

**Regional School District No. 8 Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 20, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**

Note: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, attendees participated via in person and Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Kathleen Goodwin, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm

BOE Members Present: Kathleen Goodwin, Judy Benson Clark, Jessica Dapsis, Susan Stolfi, Lori Blake, Mary Cochefski, Mike Morris, Joseph O'Connor, Robert Schadtler, and Jean Wilson.

Administration Present: Scott Leslie, Superintendent
Eva Gallupe, Business Manager

Student Representative: Lily Shevdienko

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments

Mr. Collins, Amston – spoke in opposition of the field turf proposal due to a higher propensity for injury on artificial turf.

Laura Junger, RHAM girl's lacrosse coach – feels we need a well-lit, correct size field. In favor of the turf field proposal.

4. Add/Delete Agenda Items

K Goodwin asked to move agenda item #11.1 Superintendent Search Process to agenda item #9 and renumber remaining items.

J Clark moved to amend the agenda as requested, seconded by J O'Connor. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Student Representative Report

L Shevdienko reported that they are starting to phase out of the syllabus stage and moving on to test and quizzes. Senior early action students are starting to polish essays. Early decision deadline is 11/1.

6. BOE Chair Report – K Goodwin congratulated all RHAM staff for getting the school up and running after an extended absence. She was disheartened to hear about the vandalism of school bathrooms. Any student caught the BOE supports any discipline measures per school policy, as well as required reimbursement of any destructed property. K Goodwin gave a shout out to sports teams, they look good and well organized. Commended the school medical team for a recent student sports injury. J Clark noted to make every effort to communicate to parents about the bathroom vandalism by way of all social media channels.

7. Report of the Superintendent

- Review of Fall School Reopening Plans and Protocols - S Leslie reported that all students are full in person learning and that activities and clubs have resumed. Sports are also back in action. The College Fair will be remote. There may be plans for an outside homecoming dance. The hope is to bring all activities back with some modifications. There has been some contract tracing done, with very few

quarantining needed. They are keeping a close eye on the bus driver shortage. There has been some combining of bus runs to accommodate. Lack of substitute teachers is also an issue in CT. The district

continues to use permanent subs at each building. RHAM is currently fully staffed. They have sunsetted the Early Childhood program until a future date in order to find an instructor to fill the vacant position. S Leslie thanked E Gallupe for her work on the bus challenges.

- Update on the districts compliance with Executive Order 13G - This executive order mandates all staff to be vaccinated. Some district staff may refuse to be vaccinated for religious or medical exemption. If so, they must submit to weekly testing. The program the district currently uses to manage employee pay, Eye Vision, has the ability for staff to upload their vaccine cards as a way for the district to track.

8. **School Reports**

- Update on the Middle School Return to School & Update on the High School Return to School – Dr. Seroussi/Dr. Bryzgel - Reviewed impacts of Covid-19 for both the Middle School and High School. The Lions have loaned picnic tables for students to use for lunch. The Wi-Fi has also been strengthened to allow for classes to be held outside. Professional Development and District Goals were also reviewed. The PSAT/SAT scores over the last four years has achieved the district goal of increasing test scores 5%. There are options for students to take acceleration courses over the summer. New food service, Whitsons, has been implemented and highly favored. Discussion on third lunch wave and reports of running out of food was discussed. It was encouraged that students ask the staff if there are more of a particular food choice in back as they may not have had the opportunity to restock.

9. **Superintendent Search Process** – Joe Erardi is the consultant the district has hired to complete the superintendent search. J Erardi stated the target date to hire would be 7/1/2022. The target date to launch a formal advertisement would be 11/15/2021. There would be a review of applications by the hiring committee. J Erardi suggested to name the Board as the hiring committee. There will need to be a decision if there will also be an advisory committee. Interviews would take place in Jan. 2022 to be completed by Feb, with an early March appointment. That will give plenty of time for the selected candidate to familiarize themselves with the district and staff, and to be able to hit the ground running on 7/1. J Erardi will join the Dec 20th BOE meeting to introduce himself and go over the process to the newly elected Board.

10. **Consent Agenda**

10.1. Approval of Minutes: August 23, 2021

S Stolfi asked that the minutes be amended to show the actual vote of members for the executive session. The minutes should be amended to reflect; #15 Action as a Result of Executive Session, the term Unanimously approved should be struck and replaced with – 8 in favor, with R Schadle abstaining, and J O'Connor absent.

J O'Connor moved to approve the minutes of August 23, 2021 as amended, seconded by R Schadle. 9 approved, with M Morris absent at vote. MOTION CARRIED.

10.2 Request for Child-Rearing Leave – Molly Zielinski, Maureen Leone
Discussion on dates of absence for M Leone.

R Schadle moved to approve the request for child-rearing leave as presented, seconded by J Clark. 9 approved, with M Morris absent at vote. MOTION CARRIED

11. **Old Business**

- Sub Committee Meeting Calendar – S Leslie stated the calendar reflects the schedule used last year. 11/18 for Facilities/Finance meeting was added.

R Schattle moved to approve the subcommittee meeting calendar as presented, seconded by J O'Connor. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

- Scheduling upcoming Board of Education Meetings – In person, Remote or Hybrid – K Goodwin stated there is a lot going on in public education at the moment and we need to protect everyone. J Clark, J Wilson, J O'Connor, and S Stolfi all voiced support of a hybrid or remote meeting option. S Leslie stated that we are fortunate to have the option to hybrid with the technology we have. K Goodwin stated they will keep the meetings hybrid and to let S Leslie know by email three days prior to any meeting if you will be attending remotely or in person.

12. New Business

12.1 Financials

Expenditure and Revenue Report - E Gallupe reviewed report. Net favorable \$17,513, with two unanticipated expenditures. There may be a shortfall for the DOT project expense bill.

Student Activity Report – reviewed for July/Aug 2021. All in balance

Food Service Report – reviewed for July/Aug 2021. Breakfast and lunch are still free for students. Parents can still put funds on student accounts for a second meal or a la carte snacks. The district has opted into the federal reimbursement since the rate is higher at this time. Fund balance is covering any shortage, and may need to transfer funds at a future date if the expenses outweigh additional income from snacks.

13. Reports

Committees

Facilities/Safety/Transportation –J O'Connor reported that they met this month. The committee decided that additional fencing was needed on the section close to the road on field 316. S Leslie stated there is value to adding to the 10 ft. section, to provide additional safety for the balls.

J O'Connor moved to authorize the superintendent to purchase additional fencing for the 316 field and to transfer funds from the field drainage project fund to the nonrecurring fund in the amount of \$4,000, seconded by R Schattle. 9 in favor, with Lori Blake absent from vote. MOTION CARRIED.

Finance/Audit Compliance and Insurance – no meeting

Negotiations – K Goodwin stated nothing has been brought forward for teacher negotiations yet.

Policy – no meeting

Program/Communication – no meeting

Facilitators

EASTCONN – J Clarke – no report

CABE – J Clarke -Fall conference info sent out

- 14. Public Comment** –J O'Connor, Smith Farm Rd – thanked everyone for their hard work over the summer, as a tax payer he is very impressed.

15. Informational Items

15.1 Calendar of Events –submitted

15.2 Discipline Reports – submitted

16. Adjournment

**J O'Connor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27p.m., seconded by R Schadle.
Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk