

Transcript of Board of Education Meeting April 20, 2021

Mr. Buono:

I will call the meeting to order, East Greenbush School District, Board of Education meeting, Columbia High School, April 20th. Our usual Board meeting is held on Wednesday, but with the BOCES vote and nominations for Board members, the meeting has been moved to April 20th, Tuesday. So attendance tonight, we have Board members Kathleen Curtin, Mark Mann, John Dunn, myself, Frank Yeboah and Deanna Muth here at the Columbia High School Library. We do have three Board members who we expect to join us momentarily, but they are running a little late, but we do have a quorum to start the meeting. So with that please rise and join me with the pledge of allegiance.

Group:

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.

Mr. Buono:

Thank you, everyone. With the meeting we had last Wednesday, we do not have the Student Council from Columbia, so we will see them in a couple weeks and get some updates. With that, we will move to the public forum. and as always, since we have been virtual, we would like to remind folks that there is an email set up on the website for you to make comments via that process, then we will read those emails as we get them. There is also a public forum later on if there is information you would like to hear during the board meeting and then address any comments afterwards.

Mr. Buono:

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 with that, again, reminder, email is set up for the public for comments, and Linda, do we have any emails?

Ms. Wager:

There are no public comments at this time.

Mr. Buono:

Okay, no public comments at the time, thank you. And just like I mentioned earlier, if there's information as you hear at the board meeting this evening that you want to respond to, there is a second public forum. And I see Ms. Massey has joined us. Hello, Jennifer. Can you hear us okay? I'm pretty good, okay.

Mr. Buono:

The next order of business on the board agenda is the Board Forum and Superintendent's Report, and we'll hear from our Superintendent on the presentation of school reopening plan based on the guidance that we received not too long ago. Mr. Simons?

Mr. Simons:

Thank you, Mr. Buono. Want to provide an update to the Board of Education and the community this evening regarding the changes that have occurred in the New York State Department of Health guidance and regulations. I'm going to ask Mr. Goodwin if you could pull up the slides?

Mr. Simons:

So prior to the spring recess, we had been advocating for changes in the New York State Department of Health regulations, to incorporate the CDC guidance that would permit school districts under certain contexts and circumstances to reduce the six-foot social distancing requirement to three feet, enabling our district to accommodate more students in our classrooms. That change in the regulation was issued to the districts in New York State on Friday at the end of Spring Break, April 9th. During the course of the last couple of weeks, our administrative team has been reviewing that guidance and developing plans to implement changes to our reopening plan that would enable the district to accommodate more students. We want to go over the requirements and also recommend to you some plans moving forward beginning next week.

Mr. Simons:

So as an introduction, throughout this process, going all the way back to March of last spring, and as we reopened in September under the state's guidance, the priority has been the health and safety of our students, our staff, and our families. Additionally, during the period at which we have been operating under a hybrid, offering in-person learning to our students, virtual live instruction, and full remote options, as required by the regulations, we have avoided large-scale quarantines and circumstances where COVID-19 has caused some districts to have to shift for multiple days and multiple times from in-person learning, to virtual learning, back to in-person learning.

Mr. Simons:

With the exception of two days prior to the Christmas recess, our model has remained consistent and we have done an effective job of ensuring that no cases of COVID-19 have been spread within our schools, either student to student, student to staff, or staff to students. As different periods of time have occurred during the year and the COVID-19 infection rates have spiked and eventually have gone down, really around late January into February and now into the spring, we made adjustments to our program to prioritize the students who had presented the greatest needs, and that included special education students, alternative education students, and our OG, CAP, CTAEP, JumpStart programs, and our students will receive English as a new language service.

Mr. Simons:

Those students have been coming into school four days a week, and over time, as we make adjustments to staffing, the use of classroom space, we have brought our kindergartners in five days a week, our grade-one students, and the day we returned from Spring Break was the first day that we had all of our second grade students, and whose families wanted them to be in five days per week. We eliminated virtual Wednesdays at the elementary school level. As we looked for ways to provide extra academic

support and mental health support to our students, and we continue to evaluate new guidance that was coming from the state that would permit interscholastic athletics, including higher-risk sports for the winter season and in the fall II season, and our board approved the plans to offer every sport that we were permitted to provide for our students.

Mr. Simons:

As we move into the spring season, we have approved in-person after-school clubs and activities, such as drama club, as well as the other clubs that are currently now operating in-person. Additionally, the CDC guidance came out on March 19th, and it did take a while for the state to review that guidance and incorporate that into the regulations. The recommendation to move from six feet to three feet was supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as the World Health Organization. Additionally, our school district joined other school districts in our region through Questar BOCES to advocate that this change be incorporated within the new state regulations, and on April 9th, those regulations were issued.

Mr. Simons:

Moving forward, Peter. We have reviewed the guidance and we have shared this information with all of our faculty and staff at the elementary, middle school, and high school level. We've shared this guidance with our community and our parents last evening at a parent meeting, which was very well-attended. Face masks are required at all times with the exception of meals. In classrooms where the social distancing is moved from six feet to three feet, masks have to remain on at all times.

Mr. Simons:

And so our principals are involved in plans with staff at the elementary school level for a mask breaks to occur in a different setting, whether that be in small groups going out to the hallway and spacing out six feet, going into the cafeteria when that's not being utilized, incorporating mask breaks where they're able to have six feet social distancing. In common areas such as gymnasiums, cafeterias, and hallways, students and staff are also required to remain at six feet, and the only circumstances in which students would be not wearing their masks is when they're eating, or on the mask break where students are six feet apart.

Mr. Simons:

Additionally, there was a lot of conversations in many counties across the state about permitting school districts to open up and move them from six feet to three feet with the polycarbonate barriers. We had plans in place to inventory what we needed and to purchase what we needed. Thankfully we didn't because those barriers are no longer recommended by CDC and the new New York State Department of Health guidance. Some key points that we've been sharing with our families and with our staff, the CDC permits schools to move to a three-feet marker for social distancing, but that marker is connected to the community transmission rate, and that transmission rate is measured on different metrics than what are currently used in New York State. They're more restrictive.

Mr. Simons:

Schools and counties are classified into being in a low-moderate-risk-of-transmission area, a substantial-risk-of-transmission area, or a high-risk. There are only a few counties in New York State that are not considered right now, based on CDC metrics, to not be in a high risk of transmission. Rensselaer County,

despite the fact that we have a 1.5% infection rate, the seven-day rolling average today, is still considered to be a county, by CDC requirements, in the high-risk-of-transmission zone.

Mr. Simons:

Under the circumstances at the middle school and the high school level, the parameters change. Middle schools and high schools are now permitted to move from six feet to three feet unless they can cohort students. Cohorting is defined by the Department of Health as grouping students with other students in permanent fixed groups and groups that do not intermingle with other cohorts of fixed students. At a large high school of 1,200 to 1,300 students and a middle school of almost 980 students, we would have to completely change student schedules, student options for courses, reassign students to different teachers, and reassign different teachers to different classes.

