

LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
April 8, 2021

Regular Meeting
Curriculum/Programs and Personnel Committee

- I. Call to Order The Curriculum/Programs and Personnel Committee meeting, held in the Litchfield Intermediate School Auditorium and via teleconference was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Ms. Reardon.

Members present: Ms. Reardon, Chair, Mr. Malo, Ms. Stone, and Mr. Falcetti. Also present: Mr. Leone, Superintendent, Mr. Terzian, Board Chair, Mrs. Kennedy, Chief Academic Officer, Ms. Della Volpe, Principal, Litchfield Middle and High School, and Mrs. Hodges, Administrative Assistant, LPS and RSD6 Liaison.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approve the minutes for the regular meeting of March 11, 2021

Ms. Stone made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of March 11, 2021. Mr. Malo seconded the motion. Mr. Falcetti abstained. The motion passes.

III. Communications

As a follow-up from a prior meeting, Mr. Leone provided a handout to the committee members on 2006-2019 home school data for both Litchfield Public Schools and Regional School District No. 6. He commented the home school data between the two districts are similar. With the exception of 2012, the numbers are in the single digits until the pandemic hit then, both districts have seen a significant spike in home school students. Mr. Leone thanked Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Coyle for their work gathering this data on behalf of the district.

IV. Public Participation

None

V. New Business

- a. NWEA Data Update and Discussion

Mr. Leone introduced Mrs. Kennedy who reviewed the NWEA data. Mrs. Kennedy shared the district does not typically test students this time of year. However, given the pandemic, it was important to measure student learning since the district has been in-person learning since August 26, 2020. Mrs. Kennedy commented students are moving in the right direction and we are seeing positive growth.

Mr. Leone commented he is encouraged with these results but need to keep in mind students in grades 3 and 4 will be taking the SBAC for the first time since standardized testing was suspended in the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Leone is also interested in grade 7 and 8 testing as historically, grade 8 students do not perform well as they know this is the last SBAC they will take and are focused on going to high school.

A question was raised on remote learners and SBAC testing. Mrs. Kennedy shared there is an accommodation for remote learner testing.

b. Update on Middle School

Mr. Leone reviewed program considerations and next steps for the middle school moving to a block schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. The plan includes professional development topics, vertical alignment of grades 6-9 curriculum work, and Promethean Board training. Work will begin in June and will span over the summer months through August. Mr. Leone commented there are no additional costs for this work as expenses are covered in this year and the next year's budget.

Mr. Leone closed by stating the work with the middle school transition is ongoing and will continue to be evaluated and tweaked. He mentioned Wamogo Middle School moved to a block schedule four years ago and the district continues to make adjustments and improvements.

Mr. Leone publically thanked Ms. Della Volpe and Mrs. Kennedy for their work.

c. Virtual School Update

Mr. Leone shared a memo outlining consensus points from the state's ad-hoc educational leadership organizations regarding remote instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. In summary, the State Department of Health, the State Department of Education, and the Office of the Governor must decide if there is a public health need to offer students a remote learning option for the 2021-2022 school year. Local and regional school districts should not be responsible for implementing remote instruction for 2021-2022 with several reasons outlined. Should remote learning be mandated in the 2021-2022 school year, this ad-hoc leadership team would reconvene with the Commissioner of Education and representatives for discussion. The district will not be developing a Virtual School. If the state requires remote instruction for the 2021-2022 school year, the state will be responsible for the development of the program.

VI. Old Business

Mr. Leone led a discussion on quarantine and vaccinated staff and students. Of note, there is conflicting guidance from the CDC and DPH that creates challenges for school districts. The CDC is now saying school districts can reopen with 3 feet of separation and the DPH is directing contract tracing at 6 feet. Mr. Leone submitted a proposal for consideration that would require contact tracing and notification at 6 feet, and quarantine students inside of 3 feet. Approval of this proposal would dramatically reduce the number of students who would need to be quarantined. Mr. Leone also commented that when staff returns from spring recess on April 19th over 95% of all education staff will be beyond two weeks with their second vaccination and clear of quarantine protocols.

VII. Future Agenda Items

None

VIII. Adjournment There being no further business to come before this committee, **Ms. Stone made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Malo seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem