

GREEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
Special Meeting
July 29, 2020

Time: 7:30pm

**Place: GHS - Small Gym and
Virtual Platform**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. FLAG SALUTE

B. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

“This is a special meeting of the Green Township Board of Education held for the purpose of transacting appropriate Board business which includes information on the district’s Restart & Recovery Plan. In compliance with Chapter 31, Laws of 1975, the New Jersey Herald was properly notified and copies of the agenda of this meeting were appropriately posted and made available for the public.”

C. ROLL CALL

	<u>Term expires</u>	<u>Roll Call</u>
Mrs. Marie Bilik- President	2020	<u>X</u>
Mrs. Ann Marie Cooke – Vice-President	2021	<u>X</u>
Mr. Matthew Fox	2020	<u>X</u>
Mr. Scott Guzzo	2022	<u>X</u>
Mr. Noah Haiduc-Dale	2022	<u>X</u>
Mrs. Denise Kelly-Jones	2020	<u>X</u>
Ms. Kristin Post	2021	<u>X</u>
Mr. Michael Rose	2021	<u>X</u>
Mr. Robert Strasser	2022	<u>X</u>
Dr. Lydia E. Furnari, Interim Superintendent		<u>X</u>
Ms. Tina Palecek, SBA /Board Secretary		<u>X</u>

D. MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission at Green is to educate every student in a safe and secure environment to become a confident and caring life-long learner, who can communicate and contribute positively to the changing needs of society. The district, in cooperation with the community, will provide an academic environment that values excellence, initiative, and diversity of our students and community, while supporting a program of studies that is congruent with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Overview and Board Discussion - Green Township School District Restart & Recovery Plan

Dr. Furnari gave each Board Member a copy of the Green Township School District Restart & Recovery Plan's Executive Summary so each could see the areas the District's Plan covers. Below is the entire Executive Summary as presented:

Green Township School District Restart & Recovery Plan Executive Summary

On June 26, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Education released *The Road Back Restart and Recovery Plan for Education*. This document was intended to provide school districts with both minimum standard requirements and suggested considerations, intended to support the safe reopening of schools in the fall. The document requires that school districts address key areas:

- Conditions for Learning
- Leadership and Planning
- Policy and Funding
- Continuity of Learning

The Green Township School District gathered a team of Administrators, Teachers, Coaches, the School Nurse and School Counselor, the Child Study Team Coordinator, Facilities Manager and Supervisor, Transportation Coordinator, Technology Leaders, GTEA Leadership, and additional consultants. Staff and parent surveys informed our work as did continuous consultation with the Sussex County Superintendent's Roundtable Reopening Committee, the Sussex County Department of Education, and the Sussex County Department of Health.

Important points:

- All students, staff and visitors will be screened prior to entering the building (temperature check, questions about symptoms, etc.)
- Face coverings are required for all staff, students and visitors unless doing so would undermine the individual's health, as indicated by a medical doctor's written assessment.
- Face coverings should be brought from home. However, in case a face covering becomes lost, soiled or damaged during the school day and needs to be replaced, the school will have them on hand.
- Mask breaks will be built into the school day (recess, and socially distanced outdoor experiences)
- Frequent hand-washing and use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be part of the routine of the school day.
- The NJDOE indicates there are 10 critical areas for consideration under Conditions for Learning;

- **General Health & Safety Guidelines**
 - Our Nurse will be in constant communication with the Department of Health and will follow all guidelines for schools recommended by the CDC, the school physician and the Sussex County DOH
 - All members of the school community will be required to follow the self-quarantine requirements after returning from travel out of state.
 - Directional signs, posters and other indicators will be placed around the building to encourage social distancing and other healthy behaviors to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Information will be posted on the district website reminding the school community about hygiene and prevention-related strategies.
 - Students will remain in their classroom as much as possible and teachers will travel to them in their classrooms.
 - Water fountains will be covered but water bottle filling stations will remain open for use. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own water bottles daily.
 - The Nurse's Office will be re-designed to include a separate isolation area. UV lighting will be installed as will clear barriers separating designated areas for regular medical office activities from the isolation area.
 - All guidance from the Sussex County DOH regarding any presentation of symptoms or confirmed case of COVID-19 will be followed.
 - Parents are encouraged to take their child's temperature before sending them to school. If a child is ill, the child should stay home.
- **Scheduling**
 - The student body will be divided into two groups who will attend school on an early dismissal schedule.
 - Group A will attend school on Mondays & Tuesdays.
 - Group B will attend on Thursdays & Fridays.
 - All students will have remote learning on Wednesdays. This enables deeper cleaning to occur between groups.
 - Teachers will hold small groups and Office Hours in the afternoons remotely.
- **Illness and Attendance**
 - Staff and students who are ill have always been encouraged to stay home. In the current situation this has become even more critical. In the event that a staff member or a student is ill, they should stay home until they are symptom free for 72 hours. These directions may change as the Department of Health updates their guidance over time.
- **Transportation**
 - Appropriate social distancing will be followed on all school busses
 - Students must wear face coverings on the school bus
 - Buses will run at no more than 50% capacity. Family groups may sit together and there will be an empty row between groups or individual students.
 - The bus companies will disinfect all vehicles as required
 - Any changes to the transportation schedule will be communicated to parents as quickly as possible.

- ***Facilities Cleaning and Disinfecting***
 - All rooms and items will be cleaned on a regular basis with a concentration on high touch areas such as door handles, light switches, sinks, keyboards, etc.
 - Electro-static sprayers, eco-friendly solutions, UVC lighting and wands, etc. will be used.
 - Classrooms where tables are used will be equipped with plexiglass partitions to encourage social distancing while students are working at their seats.
- ***Meals***
 - The district will adhere to all requirements of the Department of Agriculture with regard to the school lunch program.
 - Lunches will be made available for purchase in advance to discourage the exchange of physical money.
 - Lunches will be pre-packaged “Grab and Go”.
- ***Recess & Physical Education***
 - Grades K-5 will be scheduled for recess.
 - Playground equipment (swings, bars, etc.) will not be available for use.
 - Playground will be marked off to encourage separate play areas and appropriate social distancing.
 - Face coverings, hand-washing and social distancing will be practiced.
 - A recess schedule will be established prior to the first day of school.
 - Students in grades 6-8 will not be scheduled for recess.
 - All manual equipment (balls, cones, rings, etc.) will be sanitized after each class.
- ***Field Trips, Extra-Curricular Activities and Use of Facilities Outside of School***
 - Until the health emergency is lifted, there will be no field trips scheduled.
 - Until the health emergency is lifted, no extra-curricular sports activities will be scheduled.
 - Other extra-curricular activities will be scheduled on a case-by-case basis
 - Use of facilities by outside organizations will be restricted and subject to any executive order and CDC requirements in place at the time of the request.
- ***Social Emotional Learning and Special Education Services***
 - Social Emotional Learning, special education and related services will continue both on site and remotely as needed. All IEPs, 504 plans will remain in effect as required.
- ***Technology and Connectivity***
 - Chromebooks will be available for all students as needed.
 - Training will be provided for staff and parents in the use of technology that will be used for instruction.
 - Home/School communication will be supported throughout the school year.
 - Any family who needs support with district technology or those without internet in the home will be supported by the Technology Department to the best of our ability.

- ***Hybrid and Remote Learning***
 - Teachers will interact with students in the classroom, engaging in learning activities that teach new content and reinforce skills focused on the standards-based curriculum.
 - Teachers will meet with the whole class remotely for a designated period of time to allow all students to be together at specified times per week. This will vary by grade level.
 - Teachers will meet small groups remotely and on site as needed
 - Teacher will hold office hours to address individual student questions
 - Remote learning activities may include:
 - Pre-recorded videos/lessons
 - You Tube Lessons
 - Documents and worksheets uploaded for student use
 - Reader's Response
 - Recording self-reading
 - Small group instruction
 - Additional details will be shared by teachers at the start of the school year.
 - Assessment will be a key element to determining student needs. (pre-assessment, diagnostic assessment, formative assessment and summative assessment)
- ***Professional Development***
 - Professional development topics will include content, use of technology for remote instruction, and those required by NJDOE.
 - Student teachers will be invited to participate in professional development with our staff.
 - Training for substitute teachers will be provided
- ***Child Care***
 - District child care program will be in place before and after school on days when students are physically on-site.
 - All health related requirements will be in place during child care as they are during the regular school day.

It is important to note that our plan will remain flexible as new guidance is issued very frequently. We will do our utmost to comply with all directives and guidance that is issued. It should also be noted that frequently, information is published or broadcast before school districts receive it. This makes it very difficult to change quickly. However, we continue to stay alert and will be in constant communication with the Board and the school community.

- Dr. Furnari thanked all who contributed to creating the Plan and emphasized to all that it was a collaborative effort of all stakeholders.
- Dr. Furnari has been working with all Sussex County Superintendents during this pandemic to ensure Green Township School District is aligned with the current guidelines.
- She also met with the Sussex County Department of Health, County Superintendent, and our school physician to provide the safest environment.

After the Executive Summary was reviewed each Board Member had an opportunity to ask questions, express concerns, and/or offer their opinions regarding the Plan. The discussion included, how students will be grouped, how will transportation routes be determined, where will students eat, graduation plan, length of school day, teacher planning time, how will possible cases be addressed, student learning in a hybrid model, back to school night, class size, and after-care. Each question was addressed with the understanding that things

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA TOPICS

This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on this evening's agenda topics. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. If the Board of Education chooses to respond, it does not waive its right thereafter not to respond. Length of comments may be limited to three minutes to the individual who has been recognized by the board president. Each individual may be limited to one opportunity to speak per topic. Members of the public are asked to state their name and address for the record.

