



Georgetown School Committee

Monday, March 23, 2020 3:30PM

Virtual ZOOM Meeting
Special Session Minutes

Barbie Linares, Chairman
Michael Hinchliffe, Vice Chairman
Cheryl Lachendro, Clerk
Pamela Lundquist
Suzanne MacDonald

Virtual Attendance:

Barbie Linares Superintendent Jacobs
Michael Hinchliffe Suzanne Sutherland
Cheryl Lachendro
Pam Lundquist
Suzanne MacDonald

This meeting was conducted using ZOOM Technology. Chair Linares called the meeting to order at 3:35PM.

1. Call To Order:

Barbie Linares - present
Michael Hinchliffe - present
Suzanne MacDonald - present
Cheryl Lachendro - present
Pamela Lundquist - present

5. Administrative Reports

a) Superintendent's Report

- COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Jacobs requested a special session of the School Committee to give an update regarding COVID-19. Superintendent Jacobs explained that it is difficult to make any decisions since we are not sure of when schools will be reopened. She explained that there will be a call this week from DESE that will likely announce that there will be extension to the closure of schools. She reiterated that although they are discussing an extension of the closure, schools will not be required to be opened past the 185 days. Georgetown Public Schools last day of school is currently scheduled for June 25, 2020. Once the decision has been made if schools will reopen on April 7, 2020, then the School Committee will decide and vote on the last day of school. In addition, depending on what is decided, high school graduation may be postponed. The Superintendent explained that she is meeting virtually with the Northshore Superintendent's Roundtable and they are discussing and sharing information on what changes each district is putting into place. The Superintendent is also meeting virtually with the administrative team and discussing the changes. In addition, she has been in close contact with the Food Services Director, discussing lunches to be offered.

The Committee agreed to still have the regular school committee this coming Thursday, March 26th using the ZOOM Technology. In addition, they will continue with School Committee meetings going forward, but not all items that were originally planned would be presented.

There was also a discussion regarding the budget. The Superintendent explained that she has not had an opportunity to speak with the FinCom and has requested to speak with them regarding the potential cut on the School Department's FY21 budget. Chair Linares has also reached out to the chair of the Board of Selectmen to have the opportunity to discuss the cuts to the budget. The Chair suggested she would reach out to the Board of Selectmen and invite them to join our school committee meeting on Thursday. The Superintendent explained to the committee that she has met with Suzanne Sutherland and they have had a conversation regarding where they would start to make cuts without having to cut into core services. In addition, they will have a conversation with Student Services Director, Jack Tiano, to see how this would be impacted. Also, Special Education services was discussed and how they should be handled during this school closure. The Superintendent said that it all matters on how long the closure is and they are waiting for more guidance from both the State and Federal level. She added that some Special Education teachers are reaching out to their students, having ZOOM calls, lunch bunch, etc., but no services have been provided yet.

Financial questions that have come up, the Superintendent said, is that all full time and part time staff have been paid during this closure, including extended day. And she added that this is consistent across every district. This is because, when this closure ends, we will need staff to be ready to come back to work. In addition, invoices also need to be paid, for example, the bus company, out of school placements, etc. The Superintendent also explained that free lunches are being provided. This is currently an out of pocket expense for us, but we may receive up to a 50% reimbursement. These lunches are open to everyone, not just our free/reduced lunch students and the Superintendent reported that today alone, 25 lunches were distributed. Preschool, extended day and athletic user fees reimbursement was discussed. Finance Director, Suzanne Sutherland added that daily subs are not getting paid, but long term subs are. In addition, they are currently in discussion on whether to pay the coaches stipends. Superintendent Jacobs said that in her meetings with other districts, some are paying the coaches all their stipends, some only a portion and some nothing at all. At this point, we will have to wait and see what happens and we school will reopen.

There was a conversation regarding school choice. The Superintendent recommended that the schools principals should be on the next meeting since they usually have recommendations regarding enrollment.

MOTION: Pam Lundquist (M. Hinchliffe second) motion to adjourn at 4:50PM. So voted (5-0). Motion carried (5-0).

*Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Weiss, School Committee Secretary*