

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020- 6:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
LIFE STREAM
<https://youtu.be/xIW8xD-82h0>

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairperson, G. Cooper, called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Joseph Britton, Rachel Chaleski, Kate Conetta, Gladys Cooper, Joseph DaSilva, Richard Jannelli, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino, Loren Daly, Kathleen Molinaro, Kathryn Hodgdon

Absent:

Also Present: Dr. Pascarella, Courtney Leborious, Kelly Truchsess, Kim Thompson, Kevin Walston, Kara Casimiro

RECOGNITIONS

- Dr. Pascarella congratulated Jill Russell-Benner and her music team for its second consecutive year of making the list on the “2020 Best Communities for Music Education” by the National Association of Music Merchants.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Dr. Kristy Zaleta - It's been amazing to see how across grade levels, departments, and roles DPS staff members have gone above and beyond to do the right thing for kids. I'm extremely proud to be a part of the DPS staff and grateful my two children are reaping the benefit as Danbury students. Teachers and administrators have spent an inordinate amount of time since we got the call to close on March 12th to plan (and learn) for our Distance Learning Program. It's been a 24/7 job for us all. The April break is much needed and appreciated. As is the case in a typical school year, this break allows teachers and administrators the chance to breathe and recharge prior to the last eight weeks of the school year. Considering the extenuating circumstances, we find ourselves in this year, this time is needed more now than ever to ensure lasting endurance for this new way of teaching, learning, and leading.
- Erin Daly - NEA. From a teacher perspective, she is so proud of the accomplishments and growth made since 3/12/2020 and with the collected effort between teachers and administration. Getting kids connected while administration was focusing on getting technology out to kids was not an easy task, especially for elementary kids. Amazing progress in getting everyone connected. Thanked K. Casimiro for putting the DPS document for Distance Learning together. As Union President, appreciated effort and length in including teachers on decision making and sharing of the creation of that document. Moving forward, NEA Danbury has the ability to be the positive conduit for messaging for DPS teachers and to make sure that they are also a positive conduit for problem solving. One of the things NEA Danbury has done is make a question and answer Google Doc that the teachers are sending through E. Daly She can then filter the question to the appropriate administrative department or answer some of the questions herself, which then takes some of the questions off administrators. Maintaining communication moving forward is

going to be very important and hopes that we can continue the open communication. Some important success stories so far have been parades that teachers have had at some elementary schools that have been heartwarming. Tear jerking moment to see staff going to great lengths to make sure they were still connecting with children. Staff volunteering for distribution of meals, packets and devices. Social media accounts that staff have created to provide food and services to those in need. Some concerns still working out are concerns in all districts. Concerns about video meetings with students due to security and privacy. Concerns about the fact that teachers never shut off anymore and creating boundaries. Concerns on challenges of providing services to SPED students. E. Daly keeps reminding teachers of three important keywords: flexible, accommodating and adaptable. Trust and communication is everything and so far it has been great. In light of work hours and the learning curve, an April break could never come at a better time. This April break is one more example of Dr. Pascarella's positive communication and listening to his staff members. Teachers are communicating their own losses from Covid-19, sicknesses in their homes and their own mental health struggles.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Conetta moved, seconded by J. DaSilva that the Board of Education approves the item on the Consent Calendar, Exhibit 20-39, as recommended:

MINUTES

3/11/20 Board Meeting _____ 20- (pg.3)

Motion passed at 6:19 pm

ACTION ITEMS

A. 2020 Interdistrict Cooperative Grant

MOTION: K. Conetta moved, seconded by A. Russo that the Board of Education in conjunction with Bethel and New Fairfield Public Schools, and WCSU apply for the 2021 Interdistrict Cooperative grant in an amount up to \$100,000.00. The purpose of the grant is to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation and increase high academic achievement of all students in reading, writing, math or science and will use a STEM approach for activities and experiences.

R. Chaleski asked if this was a new grant, to which Dr. Pascarella stated that it is not. The district has had it for several years and this is a renewal to the grant.

G. Cooper asked if this would be held at Westside Middle School Academy since it's a STEM approach. Dr. Pascarella stated that it is held at WCSU and collaborates with New Fairfield and Bethel schools. It is an intercooperative grant.

Motion passed at 6:22 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Status of Operations
 - Distance Learning update

- K. Casimiro stated that it was a challenge due to all the systems in place having to be recreated to a virtual environment.
- Able to develop a system to reduce and streamline meetings and to provide collaborative spaces to work.
- Building grade level meetings are held with teachers, principal and PPS staff to talk about a variety of topics like attendance, connectivity and wellness. How students are doing and discuss ways to connect with students who have not connected on the virtual level yet.
- Meetings during the week that fall with content area supervisors are along the lines of lesson planning, how to operate in this new environment and how to retool curriculum to function in this environment. Learning new technologies and new ways to convey meaning to students and to interact with that meaning. Some challenges with that is determining workflow at both teacher and student level. How much is too much? Reporting back to one another and drawing information on how students are responding and what seems to be the best plan to move forward.
- Finalizing guidance for all sorts of procedures that we normally have (sub plans, roles and responsibilities, recreating some of the pieces that need to be in place to operate smoothly).
- Conducted at least 10 super user workshops (Google Classroom, Google Tools). Staff have volunteered to run live webinars to show their peers what they have learned successfully. Offering workshops on engagement, live streams using safety features, operationalizing learning templates with students and how to provide assessments. Sessions are 30 minutes long, have been on Tuesdays, all voluntary and over-subscribed. Just the right amount of dosage of information. Based on teacher interest and the topics they are most interested in learning about.
- Sent out a staff survey to:
 - check in and ascertain how Distance Learning is going
 - see how staff is feeling
 - see how the workload is going
 - see what staff feels they need to learn
 - Also put in questions on the percentage of connectivity in individual classrooms
- For students who are not connecting, teachers often have vital information through their communication on why they are not connecting. This feedback is helpful for K. Casimiro and team to develop an action plan on how to best help and problem solve when students aren't connecting.
- Dr. Pascarella will send a robo survey to families to gather information from the parents on how the district is doing and if their child is connected.
- The biggest challenge is learning how to adjust workflow and for parents to recognize this is a learning curve for everyone.
- There are some vulnerable populations. Has checked in with A. Gomes and T. Swift to see how ESL students are connecting and being supported.
- ESL students' relationship with their teacher is very special and tends to be a safe haven for students who do not have enough language acquisition. Pleasantly surprised to see a nice number of these students who are connecting.
- Students who are not connecting in a classroom are the students who are not connecting in all their other classrooms too. They are usually the same across the board. Will continue to work on those and do everything we can.
- Teachers are doing a phenomenal job and skills are growing by the hour.

- R. Chaleski stated that through her understanding, the content being pushed through to students in a distance learning day is not the same as a regular classroom day. Is that understood with all schools? There seems to be discrepancies that certain schools are doing more work.
- K. Casimiro stated that on the district side, a K-5 district classroom was developed where supervisors and coaches have divided up grade levels. They are developing lessons and providing two or three lessons on the course of a weekly format to make available to teachers that are standards based on content we would expect to see this time of year. Teachers don't have to use those but are recommended to use them. In some cases, teachers are taking those lessons and adding more or doing different things based on the needs of their kids. At AIS for instance, students there have been managing multiple Google Classrooms because there are multiple teachers involved. K. Casimiro did speak to the principal and he is working on streamlining that.
- R. Chaleski stated that even across middle schools there seems to be a difference in workload. K. Casimiro stated that Westside Middle School Academy has always had a different schedule so the way they are pushing that out looks different than the way Rogers Park and Broadview pushes it out. Dr. Pascarella stated that it is important to remember that there has always been a difference between the schools. The first initial training was to advocate to all not to try to recreate the normal school day. K. Casimiro, Dr. Pascarella and K. Walston meet with the principals and these adjustments are learned across the district but we are still working on those items. Very challenging to make this balance for everyone when everyone comes from a different place. Nine days in and continuing to work through professional development. Have only had a couple of grade level meetings with staff on this and every time we meet, it's a little bit clearer. Believes that it will get better.
- K. Casimiro stated standardization is wonderful but if we don't have someone trying something a little bit differently and gathering feedback on that, then we fail to be innovative in a way that we can improve our practice. If everyone is doing everything the same, we never see which way is better. This will help us make better decisions down the road.
- J. DaSilva stated that he was speaking to his sister who teaches in the district. As they were speaking late at night, a student logged in. How do we address that balance, not just for teachers but for students? K. Casimiro stated that with the population of our kids, some parents might be working second or third shift and that may be the time the students are getting help or structure. It is hard to say. As an administrative team, it's been from the moment you wake up until the time you go to bed, there's always one more email to answer. Over time, it's about creating a system. Creating spaces and systems that we become accustomed to operating within. Teachers should be setting office hours and it's ok to not answer an email late at night. Hopefully students will realize that late at night is not a good time to send an email and send their emails earlier.
- A. Russo asked if there is any anecdotal data on how English learners are responding to distance training. K. Casimiro said for students who are connected, they are responding well in their ESL classes. Teachers are experiencing more connectivity, more responses with their students. Working more on having students access the core classroom. Looking at some tools to do that. The district purchased two programs, IXL and Learning A-Z, for K-12 that have a lot of support for ESL students. Have to get up and running with the training. Having

conversations now on how to utilize these tools so that we build in support for ESL students.

- G. Cooper stated that it is healthy for students, parents and teachers to have some type of shut off time. Students need to understand that teachers also have a life and they have a family. There should be a cut off time where teachers can do what they need to do without responding late at night. Something that we need to look at down the road. If you don't set boundaries, then everyone can do whatever they want to do.
- K. Truchsess gave a SPED update.
- Staff have worked remarkably hard. Commended for going above and beyond continuously.
- For students with special needs, the district is protecting confidentiality. These students are in individual Google Classrooms for any pullout services they would receive. SPED teachers are managing more pages traditionally. Have done that pretty seamlessly.
- A big focus this week was onboarding paraprofessionals and tutors. Have started to work in supporting students in SPED, ESL and beyond. Supporting teachers, working with students and also receiving much needed professional development to improve their skills.
- Challenge in balancing workload across some students that participate in general education and then receive supplementary support. Everyone has started to work collaboratively.
- Struggling with the balance of some parents asking for more work and some saying slow down. Altering and tweaking the workload.
- Mandated that each staff have a phone call once a week with students who have more significant disabilities that are struggling with virtual learning.
- Next phase is looking to get some packets out once a week, or once every other week depending on the situation. Those are some exceptions to the rule for students who are having difficulty with screen time. Overall, students have enjoyed connecting with teachers and engaged in a more typical routine.
- Pupil Services Staff (PPS) working with families who are struggling with many issues such as economic challenges and food insecurity. They have done a nice job in connecting those families with resources.
- Staff that have been working with students and getting them connected, working through the internet sign up process and delivering devices to homes.
- There are few students who haven't connected yet. Continue to liaison with families to make sure that all kids are engaged as much as they can be.
- K. Conetta asked if we are using browser extensions as tools. K. Truchsess said that there are two Assistive Technology Specialists in the SPED Department who have been doing daily training for the staff. Using a program called Snap and Read which essentially will read the text on any screen, worksheet and Google Classroom to students to make it accessible. Also working on some Screencastify's. There are certain technologies that are exclusive to SPED. Some companies have been very generous with programs that are typically very costly, but they have opened up the licenses to the district. One of them is TeachTown which primarily focuses on the autism spectrum that teaches social skills support.
- Pushed so much out that will circle back over break to review all of these programs.

- K. Conetta asked for numbers on attendance. Dr. Pascarella stated that he heard 94% but those numbers need to be validated and on how attendance is being taken.
- K. Casimiro stated that attendance has slowly been increasing over the last week but there are still questions on how attendance is taken in general. In PowerSchool, attendance defaults to present. Unless a student is marked absent, they remain present. Still working through some of that. Teachers have reported very good connectivity. Worried with one or two elementary schools but once they got connected, attendance shot up. ACE has attendance issues, but attendance has increased this week.
- Services update
 - C. Leborious spoke about food distribution.
 - Seven sites of food distribution. Two times per week. Information is available on the district website. There was a big uptake in participation on 4/8/2020 with 300 extra meals.
 - Meal kits for breakfast and lunch are being served on Mondays (two days' worth) and Wednesdays (three days' worth).
 - Also started mobile distribution to about 100 families that were not able to access sites for various reasons.
 - Look to possibly do a three day a week distribution after April break which would be Monday, Wednesday and Friday. That would enable the district to touch people for the weekend so they can get seven days' worth of meals.
 - Unfortunately, needing to close during April break. Not ideal and would love to stay open but per advice of the district nurse, that for safety of our staff we need a break. Need to pause, restock safety supplies and reassess.
 - Operating safely with social distancing. Short on mask supply so the district is restocking.
 - Able to work with the mobile pantry so they will offer food on Monday. All food pantry information and other organizations will be on the website.
 - Buildings are all closed now with the exception of food sites.
 - Custodians are still doing safety checks, getting mail and getting additional Chromebook. Beyond that, for safety of staff, all school buildings are closed down.
 - K. Walston stated that food security is another one of our high priorities.
 - United Way reached out last week and offered support to address any food security gaps in the district.
 - The United Way has partnered with Boehringer Ingelheim, Food Rescue and Sodexo to distribute meals to families and children from 2:45 pm to 3:15 pm Monday through Friday beginning on 4/9/2020 at 23 Eden Drive and 1 Meehan Place.
 - Boehringer has offered to feed up to 150 families through Sodexo since they are not feeding their staff.
 - United Way has a program called ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). Families who qualify for funding or support are eligible for a \$200 food gift certificate. Families will be encouraged to register online through the United Way. It is a program for some of our needier families in the district. Looking to connect those families with this opportunity.
 - R. Chaleski asked if over the break, are we planning on taking basketball hoops or locking dumpsters to discourage people from going on property?

- Dr. Pascarella stated that he will mention it to R. Jalbert to ask custodians to do building checks.
 - Technology update
 - G. Jasmine spoke about the Parent Connectivity Campaign.
 - Getting parents engaged over the past nine days has been a feat.
 - On 3/31/2020, the district had about 10,600 email addresses for families. As of 4/8/2020, have over 11,000. That's a lot of phone calls that have been made over the past eight days. Teachers, principals, support staff and secretaries have been calling families and helping them through the process to get online.
 - 92% of district families have a valid email address in our system. District has started sending robo calls via email now. We have three ways to communicate with parents; email, robo call and website.
 - Parent Portal will help families, especially in K-5 level. 84% of parents have signed up to the Parent Portal. The Parent Portal wasn't open to K-5 families until three weeks ago.
 - At high school and middle school level, report cards have been online through Parent Portal and Student Portal for the past couple of years. Each elementary school is uploading the report card and sending via email. That is one reason why having a valid email is so important.
 - Since we started distributing Chromebooks on 3/19/2020, the district has had 4,067 requests for Chromebooks. As of 4/8/2020, 3,767 Chromebooks have been delivered to families. 133 to be delivered on 4/9/2020. 93% of requests have been fulfilled for these families.
 - Another 3,750 Chromebooks are coming next week. The IT team will be working to get them unpacked, on the network and ready for distribution with the goal of distributing after April break. That will be for families who need multiple devices. The original approach was to have one device in every family so at least a way to connect. This additional group of Chromebooks will help the district fill in that gap.
 - K. Conetta asked if we have a sense on how many kids don't have a device? G. Jasmine stated she didn't have a solid number. Only aware of those who have requested a device via document or contact by teacher or principal. In some schools, the parents said they had personal devices at home already and didn't need school devices. K. Conetta stated that there may be families who are not comfortable asking or know how to fill out online requests.
 - Dr. Pascarella stated that is something mentioned on the robo calls. District has also pushed it down to the schools to get feedback from teachers on students who do not have devices and need them. G. Jasmine stated that request forms were in three languages. ESL staff and bilingual volunteers reached out directly to families in anticipation that they would not have the ability to fill out forms.
 - G. Jasmine stated that Google Classroom information is limited with reports. There has been such a large increase in usage that Google is about a week behind on data reports. Looking for better information in the reports she can run.
 - There was a massive increase in the types of files that students add. For example, on 3/28/2020 there were roughly 2000 google docs in our domain. On 4/3/2020 there were 12,200. That's just student activity, not counting what teachers are using for their classrooms. When better numbers are available, she will report back to the Board.
- Governor's Executive Orders

- Dr. Pascarella stated that the big question through the governor is “are we coming back?”. May hear something by the end of the week.
- Grading has been a big issue. Particularly high school with seniors, colleges, GPAs, etc. Guiding practices came out on 4/8/2020.
- Commissioner with post-secondary education has come to some agreements on acceptance of standards based on a pass/fail system. Will be discussed on 4/9/2020 with all superintendents. The system that the commissioner is advocating would be consistent with the district’s current pass/fail system.
- It’s standard based but is also one that the state utilizes. This is just for CT colleges, not out of state colleges.
- J. Britton asked if it is up to the district to make a decision on making a change to the grading policy at the high school level? Dr. Pascarella stated that the governor empowered Commissioner Cardona to make modifications, including graduation requirements. The Board and the commissioner have the right to waiver. The commissioner suggested looking at a grading system that all schools should consider, as a state. He offered pass/fail grades (pass/fail incomplete, pass/fail with distinction, pass/fail with restrictions and standard pass/fail).
- Last day of school will be 6/12/2020. Executive Order 7C very explicitly asked if we have ceremonies to follow Governor Lamont’s declaration of social distancing and look into postponement or virtual ceremonies.
- K. Conetta asked about the 7R order which advised to continue paying staff in the school community that are not being utilized. Asked if we are continuing to pay bus drivers? K. Thompson stated that what the governor's order addressed was there is room to have amended conversations with transportation companies. That’s the next conversation that needs to happen. Transportation company staff are not district employees. The governor's order was pretty clear that the goal is to keep them employed. The district will have that conversation with the transportation company to amend the agreement. It is evolving and ongoing. C. Leborious stated that the district did pay up until closure on 3/13/2020.
- End of year commencement and ceremonies
 - D. Donovan and Dr. Pascarella are brainstorming ideas to come up with some kind of graduation ceremony. A platform with valedictorian and student recognition. Advised Board to be prepared.
 - J. DaSilva asked if there was any reason we can't postpone the graduation ceremony into the summer? Dr. Pascarella stated that was part of the commissioner's conversation but not a recommendation at this point.
 - R. Chaleski asked if we are asking students for their input on what they would like for graduation? Dr. Pascarella stated that he will pass that along to D. Donovan.
- Recruitment and Hiring
 - K. Thompson stated that even though Human Resources are virtual right now, time is marching on.
 - Some unemployment claims are coming in. Unemployment compensation is almost at a halt due to the five to seven-week backlog at state level.
 - Lots of questions from people on benefits, life insurance, scope of benefits, etc.
 - The team is really reaching out to staff who have already experienced tragedy and how we can support them.
 - The team is trying to learn a lot about the landscape that is changing to provide support to employees.

- Lots of staff returning from maternity leave and other kinds of leave. Making sure they have the proper training so they can be up to speed and take over their classes.
- In addition, Human Resources is starting to think about next year. Rolling contracts and salary grids to next year. Looking at any remaining reporting that needs to be done. Keeping up with certification.
- Dr. Pascarella stated that Dr. Cronin of Mill Ridge Primary is retiring this year, after 54 years of service. Has been at MRP since 1993 and was at South Street School before that. Tremendous loss to the district and we wish her well.
- Four administrative openings for next year. One Assistant Principal at WSMSA and one Assistant Principal at BVMS. Currently held by interim candidates and will be considered internal candidates. Also, principal at MRP and principal at KSP.
- Whenever we hire a principal or AP, they go through a two-panel system. How would we make a two-panel system work logistically and provide time out for the vast number of people who participate in the regular workday? We don't have a sub pool anymore and don't have people to substitute for teachers. K. Thompson asked the Board if they would agree to do a single panel that includes elements of both panels (administrator, Board member, Cabinet, teacher, etc.). Due to the current situation we are in, it would be a challenge holding a two-panel system. K. Thompson stated this is just temporary.
- R. Chaleski asked if we could have more Board members on the panel instead of just one. K. Thompson stated we don't want to have so many involved that we can't see candidate and panel at the same time (virtually). Certainly, try to accommodate as many as we could.
- It's also a challenging position to be in as a candidate. For the people who come from the outside it is a heavy lift to this process.
- J. DaSilva asked if one panel is for all positions or one panel for each candidate? K. Thompson stated that we could do a hybrid model. Prefer not to do more than one session. Important to have the same group for all candidates with a blended panel.
- K. Thompson stated we might have to do a teacher panel made of coaches and administrators that deal with both schools. Still have to think more about it. There would be one secondary panel and one elementary panel. Dr. Pascarella asked Board members interested in serving to let G. Cooper know.
- K. Thompson asked for names in the next week or so and if there is a preference for elementary or secondary panel.
- Teacher hiring is on our horizon. Recruiting fairs are not happening but there are some virtual fairs. Will check and see what we can participate in for recruiting. Will speak to administrators after the break to see what the best way is to look at candidates for their available positions in the fall.
- Waiting for guidance from the state on fingerprinting and background checks.
- Court system is also trying to figure out how they will navigate this prolonged closure. The lawsuit that is pending with transgender students is still ongoing. There have been virtual and phone conferences with lawyers, judge and commissioner of human rights.
- K. Molinaro asked Dr. Pascarella if when the superintendents have their meeting, is there something on the agenda to address the schools opening? Eventually we will have to open. Is there a task force for the Board to participate in or talks about forming a task force to help us when we do open? Especially with the overcrowding issues that we have.
- Dr. Pascarella stated that the superintendent's meeting is to be held on 4/9/2020 and then at 11am with Commissioner Cardona.
- Dr. Pascarella stated that we have signed the contract for Granville location and the extension at Sacred Heart.

- Dr. Pascarella stated while there are a lot of things we need to do and things we need to think about when we do open, he is not sure what the committee would discuss at this time.
- First, we need a decision from Governor Lamont. That will move us into grading requirements, summer school and figuring out the fall.
- K. Thompson stated that it's all about the planning. We as a team have really learned how we continue to modify our plan for whatever situation we might face. If we can continue planning the way we've been doing and make sure that we build it so we can plug in parameters, we will be in much better shape.
- K. Walston stated that he attended training to encourage our district to look at ways to reconstitute how our school community looks when we come back. Looking at a roadmap implementation plan post-incident. We have a significant plan in place now for emergencies that we have been encouraged to revisit. In addition, a plan specifically for re-entering our schools. How we will educate them. How we will free up more space in our respective schools and try to continue to encourage social distancing. We have a lot to consider and are mindful of all those things.
- J. DaSilva asked if we are already planning summer school online? Dr. Pascarella stated that it is being looked at. How we can offer extension for parents that want it and for those who need remediation and support.
- J. DaSilva asked if there is any way of expanding that for kids who don't need summer school but rather for them to have something to do. Dr. Pascarella stated that his dream has always been to have elective summer school. Thinking of summer school for youngsters that have some gaps and offer it as an elective. It would have to be a paid summer school, like summer camp learning.
- K. Casimiro stated that one question on the staff survey sent on 4/8/2020 was if we did hold an online summer school, would staff be interested in teaching? Would they be interested in teaching only if it was traditional, distance or doesn't matter? Each year we have always had staff interested in summer school. It really is dependent upon available staff, so time will tell.
- K. Thompson stated that the good news for summer school is that staffing is our own, so we never have to go outside the district to hire teachers and it can be done quickly.

