

**Fallsburg Central School District  
Board of Education  
April 1, 2020  
Regular Meeting Transcription**

Present: Ms. Barbiani, President, Ms. Rappaport, Vice President, Mr. Collura, Ms. Hussey, Ms. Kates, Ms. Muscia, Ms. Reinhardt, Dr. Wall-Carty, Mr. Weiner

Also Present: Dr. Ivan Katz, Superintendent, Dr. Matthew Evans, Asst. Superintendent, Daniel Grecco, Business Manager, Sarah Satz, District Clerk, Kirsten Jacobsen, Interim District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Ms. Barbiani, President.

Ms.Barbiani: May I have a motion to approve the agenda as presented for April 1st.

Mr. Weiner: Motion

Ms. Reinhardt: Motion

Ms. Barbiani: Mike and Jennifer. Any discussion on the agenda. Okay hearing none. All in favor?

Ms. Barbiani: Yes

Mr. Collura: Yes

Ms. Hussey: Yes

Ms. Kates: Yes

Ms. Muscia: Yes

Ms. Reinhardt: Yes

Dr. Wall-Carty: Yes

Mr. Weiner: Yes

Ms. Barbiani: Motion carries. Alright, where are we? Correspondence. I think we might have had, I don't see it I just have the agenda in front of me. I know there was or there might have been a couple of things... that was. sorry. Okay we're going to move on down to the Superintendent's Report. Go ahead Ivan. Ivan? Hello?

Ms. Reinhardt: Anybody ask if Ivan was on the phone?

Dr. Wall-Carty: I don't remember hearing him.

Ms. Tingley: Dr. Katz, this is Jane again if you click on your screen anywhere and then click the red microphone at the bottom, that will umute you.

Dr. Katz: The problem is my other computer was a touch screen so I keep touching this and nothing's happening. I'm more than happy to provide comedic relief.

Dr. Wall-Carty: Job well done, job well done.

Dr. Katz: I can tell you that we've been very busy in the district both on a number of levels including but not limited to feeding our kids Monday through Friday every day. We're now serving over 700 breakfast and 700 lunches and that's going exceptionally well. Today and tomorrow are the Superintendent's conference day so that teachers can come in to collect the resources that they need and prepare for the rollout of instruction that will take place on April 3rd. We've also been preparing the Chromebooks that will go out to the families that responded to our survey. We're trying to address the issue of students who do not have internet access. We purchased a number of hotspots, I think around thirty. That will not cover everyone at this point and we're not going to be getting the hot spots for several weeks because they happen to be in high demand and everyone is ordering them. So once we get them in, the district will put them in place. The teachers have been working on the Google platform to prepare lessons and creating a lesson for our kids who do not have access and Rolling V will be delivering those instructional packets home as they are doing their meal deliveries.

I can tell you that I'm exceptionally proud of the effort that is taking place district wide. Our administrators are doing a yeoman's job at so many different levels working with teachers. Our teachers and administrators have been working together because of the complexity of providing off site instruction. I'm very happy that that's going on and we're working together to get this done. We're far from being perfect but the efforts that are in place are one, educating us with each passing day and also giving us the opportunity to reach our kids who are at home waiting for contact and opportunities to learn. That will be taking place April 3rd forward and that's regardless of whether the closures are extended by the governor or not. If it's not, then the current date is April 16th, that's when we return. If it's extended our plan is in place to cover however long the closure is. There are still a number of unanswered questions like what happens to Regents exams, graduation, our seniors. Our building leadership at the high school is working with teachers and meeting to try put together plans to address that. The superintendent's in the county are meeting nightly as well to address the unanswered questions that have come up and will continue to come up. But all in all, I can tell you I'm very proud of the effort that is taking place and I think you can too. I appreciate the support of the board in this and we're moving forward in a very positive way. And that's the report that was.

Ms. Hussey: May I say something?

Ms. Barbiani: yes

Ms. Hussey: I don't know if one will make a difference, but I have a Chromebook here that Jane gave me when I went to Florida, that's how I attended meetings, but I haven't been able to get it back to the school. And I have it here.

Dr. Katz: Every Chromebook will help. Jane will work with you outside of this meeting to address that.

Dr. Wall-Carty: What about the Board Chromebooks that we have. Is it possible to use those since we don't have access anymore. And if we continue doing meetings like this, it would be better used to put it out in the district if we can.

Dr. Katz: I'll leave that to Jane:

Ms. Hussey: The thing is when you get back

Jane: Would you like me to join in now.