Mr. Simons:

At this time of the year, to do that is impossible, as I reported at the last meeting, without being more disruptive of our children's education. So we're going to move forward where we can and implement this guidance, and continue to look at what we might be able to do at the middle school and the high school level. Peter?

Mr. Simons:

So what we are proposing is that, effective Monday, all students in grade three, grade four, and five, will join their peers in grades K-2 for five days of in-person instruction, effective Monday, April 26th. The classroom arrangements have been made by principals, we are able to accommodate all children right now in each of the five elementary schools in those grade levels with three-foot social distancing. Furniture has arrived, classrooms are being set up, cafeteria arrangements, in some cases, are being used. In the cafeteria for lunch, we have a computer lab, for example, and we have a tent at one of the elementary schools that we are going to be putting up.

Mr. Simons:

Cohorting is not possible right now in our secondary schedules. We would have to take a look at that and what might be able to be done for the fall if this requirement is still in place, and we will be advocating for elimination of the cohort requirement for students so that our middle school and our high school students can get back in full-time in September.

Mr. Simons:

The district is looking at grade six in particular as the next stage of this, and we've informed our staff. We're looking at a learning pod support model that would bring our sixth graders in, but we need a little bit more time because today was the end of the period which we have surveyed our families. We have been promoting a survey so that we can plug the numbers of students that want to come back in-person into our system schedules, to, A, see if there's room, and B, how that model might work. That model will require some kids every day, and each of the classes that are running each period, to move outside the classroom to a space that would be available and supervised by staff to have live-streaming coming in from within the school.

Mr. Simons:

Some might say, "Well, if they're going to be live-streaming, why don't they just live-stream from home?" We've known since we've been doing this that some kids, just having to go to school, follow

more of a routine, having a little bit more social interaction, would do better academically, and we've done that model at the high school. You can see on some of our tables, these are the expectations for some of the learning pods that we have used here. We want to make sure that will work, that there's enough rooms available to do that, and that we have enough staff available to do that as we look at seventh and eighth grade as well. As many students as we can accommodate for as many days as we can, in-person learning, we're going to try to do this year, but again, at the middle school and the high school level, we have to have those students remain at six feet. We won't know for another week or so what those options might be.

Mr. Simons:

And we're going to continue to offer the full remote program to our K-12 students. We do have a number of families, of children, who have been on full remote. Remember, those are different teachers, who have requested to come back. Anybody who has made a request to have their child come back on full remote, as of today, we have space. There may be some situations that, after April 26th, where families may request to shift to full in-person learning, they may have to go to a school other than their neighborhood school for the remainder of the year. Red Mill is tight, particularly in second grade, and Green Meadow is tight in the fifth grade right now. We do have spots in the other schools.

Mr. Simons:

Next slide? Again, classroom space, remember that we had used two spaces for one class in some cases at the K-2 level. We left it up to individual buildings to work with their teachers as to whether or not they would have our K-2 classes go back to three feet now. In some cases, as a practical matter, the teachers felt that that was better, to have all the kids together and go to three feet. In other cases, the model that was in place for the teaching assistants and the teacher working together, in two separate spaces has been working.

Mr. Simons:

So we left that up to the discretion of the teacher with guidance from the principal in each building. All grade three through five classes will be three feet or more, but really generally around three feet, and we are continuing to have conversations with the county about what we might be able to do as an alternative to cohorting, so that we could get better prepared for what we might be able to do at the middle school and high school for the remainder of the year, and what September might look like for kids at that level.

Mr. Simons:

Next slide? We are maintaining art, library, music, and physical education instruction at the same number of minutes on the same schedule that has been in place since September. Although, in some spaces, in some buildings, we have to be deliver art, either in the art room in most cases, or in some cases where the grade level is larger, more students at that grade level, and where we include special education classes into an art class, a music class, or a PE class, or a library. Sometimes, the classroom space is larger, so the teacher pushes into the room to deliver that program but those programs are not changing in terms of the amount of time kids get those special area courses, which are important, it just may be delivered a little bit differently in different spaces depending on number of kids.

Mr. Simons:

Next slide? Cafeteria and lunch. Again, every student during lunch has to be six feet apart. Bell Top, the capacity of the cafeteria is fine. There are no other locations that need to be used for lunch. At DPS, one of our smaller buildings, they'll be using the cafeteria, the computer lab, in the second grade, which is the largest grade, they will be having lunch outside. That location has been identified. We have a tent, we're completing the paperwork process, the board is approving some items this evening, and we think we should be in good shape on the tent thanks to Ms. Wager and Mr. Bickel, who made some modifications today to get what we needed.

Mr. Simons:

Today, the cafeteria has the right capacity, Green Meadow, Red Mill. There are some grade levels at Red Mill that are a little bit smaller, that can eat lunch in the classroom and still be six feet apart. Those lunch arrangements will be supervised by either a teaching assistant or a monitor. And we've left Goff and Columbia on there because if we do bring more kids in, we are able to use the cafeteria and the gym at the same time now that the weather is nicer, for extra space or lunch accommodations.

Mr. Simons:

Next group. Busing has been a concern of all districts. We review the impact of grades three, four, and five on our buses, and we feel that we will still be able to, as practical, implement social distancing. We're not able to have one student per seat on every bus, but in those cases, we will do the best that we can within the parameters. We've shared information with other districts and we're all in the same situation. We're going to keep the windows open, the hatch open, provide as much fresh air as possible, and in all cases, the rule is still students, and drivers, and aides, are all wearing those masks.

Mr. Simons:

Arrival and dismissal procedures, we don't anticipate any changes at this time. We have to monitor what the impact will be on parent drop-off and bus drop-off for the first few days. We may be changing that. There are situations at Genet and Red Mill that are challenging in terms of the backup of the traffic for parent drop-off. In the case of Red Mill, we are encouraging more families to have their children ride the bus because that will alleviate some of the congestion throughout Hampton Manor.

Mr. Simons:

Mask breaks, just to reiterate, this is a change. Anytime the kids are within less than six feet of one another, those masks have got to be on, the mask's got to be on. They will be able to take them off for periods of time at recess under supervision, for short periods of time and during the phys ed. They won't have them off for the whole duration of recess.

Mr. Simons:

Here are our timelines that we have today. Yesterday, we had a virtual community meeting. This afternoon, we met with middle school and high school together at 2:40, 2:45, met immediately afterwards with our elementary teachers around 3:50. We used the ThoughtExchange to address any questions and concerns that the teachers and the faculty might have. We did have meetings with transportation last week, and custodial staff. We're going to do that again, but with our transportation staff, because some of our transportation folks were not able to be at the meeting. I think that's tomorrow, right?

Ms. Wager:

Yes.

Mr. Simons:

Just to kind of follow up with those that couldn't come to our second meeting last week. We're reviewing the changes with the board this evening. If the board supports the plan, our plan is to update the written document that is available on our website and has been submitted to the state ed portal tomorrow. That document typically takes the information that's on these slides, plugs in three feet wherever we had six feet at the elementary level, describes the mask procedure a little bit more specifically, and includes a document that I have shared with the board that describes the classroom arrangements, the lunch arrangements, the transportation arrangements, and everything that was in that grid that I believe is posted on BoardDocs as well right now as an appendix to the plan.

Mr. Simons:

So we feel we're ready to go at the K-5 level and we will continue to develop some of the options that we've talked about from grades six through 12 as we continue to look at the data we're getting back from our parents. We're not going to be able to accommodate the 90-some-odd percent of parents at the middle school and high school level this year who want their kids to come back five days per week. We wish we could, we wish that the three feet were the six feet, and we'll continue to advocate for what we can do between now and September. So at this point, I'll take any questions or concerns that the board might have.

Mr. Buono:

All right, as Jeff said, is there any follow-up questions that would like to be asked about the plan? I'll just open it up to the board members, Anything? Good, good. Jennifer? anything? Okay, very good. So I think the information that we've been sharing all along is consistent with what we discussed in the past, and I support the moving forward. I think the Board members here have expressed their support for the plan and the reopening adjustments and to move forward, and we'll address that at the resolution later on.

Mr. Buono:

So thank you for all the work, and the administration, teachers working together. Glad to hear that the community forum went well, and we got the feedback we needed, and can address any concerns as we reopen again for the three through five next week.

Mr. Simons:

Thank you, Mr. Buono. If anybody has any questions or concerns after reviewing everything, please send me an email, I'll be happy to address it.

Mr. Buono:

So the timeframe to go to the portal will be tomorrow?

Mr. Simons:

Yes.

Mr. Buono:

Yeah, very good.

Mr. Simons:

We also have to submit the plan to the county, but the county will not be approving that.

Mr. Buono:

Just a submission?

Mr. Simons:

The county, we just have to submit that.

Mr. Buono:

Okay. If there's further adjustments based on whatever information comes through, we can still go back in the in the portal depending on the guidance. Does that make any difference?

Mr. Simons:

The plan can be changed at any time because there's a link, just a link-

Mr. Buono:

Just a link, okay.

Mr. Simons:

Just a portal to our existing documents on our website, so we update, we can revise it at any time.

Mr. Buono:

Okay, good, and I think that's important because if we do shift, are able to shift again, we wanted to be able to update that and move as quickly as possible.

Mr. Simons:

Neither the state or the county will be approving any other changes to the plan. We just have to have them available for reviewing.

Mr. Buono:

Available for reviewing. All right, excellent. All right, if there's no questions regarding the plan, then I'd do general board comments. I'll start here in the room on my left with Kathleen. Anything?

Ms. Curtin:

I'm good.

Mr. Buono:

You're good? Thank you. Mark, are you good? John, are you good? All right, Frank, Deanna is good, and Jennifer? Any comments? You're good? And I'm good as well. Jennifer ... I'm sorry, Joanne or Michelle has not joined us yet. Just want to make sure they get an opportunity to speak if they are there. I don't see them. Do you, Peter? No? Okay.

Mr. Goodwin:

No.

Mr. Buono:

So I'll give Mr. Simons a second to take a breather and then we'll move to the next discussion item. So this is something I discussed at the last meeting. Just to give an update where we are with the planning Columbia's graduation, any other end-of-the-year events that we could talk about, elevation ceremonies, things like that, and senior proms and all that good stuff that we typically celebrate towards the end of the school year. So, Mr. Simons?

Mr. Mann:

I'm going to kick most of this over to Mr. Harkin, who I see on the screen. Just in general, I will say that the state did issue guidance earlier this year and last year regarding graduations and end-of-the-year events. Those guidance prescribe the capacity of the number of people that can participate in ceremonies and differentiates between outdoor and indoor, and at certain thresholds, COVID-19 testing results and vaccination proof is required. So we're trying to consider options that maybe would not require that because we feel that that would be administratively difficult to manage. Mr. Harkin?

Mr. Harkin:

Thank you, Mr. Simons. Good evening, everybody. Yes, we have a lot of things going on and we've already done a lot of things, so I just wanted to fill everybody in, our parents of the class of 2021 have planned several events. Their next event is May 5th, and we are calling it Future Intentions Day. Flyers went out yesterday inviting all our seniors to the parking lot. We'll social distance and have a nice breakfast out there, and then we plan to use the baseball field to take a picture of all our seniors. And we've asked any senior that is entering the military, college, workforce, gap year, or apprenticeship to please bring their colors and to celebrate their next step of their lives, so we're really very excited to have that breakfast on the 5th.

Mr. Harkin:

The parents group has raised the money and has donations from Hannaford and Stewart's, so that is our next event that we have planned for the seniors. That same group has also provided sleigh riding, they did a bowling event, they handed out gift bags twice at dismissal to the seniors, so they've really done a lot to try to make this year special for them, so I do want to thank the parents from the class of 2021. And I know that they're also talking about maybe doing game night at some point in May out at the turf field if we can get some time to do Cornhole, and Kan Jam, and things like that, just to try to get the group together, so that's the next thing that we have planned.

Mr. Harkin:

In regards to the senior prom, we've met with Birch Hill and we are finalizing a contract. We've also had planned a walkthrough prom at the school. So the senior class officers are meeting Thursday after school, and they're going to review both of the proposals and put up a vote, and we will have a plan to announce to all the seniors first thing Friday morning. Both of them are great ideas. The walkthrough prom in the building has all different stations, and food, and things like that. And Birch Hill, because they have two pavilions, would allow us to have the whole group together. We could do 150 in one pavilion and 175 in the other pavilion, and that would allow all our seniors to come.

Mr. Harkin:

The one thing that we're looking for with that, though, is because this is our large class, we have 353 seniors, we're not allowing anyone other than our seniors to come, so we're not allowing dates from other grade levels or outside of schools. We're going to try to keep it right in within our own group that. Whatever event we do decide on, we also have a red carpet walkthrough scheduled for the front of Columbia High School. So in years past, they would come into the auditorium, walk across the stage, and have their picture taken. That would be difficult.

Mr. Harkin:

Again, like Mr. Simons said, we'd have over 200 people in there, we'd have to get COVID tests. So we'd do it in front of the building and do it in a drive-up format, where we give them a time, they drive right up, and hop out with your date, walk across the front of the building, get your picture taken. We looked at a company that's going to make it look like the Oscars, so we're really excited about that, and that'll be regardless of what we choose for the venue.

Mr. Harkin:

We also have the following week, that was June 12th, was the prom. The senior parade, which was something that we did last year, which was really successful, so we're excited to try that again. The lineup will be at 9:00 at Genet, and I think what's going to be exciting is we're going to invite all teachers K through 12, you're all welcome to come to the parking lot. It was a great turnout. I think it'll be nice this year, too. Our little league and softball have games that day, so they will be driving by the baseball fields, and then they'll make their way over to the high school, and we'll give them their senior sendoff that they deserve.

Mr. Harkin:

And then the following weekend, the weekend of the 26th, is graduation. Our traditional venue, Hudson Valley, was not available. They believe they'll still be doing vaccinations. They will give me a definitive answer mid-May. They are still administering first shots in mid-May, then they'll be giving second shots through June, and they will not be able to use the big family center we've been to in the place. And that would also present an issue because the capacity in there will be 10%, and we wouldn't be able to get all the graduates in there. The baseball field unfortunately has a new home team, and they have games that weekend, and the field is not available that weekend. We looked at the outside field.

Mr. Harkin:

And I just learned today that SPAC is only allowing 600 people at a time, so that wouldn't accommodate us, and that has caused a tailspin for the Saratoga County schools. And I'd also like to add a bit of information, and I'll present this to Mr. Simons. The Times Union Center had quoted us on a really outrageous amount of money, and it also would require testing, and all the Albany County schools pulled out of the Times Union Center, so the Times Union Center has cut their price in half. So I'm going to follow back up with them and find out exactly what cost would be, and then the testing protocols.

Mr. Harkin:

Like Mr. Simons says, because we would be inside, we may be able to get parents and all the graduates together, but then again, it would require everyone to be tested. The parents, the students, the staff members that work it, would have to provide a proof of vaccination. And I have to agree with Mr. Simons, my biggest fear would be a parent not being able to be there because of that testing, and not fully understanding that they have to have that test or that vaccine. We wouldn't want to have a scene

at our graduation when they're there to celebrate a great moment in the child's life because they've had the COVID vaccination.

Mr. Harkin:

So we also have reserved the stage, and the videographer that we had last year for the football field, and we feel we could reduce the number of sessions down to seven, possibly six. We could do 50 kids with two parents, would be 150, and we had about 37 employees that worked the event last year, and that would keep us under the 200 limit. We wouldn't have to do any testing, and we could run those ceremonies, and we think that would be a great idea too. So we have lots of options. I will finalize everything the next two weeks, I will give those to Mr. Simons, and I will look forward to you guys giving me some direction on what way everyone would like to go.

Mr. Buono:

Thanks, Michael. That's a great update on what's happening, and really appreciate the parents of the seniors in pulling out all the stops to make this a special end-of-the-year celebration for their kids and their families. So yeah, whatever we could do to accommodate as many kids as we can, and family members. It was a long graduation last year, but it was a great event and I think folks appreciate it if we can get more with less sessions if the weather holds out. That'd be wonderful, and yeah. Keep us posted.

Mr. Buono:

I think those are great events, and starting on May 5th and right through to June, and looking forward to being able to see that and the parade, and celebrating our seniors again. So thanks for all the work of the student council, the parents, putting it all together. Any questions for Michael? Board members? No? All right, sounds like a great plan. Appreciate it, Michael. Moving on to our committee reports now. We have, I think, just the one. Marissa.

Ms. Cannon:

Thank you, Mr. Buono. Can you hear me?

Mr. Buono:

Yeah.

Ms. Cannon:

Our district is looking to partner with Young's Pharmacy & General Store to offer a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Columbia High School this spring. The clinic would offer the Pfizer vaccine for free for any students who are at least 16 years of age or older with parent consent. The vaccine would be administered by the pharmacy, and the pharmacy has also agreed to have a team of about three to four individuals to help families check in as soon as they arrive at the high school.

Ms. Cannon:

The district has sent out an interest form to families and parents yesterday to see whether they would like their child to receive the COVID vaccine at a school-sponsored clinic. The interest form needs to be completed by Wednesday, April 21st, by 4:00 PM, and once we have that data as to how many individuals are interested, we would be working with Young's Pharmacy & General Store on next steps.

We have been informed that the Pfizer vaccine comes in trays of about 1,200 doses, so we want to make sure we're able to use all of those doses, so Mr. Simons and I have discussed opening up the clinic to our neighboring school districts.

Mr. Buono:

So this would be 16 and over? That open?

Ms. Cannon:

16 and over for students with parent consent, and then certainly if there's extra doses once we have captured our student population, we were looking to offer it to staff as well.

Mr. Buono:

Okay, sounds good. I know that Young's had been participating in the vaccine process since the vaccine came out. A lot of the local school districts in the other counties have ran on-site vaccination clinics for their staff, and I think committee members as well. So they had the experience, we were just providing, really, the location and facility. Are we providing any staff for this at all?

Ms. Cannon:

Young's Pharmacy said they will not need any staff. The only thing that they will need is access to our wifi, and they're coming equipped with their own computers.

Mr. Buono:

Okay, so does anybody have questions?

Mr. Simons:

It's going to be a 5:00 to 8:00 time slot.

Mr. Buono:

It'll be time slots and things like that?

Mr. Simons:

Depending on how many people we get. We want to get as close to that dosage availability as possible. We were going to, once we knew our survey and how many people we would expect, I've been in communication with the superintendent at Averill Park.

Mr. Simons:

Since Averill Park is the community at which the pharmacy is located in, they would be our first district to reach out to.

Mr. Buono:

Okay.

Mr. Simons:

And try an accommodation to have as close to 1,000 doses as possible.

Mr. Buono:

Okay. So Mark, you have a question?

Mr. Mann:

Yes, I have a couple. One, I'd like to find out what ... So if we're letting an outside organization come into our schools, whenever we let other outside organizations come into our schools, we make sure they have insurance policies, we make sure they've filled out building-use forms. We charge them a fee, so that's our policy, so is that going to be the case here?

Mr. Simons:

Well, I'm not sure about the fee. We'd have to talk about that. We didn't consider that. They would still have to follow every policy that we do for outside organizations.

Mr. Mann:

So the Young's-

Mr. Simons:

We haven't gotten that far yet.

Mr. Mann:

Young's Pharmacy would ... I won't support it if they don't fill out building-use form, they don't provide insurance. I'd like to see what our legal team has to say as far as issuing out medication on school grounds, sponsored by us, and letting an outside organization come in to administer the shot. So before I would agree to that, I would like to at least get those answers.

Mr. Simons:

Absolutely.

Mr. Buono:

And those are very smart questions. I had posed to Jeff when we heard about, we were approached by Young's Pharmacy. It would also be in conjunction with perhaps other school districts because, that's a lot of doses to be ...

Mr. Simons:

We're still trying to figure out if it's viable or not.

Mr. Buono:

That's fine.

Mr. Simons:

Because in the initial survey that Mr. Adam reported to me today, a lot of kids have already gotten their first shot, so we don't know if it's viable yet. But yes, we will address all those concerns.

Mr. Buono:

Absolutely. Okay, Kathleen?

Ms. Curtin:

I do have one other question. I've actually volunteered at the vaccine clinics myself, and I know they also have somebody who's ... they have medical personnel who's there for adverse reactions, and would we be providing that? Because it doesn't sound like the pharmacy ... I know when we run the vaccine clinics at Schenectady County, we have an entire area that it's equipped with wheelchairs and ... because if you have somebody who has a bad reaction, or you need someplace for them to lie down, or ... So I would just want to know the area that we would have set up for that just in case.

Ms. Cannon:

I'll look into that.

Mr. Simons:

very good.

Mr. Buono:

Yeah, I think we're all ... those of us who were vaccinated, I went through Hudson Valley. The process was very, very involved. I've had a lot of these same questions, how does a small pharmacy in Averill Park logistically provide that kind of access and numbers?

Ms. Curtin:

I know Schenectady County is actually doing it for Schenectady High because that's actually this Sunday, and they're doing it not during school time, they're doing it on a weekend so that they can kind of move in with all their pieces.

Mr. Buono:

Exactly, yep.

Ms. Curtin:

And do it as Schenectady County. They're just using the school literally just as the site, but they're doing everything as Schenectady County.

Mr. Buono:

Sure, sure. There is still a lot of questions to be answered, logistics to be followed, and I know that it's a big undertaking, and we know it's important to address the safety concerns and any legal concerns that come with running such a clinic. Jennifer, any questions? Or Frank or Deanna? No? Okay. All right, so still in its infancy, kind of an idea. I think community-based clinics are a good idea. It's a matter of making sure that they're done well and done correctly and safely, so very good.

Ms. Cannon:

Thank you.

Mr. Buono:

All right. Linda, Jim, or Jeff? I don't think there was any other conversation for committees.

Ms. Wager:

I do not have any reports.

Mr. Buono:

Jeff?

Mr. Simons:

I don't.

Mr. Buono:

Okay, so only one community report tonight. Next item on the agenda is the approval of the draft minutes for March 31st. All board members except for Ms. Skumurski were present, so is there any changes or revisions to the minutes as posted for March 31st? And that was the special meeting, right?

Mr. Simons:

Yeah, it was. Yes.

Mr. Buono:

That was a brief meeting, yeah.

Mr. Simons:

Yes.

Mr. Buono:

Okay. No comments, revisions, or questions? Okay, I need a motion to approve minutes? Kathleen. Second? John. All those in favor? Approved. So we have several items for regular business that are not typical. We have again later on the RCG BOCES information, but we'll start with item A, approval of programs for Resident children with disabilities. Any comments or questions? No questions? Can I have a motion to approve that? Jennifer. Second? Deanna. All those in favor? Approved.

Mr. Buono:

So the first item is the election of the board members for the Rensselaer County Questar BOCES. The attachment that you have, we have three of the BOCES board members who are up for reelection. One of them is our own Mr. Mann, so congratulations, Mr. Mann, for the nomination. We also have, let's pull up the bios, I think it's Mary Marro-Giroux and Frank Zwack, all from Rensselaer County. So any questions for Mark? Any nominations? Okay, seeing nounce, I need nomination to approve the board members, our vote for board members. John. Second? Frank. All those in favor? Are you going to vote for yourself Mark?.

Mr. Buono:

Okay, that counts

Mr. Buono:

All right, unanimous. All right

Mr. Simons:

Thank you, Mr. Mann, for serving on the Questar board. We worked very closely with Questar and it's nice to have one of our local board members representing the district on the Questar BOCES. Appreciate you putting in that extra time, Mark.

Mr. Mann:

Thank you.

Mr. Buono:

So we'll hopefully have the results after this evening from the other districts, or all districts in the BOCES region will be voting on both the board members and the administrative budget, which is our next item. Several of us attended the annual meeting, which was last week, for Questar when they presented the administrative budget, and there's a letter there attached as well. Is there any questions about the budget that anyone would like to ask? Mr. Simons, anything?

Mr. Simons:

No. Just to emphasize what was presented, that the administrative budget for next year is the same amount as it was this year, so there is no increase in administrative budget. We appreciate that Questar BOCES went to that length to keep that budget flat.

Mr. Buono:

Very good. Any other questions or comments around the budget? Seeing none. I need a motion to approve the budget. Deanna. I need a second. Jennifer. All those in favor? Approved. Very good, so report those numbers to the board clerk for Questar BOCES, Jeanne. Thank you. The next item, item D, is the resolution to move forward with the school reopening plan. Any final questions on that school reopening plan? I don't see any. I need a motion to move forward with that. Mark. I need a second. John. All those in favor? All right, approved, thank you. So the next one probably needs some explanation. Mr. Simons, do you want to talk about the resolution regarding state and environmental quality review related to putting up a tent?

Mr. Simons:

We, in our plans, have included the use of tents at DPS Elementary School and Goff. The priority right now is the DPS tent because of the timing of starting the grades three through five Monday. We have been in communication with our architect, through both Paul Bickel, Linda, and my office, because the state requirements for use of tents are operated under the state office and facilities, and some of the requirements are identical to what would be in place for the capital project or construction project. Some are less restrictive.

Mr. Simons:

For temporary outdoor tents, a SEQRA review is required, which the board has seen in the past when we do a capital project. Our architect has to assure that the project itself will not cause any environmental disturbance, and it's called a type II SEQRA review. We had our architect provide information on the

tent, the location of the tent, to our attorneys. Colleen Heinrich issued the resolution. This is required for board approval to move forward with our SED approval, as well as we had purchased ... I'll just talk about item F now.

Mr. Buono:

Sure.

Mr. Simons:

And we had purchased a tent, two tents, actually three tents, prior to the break. The two issues emerged with the requirements from an email that we received from Segrid Coons was our SED project manager. One, we have to make sure that the tent has a proper identification of fire protection. There is a particular, the code, and I can't remember right now, maybe Linda knows, that we couldn't verify where on the tents, that purchase for DPS, and we were concerned it wouldn't be able to verify it. It was manufactured outside the country. The tent that was purchased for Goff is okay.

Mr. Simons:

So we're going to return that tent, and we even rented one from Country True Value today thanks to Linda's efforts. That is larger and more suitable for what we want to use it for, and it has the proper fire coding on it. So if we bought the tent, used a bought tent, the board doesn't have to approve it. If we lease a tent, under the state rules, the board has to approve it, so that's why I added that at the end of the day today, and I apologize for the short time in the notice

Mr. Simons:

Right, Linda?

Ms. Wager:

That's correct.

Mr. Simons:

So this is a larger tent, exactly what Mr. Alvey wants, and has the appropriate fire coding for the state approval.

Mr. Buono:

Very good, I think that's ... Okay, now we want to make sure our students can return and want to make sure it's done the right way, the safe way, through the approval process, so we knew we would have to jump through little hoops to get that done. And I think it was the size of the tent, was going to put some sort of-

Mr. Simons:

It's a little large.

Ms. Wager:

It's a 20-by-50-foot, 1,000 square foot.

Mr. Buono:

Nice, okay. All right, any questions on the SEQRA review? If not, I need a motion to approve that resolution. Kathleen. I need a second. Jennifer. All those in favor? Approved. Then we have item F, which is the tent rental agreement that we just did with Country True Value. Any questions or comments? All right, need a motion to approve that. Mark. I need a second. Deanna. All those in favor? Approved.

Mr. Buono:

Item G is the proposed change of policy, second reading. We had this on the first reading at our meeting last Wednesday. There were no questions or comments. Nothing since, Mr. Simons?

Mr. Simons:

No.

Mr. Buono:

Any last-minute comments or questions on this? This is recommended by School Boards as a modification. Need a motion to approve that. Jennifer. Second. Frank. All those in favor? Approved. So the property tax report card, I think we should take a few minutes and go through that, Linda, and then we'll do questions.

Ms. Wager:

Okay, thank you, Mr. Buono. The property tax report card, it's required to be filed with SED every year. This year, it is due on April 26th, and basically, it's a review of our proposed budget, as well as our tax levy. The current year as compared to our proposed for next year, the percentage of change in the budget is 3.77%, which we talked about. Percentage of change in the tax levy is 0%, and it also talks about, in addition to the budget, it talks about fund balance as we had reviewed previously the projected fund balance report that I did, as well as it's a review of our reserves that we have set up. What reserves we have set up, what the purpose of those are, and what we expect the balances to be. Are there any questions?

Mr. Buono:

Pretty straightforward. Many of the board members have seen this on an annual basis, and it mirrors a lot of the information that we've reviewed before. As Linda says, the reserves, the budget, the tax levy, the tax cap, and then also something different is really the enrollment numbers are in there, so pretty much about the same. And this gets reported by April 26th?

Ms. Wager:

Yes.

Mr. Buono:

Okay, very good, and we don't have a board meeting before then except for this one, so all right. Seeing no questions. Need a motion to approve the property tax report card for Linda. Kathleen. I need a second. Frank. All those in favor? All right, approve. Go forth and report away. The next thing, Mr. Simons, we had talked about this I think before the summer 2021 driver ed program, and the proposal from Mr. Tooker

Mr. Simons:

We had a lot of interest in the driver's education program that we operated during the school year this year. We have many more students interested in taking drivers ed, so Mr. Tooker, who coordinates the administrative portion of this program, asked if we would consider a summer program. He put out a survey to gauge interest in the summer program. That was fairly high. We are able to offer four different sessions, and remembering that the instruction is virtual, so even if the kids go on vacation and bring their computer, they can take the classroom portion of the driver's ed.

Mr. Simons:

We are one of the only districts in the area doing it. I think Shenendehowa and East Greenbush are offering drivers ed. Four sessions, different nights of the week, an hour and a half of classroom, remote classroom time, on dates that are specified in the plan. There would be still the responsibility of the parents to take the kids out driving with a state-issued DMV checklist to make sure that those skills of driving are being measured and submitted to Mr. Tooker. We're not permitted right now to have car instruction with Bell's Driving School, for example, because of the requirement to have an additional adult in the car that's always been in place, and now you have COVID restrictions, so you can't have that many people in a car driving with COVID.

Mr. Simons:

Mr. Van der Wouden is the teacher that currently teaches the classroom portion. He is able to do that over the summer, and the rate has been the same that the board agreed to during the year, of \$39 an hour, Mr. Tooker handling the administrative piece, developing the course, communicating with the parents, collecting the information sheets, handing it in, would also be compensated at that rate. The cost breakdown is estimated on the number of students that would participate per section. We would anticipate 20 students, and right now, the cost for a family is pretty reasonable compared to what it may have been on a different model, about \$140 per student.

Mr. Simons:

So I'm recommending it. I think we've got a lot of kids that want to take drivers ed, a lot of parents that would like them to take drivers ed, enabling them to get their license a little earlier, and if the board is supportive of it, we'd like to start planning it.

Mr. Buono:

Any questions for Mr. Simons on the proposal? Don't see any, so need a motion to move forward with that. John. I need a second. Jennifer. All those in favor? All those opposed? I wasn't sure, Mark, if I got you to early.

Mr. Mann:

Huh? It's a ...

Mr. Buono:

It's a yea?

Mr. Mann:

It's a-

Mr. Buono:

Maybe?

Mr. Mann:

Eh.

Mr. Buono:

Eh?

Mr. Mann:

Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Buono:

But it's a positive. Okay, I understand the concerns, you've expressed those before, so all right. Move forward with that. The last item on the regular business is the resolution for emergency weed control and fertilizer application for athletic fields. Anything? Comments there? I see Mr. Leonard has joined us. Mr. Simons?

Mr. Simons:

Mr. Leonard, Mr. Bickel, is Mr. Bickel on here too?

Mr. Bickel:

Yes, I'm here.

Mr. Simons:

In order to apply fertilizer, and weed control, and other type of treatments of our playgrounds, and lawns, and fields, there's a board policy and a state requirement that we have to follow. Board has to approve it, there is a communication that we would prepare afterwards, a notification to the parents, a question that BOCES is working with us on. This was approved by the board back in 2017, but when Brian Craft left, in the transition, it was never applied. There are patchy areas, crabgrass areas, that we anticipate every fall. We want to do the treatment over the summer and try to reduce that situation, fertilize, and to try to get as much good grass as possible, and I'll leave it to Paul and Mike to explain how this would be done and when it would be done.

Mr. Buono:

All right.

Mr. Leonard:

All right. Go up, Paul. Go ahead, Paul.

Mr. Bickel:

Sure. So Mike and I enlisted the help of an outside group, Harrels company, and they have actually done quite a bit of work with other school districts in the same manner. They basically come in, they take soil samples, and they provide the best course of action to move forward with removing the weeds, and

which ... Basically, the main reason that we're after it, not just for the beauty of the field, but for the safety of the kids. Last year, I was witness to a situation where the upper soccer fields over at Columbia, the amount of crabgrass on them, they actually ... you know with cleats on, they're slippery, and it makes for a dangerous condition, especially if fields are moist or wet in any way.

