



**POTTSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD WORKSHOP
January 14, 2021**

Attendees: Mrs. Amy Francis, Ms. Katina Bearden, Mr. John Armato, Mrs. Bonita Barnhill, Mr. Thomas Hylton, Mrs. Laura Johnson, Mr. Steve Kline, Mrs. Susan Lawrence, Mr. Raymond Rose, Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, Mrs. Maureen Jampo, Mr. Stephen Kalis.

PSD Virtual Education Update:

Mr. Rodriguez shared data updates on the pandemic and the option to move forward with hybrid models for the second semester pushing for February 1st. Staff would report to the buildings on January 25. PDE made recommendations that elementary to return to in-person learning and the secondary remain virtual. This is voluntary for all school districts.

3rd Quarter Virtual versus Hybrid

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed pros and cons for 3rd quarter virtual vs hybrid. Virtual pros include consistency, safety and stability; cons include learning struggles and student disengagement. Hybrid pros include in-person learning advantages for some students, social distancing compliant, and options for parents; cons include mask coverings, no lunch, possible closures (disruption), differences in programming at elementary and substitute/staff shortages.

Pandemic Task Force Reflections

- Option #1: Re-entry plan with Hybrid program on February 1, 2021(not supported by task force).
- Option #2: Remain virtual for all of the 3rd marking period with the exception of certain in-person programming (83% support of task force).
- Option #3: State Guideline - Elementary return to hybrid (17% support of task force).

Board Members discussed the options, voicing concerns for who students struggling with virtual learning. The Superintendent was asked for his recommendation. Mr. Rodriguez stated he recommends staying virtual for all of the 3rd marking period. Mrs. Francis asked each Board Member for their input. The general consensus of the Board was to stay virtual (Option #2). Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Kline asked the Administration to look for ways to help students who are struggling with virtual learning. Mr. Rodriguez state the administration shares the same concern and is looking to find some level of in-person homework program and also looking at a very robust summer program (ESY).

Professional Development as Board Members

Committee Schedule, Assignments

The Board and Committee meeting schedules presented follow the same structure as 2020. Committee Member Assignments remain the same. All Board Members were in agreement to place the meeting schedules on the January 21, 2021 Board Agenda for approval.

Goals/Objectives, Budget/Policy/Oversight

Board Members viewed several resources for School Board Directors. Resources included Essentials of School Board Service and PSBA Standards for Effective School Governance, Code of Conduct.

□ **Public and Board Communications**

Board Members participated in a self-evaluation survey. Mrs. Francis asked that the Public Relations/Community Engagement Committee to add Board Education Resources/Programs as an agenda item to explore opportunities that Board Members can participate in.

Cultural Competence and Diversity Education

★ Cultural Competence Work Update

Dr. White gave a presentation on the PSD Cultural Proficiency & Diversity Plan. The goal is to promote educational equity and the document will be embedded in the Comprehensive Plan. Highlights of the presentation focused on essential elements including goals and actions for staff, families & community, students, curriculum & instruction, and cultural climate and safety. The plan is an outline and will be changing as the district takes a look at where we are at, our accomplishments, etc.

★ Brainstorming Ideas for the Future

Board Members ideas centered on curriculum and instruction, increasing the number of minority students taking higher level courses (add an action item to establish a base to monitor the percentage of minority students taking higher level courses), financial resources similar to residency initiative and involve the community in showcasing diversity.

The workshop adjourned at 8:39 pm with a tour of the new academy.