Dr. Katz: Jane has informed me that we don't need them at this point but if we do need them in the future we will use them.

Dr. Wall-Carty: Ok, great. Thank you.

Ms. Barbiani: Thank you Ivan. We're moving down to the administrator's reports. Give you an opportunity to look at the attachments. Then we move down to the business report with Mr. Grecco. Is Dan there?

Dr. Katz: Mr. Grecco are you there?

Ms. Barbiani: we could come back to him if he's having technical difficulties.

Dr. Katz: I'll text him see where we are.

Ms. Barbiani: Okay just want to wait one second or we'll wait a moment.

Ms. Kates: Sarah?

Ms. Satz: Yes?

Ms. Kates: It's Renee I never got that email that you sent.

Ms. Satz: Umm. I keep sending it to you.

Ms. Kates: I don't know, no I got every. Wait a minute.

Ms. Barbiani: So maybe what we should do is move on to the next agenda item and then when Mr Grecco comes back we could have him report. Does that sound good Ivan?

Dr. Katz: Yes.

Mr. Grecco: Can you hear me now? Good evening. Sorry about that I had to figure out how to unmute my mic. The business report right now I would say is going to be a short one. Right now

I'm just trying to figure out how things including Google meetings work. We're also trying to establish new procedures for getting people paid both employees and vendors but so far everything seems to be working as best it can. The CBO is continuing to operate although all the members or all the employees are working from home and that's causing problems getting a hold of people but we continue to persevere and that's it for tonight.

Ms Barbiani: Any questions for Mr. Grecco?

Ms. Reinhardt: (inaudible)

Ms. Barbiani: Thank you Jennifer.

Ms. Hussey: It is great.

Ms. Barbiani: Thanks very much. Thanks for all your hard work. We're going to move down to the minutes. Can I have a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2020 meeting as submitted.

Ms. Kates: Motion

Mr. Weiner: Motion

Ms. Barbiani: So we have Renee, and who's the second? Mike?

Mr. Weiner: Yes

Ms. Barbiani: Any discussion on the motion? Ok. Hearing none. All those in favor?

Ms. Barbiani: Aye

Mr. Collura: Aye

Ms. Hussey: Aye

Ms. Kates: Aye

Ms. Muscia: Aye

Ms. Reinhardt: Aye

Dr. Wall-Carty: Aye

Mr. Weiner: Aye

Ms. Barbiani: Any opposed? The motion carries. Ok now we're down to action items, and it's the consent agenda. Could I have a motion to approve action items 1-11?

Mr. Weiner: Motion

Ms. Barbiani: Mike. Second?

Mr. Collura: Motion

Ms. Barbiani: Joe. Discussion on the motion? Just looking through it. Hearing none. All those in favor?

Ms. Barbiani: Aye

Mr. Collura: Aye

Ms. Hussey: Aye

Ms. Kates: Aye

Ms. Muscia: Aye

Ms. Reinhardt: Aye

Dr. Wall-Carty: Aye

Mr. Weiner: Aye

Ms. Barbiani: Any opposed? The motion carries. Ok. We have no other action items. We're down to Board Time/Committee Reports. Anybody like to speak on their committee.

Mr. Weiner: Just had a real brief Budget meeting a few minutes ago very brief and you know, talking about what could happen when the budget ends up getting passed by the legislature. And we're still waiting on that, for that to be passed so we really can't do too much right now.

Ms. Barbiani: Ok, great. Alright. Did you have any Board time or you're good? Mike? Well I don't know if any other committees have met or currently met during this break

Mr. Weiner: No no, I'm good.

Ms. Barbiani: Well I don't know if any other committees have currently met during this break. So is there anyone else who has Board time that they'd like to talk about. Anything of interest or they'd like to share.

Dr. Wall-Carty: I'd like to share something. I think the work that Dr. Katz, and the administration, and the teachers and the staff have done to try to really support the kids in our district has been absolutely phenomenal to see and at points it has moved me to emotion. Just to be able to watch unprompted, I watched one of the teachers in 4th grade teaching a lesson to the class and it was more about interacting and getting the class interaction going then going over the math lesson for an hour. It was tough to keep a bunch of 4th graders focused on Zoom and God bless her she did it. It was absolutely impressive to see; to see this District unite behind something that is going on like this and I'm so proud. So proud.

Ms. Hussey: I agree with you Sean. As a teacher I don't know how they're doing it, I really don't. I think, as you said, it's phenomenal.

Dr. Wall-Carty: It really is.

Mr. Weiner: Deb?

Ms. Barbiani: Yes Mike.

Mr. Weiner: I want to piggyback as well. We talk about shining stars in the elementary school but in this Comets Universe we have a lot of shining stars and when it's finally over everybody should be proud of what they've done.

Ms. Barbiani: Absolutely.

Dr. Wall-Carty: Absolutely.

Ms. Hussey: I would like to ask something. As far as the meals, how is that actually being done? In the morning, do they come in and pick up the sandwiches?

Dr. Katz: Here's what happens. The kitchen staff arrives in the early morning, about 7:00AM, and they prepare the meals and the meals are put in boxes. The buses arrive at the school around 9:00AM and they have their routes and the boxes go on the buses and we deliver to all of the bus stops. We've had a number of parents who told us they don't need the meals so we don't so we don't deliver the one where we are asked not to. We basically serve around a thousand meals a day. After the meals are served in the morning the tables are prepped for the next day. There are a lot of moving pieces but ultimately kids are served at home and Rolling V has been a fantastic part and partner in doing this and the response from families has been exceptionally positive. And to the points that were made earlier it's just a grand effort. We have volunteers who also work with us in the morning to give parents who drive up to pick up the meals but the majority of meals that are served are delivered by bus to family's homes.

Ms. Hussey: Really excellent.

Ms. Kates: This is Renee. I have to tell you that I was out early one morning and I saw the buses stopped in various places in Woodridge where I live and I have to tell you the people that came outside to get the meals, it was very moving to see that and see how happy the kids were and running around and taking their food back into the house. It was really something to see. It was very touching and I'm proud to be a part of of this District, very much.

Ms. Hussey: Absolutely, absolutely.

Ms. Barbiani: It is true. I did the same thing. I heard the horn beep on the bus and there they were. They beep the horn and the kids come out and they get their food. It's fantastic. Very good.

Ms. Hussey: Ivan what is this, what was this. I saw it on the computer, can you briefly explain. What this, is there a problem with paying, not paying, actually Rolling V but Rolling V paying their people. I was a little confused reading that.

Dr. Katz: There, Rolling V as you may have read in the news is lobbying the state for relief so the state can include vendor employees to be paid just like the District employees are paid. That hasn't happened. We're waiting for the state to approve something like that. We're working with our school attorney and Rolling V to make sure that we are compliant and anything that the state puts forward in terms of requirements, and if funds are loosened up, and aid disbursed for transportation, all those play a part of the picture but right now there hasn't been any changes. I know there's been a lot of discussion and lobbying at the state level but there's been no decisions made at this point.

Ms. Hussey: Yes. Right. Ok, thank you.

Ms. Barbiani: Ivan, did you want to touch base on facilities. We haven't had a meeting. Do you want to touch base on that a little bit.

Dr. Katz: Sure. The governor's last executive order allowed for a window of opportunity for construction projects to take place in school districts with the caveat that they have to be for essential emergency health and safety type work. What we're doing now is working with the architect and school attorney to determine exactly what that means. Any violation of that order could mean a \$10,000 a day fine to the school district so we're being very careful and working with the attorney and architect to try to put something together that falls under the parameters of what's allowable. At this point the architects and construction manager are working together to give us a document that would have the necessary work and their recommendations and assurances that are specific and essential to the executive order of the governor. Once we get that the attorney will review it and guide us forward. If he approves that, if it is approved then the attorney would put forward a resolution for the Board to vote on at a future meeting to approve that that work is done. But that is the 3rd step in the process. But right now we are waiting for the architect to give us documentation of what they deem the essential work. Following that then the review and consideration of the attorney and then a recommendation from me to you to put a resolution forward. It's not going to be moving as quickly as we like and the ramifications that go with that. We realize that. We are working under the advisement of the attorney to make sure we are ultimately compliant with the executive order.

Ms. Barbiani: I just wanted to have you bring that up. I know we're in the middle of our project so umm i wanted to follow up on that. Any other board committee, or anything else anyone wants to bring up while we're here.

Ms. Kates: I will just say something. Some of you were on the committee, scholarship committee, have gotten the letter that of course our dinner was cancelled for the Samuel Beytin Scholarship Fund however the guidance counselor was sending out the applicant to the students that are

eligible and should they fill them out and send the back via email at some point the committee will get together and they will be chosen. We might not have a dinner in their honor but will certainly give out the scholarships at the appropriate time.