Mr. Bickel:

So after reviewing this, Mike Leonard decided to lay out the fields that were of biggest importance to us. They put together a quote for us, which will entail two different sessions, one in early spring and one in August, in order to help alleviate the issue. The first application, which we hope to get in place soon, would include an over-spray of herbicide, which helps to kill off those weeds, and then an application of fertilizer and some other mixed fertilizers to the grass, so the boost that it needs. After that, from August, they'd like to come in again, and actually, they'll do an overseeding and apply another fertilizer as well.

Mr. Bickel:

So this, along with what we're trying to do from the district level, which we actually have a machine where we'd go out and we aerate the fields in the spring and the fall, and we overseed them ourselves. But between those two processes, we're hoping to be able to regain much better playable surfaces. I know Mike had several, several complaints last year from visiting coaches on the surfaces not being adequate to play on, and that they were worried about injuries, but we're hoping to use this to move forward with the quality of our field.

Mr. Bickel:

The cost is reasonable. We decided not to go with all the fields right off the bat. Mike chose just the softball and baseball fields at Columbia, as well as the upper and lower soccer fields at Columbia, so we'll give it a dry run for a year and see how it goes, see what we're able to gain from this. And the company also has a representation that'll be out on site after the applications, constantly monitoring the improvements and making the suggestions for future improvement as well. So Mike, do you want to add in on any of that?

Mr. Leonard:

I do like that they will twice a month, and he actually lives right her in East Greenbush, August Gate, I believe. The reason this came up, we've got a lot of the complaints so I reached out to a lot of suburban schools, and just the name two off the top, Niskayuna and Ballston Spa use the same company, and I could not believe their difference in their athletic fields. And then they're actually starting to use it on some of the general fields that they have. The improvement is awesome. The playing surface is great.

Mr. Leonard:

If you looked at, in this case, grass fields, I thought it was turf, it was so good, that it was dense, there was no weeds, it was a great service. And like I said, I like this guy coming back each month or twice a month, checking the fields, working with our grounds department, giving some suggestions. And I know Niskayuna, Ballston Spa, even Union College have used this company, and they've had great results, so I'm very excited to pursue this.

Mr. Buono:

Any questions for Paul or Mike?

Mr. Mann:

What is the reasonable cost?

Mr. Buono:

It's on the memo, Mark,

Mr. Leonard:

[crosstalk 00:56:18] more about grass.

Mr. Mann:

I can't find it.

Mr. Buono:

Oh, okay.

Mr. Leonard:

[crosstalk 00:56:19], taking soil samples from it.

Mr. Buono:

It's on the memo.

Mr. Simons:

yeah.

Mr. Buono:

Not to exceed \$6,200.

Mr. Mann:

Where is that?

Mr. Buono:

It's on the first fertilizer ...

Mr. Mann:

Second page of it.

Mr. Buono:

Second page of the memo. It's called ... it's just the one that's the memo. There's three attachments.

Mr. Mann:

The first one, the first

Mr. Simons:

The first one.

Mr. Buono:

The first one, the top one, yeah.

Mr. Simons:

Broken down by each field, and it's for the two applications.

Mr. Mann:

What's Paul talking about once a month, once every other month, and once a week? What's ...

Mr. Simons:

That follow-up, Paul, is that an additional cost, or does that come within this cost?

Mr. Bickel:

No cost. That comes right when the cost. He comes in. He just wants to walk it, check on it, give suggestions, make sure that everything's going well. It's a free ... it's all part of the whole cost.

Mr. Buono:

So the whole service is that package right there?

Mr. Bickel:

Yeah.

Mr. Buono:

Okay, all right. Our fields get a lot of use and we want to keep them in good shape.

Ms. Curtin:

I do have a question.

Mr. Buono:

Kathleen?

Ms. Curtin:

My question is just, if we put all this stuff down in August, can they use the fields? Because that's right when soccer season starts.

Mr. Leonard:

Yeah, actually, the plan is to, in the first or second week in August, our tentative start date for fall is August 23rd, so there'll be plenty of time when they do that. It's really a 24-to-48-hour process that they don't want anybody on the fields, so we'll manage that and it won't be a problem in August. We actually start a week late, we hope that we start on time this year.

Mr. Buono:

Yep, very good.

Ms. Curtin:

Thank you.

Mr. Buono:

Any other questions for Mike or Paul? All right, I need a motion to move forward with the resolution. Kathleen. I need a second. Jennifer. All those in favor? Approved.

Mr. Leonard:

Thank you.

Mr. Buono:

Very good, Michael. Okay, good luck. The next part of our agenda, reports and presentations of the Superintendent of Schools. We have a school board special recognition.

Mr. Simons:

Is Mrs. Taylor on the meeting?

Mr. Simons:

We may need to table this item. I don't want to do it without her here.

Mr. Buono:

Sure, well, maybe we could do is, if she's able to join us a little bit later, and we only have [inaudible 00:58:44] more minutes probably in the rest of the agenda, but if she does pop on ... So if board members are okay, we'll postpone this to either later in the meeting or to the next meeting in May. Okay, moving on to the next item, tabled motions. I don't have anything. Old business, I don't have anything on my notes. Anyone? Board members? No? Okay.

Mr. Buono:

The next item would be our consent agenda, so we have A through E, we have the financial reports. Any questions on the financial reports? Any questions on the financial reports? no. For the instructional, non-instructional support, I guess that's only a few folks there, so no questions there. We have some gifts, and then the last thing I think maybe just warrants some conversation, is really the chiller rebuild. Can you talk about that, Mr. Simons?

Mr. Simons:

Yes. When Lynn Ellsworth, and Paul, and Steve Wickman, our architect, presented the awarding of the bids, item number 37 had not been fully considered yet. This is a state contract purchase for services from Trane, and Paul, you can help me fill in the gaps. The high school chiller, so that control the air conditioning within the high school, are due for a rebuild. We wouldn't be replacing those chillers with new chillers, there's a rebuild that is approved as part of the referendum of 2017, and there was some weighing of how that work was going to be done, the warranty and some other considerations that were still under discussion. Paul, you want to fill in the details where you can?

Mr. Bickel:

Absolutely, Mr. Simons. So there's two chillers at the high school, a small chiller and a large chiller. The small chiller, believe it or not, runs year round. It is actually used because there's inner spaces in the school that get hot and actually need to be cooled even throughout the winter months, so that is in use right now. In the summer months, the larger chiller is put online, and between the use of both of them, they're able to handle the capacity of the heating and cooling, or the cooling, in the high school throughout the year.

Mr. Bickel:

Right now, the units are approximately 16 years old. They're not at end-of-life yet and they're not at the point to where SED will approve a complete replacement of the units. So Trane actually offers what they call a renewal program, which is basically they come inside, they pull apart the existing chillers, and they replace all the internals. A lot of different gaskets, O-rings, things like that, all the ... It's almost like a rebuild on an engine in a car, kind of the same thing. And because it's called a renewal, it does not count from SED as any type of replacement.