DISCUSSION

- Budget and Referendum
 - C. Leborious stated that the CFO of the State Education Department let her know that there is no indication that there will be any changes to the FY20-21 budget.
 - Balance of current year state grant funds will continue to be paid through the remainder of the fiscal year. Not anticipating any reductions in the current year to state grant funding. Entitlement and calculative grants are not going to be prorated to reflect the modified school year. Will be based on our previous amount for the entitlement grants.
 - In the case of excess cost, we will see a reduced possibly expenditure filing. For example, transportation will be less. May see an adjustment to our grant amount which will be reconciled in FY20-21 payment.
 - The State Education Department is working with OPM to extend the timeline of some of our grants. There will be more guidance on that and C. Leborious will let the Board know as it becomes more clear.
 - Federal Cares Act is about \$13.2 billion that will flow through the state education entity. 90% of the funding will come to districts. Looks like it will be an entitlement grant. Not

something we will apply for, will be based on a formula. Further guidance on that as well. That can be used for all the things we've been doing associated with the emergency response such as purchases made related to technology, learning software, gloves, sanitizers, etc.

- Governor is considering using some of that towards offsets to our food program since we are still paying staff but getting less reimbursement from food that we are serving.
- Likely these federal funds will be able to be extended to FY20-21.
- Regarding City Budget - The budget piece that applied to the district (Executive Order 7I) says that we do not need to hold votes required by city charter but the municipality still has to draft a budget, publish it and have an opportunity for public comment. The city budget director stated that they would be publishing the budget on the third or fourth week of April. The Board still has to meet all of the mandated requirements associated with adopting the budget. The only exception is that there is not going to be a formal comment period. They will likely just get emails from the public and it won't be voted on by the City Council.
- Taxpayers have the ability to delay property tax payments by 90 days. The grace period has been extended to 7/1/2020. Residents won't have to pay the penalty unless they pay after 7/1/2020. The penalty could be up to 18%. If the state changes that penalty fee, that could be up to a \$2.5 million exposure risk for the city which would impact our budget.
- \$1.275 million requested and received in our budget.
- CASBO and CAPSS (two Connecticut business organizations) did a study and with 47 districts reporting, it is estimated that a full school closure might result in very minor school savings, if any. Our biggest cost is personnel. For the most part, we did not lay off any staff.
- Additional costs with Distance Learning, purchased Chromebooks and additional learning platforms. School nutrition program is running a deficit because we are not being reimbursed. Cost of sanitizing buildings, all the materials that needed to be purchased and custodial overtime.
- Some offsets which are savings that we had in the budget, offset those costs with subs, coaches, and overtimes.
- Lost revenue potentially associated with the excess cost grant. Medicaid, pre-k tuition and building use revenues that are down. Not seeing a huge amount of savings.
- What does that mean for planning? As we get further guidance from state and federal, and as we negotiate the transportation contract, we will have a better picture. That will be made clear to the Board as we move along.
- The City Referendum was postponed, likely until 6/2/2020. Will not happen on the initial April date. More information to follow.
- J. DaSilva asked if the district has received any money from the Carbide/Matrix property. C. Leborious said it's in our allocations. We did get an increase by about \$350,000 with that appropriation.
- R. Jannelli asked for a Finance Committee meeting during April break. Dr. Pascarella stated that he does not know what he is being proposed with in terms of a budget so he is cautious. R. Jannelli will leave at C. Leborious' discretion on best time and date.

INFORMATION

- Overview of Healthy Food Certification
 - C. Leborious stated that every year the district votes on the Healthy Food Certification. Asked the Board for an agenda adoption for the next meeting. If we vote to adopt the Healthy Food Certification, it gets us an additional reimbursement for every snack or

- item that is sold. Results in \$110,000 for the district annually. We have to follow certain products that are considered healthy. Gives us a list of acceptable items that we have to follow with lower salt, sugar and fats in some of the snacks. Required to have it voted on by 4/30/2020. B. Mollengarden from Sodexo has met with the Student Board and they have no problem with it.
- K. Pompano will share the document with the Board, so they are prepared for the next meeting.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

- G. Cooper thanked everyone for coming together and being cooperative. Asked members to inform her or K. Pompano if they cannot attend the full Board meeting.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

- R. Chaleski set a Policy Committee meeting for 4/29/2020 at 5:30 pm. Committee members were sent an agenda. Not continuing business as usual but looking at current policies and some new policies impacted by the virus situation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Per Dr. Pascarella, the situation is still evolving so an executive session is not needed.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Conetta moved, seconded by J. DaSilva, that the Board of Education adjourn its Meeting of April 8, 2020 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)