

**Transcript of Board of Education Meeting
September 23, 2020**

Mr. Buono:

Welcome this evening, I want to call the meeting to order. It's 7:00 P.M. For tonight's meeting, in attendance we have all Board members except for Mrs. Skumurski. She will not be able to be with us tonight. With that, I will please ask you to rise and join me for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

New Speaker:

We are pleased to welcome some guests tonight, but we will get to that in a few minutes, but I want to start off with welcoming back our students. I see Katie and a new person who's joining us this year, and I know Ryan. Good to see you guys. We'll kick it off with our Columbia Student Council, so go ahead.

Ryan:

Good evening. Good evening. First of all, just being back has really raised everyone's spirits. So far this year we've had two meetings, and our first event was freshman orientation, where we had a group of students leading tours for freshman and new students, and answering questions in small groups while staying socially distant. We're also planning to have a student council apparel sale within the next few weeks, and we already have a community of designers, right now we're working on a vote.

Mr. Buono:

Great, thanks Ryan. Katie?

Katie:

Great. So just like Ryan said, it's really great that everyone's back we're all super excited to be here. And our very exciting piece of news tonight, is that we have been approved to do the annual bridge painting today, so instead of our normal thing, where we usually paint to the homecoming theme, we think this year we're changing it up a little bit, and we're going to do Columbia positivity. So each class is going to paint a different motto, or quote that spreads some sort of a positivity, and we're going to have matching t-shirts with their bridges, just to spread a little bit of hope around our District and community. So we're planning to do that on October 1st, and we're going to do small groups so we're able to follow all of the COVID protocols, and we're really looking forward to doing that. And that's all we have tonight.

Mr. Buono:

Great, that sounds wonderful, we're looking forward to seeing that, and I hope it is a big success for you. Well, thanks Katie, thanks Ryan, you're welcome to stick around if you want, but you might be signing off, so take care and good night everyone.

Katie:

Thank you, goodnight.

Mr. Buono:

Bye-bye. So now we'll go to our public forum, and just remind the public that we have an email box set up, Ms. Wager will monitor that for any of your comments. Residents, students, employees, and business representatives of the East Greenbush Central School District may address the Board on matters concerning programs and/or operations of the district, other than matters involving personnel. Members of the Board do not directly respond to citizen concerns during the Public Forum. If a response is appropriate either the President or Superintendent will contact the individual in the near future. Those persons wishing to address the Board will be recognized by the chair of the meeting and should state for the record their name and address, or affiliation with the District or business. While the Board does not wish to infringe upon free speech protections, it must be stressed that the "Visitors' Forum" is not deemed to be an "open forum". The Board president will conduct the forum for the orderly and efficient operation of Board business. In addition, any remarks which may be considered defamatory or stigmatizing are prohibited and will be declared out of order. So now is an opportunity for staff or folks in the community to email us, we usually give them a few minutes to do that. And Ms. Wager do we have anything that's come in?

Ms. Wager:

We don't have anything right now.

Mr. Buono:

Okay. So we'll come back, to that , If we do get some emails in terms of the public forum, and we do have a second public forum that occurs later on in the evening when the business is done. And if there's to email during that time, please feel free to do so from the community.

Mr. Buono:

With that, I'm pleased to go to the next section, and turn it over to Superintendent to recognize one of our teachers at Columbia High School. Mr. Simons?

Mr. Simons:

Good evening everyone, it is my privilege to welcome the community to our Board meeting this evening, and it is an even greater privilege to recognize one of our Columbia High School teachers, Chelsea Dyer, who has accomplished something that is remarkably distinguished in her career, and we're so proud of her. She has been named by the New York State Education Department, as a finalist for the New York State Teacher of the Year Recognition. And Chelsea is here with us along with members of her family, and a gentleman who was her former high school principal, David Kissick from Lansingburgh. And we want to welcome you, and Chelsea you come up after I say a little bit about your accomplishments, I'll hand you the microphone if you can introduce your family to us, and your friends who are here with you to recognize you this evening.

Mr. Simons:

So several months ago, Mr. McHugh came to me and recommended that Chelsea Dyer be submitted and nominated for the New York State Teacher of the Year Award, and he couldn't say enough about the contributions that Chelsea has made to our District, and particularly to the advantage to our students, not only in the classroom, but also in her role as the Student Council Advisor, the Unified Basketball advisor and coach, and a number of different things that she has accomplished. Chelsea has been a teacher with our District in the English department, since September of 2008, and during that time she

has taught not only Grade 10 Regents courses, Grade 11 Regents courses, she has taught Modern Literature and College Preparation II, and Creative Writing.

Mr. Simons:

And when we look at the biography that Chelsea submitted to the New York State Education Department, we went way back to when Chelsea was a little child and she told a story of how she liked to play teacher with her friends, and among her family members. So I thought that was pretty touching in terms of always knowing that you wanted to be a teacher. And from my conversations with students, my interactions with Chelsea and her peers, I know that she has that passion for education that's so essential to motivate the kids. Your kids are fortunate to be in your classroom, your colleagues are fortunate to work with you every day, and your administration is extremely proud of your accomplishment.

Mr. Simons:

It is not an easy process to be nominated, there's a lot of work required of the nominee. She had to submit a biography, she had to submit virtually an essay in her application, and she had to interview. And among all of the teachers in New York State, Chelsea is on top, and we're so proud of her as a Columbia High School teacher. Let me just read a few things in addition to her work as a teacher that she has done for our District.

Mr. Simons:

As I mentioned, she has been Unified Sports advisor and coach. She helped our Unified basketball team compete in a special Olympics in Seattle, Washington. She has been named by the Capital Region YMCA as an outstanding educator in the past. She's received from the District, the Turtle Award for always being willing to stick her neck out to serve students. She has taught in our Freshman academy for our most at risk 9th Graders. She's taught 10th Grade, 11th Grade, College level courses. She's involved in the total school community effort within our District and our community, pep rallies, holiday toy drives, high school adoptive family initiative, breast cancer awareness initiatives, engaging with students through the Student Council, community-wide yard sales, and the list goes on and on, and on.

Mr. Simons:

So at this time, I would like to invite Chelsea Dyer to come up and be recognized by our Board of Education as a finalist for the New York State Teacher of the Year, and I want to thank her on behalf of the entire community for not only being an outstanding teacher, but for the level of enthusiasm, commitment and dedication she brings to her classroom, and to the outside activities that she's involved with every day. So at this time, once I put my mask on, I would like Chelsea Dyer to come up and say a few words, if she's comfortable doing that, and then introduce her family. Chelsea Dyer.

Chelsea Dyer:

Thank you so much. That sounded more impressive than I feel. I just want to thank my husband, whose here, and my mother-in-law and father-in-law for coming. And I do also have to shout out to other guests that came, so Heidi Gleason, whose actually my high school teacher in Lansingburgh, and now she is my colleague, one of my best friends that I really appreciate coming. And I have to shout out to Mr. Kissick, who was my high school principal, who is just one of the best men ever. But I had really good examples, so I wanted to share this with them, so I really appreciate both of you guys coming. So thank you again.

Mr. Simons:

We do have a resolution, and I will ask Mr. Buono to read and ask the Board to formally commend and provide a commendation for Chelsea's accomplishment.

Mr. Buono:

Awesome. I'm very pleased to know Chelsea, she helped my children out, she's a wonderful teacher. I'm very proud of you and what you've done on behalf of your career so far, and more great things to come I'm sure. So I'll read a resolution, whereas Chelsea Dyer, Columbia High School English teacher has brought distinction to herself, the faculty and the East Greenbush School District as being recognized as a Teacher of the Year finalist, and whereas Chelsea Dyer represents the finest qualities of commitment, enthusiasm and talent and instruction of student, and whereas the Board of Education wishes to honor and recognize Chelsea Dyer as an exemplary teacher. Now and therefore, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, be it resolved that the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools hereby congratulates Chelsea Dyer on her recognition of the 2021 Teacher of the Year finalist, dated September 23rd, 2020. So I need a motion to approve that. Mr. Mann second, Deanna, all those in favor?

Mr. Buono:

Congratulations Chelsea, and like I said, much more great things to come I'm sure. So I'm glad you could join us and your family, thank you for coming Mr. Kissick an old friend from LaSalle days, great to see you here. I appreciate you coming.

Speaker 8:

Old?

Mr. Buono:

Yeah. Thanks again. More comments Board members?

Mr. Buono:

Deanna?

Ms. Muth:

So my daughter, I told her that you were getting this award, and she had you for Modern Lit, and she said that you taught her a lot of life skills not just Modern literature, like some business skills. So she was very excited. And I just wanted to say congratulations.

Chelsea Dyer:

Thank you.

Mr. Buono:

Thanks Deanna. Anyone else at this time? All right. So I'm really pleased that you brought your family here, and you came in person in acceptance of the award, and thank you Mr. Simons and Mr. McHugh for nominating Chelsea. Well deserved, and thank you again for all you do.

Mr. Simons:

While you're always welcome to stay for the meeting, I'll provide you with a transition and a graceful opportunity to exit with your family.

Mr. Buono:

Thanks everybody for coming, good to see you again. Lots of Lansingburgh folks in this room right now.

Mr. Buono:

Yeah, right? Thanks again for coming guys, appreciate it. So now we'll move to the next topic, which is [on the forefront of most people's minds. Mr. Simons on the school reopening.

Mr. Simons:

Thank you, Mr. Buono. Can everyone hear me okay, virtually on the meeting? Sarah Hoffman, can you hear me? Very good.

Mr. Buono:

Okay.

Mr. Simons:

So I want to give the Board and the community an update on the reopening, we are in our second week of school reopening, and that is good and we are making great progress. One of the things that I want to emphasize is that, under a hybrid program, although we're in our second week, all of our students are actually... that are participating in the hybrid, have been here for three days in person instruction, and this is our second day of our virtual live instruction. And so our staff, our students, our families are still acclimating to reopening, but it is going very well given the point that we're at. So I'm very pleased with everyone's support, and the positive comments we've received from staff and families. I'm also very pleased with the feedback that we've received in order to continue to improve our program.

Mr. Simons:

Today was the second day of Virtual Wednesday. Virtual Wednesday involves all of our students participating in remote instruction through live video instruction. The survey that we did for Grades six through 12, provided the District with a lot of good understanding as to some of the issues that our students and our families may have experienced during the first Virtual Wednesday last week. As I shared that survey with the Board, and I shared it with the administrators, we'll be talking more about it tomorrow, there were some suggestions and recommendations that we sent out through Mr. McHugh office yesterday to our teachers. One thing that we noted in the survey was that, while the majority of our students connected successfully, there were some challenges in some cases with volumes of emails going to students and parents.

Mr. Simons:

So we're encouraging our teachers to post as much as they can through the Google Classroom format, which would remove the idea that you have to send a lot of separate emails, just so that the parents can adjust, the students can adjust, and everything is in one place in terms of expectations.

Mr. Simons:

Additionally, we reviewed some of the connectivity issues that caused students to be bounced out of Google Meets, and in some cases our staff of Google Meets. And we believe that, that primarily was a Google issue, because other districts across the country were experiencing that, but we did make some adjustments to antennas for example at Red Mill, and we have also received some of the newer cameras that were delivered to high school and full remote teachers today. Those new cameras can be plugged into a PC which is wired in, in the classroom, removing any concerns regarding WiFi. We're expecting another shipment of those cameras next week, to be able to extend those down to the middle school. But I think overall, that went well today.

Mr. Simons:

I visited three buildings this afternoon, they all gave me positive reports regarding the Virtual Wednesday, that some of the challenges of last week were much better, and I appreciate the teachers and Peter's department, Peter Goodwin's department, for addressing those issues.

Mr. Simons:

Additionally, we have four remote students who are participating, and did receive some positive feedback about... from the four remote parents today. At the middle school and high school level, we're emphasizing to students and parents the importance of applying the same standards that you would if you were in the classroom in school physically regarding attendance, regarding timeliness of assignments, regarding showing up to class. It's no different if you're participating virtually than if you were in person, you've got to be at class on time, you've got to remain in class for the whole time unless you're excused, and you're going to be marked in attendance. We'll be sending out some clarification of those expectations within the next week, just to remind some of our students when they are participating in remote instruction the same rules that would apply if you were in a regular classroom.

Mr. Simons:

And technology access has gone very, very well. Mr. Goodwin's department has distributed, how many devices to assist with WiFi?

Mr. Goodwin:

80 at this point.

Mr. Simons:

80 devices at this point to families who were experiencing issues with their WiFi connectivity. So under teaching and learning, those issues are going really well. I'm going to ask Mr. McHugh if he would like to add anything, particularly in the area of our ENL students, and our special education students.

Mr. McHugh:

Thank you, Mr. Simons. Specifically in regards to our English language learners, five ENL teachers are trying to really have as much in-person face-to-face contact with our families, a lot gets lost in translation, so we're really reaching out. We're using... Last year we used Lexikeet Translation Services, this year we added Lingualinx, so we have two translation services. The neat thing about Lingualinx, is it's almost in essence Uber. You just really go onto the app, you request a translator for whatever language you're looking for, and instantly within usually one to two minutes somebody responds and takes that call, and then you have that translation service. So if we need to call for the Nurse or we if we need a call from the main office, we're able to do that.

Mr. McHugh:

We had an incident for example, with technology, it wasn't that the technology wasn't working properly, it was that they really didn't understand how to use the device. So ENL teacher, a technician on the spot reaching out to that family, did try to help support our students. So in those particular areas, we're really trying to reach out and have that contact, and not let anything go too long without addressing it, trying to address it immediately.

Mr. Simons:

I know that Kara Harrington is on the meeting, I know that Ms. McGrath was going to be late to the meeting, so I don't know, is Molly out there?

Ms. Herrington:

I don't believe she's on yet.

Mr. Simons:

So Kara, this is your first opportunity on the fly, to address the Board regarding how things are going with our special education students.

Ms. Herrington:

I know that some students that are getting are remote are getting the direct instruction through the classroom. It seems to be going very well, the students are participating. I was able to observe the other day in the high school skills class, a social skills group, and students were participating via video. The students were so excited that the students were on camera, and they were excited to see each other, so that was a great opportunity for me to see that in live action. We do have some of our students in our self-contained classes, returning just because it's better for their learning style, so we're also happy to see that they are returning to school, and they're going to be in person and their teachers are really excited about that.

Ms. Herrington:

To my knowledge, I think everything's going smoothly. There might be specific student issues that we work through, but we'll work through them as they come along.

Mr. Simons:

Thank you Kara. I also visited at Green Meadow a team meeting of the special education staff this afternoon, and these were staff members that work with primary age, kindergarten, 1st grade age transition students, and they said that all of the students were connecting today, which was... and that's a thing to accomplish. So I think overall in terms of special education and ENL, which is one of the State's targeted areas, we're doing really well I think in ensuring that the communications occur and keep those kids and families connected.

Mr. Simons:

In the area of parent communication, Mr. Adam has sent out today a letter regarding the survey that was submitted, and some of the things that we are doing as a result of the survey on Virtual Wednesdays. Additionally, we received a suggestion from Michele Skumurski, to see if we could send texts out reminding the student's families to do the health screening. Thankfully, Todd Witherell last

week, who works in our data department and has done a remarkable job, had School Messenger all set up by AB Hybrid notes, which was a task in and of itself. So we have that capability, and we started it on Monday. And I appreciated the suggestion, but also the fact that Todd was prepared to help us to do that.

Mr. Simons:

In the area of health and safety, I had a meeting yesterday with the directors, supervisors and the assistant superintendents, the Central Office staff. Mark Noeth reported at that meeting that all the busing is going very well. There is room on the buses, even within the social distancing, of 22 kids on a 66 passenger bus to accommodate more kids. I think initially when we surveyed families about whether or not they were going to need transportation, some families decided that they would transport their children to school, but as we're learning about the impact of the full remote kids on buses, we do have room to safely accommodate, and work within the guidelines to have more children bused. So if there is an issue, we'd ask folks to contact Mr. Noeth. And it's going very well, the cleaning and disinfecting between cleaning of the seats between the runs, and the disinfecting in the evenings is going very, very well.

Mr. Simons:

And the entry and exit procedures have gotten better every day, in terms of students coming off of the bus, socially distancing, and entering the school for their temperature checks and showing their screenings. There were some issues with the screening tool that needed to be ironed out after the first week in terms of the data that we were getting, some of the data was inaccurate. We didn't want to call parents of students we knew had gone to screening, but I believe that issue has been fixed, is that right Mr. Goodwin?

Mr. Simons:

So on Friday we didn't call parents, because there was a test run by Mr. Harkin, and many of the students that were on the list that hadn't done it, so we didn't want to upset folks. So that has been fixed as of this week.

Mr. Simons:

By all reports of principals and staff, the mask-wearing is going very well. Students are complying with masks, staff is providing mask breaks as aligned with our plan. There are only a small number of students who are medically excused from wearing masks in the district. Of 4,000 students, it's about three or four that are medically excused. Staff is doing a remarkable job reminding students of social distancing, wearing the masks. I did have a high school in the early mornings during first and second periods, and I can tell you the high school is remarkably peaceful. It always is a positive climate, but it's remarkably peaceful, and we've been able to witness activities such as a socially distanced band rehearsal, socially distanced chorus rehearsal. We've watched students go up staircases that were appropriate for going up, and down those that were marked for going down, and overall the level of compliance with the safety rules, ones at the high school and the middle school, is going very, very well.

Mr. Simons:

Adjustments were made on day two and day three for the procedures at Goff Middle School. Everyone here knows that the drop off has always been a problem at Goff Middle School, and the pick up. Changes have been made to expedite the movement of the students into the school, as well as the

staging of parking in the afternoon at the little league and girl's softball field parking lots. And that has gone better.

Mr. Simons:

Temperature checks are being done, we are still figuring out in some cases, the thermometers. The thermometers are tricky in some sense. There's a feeling that in some cases individuals operating the thermometers, need to wait seven to nine seconds for the thermometers to reset, before they do the next temperature check on the next child. Then in some cases there's the feeling that the outside temperatures are influencing the temperature readings. So in the case of the middle school and the high school, Mrs. Wager has researched some of the thermo scanning devices that can be utilized to expedite temperature checks, and we have six of those on order?

Ms. Wager:

Yes.

Mr. Simons:

Those will be primarily used-

Ms. Wager:

Next week.

Mr. Simons:

... at the middle school and high school. As we move into cooler weather, I think it'll be more convenient to use those, and then use the handheld thermometers at the same time, but also as an additional check on temperatures.

Mr. Simons:

The County Department of Health, has assigned a contact person for all Rensselaer schools, her name is Carissa, and she has been contacting us on a regular basis. Currently myself, Marissa Cannon, and Molly McGrath are sharing COVID-19 Coordinator responsibilities, until such time that we can find a nurse. How that process is working is, every day prior to me submitting the data on the Department of Health website, Marissa and / or Molly have already conferred with principals and nurses regarding any issues regarding students who have been sent home, or are symptomatic. And we have to enter into that system enrollment data for every school, division of that enrollment data, students who are participating remotely, students who are participating in person. We have to enter in teaching staff separately from non-teaching staff, and then divide that into teachers who are working within the school, working remotely, non-instructional staff working within the school, working remotely.

Mr. Simons:

And then we report any issues regarding positive cases. In general, those numbers stay at zero, and are already pre-populated into the plural. And now we're reporting any instances in which the district has referred a child or a staff member to the Department of Health, or to the physician. So the nurses are playing a role in that, the principals are playing a role in that, that data is coming to Marissa and Molly, and we are sending it into the portal.

Mr. Simons:

The State did send out letters to superintendents today, indicating that they did not do their required data reporting. In many cases we have found across the State... I didn't get one of those letters, which is good. That was welcome news this morning, at 8:30, but I didn't get one, I didn't even know there was one, but when I joined the Questar Superintendent's Meeting, I found out all about it. We have learned that those letters are inaccurate, and in some cases the superintendents of those districts, have the email verification that they entered the data. So NYS is intervening on behalf of school districts in regard to that, but in some cases those letters were sent to districts who have been in compliance. We did not get one, and we are in compliance.

Mr. Simons:

Cleaning and disinfecting. I have spoken directly with all the people, as well as some of the head custodians, I've spoken to Jim here at the high school, and Jim at the middle school of Archer Buildings, and in general they say that the substitute cleaners are doing a good job and that it's working out very well, and that the misters have really helped. We do have a number or additional appointments for substitute cleaners on the agenda tonight, those will make the job easier. The custodians are aware that once we get in a little further into this reopening, we may have to reevaluate and monitor staff that is being assigned those extra hours, and we will be giving a report to the board every month once a month on any overtime costs that we may be incurring.

Mr. Simons:

We are close to the agreement with the CSEA regarding how those hours will be determined, and I think Marissa we're very close on that, is that right?

Ms. Cannon:

I agree.

Mr. Simons:

So moving to athletics. We are in our third day of athletics, and I have to say that Mr. Leonard, Sean Leggett our trainer, and all of our coaches are really doing a serious job at trying to implement all of the New York State Department of Health, and New York State Public High School Association guidelines as we reopen sports. The practices at all reports have gone well, those are reports that I hear from students, as well as coaches and our athletic director. We had a parent meeting on Monday evening, at which our team outlined many of the considerations regarding the guidelines, and we were joined at that meeting by Dr. Albert, whose been a tremendous resource at helping us implement the COVID-19 guidelines in all areas, including sports. Sean Leggett, Mike Leonard, myself, Mr. McHugh were all part of the panel.

Mr. Simons:

Mr. Leonard did a presentation on the guidelines, and then we had a question and answer session. We are not able to provide busing to practices, particularly challenging on days when students are home learning. Thus far I have not heard any reports of students not being able to get to practice, we've encouraged our parents to work together to carpool and to help our kids get to practices.

Mr. Simons:

The buses. We need more buses now than we've needed in the past, and those buses will not be able to pick up kids from the entire area of the District to go to practices, and get back in time to bus our middle school and our high school students. Some districts are not providing busing to away games, we are able to do that, and we will do that. In some cases where two buses would normally be used, we may need to use three, and we are looking at whether or not we may need to discuss with the board the policy regarding parents transporting their students and /or other students from games. I don't think we need that right now, but in the event that we have an issue and we don't have drivers, we might have to consider that as an option. But right now, it doesn't look we will need to do that.

Mr. Simons:

There's a balance when you do things like that in terms of the safety involved in making sure all the kids are transported, and have permission to be transported, versus some of the challenges with COVID, we may be short drivers or buses. So right now, we know that we're in good shape for them.

Mr. Simons:

All and all, the reopening is going rather well, there are some particular details that emerge every day that we're working through. We're in good shape as of this moment. We have only one positive case which the community is aware of, and that case is scheduled to clear I believe by the 28th of September. When we receive information from the County, it's organized into categories, positive cases, travel advisories and contacts. So in the case of a positive case, individuals have been identified as being in contact with that individual, which is with that person for 15 minutes or more within in less than six feet, those students are quarantined.

Mr. Simons:

And a travel advisory, is simply, the County Health Department intervening, assessing the situation and letting us know about it. So the data has been coming both verbally and in a report that we get, and that data has been matching up with what anyone in the community can see on the portal. And that concludes my report.

Mr. Buono:

Thanks Mr. Simons. Any questions for Mr. Simons regarding the school reopening update or athletics at this time? Okay, we'll still have an opportunity to go around the table, or around the room I should say, to have more forum comments from [inaudible 00:35:23]. I just have one question, and the answer to my question with the bus and drop off, pick up. How's it going with the Virtual Wednesdays at the GCC and Saint Mary's with those programs for students?

Mr. Simons:

There's approximately 70 students at Saint Mary's on Virtual Wednesday's, and there's another 30 students at Goff... excuse me at Genet. And during Virtual Wednesday's, there are three teaching assistants assigned full-time to that program, on other days there are two. We are working with principals and classroom teachers on a spreadsheet, so that we have a system for the teachers to communicate with the TAs during those days. Any questions that they may have, or TAs, or students may have regarding assignments, any guidance in terms of how those teaching assistants can help the children with their remote work, and information on the office hours of the teachers, so that if the TA had a question, they would know what time that they could contact the child's teacher with that question when the teacher is available.

Mr. Simons:

It's taken us a little bit to get that in place, because the enrollment within the program has fluctuated a little bit. We're only in the second Virtual Wednesday, but at a meeting with principals tomorrow, we're going to talk about how that process would work so that there's a connection between the teachers assigned to the students, and the TAs that are providing support at those programs.

Mr. Buono:

Great. Just one final question of Mr. McHugh, or any elementary principals can help me out. In the Spring time we were out, there were concerns of the elementary students and the amount of work that was being done, or kids getting done with their work pretty quickly, how is that going this year in terms of some of our elementary students who are home on their days, the workload or the amount of things they can do?

Mr. McHugh:

So it's a little tricky.

Mr. Buono:

True, true.

Mr. McHugh:

Speaking to our teachers, it's a different way of thinking and a different way of planning. For example, today was a live virtual, and then they'll have their A students tomorrow, they won't see them again until Monday. So with our youngest learners, they have to fig... our teachers have really, it takes a lot of planning. The planning is really highly valued, because you have to figure out what has to go home with those students on Thursday, and what has to go home with the students on Friday, so that they have the work for those remote days, and they're prepared with whatever materials they need for live Virtual Wednesday's. So they're getting better at it. I applaud our teachers, because I think people are working incredibly hard, but we're going to get better at it. I think we got better at it each day, but it does take some real figuring out.

Mr. McHugh:

For example, you send a packet home on a Thursday with a student with work for them to do on Friday and maybe the next week, and there will be a couple of students that do it all that night, and then there may be a student that you're not connecting with in a remote format, so you have to follow through and reach out to the homes. So it's a challenge, but they're working at it, and it's not for a lack of effort. I think folks are getting better at it each day.

Mr. Buono:

Thanks. Anyone want to comment, any elementary principals that are out there? And I see Helen

Ms. Squillace:

Right, I agree with Mr. McHugh, I think there's always going to be a little bit of the Goldilocks factor, where you'll have some parents who say it's too much, some will say it's too little, and those that say it's just right. But I think our teachers had a good experience figuring that out in our last Spring closure, so to date I have heard nothing but positives and the work seems just right so far at Red Mill.

Mr. Buono:

Thanks a lot.

Mr. Buono:

Great, thank you. Anyone else, or are we good? I see Wayne, you popped up on the screen.

Mr. Grignon:

Yeah, I just wanted to say that I think what Helen said is correct. Our teachers have done a tremendous job, I've seen a lot of growth with them in just the past week from last Wednesday to this Wednesday, coming up with new innovative ways to get the students involved, making phone calls on a regular basis to those kids that aren't engaged. I think Mr. McHugh nailed the head... nailed it right on the head in saying teachers are working extremely hard, just as everyone else in the District. Our SRP staff, CSEA, transportation, central administration, principals, we're all doing this to really help each other out and burden the loads, making it the best that we can for our families and our kids. And I have to say that, just like Helen said, our parents have been tremendous. They understand what we're doing as a community for our kids and they get it, and they've been extremely supportive with everything that's come out of all our schools.

Mr. Grignon:

So thank you to the community for your continued support.

Mr. Buono:

Great. Thank you Mr. Grignon. I think it's important as we go through the hybrid model, we talk about the challenges represented for any likely student, and our families, and I'm pleased to hear that it's going well. The starting to get a little bit better, like Mr. McHugh said so thank you. One thing I'd like to comment on the fact that we move our students through the hallways, which I think was an excellent idea, because the issue of students being in a classroom and the teacher being in the classroom for hours at a time, it really gives the feeling that you may as well just do it at home, so what's the point sometimes. So that was something that we have heard recently too that, so I think that taking that on, as challenging as that was, helps with the socialization part of school to support our students, and I think they really appreciate that too.

Mr. Buono:

So you'll hear the Student Council talking about some of the glad to be back, and the positivity, that was really, really encouraging to hear. So good to hear. I'm rambling on.

Mr. Buono:

So I'll turn on to the Board members for the Board forum. We'll start on my left with Jennifer Massey. Thank you Jennifer.

Ms. Massey:

I'm good.

Mr. Buono:

Your good. Mr. Dunn, good to see you live in person, thank you for coming.

Mr. Dunn:

Well, thank you for having me. I just wanted to make a comment about the reopening, and something that Jim you spoke to, and it's communication. Communication in these difficult times, is probably one of the most critical elements to make sure that our families and students, and staff, understand what the objective is and what the goal is. And most importantly, recognizing that everybody in our district, because we are diverse and have a lot of different things going on, people communicate in different ways, whether it's a language barrier, an educational barrier, or a disability barrier.

Mr. Dunn:

I think with us recognizing that we have to provide and reach people in the medium that they can understand, and relying on the child to either communicate with the parents, you don't know if you're going to get the truth all of the time. So I really am very happy to hear... Because that was one of the concerns that I hear regularly is, people don't know what to expect. And I think as we go down the road in this experiment, because it's really what it is, it's our messaging and are we reaching people. And I think the obligation to us is to identify the people we are not communicating with earlier, rather than...

Mr. Dunn:

And you used the example of somebody who does their homework all in two days, and then disappears. Well, even though they might be doing the work, the fact that they're not engaging, that's just as of a value to the system. So I'm very happy to hear that we're reaching and recognizing all the different ways that we can address some of these issues. So thank you for that effort on behalf of our schools.

Mr. Buono:

Thank you, Jim. Mark?

Mr. Mann:

I know there's been a couple of school districts, one in particular, that has opted out of sports, have you heard of anymore? I mean, is that going to affect scheduling? Is it something that-

Mr. Simons:

There was a request by two districts at Suburban Council Superintendent's meeting the week before we were scheduled to start, and that request came from Ballston Spa and Bethlehem. Those two districts indicated that they were only going to offer certain low risk sports, such as swim and tennis. The majority of the Suburban Councils either they had made up their mind] prior to that meeting, and / or after that meeting, that we were going to offer both low and moderate sports. So I believe all but two in the Suburban Council at the Junior Varsity and Varsity level are offering everything that we're offering right now.

Mr. Simons:

Some of the reasoning was that, the health and safety benefits of kids participating in sports, and the ability of the district to ensure that their coaches and the department could implement those New York State Department of Health and Public High School Athletic Association guidelines safely. We felt that we could, Shen thought that they could, Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake, they thought that they could. North Colonie, South Colonie. And so we went forward.

Mr. Simons:

We still had questions about modified, and we indicated to our families that we would have a registration process, but we would hold off until we got JV and Varsity started. Based on the data that we have right now regarding the number of students that are interested in modified, it's very low. There are probably enough students that would want to have a soccer program at the modified level, and 14 field hockey, but no other kids. So our recommendation is going to be not to do modified, and to work with the community groups such as Greenbush soccer, to have a soccer program, which they've offered to work with us on that. And then the intermural program that we have talked about. So the majority of the districts in the Suburban Council are doing low and moderate sports.

Mr. Simons:

The other factor was, we didn't believe that anything would be remarkably different regarding the situation to push some of those moderate sports to an early Spring season. We didn't think much would change between now and then regarding COVID, and regarding the requirements, so we thought we could do it. So we're doing that, and the majority of the districts in the Suburban Council are doing it, under an understanding that everybody has to operate within the expectations, and so far that's happening.

Mr. Mann:

Good, thank you.

Mr. Buono:

Thanks Mark. Deanna?

Ms. Muth:

I'm good, thank you.

Mr. Buono:

You're good. Kathleen?

Ms. Curtin:

I just want to say, John's talked about communication being out and about in the community, I've gotten a lot of communication and all of its good. I have heard nothing but very good remarks, and it's come from... this comes from teachers, it's come from staff in the school, it's come from students. Everything has been wonderful. They did... I was told today to give a special shout out to Peter Goodwin and his staff, because they said they can't even imagine being Peter, but he has been very responsive to everything and they're just thrilled to death. They're thrilled to be back. The one comment that made me laugh was, "I had really low expectations going in, and it's going great."

Ms. Curtin:

A parent talked to me about their child whose doing full remote, and they're doing full remote with a teacher not from their home elementary school, and the parent is absolutely thrilled. They said, kind of whispering, because the neighborhood people were out, and the parent said, "I think he might be getting more than the other kids, but I don't want to say that out loud." So everything that we've been

hearing, has been very, very positive in the community, and that has taken so much work from everybody, so thank you. And again Peter, they said especially thank you twice. So.

Mr. Goodwin:

Great, thank you.

Mr. Buono:

Thanks Kathleen. JoAnn, you're good?

Ms. Taylor:

I'm good, thank you.

Mr. Buono:

Frank, how about you?

Mr. Yeboah:

I'm good.

Mr. Buono:

You're good, okay. You won't have an opportunity to [inaudible 00:49:02]. I do want to go back just quickly if there's any emails. So Linda, sorry to put you on the spot.

Ms. Wager:

That's okay.

Ms. Wager:

There are a couple.

Mr. Buono:

There are a couple?

Ms. Wager:

Yeah.

Mr. Buono:

So I don't want them to wait till the remote board meeting, if you can answer some of those questions or hear their comments.

Ms. Wager:

Okay. We have two emails, both from Eric Blostein, who is a senior at Columbia. My question is, why students in the high school are being allowed to enter the building without filling out the COVID screen form?

Mr. Simons:

That's two... Do you want to give me both of them, or do you want me to just-

Ms. Wager:

They came in separately.

Mr. Buono:

Okay.

Ms. Wager:

The second question is. My question is, why did the statement about students eating lunch at the beginning of a class, if they didn't have a lunch, wasn't discussed in the reopening meetings?

Mr. Simons:

Okay. As far students entering the high school having not done the screening, there are situations where, and I've observed it myself, where students are coming in and they've had a problem with the screening. They may have clicked yes on one, and found that they made an error. So what has been happening is, either Mr. Harkin or staff are pulling them aside and either assisting them with that, or calling the parent and assisting them with that. The other factor that contributed to it that I mentioned earlier, which was, in some cases the data was inaccurate. So we're giving somewhat of a grace period for the kids to get used to doing it, it's gotten better. I know one day they were all... I think it was about 95% of the students had done it last week.

Mr. Simons:

We're using reminders, secretaries are calling the parents, and we're just trying to reinforce doing it. So at some point in time if it's not done, students will have to go home, but as all procedures we're trying to make sure that it's a teaching opportunity for the kids as well. The screening in combination with masks, in combination with the social distancing, in combination with the washing your hands, and the temperature checks, all work together. It's not one in and of itself that's full proof, it's all of them working together to address safety. So yes, there are some situations where kids are being permitted to go to class, but we're following up with them and making sure that they're doing it on the following days.

Mr. Simons:

I'm not sure I understand the lunch question, could you ask it again?

Ms. Wager:

My question is, why did the statement about students eating lunch at the beginning of a class, if they didn't have a lunch, wasn't discussed in the reopening meetings?

Mr. Buono:

They don't have a lunch period, I'm assuming that's-

Mr. Simons:

Oh, okay. So students that aren't scheduled to have a lunch period aren't able to eat lunch in class? I'll have to talk to Mr. Harkin about that in particular, but there are situations where kids are taking a full

schedule and don't have an assigned lunch period, and it has been our practice. How frequently that's going on, and how prevalent that is, and how it's being done, I'll have to talk to Mr. Harkin about.

Ms. Wager:

Okay. I'll forward that email to the both of you.

Mr. Simons:

Okay.

Mr. Buono:

Thank you. Okay. So that concludes our Board forums report section, we'll move on to discussion items. So on discussion items, Mr. Simons and I were talking about the Board of Education meeting schedule. Given the circumstances, we do feel that it will important to visit our buildings that have construction project work, and see some of those through tours, do our meetings from those places, because we will have the tours, but also know that this is probably the best way to arrange our meetings and to continue with the library locations. If things shift or change, we can always modify the location schedule again, if that's okay with the Board members. Any comments about that?

Mr. Buono:

I do want to see some of the work that's happening, it's been a long time and energy, and obviously funds to do that kind of work and I'd like to see the results. If that's all right with everybody, do you approve the change on the resolution?

Mr. Simons:

We wanted to just change the location... I think the principals are worried we were going to consider this-

Mr. Simons:

... the Red Mill or the Green Meadow are changes in location. Goff was already scheduled on the 18th, so the changes are only October 7th and October 21st. The location will move to Red Mill and Green Meadow. I think it was supposed to be DPS and Bell Top,-

Mr. Simons:

... but we changed it because the Green Meadow, and Red Mill and Goff were where the construction project phase two occurred this summer.

Mr. Buono:

So just a little [inaudible 00:54:14] tell you we did change them. I think we're good.

Mr. Simons:

Right, everyone good? All right.

Mr. Buono:

We'll now move to Committee reports. We'll start with Marissa.

Ms. Cannon:

Can I borrow a microphone?. Our code of conduct committee met at the end of August to discuss new policies in regards to masks and social distancing, and how that would be applied fairly to our code of conduct. And we started off the meeting noting that there is a large educational component to this, and our staff, our administrators, and our parents, we all have to work together in educating our students on proper hygiene, and wearing a mask, and social distancing appropriately, and making sure that we're providing helpful reminders along the way, especially to our little ones. Mr. Adam did a wonderful job making informational videos on social distancing in hallways-

Ms. Cannon:

... and standing on your marker. He did an excellent video with some of our summer school students on how to socially distance and wear a mask on the bus, and how we sit next to the windows, and then also taking their mask break during class, and you're allowed to have a drink of water. So all those videos went out to our parents, and those are all important tools for educational and co-ed.

Ms. Cannon:

We talked about our mask supply, and how that was going to be disbursed to all of our schools. We made sure that we disbursed masks for adult face coverings and child face coverings to all of our school buildings, and we have enough in each of those buildings in case there was event where a mask broke and a child needed a new one, or someone just forgot their mask that day. So we worked closely with Paul Mingle to make sure that all of our staff and students do have an adequate supply, and we continue to stay in communication with our custodians and our administrators to make sure we keep providing them with additional PPE as needed.

Ms. Cannon:

We discussed where we might handle an infraction in our code of conduct if someone was refusing to wear a mask, or refusing to social distance appropriately, and our committee agreed that it can be addressed as insubordination, which is a level one infraction for both our K8 students, and our 9-12 students, and just the importance of making sure if we are doing those helpful reminders and they're still not following through with what they need to do, we handle that very consistently, getting an administrator involved, letting them know the situation and contact with mom and dad after that.

Ms. Cannon:

There are concerns about what must a student have not to wear a mask, and it was communicated to all of our code of conduct members and our staff, that they would need to provide the appropriate medical exemption, and as Mr. Simons stated earlier, we have about three students right now that have that medical exemption. And our staff are made aware of who those three individuals are.

Ms. Cannon:

We commented on how well summer school went in terms of the social distancing and the mask wearing practices, and it went very well, and currently it's going very well in all of our schools and our central office. And we ended the committee meeting with just mentioning and noting the importance of continuing to review those CEC guidelines, the Department of Health guidelines. So if we need to meet again as a code of conduct committee, we will certainly do that.

Ms. Cannon:

I also want to provide a brief update on our vacancies. For instructional, we have one elementary 2nd Grade position open at Bell Top. That as of this morning, had 63 candidates. The posting closes tomorrow 9:24. We currently have two full-time teaching assistant positions, one at Columbia High School and the other at Goff. We have a total of 19 candidates apply as of this morning, and that posting also closes tomorrow. And we have four part-time teaching assistant positions in our elementary level up to our secondary level. We have six candidates for that, and that posting closes tomorrow as well.

Ms. Cannon:

For our non-instructional positions, we did have to repost the COVID Coordinator position. We had appointed an individual, and unfortunately they had an unforeseen circumstance, so their appointment will be rescinded on the personnel memo tonight, on the consent agenda. There are a total of three candidates, all of which have the appropriate nursing license, and that posting closes on September 24th. We have a senior typist position in our building and grounds department. That position has eight candidates that have applied, the posting closed on September 22nd. This position will be a provisional appointment. Once interviews are conducted and the candidate is selected, there is no eligible list through civil service as of now. And lastly, we have a senior monitor position at Goff Middle School, due to a resignation. We have two candidates that have applied, the posting has closed today, and we are finding it difficult to attract candidates for some of our monitor positions.

Ms. Cannon:

Does anyone have any questions?

Mr. Buono:

Questions? Thank you Marissa, we appreciate it.

Ms. Cannon:

Yeah.

Mr. Buono:

We'll move to Linda.

Ms. Wager:

Yes.

Mr. Buono:

Okay.

Ms. Wager:

Thank you. Monday evening, the 21st we had our first BRAC meeting, and that gave me a chance to introduce myself to some of the people on the committee that I had not met before. We reviewed the committee meeting dates, and we talked about some tentative workshop dates. I explained to them that the Board has not had the opportunity yet to see the budget calendar, we're currently waiting on that just in case there are any changes to the process as there was last year. We also talked about and reviewed some of the COVID-19 expenses that the district has faced, and continues to face, which I am preparing a report for the board on the specifics of those expenses.

Ms. Wager:

We spoke also about in the recent news, the difference between there has not been a cut in state aid, and the fact that we have received 20% less in our receivables from June 30th. So it does have an effect on us. We're hoping that it's not permanent, but to date we have a shortage of \$315,000 from what we expected as of June 30th.

Ms. Wager:

And then we did talk about future meetings, and about some ideas for the future, what the committee would like to see. And our next meeting is scheduled for October 5th. Are there any questions? Thank you.

Mr. Buono:

Thank you Linda. We'll move to Jim as [inaudible 01:02:05].

Mr. McHugh:

Two committee reports, the first one is the curriculum of study. We had our first meeting on September 9th, as always the first meeting of the year we talked about the organizational guidelines, so people really understand the purpose of CCS. We reviewed the schedule for the year. CCS was conducted through Google Meet, we still have 41 members in attendance, so I thought that was important to note. We talked about the current status of our program review / hearing, which language are signs, special education and related services. And because last year, with COVID, we were forced to go full remote in March, those three program reviews were not completed. So we talked about resetting, catching our breath, finishing those three program reviews this year, and resetting the schedule. So we didn't want to add three additional program reviews and have a total of six going on, especially this year.

Mr. McHugh:

In addition, we talked about some new novels, both in the middle school and high school in some of the English classes, and teachers provided a summary of those new novels. And I recommended a few years ago, that even new novels get followed through CCS, so we have a record of it and we know what literature is being used in those courses.

Mr. McHugh:

In addition to that, our mentor sharing committee met as well on September 9th, that was also done through Google Meet. Melissa Gilligan shared out the feedback from last year's mentor sharing program, and that's always a breath of fresh air, because the comments we hear from our new hires, but what's even more rewarding, is the comments we hear from our veteran teachers that are mentors. So almost a sense of renewal for some of those folks to refocus a little bit. So always a positive way to start the year.

Mr. McHugh:

We have seven new teachers joining at East Greenbush this year that required mentoring. I went back as far as 2011 in the archives, and six of our seven mentors, our veteran teachers, this is their first opportunity at mentoring, so I thought that was needed as well, that we have six new mentors supporting our new hires this year.

Mr. McHugh:

Thank you.

Mr. Buono:

Thank you Jim. Any questions for Jim? Mr. Simons do you have anything?.

Mr. Simons:

Nothing further, other than to mention that the next... the first meeting of the Safety committee this year will be October 5th. We sent a reminder today, the agenda will follow soon. One of the things we're going to have to talk about is, how [inaudible 01:04:55] safety drills are going to be done with the evacuation drills, and our lockdown drills as not all the students are here every day. So we're going to talk about that with our administrative team tomorrow. Mr. Tucker and I talked about it today, when I had a discussion with the safety committee about what we're doing to be in compliance with the guidelines and best practices about going about that under the hybrid model.

Mr. Buono:

I just have a kind of quick question, about something that Marissa said about masks. Can you just give a quick update about how we look for resupply PPE, things like that? Masks or-

Ms. Cannon:

Yes.

Mr. Buono:

... hand sanitizer, those kinds of supplie. since we are a few weeks in.

Ms. Cannon:

So we are right now, we're making sure each building has enough, and then when they start getting low on quantity, our head custodians will alert the principals of that. We can put in additional supply orders, but first we want to check in with our central receiving,-

Mr. Buono:

Sure.

Ms. Cannon:

... because a large majority is being stored in there-

Mr. Buono:

All right.

Ms. Cannon:

... now. So that's being constantly checked on, and Mr. Bickel he is the individual that would place the additional orders for PPE, so I think we're looking at a weekly, wouldn't you say Linda?

Mr. Buono:

Okay.

Mr. Simons:
Inventory levels-

Ms. Cannon:
Daily.

Mr. Simons:
We got a good news delivery from Questar today, that you're not aware of Marissa. Linda, so if you want to talk about that. We received large quantities of PPE from Questar through their relationship with the County.

Ms. Wager:
We did. We actually received large quantities of masks and gowns, and there was something else we received, but we're going to put that on to the next Board agenda, so that you can see the generous donation we received.