Mr. Buono:

So this'll actually get us through to the 21-year mark. At 21 years, we're actually able to get SED reimbursement for replacement for those. So by doing the renewals, they're going to also install two new panels on each of them to give us better control of the units, and they are also ... the option we chose gives us a five-year warranty on each unit as well, and we've decided ... At first, we're going to put it out to bid, but Trane being its own entity, we put it out to them first, and the price came back very favorable, we feel, for rebuilding both units, so we feel the best way to go is with Trane for the cost associated.

Mr. Buono:

The game plan if it is approved would be this summer, they would rebuild the small chiller, because the large chiller is able to handle cooling needs at the school, and then come this coming winter, while the large chiller is offline and the small chiller is running, at that point they would rebuild the large chiller. So that is the plan as we hope for it to proceed, and if anyone has any questions, please let me know.

Mr. Buono:

And Linda the funding for this project?

Ms. Wager:

This is part of phase three of the capital project, and actually, they did come in under budget.

Mr. Buono:

Very good, okay. Any questions regarding this item? Hi Michele, good to see you.. All right, seeing none, I have by consent items A through E. Any final comments or questions? Okay, I need a motion to approve by consent. Kathleen. I need a second. Frank. All those in favor? Approved. Moving on to the next item, new business. Board members, anything? Michele? Jennifer? Board members present here?, Nothing? Okay, a lot of nodding heads. So our second public forum, is there anything, Linda, that was come in since the-

Ms. Wager:

There are no public comments.

Mr. Buono:

No public comments or emails, very good. We'll go to our Board forum, second Board forum. We'll start virtually. Put you on the spot, Michele. Anything?

Mr. Buono:

You're good?

Mr. Buono:

Jennifer? What?

Ms. Wager:

Mr. Pratt raised his hand.

Mr. Buono:

Okay, yeah. Mr. Pratt, welcome. Do you have some comments you'd like to add?

Mr. Goodwin:

He's muted.

Mr. Buono:

You need to unmute, Wayne.

Mr. Simons:

So we found a way to get Mr. Pratt to come to a regular board meeting. We sent him the wrong link, so we apologize. Mr. Pratt thought coming into this meeting, and that's why we were scrambling a little bit at the beginning of the meeting, thought that he was participating in a PTO budget session.

Mr. Buono:

You're early.

Mr. Simons:

And he's early for that, so we apologize, Wayne, but you're always welcome at the board meetings. So we did talk about you at the last meeting when we presented the budget, we did thank you, but now we can thank you personally that you're here, so you're on, Mr. Pratt.

Mr. Buono:

Peter, is he still muted? Yeah, he's still muted.

Mr. Mann:

He's still muted.

Mr. Buono:

Mr. Pratt-

Mr. Simons:

Wayne, now you need to unmute your microphone.

Mr. Buono:

There we go.

Wayne Pratt:

Okay, there we go. Okay, thanks very much. This is Wayne Pratt. I have one comment, or question, anyway, about the tent. What has been set up for any type of thunder and lightning storms or wind storms to protect the children of moving them out of the tent and into the schools?

Mr. Simons:

Those procedures would be in place in the building certainly if we were having that kind of a storm. There is supervision of the kids going out and going in. They wouldn't be permitted to go out in the tent, and SED requires a description to be included in the submission of approval for the tent that describes that weather monitoring will occur at all times when students are out there. So that exact paragraph was recommended by our project officer to put into the plan, so it will be monitored. The kids wouldn't be out there in the event of inclement weather. We'd have to make other arrangements. That could be the canceling of PE and using the gym or some other larger space.

Mr. Buono:

Yeah, that makes sense.

Mr. Simons:

Great question.

Wayne Pratt:

Okay, thanks very much.

Mr. Buono:

Thanks, Wayne. I see that-

Ms. Wager:

JoAnn Taylor has joined.

Mr. Buono:

Ms. Taylor has joined us. Welcome, JoAnn. So we will go back to an item that's on the agenda under reports and presentations of the Superintendents schools, and I will turn over to Mr. Simons.

Mr. Simons:

So this week, surprisingly for us, not surprisingly that we received this, but surprisingly that we were going to get this, we received a special recognition from the New York State School Boards Association for a lifetime achievement award for Mrs. JoAnn Taylor. And that, if you were in person, Mrs. Taylor, and I'll make sure that I get this to you, you are receiving from the New York State School Boards Association a very nice plaque in appreciation for all of the ... and I don't want to drop the plaque, so bear with me, for all of the points you have earned through attendance at conferences, professional development, 500 points for your active participation in leadership development as a board member in the New York State School Boards Association. So congratulations on that.

Mr. Simons:

I believe you also have a nice gift. I believe that might be a pen. And I have some sense that in this envelope is a free conference for the school board conference. So congratulations, JoAnn, for all the time you spend outside of board meetings, helping the community, and in your service to professional development as a board member. You're being recognized by the New York State School Boards Association and we appreciate that about your activity.

Ms. Taylor:

Thank you very much, Mr. Simons. It's a pleasure to do all this. I enjoy it immensely. I love working and giving back to the district.

Mr. Buono:

Well-deserved honor, JoAnn. Thank you, and thank you for all the board members who have served and are up for reelection again this year. And again, we want to, as we did last time, thank Jennifer for her service. It's very much appreciated. Volunteers, we have a lot of volunteer activity in our district, and being a board member really is rewarding. I had the opportunity to sit in with Mr. Simons at a workshop yesterday for aspiring superintendents, and we had about 25 or so folks, and it was really about board and superintendent relationships and how the superintendent and the board work together and the board president's its role, and it was really a good conversation.

Mr. Buono:

A lot of the administrators who aspire to be superintendents, they asked some great questions, and really how important it is that the relationship between the board members, the superintendent, the leadership, is critical to have a high-functioning district and to lead the district into the future. And it's really the support that you folks have given me in my role, and it's also the expertise and the community, how much you admire and love your community, that you do this work on a volunteer basis and give of your time, so it's really much appreciated. And I know I've enjoyed my times and continue to enjoy it, and was really a good conversation, and I just wanted to add that. And this is a great board, and I think and I hope the community will continue to support our budget and the work that we do here. It's important work, and we are doing it on the behalf of our children and our families to do the best we can to make this a great district and a great learning experience for them.

Mr. Buono:

So with that, any final comments from board members at all? All right. We do have need for an executive session for purposes of personnel and some contractual issues. We do not anticipate any business after the board meeting, so I want to thank everyone for their participation tonight. Mr.

Goodwin will send out an email shortly to the Board members for the executive session. So have a great night, thank you, and we'll see you in a couple weeks. Thanks