Ms. Barbiani: I did read that email. Thank you Renee for bringing that up. Appreciate it. All the hard work with that committee too. What I've been hearing is, seniors are feeling, you know, their at a loss. I know, this is their year, not only them but other student in the district, that's what I've been hearing. But I know we'll do our very best with them, our guidance counselors our teachers. We really don't know, we may be back, we may not be. It's all an unknown. I really appreciate the administration, the teachers, the community, the Board, everything that everybodys done here. This is unprecedented times. We've never seen anything like this is in my life. I don't think any of us have at all. And we'll continue to work hard for our students and get them where they need to be. And that's all I have to say. And I just appreciate all of the hard work. Thank you all.

Ms. Hussey: Thank you and thank you Ivan and your whole team who's working the way you are, day and night.

Dr. Katz: Well it is a team effort and I'm very proud of that effort. You know there was no switch to flip to go from a regular educational program to an off site online program. Our staff has been just amazing, incredible, and I could not, as Superintendent of Schools be more proud of the effort. People are working from the morning to the late hours of the evening being pulled in so many different directions to answer questions and quell fear, and address the kind of panic and concern that goes along when we're trying to do our best for kids. So many thanks to my administrative team, the teachers, to our support staff, to our cafeteria staff, to our custodial staff, and anyone I may have missed because everybody is playing an integral part for our kids. I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for those grand efforts because it is making a difference for kids. So thank you.

Ms. Hussey: I have a curious question. All these people that do come in, volunteering or whatnot, do they, are they wearing like masks and gloves? Or there just coming in?

Dr. Katz: We are, the conference days were put together so that very very small groups of people are coming in, its staggered. I walked the hallways of both buildings and rarely saw a person, so social distancing is a priority. We have Purell things around the hallways of both buildings and we discouraged folks from meeting together. We have been putting a number of meetings together with Google Hangouts. Dr. Evans has been working with staff on the lesson planning and having Q&A on teaching opportunities. We're trying to make this as online as possible and after tomorrow and after teachers have gotten their materials we're looking to be as close to 100% online as possible. I mean there are somethings we have to do on site like cleaning and business office items but other than that the majority of folks will be working from home. Today and tomorrow the health safety and welfare of our staff was at the forefront and

they've been doing a great job of going well beyond social distancing requirements and keeping everybody healthy.

Ms. Hussey: Good good. Proud, proud of everybody.

Ms. Kates: You know this has hit very hard for everybody in my family. My grandsons other grandparents are both, contracted the virus. They were at a function before this really happened and somebody there had it and it spread around to many people out in Long Island.

Ms. Hussey: Is the baby ok?

Ms. Kates: The baby is fine thankyou. And my daughter in-law, she's on the frontline. She's with all the children of parents that have been affected and new babies. When you hear and see what's going on, really, its, you can't even believe it.

Ms. Hussey: I know, hey listen, I have a six week old great grandchild who other than Facetime I haven't seen yet. It's very hard for all these families and by the way, did you all get that, i don't, whether it was on Facebook or, about Eileen Kalter, what a tragedy.

Ms. Kates: Yes, yes. That was another difficult time for us. We're still trying to deal with it but we can't really see them. So it's hard.

Ms. Barbiani: This whole social distancing, you know we're people that are social. This is really putting it to the test beaue here we are having meetings, online meetings. Who would have thought last month that we would be dooig this but we're gonna get through it we're gonna do it. I appreciate all your hard work and your volunteering. I appreciate it. And one other thing I forgot to mention, I wanted to welcome Sarah back.

Ms. Hussey: Yeah

Ms. Barbiani: Welcome back Sarah and congratulations on the baby. We didn't get to see you before you left, you left and had the baby.

Ms. Satz. Yeah, thanks. It was a little crazy.

Ms. Hussey: How old is the baby now?

Ms. Satz: We are exactly 3 months old now.

Ms. Hussey: Awww.

Ms. Barbiani: Congratulations. And I'd like to thank Kirsten. She did a great job filling in for you. She was on top of her game there and filled in. But we're very happy to have you back.

Ms. Jacobsen: Thank you.

Ms. Barbiani: Thank you very much. So alright, that is it. Can I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Ms. Reinhardt: Motion

Mr. Collura: Motion

Ms. Barbiani: Jennifer. I didn't hear the second.

Mr. Collura: It's Joe.

Ms. Barbiani: Jennifer and Joe. Any discussion? All in favor?

Ms. Barbiani: Aye

Mr. Collura: Aye

Ms. Hussey: Aye

Ms. Kates: Aye

Ms. Muscia: Aye

Ms. Reinhardt: Aye

Dr. Wall-Carty: Aye

Mr. Weiner: Aye

Ms. Barbiani: Good night everybody.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37PM.