Mr. Buono:
That's great.

Ms. Cannon:
That's good news.

Mr. Buono:
Good, thank you.

Mr. Simons:
I think it was in the area of 600 masks, or something of that nature

Mr. Simons:
Large delivery.

Ms. Wager:
500 gowns. Yeah.

Mr. Simons:
Yes.

Ms. Wager:
Yeah.

Mr. Buono:

Good to see PPE supplies are back and running. That concludes our Committee reports, we'll go on to the approval of the Draft Minutes. Any questions, comments or revisions on the draft minutes? Mr. Dunn was not present at that time, so seeing no changes or revisions I need a motion to approve the minutes. Kathleen second, Jennifer. Those in favor. All those abstaining. Mr. Dunn, approved.

Mr. Buono:

Now moving to approval of programs residential and with disabilities. Any questions or comments? I need a motion to approve that? JoAnn second, John. All those in favor? Approved.

Mr. Buono:

Reports and Presentations does contain a first reading of policy that we want to move off the agenda, we want to move that to the policy committee first. So we'll remove that from the agenda if there's no objections on that one. That has to do with the cameras in the classroom and part of our-

Mr. Simons:

I'll send that out in an email and invite some feedback to the policy committee tomorrow. And I thank you for pointing out the error in the process, Mrs. Massey, because I'm new as the policy coordinator, and it got lost in transition, so I appreciate it.

Ms. Massey:

No apologies necessary, I just thought I missed some point along the way. I just thought, "Did I miss anything?"

Mr. Simons:

I missed it. I missed a step.

Mr. Buono:

No problem, we'll get back to the committee. We do have a second reading of policies, is there any questions or comments? Mr. Simons, you have not received any comments on this?

Mr. Simons:

No, I've received no comments on the 2D policies.

Mr. Buono:

All right, very good. So I need a motion to approve the policies as a second reading. Kathleen, I need a second, Jennifer. All those in favor? Approved.

Mr. Buono:

No other Reports and Presentations at this time. Tabled motions, I have nothing. Old business, Board members anything that we have at this time that we discussed in the past? Nothing? Okay.

Ms. Massey:

I just have one quick question.

Mr. Buono:
Yes, Jennifer.

Ms. Massey:
For the individuals that wanted to attend the NYSSBA convention, have we been registered for that, because we are getting daily reminders to register now. So has that happened as a-

Mr. Buono:
Your question is on the December virtual convention. I know Jennifer you signed up, I believe I signed up as well,-

Ms. Massey:
Frank.

Mr. Yeboah:
Myself.

Mr. Buono:
Frank, JoAnn. So I think we were-

Ms. Wager:
Everyone has been registered, and I apologize I was told information went out to you, but I will confirm it tomorrow and have it resent.

Mr. Buono:
Very good.

Ms. Massey:
Okay.

Mr. Buono:
So check your emails. Moving to the consent agenda, any questions or comments regarding items A through G that are on the agenda? Mr. Dunn?

Mr. Dunn:
Can we separate Section C for a separate vote?

Mr. Buono:
Item C section, separate vote. JoAnn, I see Steve listed as a volunteer coach, do we need to move that?

Ms. Taylor:
If somebody wants me to abstain, I will-

Mr. Buono:

I don't think so. I think you're good. It's not a paid position, so you're not benefitting from that.. I just have... So I'll move item C for a separate vote, anything else?

Mr. Mann:

F.

Mr. Buono:

F. That's a separate vote, okay. Any questions or comments on that? I just want to make a comment on the gifts and donations. I want to thank Miss Smith for her generous \$1,000 donation for PPE for the District, that was a very nice gesture, and of course Martin, Harding and Mazzotti for a generous donation to the backpack program.

Mr. Buono:

So with that we have a consent agenda items A through G, except for item C and item F. Motion approved. Kathleen. A second? Deanna. All those in favor? That's approved.

Mr. Buono:

Going to item C, I need a motion to approve that? Jennifer. I need a second? JoAnn. All those in favor? All those opposed? Those abstaining? Mr. Dunn, abstaining. Approved.

Mr. Buono:

Item F, any questions or comments on that? I need a motion to approve the SRP memorandum here. Kathleen. I need a second? John. All those in favor? All those opposed? All those abstaining? Mr. Mann, abstaining. Approved.

Mr. Buono:

That concludes our Consent agenda, and we'll move to new business. Board members, any new business? Just checking off my list here. Okay.

Mr. Buono:

Moving to our second public forum. Linda, put you on the spot again.

Ms. Wager:

No, there's nothing.

Mr. Buono:

No more emails?

Ms. Wager:

No.

Mr. Buono:

All right. Our second Board forum, I'll start on my right with Frank. Anything, comments or questions?

Mr. Yeboah:

No.

Mr. Buono:

Are you good? Okay. JoAnn?

Ms. Taylor:

I'm good.

Mr. Buono:

Kathleen?

Ms. Curtin:

And Michael, forgive me I did forget one thing that I heard. There was also great appreciation for the fact that the Board voted to have school start a little bit late, giving faculty and staff time to train. I heard that was time very well spent, and it has been utilized quite a bit. And they wanted to thank Jim McHugh for doing such a great job. Like I said, it's been all good stuff. I've been hearing all this good stuff.

Mr. Mann:

Did they mention Peter?

Ms. Curtin:

They did, yes. Yes.

Mr. Buono:

Great, thanks Kathleen. Diana?

Ms. Muth:

No thanks.

Mr. Buono:

You're good. Mark?

Mr. Mann:

I'm good, thank you.

Mr. Buono:

Jennifer? Thumbs up. Jennifer?

Ms. Massey:

No, I'm good.

Mr. Buono:

You're good, all right. I just want to comment, it was a great meeting. And one thing I just want to mention, the Board calendar and we'll talk about this down the road, Mr. Simons and I were talking about a Board retreat potentially in later October between one of our meetings to plan some things around the following year, this current year I should say. So we'll get some dates out to people around the end of October between Board meetings, because it is important to revisit clericals, and then this past year obviously, and then some things again probably streamlined quite a bit given what we're going through. And then some of the things we want to focus on for this year, in line with what we're going through. Just keep that in mind, more to come.

Mr. Buono:

So we do have a need for an executive session, for purposes of current litigation with matters involving personnel. So that concludes our meeting for those of you who are live streaming, and we'll have our executive session right here. I need a motion to move into an executive session? Jennifer. Second? Kathleen. All those in favor? All right.

Mr. Buono:

Thanks everybody, have a great night, and we don't expect any other Board business after our executive session.