

**ADIRONDACK CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOONVILLE ELEMENTARY
BOONVILLE, NY 13309
Via Livestream**

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING – September 16, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Michael Kramer, President	Edward Niznik, Superintendent
Almanda Sturtevant, Vice President	Sharon Cihocki, Business Administrator
Bruce Brach	
Mark Emery	Jonas Bowers
Richard Gallo	
Joan Ingersoll	
Doug Muha	
<u>MEMBERS ABSENT:</u>	

Mr. Kramer called the special meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Mrs. Sturtevant was attending the meeting remotely.

Mr. Niznik served as Clerk-Pro Tem in the absence of the District Clerk.

Mr. Niznik explained the meeting was being livestreamed on the YouTube platform and once introductory comments were made they would answer questions received regarding school sports. He explained that Section III voted to have low risk fall sports and high risk sports would be postponed until next spring. School districts needed to make the decision on whether or not to participate in the low risk fall sports. Within the section, three districts have decided to postpone all sports until spring. The Adirondack Board members have considered the many safety measures involved with having school sports.

Mr. Niznik read the questions and comments that were sent to the District Clerk prior to the meeting regarding sports. Mrs. Cihocki read the questions and comments that came in during the meeting. Mr. Niznik and Mr. Roberts answered questions, Board members commented.

Regarding the mental health of all students, Mrs. Ingersoll stated that is what we are doing, what she is doing, the Board is considering the health of everybody, not just the sports teams. Everyone is important.

Mr. Kramer stated the students input, the parents input is very important, but as a NYS Public School, we are also guided by the decisions and guidance set down by CDC, NYS Dept. of Health, Oneida and Lewis County Departments of Health, State Ed. Dept., NYSPPA. The road that we take is set for us.

Mr. Niznik stated schools are struggling with making the right decision for their school district.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Mr. Kramer commented on the word “cancelled” and would prefer to use “postponed” in the resolution.

Mrs. Ingersoll moved and Mr. Gallo seconded, carried 7-0; after much discussion, the Board adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that following deliberation of the applicable state and local guidance and in light of the health and safety concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, interscholastic sports shall be postponed for the fall 2020 season.

Mr. Brach stated we all have opinions and we all have priorities, not everyone has the answers. School Districts across the area are doing different things, their priorities are different than his. He is not going to judge anyone. Having a wife as a teacher and hearing/watching the struggles every day, his priority is getting kids back to school then can consider sports. The sooner we can get to a normal every day school year the sooner we can get back to sports and monitor. He stated that is his opinion and he doesn't have all the answers.

Mr. Kramer stated any questions not answered this evening, we will get answers to them.

Mr. Emery stated he agreed with Mr. Brach. We need to make a decision which is responsible for all the students, all faculty, all of the people that work at the school and the people at home. The level of activity is no comparison to gym class. Does 12 feet really mean anything when you are on a sports field playing 1 foot from each other? He feels the same if you are bringing other kids in or playing kids from your own district. You don't know who has or had COVID. Driving down Route 12 seeing total irresponsibility of kids playing basketball every single day with no social distancing, no masks and high levels of activity. If they didn't have COVID and didn't infect anybody that is pure luck and he can't vote on luck.

Mr. Gallo stated it was brought up that people are concerned about the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of students. As an example personally, his son has special needs and for the last 6 months his son has not received his normal physical therapy or occupational therapy. He and his wife have tried to do that themselves with the help of the PT or OT over the phone, zoom or google, but they can see the regression in his walking and fine motor skills. If the school were to shut down and go full remote students wouldn't receive special services that they need in the same way. The OT and PT were not allowed to go into the homes. He believes the physical wellbeing of students that need those services is more important than the athletes having a full season right now at this point. He would love to see them have a season later in the year or intramurals or practices allowed to have together. He felt bad what happened last spring when the season was lost. If students were to lose their fall season everyone would feel badly and would be a terrible loss for our students. It is not the number one priority for himself and he doesn't think it is for the majority of the community.

Mr. Muha wanted to stress people need to look at this as we want to get back to normal. We will start moving forward (inaudible) just hang on (inaudible). No one has all the answers. Just hang in there, we need to get back to normal.

Other Discussion:

Mr. Brach referred to one time talking about starting with a certain number of grade levels full-time, then talking about kindergarten starting full-time the second week. He asked where we stand with that because again that is his priority.

Mr. Niznik answered we need to continue to look at that, he doesn't know if we are going to be on for that next week because it has been such a change and shift of getting back to school and into a routine, but it is definitely our goal to try to get students back particularly in K-3 as we discussed. Not sure right now that we are on schedule to do it next week. Getting into the routine and for the teachers with different modes of learning has been overwhelming.

Mr. Brach stated he believes, to some extent, that having the kids here every day relieves some of that anxiety with what we are doing with the kids at home while trying to teach the kids that are here. He was excited to hear the idea of the first or second week in October to have K-3 back full time and would really like to try to challenge ourselves to make that happen to the greatest extent possible.

At 8:15 p.m. Mr. Kramer asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss the employment history of particular personnel. Mr. Brach moved and Mr. Muha seconded, carried 7-0.

Board members returned from executive session 8:58 p.m. Mr. Muha moved and Mr. Brach seconded; carried 7-0; to go into regular session.

After returning to regular session the Board voted on the item below:

Professional Staff:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Emery moved and Mr. Brach seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education appointed the following:

Name	Area	Type of Appointment	Certification Status	Effective Date	Rate of Pay
Karen Napolitano	Science	Long-Term Substitute	Pending	TBD	D1, Step 1

At 9:05 p.m. Mr. Muha moved and Mr. Gallo seconded, carried 7-0; to adjourn to the Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Boonville Elementary.

Edward S. Niznik, Clerk Pro-Tem