approved 5-0

J. Other Matters

- Marshall is progressing and the modulars have been removed. There are some soil issues. They have harvested stone to supplement the soil down the road.
- Dr. Theroux added that there are some water springs on the property. It is starting to dry up.
- They are on a 30 day delay- Move in date is presently June 5, 2021.
- Dr. Roberts was pleased that the modulars have been removed.
- The funding update-losing \$752K (10% cut). HB164 the district hoped to get some money back, but the CARES money we received didn't allow for this.
- TSD was hurt at a greater rate than any other school in our county.

7. Report of the Superintendent

***Additional public comments came after the close of this section due to internet lag time. Dr. Theroux shared the additional comments. They will be reflected in the designated section for this above.**

A. Approval of Certificated/Licensed Personnel- BLOCK A-C Approved 5-0

B. Approval of Classified Personnel

C. Approval of Supplemental Personnel

D. Correction to June 9th Work Session Statement

- A mistake was made at the last meeting. We did not add 30 additional staff, and this was reported incorrectly. The actual number was 5 in Kindergarten and transportation.

E. Approval of Change to Start Date & May Primary Date on 2020/2021 Calendar- Approved 5-0

- Amendment to student start date to August 24th, and also May 4th will now be used for a special election.

F. Update on Talawanda Plans to Open School in August

- The survey overwhelmingly stated they wish students to return to school (90%).
- Even if masks were mandated nearly 80% wish to send students back to school.
- There were many comments, and some folks felt they didn't have enough information to answer. Questions regarding classroom safety and online options.
- Can teachers teach outside? YES when reasonable and with safety measures.
- Can windows be open? YES when reasonable. The air quality is high in our facilities due to new technologies.
- What happens when a child is sick? TSD lost a valued employee, and the superintendent had COVID-19 (along with his family). They know where they got it...it was mild...they were outdoors. The district cares much for every student and safety. Positive tests will be reported to the BCHD (Butler County Health Department). When a person has it and then finally tests negative, you can obtain a letter stating that. BCHD wants to help people get the medical intervention they might need.
- We will treat illness as COVID-19 until we know better. This will require a partnership with all families. If you are sick...you MUST stay home.
- Procedures for increased safety are being implemented.
- We want to come back, we believe in-person education is best, but things could change...we don't know yet. Our county is increasing in cases. We will continue to monitor. We will adapt as needed.
- There will be an online option. Will you have to stay in this once you start? We will mandate a timeline to stay in the online program..we will announce this when we know more.
- We have been gathering information to make the best decisions. 400-500 students have interest in online as of right now.
- 6ft of distance cannot be guaranteed throughout the school day. Extra cleaning/sanitizing will take place.
- Cafeterias/hallway plans are being planned for each building based on the details of each facility.

- We will be looking at the makeup of the school meals.
- Nurses are trained in the isolation protocol for COVID-19. We are working on this. Families will need to come right away if we call for a pick-up of an ill child.
- Buses will not have social distancing. We have a 2 tiered system. We transport 2400 each day...we do not have enough buses to do social distancing, but we are considering bus options. Open enrolled students cannot ride buses. BT buses are crowded as well. The district continues to try and work on this. Cleaning protocols are in place.
- We STRONGLY encourage wearing masks in our plan. Presently the Governor has **mandated** masks due to our county status. Staff will wear masks.
- BCHD will do contact tracing with people who have come into contact with people who test positive. Direct contact will result in mandatory quarantine.
- We have put in more hand sanitizers. Students/staff must use their own water bottles. We accept donations of masks. Please deliver to the BOE. We need around 7000, but as of right now we have received a bit over 200.
- If your child is sick or has a fever PLEASE keep your child home.
- We will not allow visitors to our schools at this time.
- We understand sensory issues and medical issues...we ask that parents work with our admin on this issue for any exception. Face shields can be utilized, and we will continue to work with parents/students/staff.
- Clubs can be held virtually.
- Athletics may close down.
- Butler County has opened preschool, students are wearing masks, and so far they are NOT having issues.
- Secondary school start times will start 30 minutes later, and elementary school will be 15 minutes later.
- We decided not to push school until after Labor Day because we want to connect with kids as soon as possible due to the potential to be closed down. We want to be able to stay open, so we need the help of everyone. The city of Oxford may mandate masks indoors in the city. TSD is recommending the protocols as advised by Butler County. We understand the concerns. We are doing everything we can to follow the law and be safe.
- We do not have all of the information as of yet for the online option, but know we are working feverishly to be ready.
- The BCESC will provide online options, they are looking at purchasing a platform. We may join in, and so may other school districts. TSD is also looking into doing our own program. There are multiple ways this can be done.
- Mrs. Gregg shared some information regarding meeting social emotional needs, grading, tracking attendance...etc.
- Dr. Theroux shared information about attendance, parents bringing to school, and the possibility that if the virus increases we may need to close down.
- Dr. Howard asked if masks were mandated if the transportation company can support this? The answer is yes...and it's mandatory in Butler County presently. He indicated that masks are the safest way to come back to school. Other areas gave mandated masks recently. The motion should provide clear direction and consistency.

- Dr. Roberts asked what happens when a kid forgets his/her mask? How will we handle this? TSD will order masks...the cost is significant. We still need people to donate masks. Parents who can buy masks or face shields...please do.
- Dr. Roberts shared examples of when the masks must be worn, and the need for multiple ones.
- Mr. Meade shared a personal example of his grandchildren wearing masks.
- If things change during the next month we will adapt the plan.

G. Approval of Two Options for August 2020 SY Opening- See above list- Information recommended as presented.

- Mr. Meade wishes to amend the motion to mandate masks for students/staff in TSD, and strike comments that do not support this included in the plan.
- Mr. Otto wants to add an amendment to allow the administration to approve any exceptions as per health needs or other documented reasons. Dr. Knight-Abowitz supports this.
- Dr. Howard wants the statement to require a mask to cover the nose/mouth.
- Dress code guidelines must also be met.
- Approved 5-0 with amendments

H. Approval of SRO Contract with the City of Oxford for the 2020-2021 SY (Kramer/TMS/THS)- Approved 5-0

I. Approval of Changes Made to Code of Conduct- Approved 5-0

- We are separating alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs for tracking purposes. We have a new program.

J. Second Reading and Approval of Policy Revision - Dennis Malone- Approved 5-0

K. Other Matters

- Standards Based teacher Evaluation

8. Items From the Board Members

A. Approval of Treasurer Contract- Approved 5-0

B. Items From the Board Members

- Mr. Meade re-shared his report for BT.
- Mr. Otto thanked Dr. Theroux for his leadership.
- Mr. Meade wants to know if we can open up the next BOE meeting. If we are permitted by the BCHD we can. Masks will be required. Stay tuned for more information.

9. Close of Meeting

A. Future Board Events- August 17, 2020

B. Adjournment- 9:32pm