1. Holly Roller. How will specials be graded? It was very stressful for parents. Will the school require masks and observe of personal space?
 - Dr. Furnari explained everyone did their best during our closure. It was a difficult time and we are doing everything to be mindful of the stress.
 - Social distancing will be maintained in accordance with guidelines.
 - Masks will be worn with appropriate breaks.
2. Susan Stobie. Has the start date for school had changed? Will staff have personal travel restrictions?
 - At this time, the start date is still September 3, 2020
 - The concern for travel restrictions has not been discussed yet. Dr. Furnari will check with the team, but the NJ Governor does have a say and we will have to follow his directives.
3. Christine Fulman. Can siblings be in the same group?
 - Yes. All families will stay together
4. Diana Minervini. Has the Board of Education considered how specials may impact the spread of the virus?
 - Dr. Furnari assured Ms. Minervini that no one will knowingly be put in jeopardy. Interactions between cohorts will be limited and specials schedules will be carefully designed while still balancing all of the educational components and delivering the curriculum
5. AnnMarie VanSickle. Teachers must be prepared for all models and that could cause burnout.

V. **BOARD BUSINESS** – Mrs. Ann Marie Cooke

Motion to approve the Green Township School District Restart & Recovery Plan.

Motion: Mrs. Cooke

Second: Mr. Fox

Discussion: Request made to modify the resolution to read, “Motion to accept...” because this is a mandated plan the District does not truly have the ability to disapprove.

Motion with language modification: Mrs. Cooke Second: Mr. Fox

/Roll Call/

Marie Bilik	Y	Matthew Fox	Y	Noah Haiduc-Dale	Y
Ann Marie Cooke	Y	Scott Guzzo	Y	Denise Kelly-Jones	Y
Michael Rose	Y	Michael Strasser	Y	Kristin Post	Y

Motion Carried: Yes

VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. **FINANCE** – Mr. Scott Guzzo, Chairperson

June 2020 Financial Reports (attachments)

1. Motion to accept the Board Secretary’s monthly certification, as attached, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(d) that as of June 30, 2020 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A-22-8 and 18A-22-8.1.
2. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 the Green Township School District Board of Education, after review of the Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s monthly financial reports certify that as of June 30, 2020 and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2. and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
3. Motion to accept the financial reports from the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of June 2020.

Consent Agenda items 1, 2, & 3

Motion: Mr. Guzzo

Second: Mrs. Cooke

/Roll Call/

Marie Bilik	Y	Matthew Fox	Y	Noah Haiduc-Dale	Y
Ann Marie Cooke	Y	Scott Guzzo	Y	Denise Kelly-Jones	Y
Michael Rose	Y	Michael Strasser	Y	Kristin Post	Y

Motion Carried: Yes

C. **POLICY** – Mrs. Denise Kelly Jones, Chairperson

1. Motion to approve Policy #1648 for first reading.

Motion: Mrs. Kelly-Jones Second: Mr. Guzzo
/Roll Call/

Marie Bilik	Y	Matthew Fox	Y	Noah Haiduc-Dale	Lost connection
Ann Marie Cooke	Y	Scott Guzzo	Y	Denise Kelly-Jones	Y
Michael Rose	Y	Michael Strasser	Y	Kristin Post	Y

Motion Carried: Yes

V. **CLOSED MEETING**

Closed Meeting Motion was read by Mrs. Marie Bilik

The Board of Education of the Green Township School District in the County of Sussex will adjourn into closed meeting to discuss item(s) which fall within an exception of our open meetings policy and permits the Board to have private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in

- a. Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule
- b. Individual privacy
- c. Collective bargaining agreements
- d. Purchase or lease of real property if public interest could be adversely affected
- e. Investment of public funds if public interest could be adversely affected
- f. Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property
- g. Pending or anticipated litigation
- h. Attorney-client privilege
- i. Personnel – employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee

Be it resolved that the Board will now go into private session to discuss matters rendered confidential due to the nature of pending or anticipated litigation, attorney-client privilege and personnel – employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee privilege. Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. All appropriate persons, who may be discussed in private session, have been adequately notified.

Motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing **i**
Motion Mrs. Cooke Second Mr. Guzzo
/Roll Call/

Marie Bilik	Y	Matthew Fox	Y	Noah Haiduc-Dale	Lost connection
Ann Marie Cooke	Y	Scott Guzzo	Y	Denise Kelly-Jones	Y
Michael Rose	Y	Michael Strasser	Y	Kristin Post	Y

Motion Carried: Yes

VI. RECONVENE

Motion to reconvene into public session.

Motion Mrs. Cooke Second Mr. Guzzo
/Roll Call/

Marie Bilik	Y	Matthew Fox	Y	Noah Haiduc-Dale	Lost connection
Ann Marie Cooke	Y	Scott Guzzo	Y	Denise Kelly-Jones	Y
Michael Rose	Y	Michael Strasser	Y	Kristin Post	Y

Motion Carried: Yes

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 10:05pm

Motion Mrs. Cooke Second Mr. Guzzo
/Roll Call/

Marie Bilik	Y	Matthew Fox	Y	Noah Haiduc-Dale	Lost connection
Ann Marie Cooke	Y	Scott Guzzo	Y	Denise Kelly-Jones	Y
Michael Rose	Y	Michael Strasser	Y	Kristin Post	Y

Motion Carried: Yes