

VOORHEES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
329 ROUTE 73, VOORHEES, NJ 08043

The Work Session Board Meeting of the Voorhees Township Board of Education was held on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM, Dawn Wallace, President, presiding. No official action was taken at the meeting.

STATEMENT

Due to the attendance limitations required by COVID-19 regulations, the public may not attend the meeting in person and is invited to view the meeting remotely. A link will be provided no later than the afternoon of the meeting on the District's website <https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/Page/94340>

*The Voorhees Township Board of Education uses a Rolling Agenda concept. Items that are listed for a vote on the public board agenda are sent to the Board of Education members weekly as information items. Each member has the ability to request topics to be discussed in Committee meetings as needed.*

I. PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given by the Board Secretary in the following manner:

1. Posting written notice on the official bulletin board at the Voorhees Township Public Schools Administrative Building on August 4, 2020.
2. Sending written notice to the Courier Post on August 4, 2020.
3. Filing written notice with the Clerk of Voorhees Township on August 4, 2020.
4. Publishing written notice on the District website on August 4, 2020.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

## III.

ROLL CALLPresent

Barbara Dunleavy

Dana Galiano

Richard Nelson

John Schmus

Rachel van Aken

Monica Watson (5:05 PM)

Bruce Karpf, Vice-President

Dawn Wallace, President

Dr. David Gentile, Superintendent

Helen G. Haley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Howard Mendelson, Solicitor

Absent

Dr. Marissa Levy

## IV.

WORK SESSION

## 1. The Road Back – Plan to Restart, Renew and Engage

Each Board member was given the opportunity to make a statement:

Mrs. Wallace gave background on the plan and safety protocols. She supports the hybrid plan as presented.

Mr. Karpf talked about the limited amount of time to prepare the plan. He supports the plan; it's the best of the choices available.

Mr. Nelson feels the plan is good and supports it.

Mr. Schmus stated there is no perfect plan. He supports the plan but stressed that we need to be flexible and ready to make changes as needs arise.

Mrs. Dunleavy stated that it is a good plan with flexibility.

Ms. Galiano stated she feels it is a good plan.

Mrs. van Aken stated that this is the biggest decision that the Board will ever make. Feels it is not safe for students and staff to return to the classroom in person.

Mrs. Watson commended all contributors to the plan for the hard work put into its development, but feels it is not safe to return to the classroom in person.

Dr. Levy (written statement read by Mrs. Wallace) stated that we are all working toward the best possible solution. She has questions that still need to be answered before she can make a decision.

Dr. Gentile talked about the process of creating the plan within the parameters of the CDC and NJDOE guidance. The plan was created using the checklists provided by the NJDOE and the District has successfully addressed health and safety concerns. 55% of students signed up for hybrid model, 45% will go full remote. The plan works because it gives students and parents the ability to choose the model that works best for them within the DOE guidelines. The plan is flexible and the District can pivot to return in full or full remote if the Governor orders it so. Dr. Gentile stated that the District is ready to open and implement the hybrid plan.

Discussion ensued between the Board and Dr. Gentile on various components of the plan: health and symptom screening of staff and students entering school buildings, the recent change to early dismissal schedule, lunch and snacks, HVAC and ventilation in the buildings, UV lighting for sanitizing buildings at night while they are empty, plexiglass barriers for each student to create cubbies at their desks, professional development for staff, how the District will meet curriculum standards, staffing, childcare options if the District has to go full remote, moving from hybrid or full remote to full in-person learning, busing and transportation of students, services for special needs students, procedures for student or staff returning after testing positive for COVID-19. Mr. Schmus recommended that a staff member or student who has tested positive for COVID-19, in addition to the CDC guidelines, must present a negative test to return to school.

#### V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

(This is the time when anyone from the public who wishes to speak to the Board may do so. Please state your name, address, and phone number for the record. The Board will hear your concerns. The Board will not take action this evening. You will be notified at some later time, by letter, electronic mail, telephone, or in the context of a later Board Meeting of any action the Board does take.)

The public made comments relating to the Presentation: "The Road Back" Tentative Plan. All public comments are on file with the Board Secretary.

VI. MEETING DATES

August 26, 2020

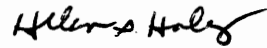
7:30 PM

Board Meeting  
Administration  
Building/Remote for  
PublicVII. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion by Mr. Karpf, seconded by Mrs. van Aken, to approve adjourning the meeting at 9:28 PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Helen G. Haley, CPA  
Board Secretary/Board Secretary

HGH:lms  
08-17-2020