

**Regional School Unit 78
Special School Board Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
RLRS Gymnasium
ZOOM Link**

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Kathleen Catrini, Dallas Plt	P	Deborah Ladd, Rangeley	P
Brian deLutio-Chair, Dallas Plt	P	Amber Haley, Rangeley Plt	P
, Maggalloway		Paul Reynolds, Rangeley Plt	Pz
Jessica Bottcher, Rangeley	P	Clare Webber, Sandy River Plt	
Chris Farmer, Rangeley	P	Mary Richards, Sandy River Plt	P
Virginia Nuttall-V.Chair, Rangeley	Pz	Autumn-Skye Williams, Student Rep	P
Karen Seaman, Rangeley	P	Mya Laliberte, Student Rep	P

Quorum: 942/1003

1. Call to Order 6:00PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Note from the board chair: concerns about curriculum will not be addressed at this meeting. Please reference policy IJK, which is posted on the school's website if you have concerns.
4. Review of opening of school under Hybrid 2 Motion to review & Motion to consider: Motion Mary Richard; Second Deb Ladd Kids are excited to be back in the building. Overall going well, with some challenges that teachers and admin are working to address on an ongoing, day to day basis.

5. Consideration of the next phase of continued learning at RSU #78 Please see attached slide deck.

Public comments: No comments in person. No comments via Zoom at this time.

Board comments:

Chris Farmer: Thank you to the admin and staff for putting this plan together and working so hard.

Question: Teachers have to maintain 6'? Understanding is that the guidelines can be less than 6' if they are masked and all other safety features are in place. Are there safety features we can't do at the school?

Georgia Campbell: Guidelines read that teachers need to maintain 6' when feasible. Students need to maintain 3-6'.

Chris Farmer: Multipurpose room is supposed to be used as an extra classroom. How is it being used?

Georgia Campbell: Multipurpose room is being used as a classroom for study halls. Under Hybrid 1 will most likely be used for specials instruction, as all specials classrooms are small.

Chris Farmer: Logistics is more of an issue than safety concerns? Are we waiting to start K-5 to the 13th because of staffing?

Georgia Campbell: Classroom spaces have to be moved and yes, a new teacher needs to be hired. Cannot move classroom spaces during the school day as it would further disrupt learning. Hope to have a decision on new teacher by Monday and then that individual needs time to onboard and get ready to teach in a new classroom.

Chris Farmer: Can expedite this? Parents are struggling with the at home learning. The sooner students can get back in the better. Can we utilize volunteers? And maybe it's just not logistically possible.

Seth Laliberte: The man power would sure help, but the other piece is that kids need to stay where they are so teachers can finish assessments. It is unrealistic to expect elementary teachers to plan for a new model with everything else they are already doing, which includes simultaneous in person instruction and online instruction, and supporting remote students. The plan may look easy on that screen, but it is a HUGE ask for the teachers to have them totally switch gears and curriculum.

Question: Is there anything else that can be done to help parents who are really struggling with the Hybrid 2 model?

Georgia Campbell: Michelle Laliberte is assisting families with some of this. If there are issues, they have not been brought to administration.

Chris Farmer: Who is the go-to person for parents who are struggling with the at home learning.

Georgia: Please call the front office (864-3311). The last thing we want are families to struggle. Call and we will help.

Mary Richard: Can you talk about the multi-grade plan?

Georgia Campbell: Yes. Multi-age is totally different from multi-grade. In this plan, teachers are teaching K content and 1 content. We are also trying to get the numbers down to get all the kids in safely.

Mary Richard: Are students Zooming during the day on their Remote days?

Georgia Campbell: I'm going to ask Shelli or Brittany to speak to that.

Brittany DiPompo: on remote days students check in via Zoom for a morning meeting and the rest of the assignments are being pushed out at specific times throughout the day.

Mary Richard: I've heard the little ones are not participating on Zoom. Do you have a way to track who's participating?

Brittany DiPompo: Yes, we use Zoom for attendance. If a student is unable to log on, parent needs to call into the office to let us know.

Georgia Campbell: We also have steps in place to follow up for students who are consistently not checking in. WE have a strong student services team starting by reaching out to families to help support. I'm so please to hear that. It's not happening everywhere. Glad you're doing that.

Chris Farmer: Workshop days require all staff to be available correct? Could you move the workshop days to get the K-5 students in sooner?

Seth Laliberte: The physical part can be done, but I don't think the teachers will have the time to finish assessments. Some students have only been in the building for four days. In my professional opinion, the 13th is the best day to offer our best programming for students. We simply cannot layer any more on to teachers right now. They are at capacity.

Georgia Campbell: I think it's important to remember that the days prior to the 30th and after, they are still teaching both remote students and in person students. We need time to finish assessments. We need time to have our RTI meetings. We need time to individualize learning for our students so we can meet their needs in the best way possible.

Mary Richard; What assessment tools are you using?

Georgia Campbell: We use different tools at different levels. At the primary levels, using formal assessments from Rigby and Every Day Math.

Michelle Laliberte: Kindergarten is getting their screening since we were unable to do it in the spring.

Mary Richards: We need to underscore with the community the critical role these assessments play in make sure we are meeting the students where they need to be and be in the appropriate learning setting. I understand why you are asking for the time. Thank you.

Brian deLutio: Everyone wants to get the kids back in the classroom as soon as we can. WE need to be careful we aren't just jamming them in. but taking the time to plan and make sure we are meeting the needs.

Brian deLutio: Do we have any applicants for the teacher who needs to be hired?

Georgia: Yes.

Paul Reynolds (via Zoom): If the board agrees to this timeline, can we be assured that the school will move to this plan by October 13th if some classes have to go to 3'.

Georgia Campbell: We are doing everything we can to get students back safely. We are doing this while schools all around us are closing. We are trying to do this as safely as possible.

ZOOM Katie Willis: as a parent I'm concerned about my child being in the Title I room with no windows and poor circulation.

Georgia Campbell: Maintenance has already spoken to this. Our air circulation system is up to date and working well. Ventilation is working well and air exchange is sunning.

Joanna Farrar: Why is Wednesday still a remote day?

Georgia: One of the most important things to take into consideration is that with the safety guidelines students and teachers are will wearing masks. A remote day allows student/parents to see each other on screen. Wednesday allows for additional deep cleaning.

Georgia Campbell: Yes. If you are experiencing any transportation difficulties, please reach out to us.

Nathan Kay: Georgia says she is unaware of these concerns. She and Seth and Brian has been CCd on them. How can she say she's unaware?

Georgia Campbell: I'm being truthful. If you are having difficulties, please contact me.

Jeff Bottcher: Is there a plan in place if we have to go back to Hybrid 2 or fully remote?

Georgia Campbell: We will take our guidance from the CDC if we have a positive case in the school community.

Jeff Bottcher: Can remote students stay remote?

Georgia Campbell: Yes. We have asked remote students to stay remote until the end of the quarter, however can change in extenuating circumstances. Remote students can also choose to stay remote.

Brian deLutio: movement between plans was all laid out at the board meeting in August.

Autumn-Skye Williams: 4 days I noticed that we don't have many hand sanitizers stations, but we don't have ones in all the classrooms. Can we get more?

Lindsey Savage: Right now, and Jeff, correct me if I'm wrong, every classroom has one in the room. We can't have them in the hallways due to a fire hazard. That's a state restriction. If that's NOT the case, let us know immediately. We can do some education around hand-hygiene at the high school level. Right now what we are asking is that students sanitize in and out of every room, and in and out on their way to recess, and before and after eating, and before and after bathroom.

Seth Laliberte: Rather than have me come down and say "wash your hands" maybe we can work together to get some peer education.

Chris Farmer: So let me get this schedule right: RTI on the 30th and then two workshop days, are we going four days the first week, including Wednesday? Or Tues, Thurs/Fri?

Seth Laliberte: My concern with that is that the 13th will be every day we have all students back in the building. Teacher may need 13th to step back and evaluate.

Chris Farmer: How long as we doing Wednesdays remote?

Georgia Campbell: We'd like to re-evaluate that on November 6th, which is the end of the quarter.

Georgia Campbell: October 8 is next board meeting. We wouldn't have all the kids back in the building at that point, so it would be hard to give any type of update on how things are working with all the kids back in the building.

Chris Farmer: Can we have a commitment come in on the 8th, that all things considered, the week of November 9th, we are comfortable aiming for 5 days/week? I'd like to see a clear plan on that.

Brian deLutio: I think it's a big ask. We could do that, but it should be a special board meeting that occurs after all students have been back in the building.

Mary Richards: What's the rationale for Q1 deadline?

Georgia Campbell: This is big. We just need a little time to settle into this given all that's happen. If there's planning that needs to happen, if there's professional development that needs to happen, if there's a student need that is going unmet, we need time to address it. Trying to balance what's reasonable and realistic and best for staff and students.

Brian deLutio: Is your staff capable of cleaning the school five days a week?

Jeff Larochelle: Yes

Michelle Laliberte: We still have fully remote students that we are expected to teach. That's how K-5 is using the Wednesdays.

Brian deLutio: If we got rid of Wednesday, would you still be able to meet the needs of remote students?

Michelle Laliberte: No.

Lindsey Savage: When they do come in 4 days week/6 hours and trying their best to be 6' from peers and teachers and in a mask all day long. On Wednesday, those kids get to learn without a mask. Maybe it's not the most ideal, but it's a big old mask break and in their home with space and close to who they want to be close to. Please consider the emotional/mental wellbeing of keeping Wednesday in place. So far kids are doing great at two days. Now doubling it. Can they sustain it? I don't know.

Chris Farmer: Can we get clarification of the schedule for the week of October 13th?

Brian deLutio: Seth provided clarification on that. Tuesday in school. Wednesday remote. Thursday and Friday in building days. Agenda item on the October 8th to talk about the plan to move to 5 days. ZOOM Can move the board meeting by one week to better answer the feasibility of going 5 days/week?

Brian deLutio: No. The regular meeting will take place at the regular time.

Danielle Lemay: Why can't elementary Zoom fully the same way 6-12 is?

Seth Laliberte: It's not developmentally or age appropriate and against best practice. There's some significant research supporting this. Synchronous is real time. Asynchronous: done at student's own time.

Motion to approve next phase of school reopening plan, per presentation given by admin:

Motion Chris Farmer;

Seconded Karen Seaman

Unanimous vote;

motion carries

4. Adjourn

Motion Chris Farmer;

Seconded Karen Seaman

Unanimous vote;

motion carries

Meeting adjourned at 7:16PM MISSION - To inspire all learners to strive for success in a world yet to be fully imagined. VISION - RSU 78 envisions a broad range of choices for learning that inspires student and staff involvement in all aspects of academic life in a safe, fair, authentic, and personalized learning environment.