

**ADIRONDACK CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
BOONVILLE, NY 13309**

DRAFT

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING – March 3, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Michael Kramer, President	Edward Niznik, Superintendent
Almanda Sturtevant, Vice-President	Sharon Cihocki, Business Administrator
Bruce Brach	Michelle Freeman, District Clerk
Mark Emery	Dan Roberts, Asst. HS Principal/Interim AD
Richard Gallo	Ryan Jennings, Richard Chrisman, Andrea Renwick, Ray
Joan Ingersoll	Hennessey, John Hennessey, Rob Hennessey, Morgan
Doug Muha	Cady, Eric Thayer, Payton Cady
<u>MEMBERS ABSENT:</u>	

Mr. Kramer called the special meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

PRESIDENT’S MOMENT:

Mr. Kramer explained that the acoustics in the gym are great for games, but make it hard to hear people talk, so he asked those speaking tonight please speak loudly so everyone can hear.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Rob Hennessey – ACS Head Football Coach – stated he spoke to the Superintendent at length earlier today hoping to have an abbreviated season. ACS has a couple of freshman he would like to play varsity to give them play time. In the fall last year they had a Pop Warner and also played at Accelerate in Utica, both were very successful leagues. They followed COVID protocol and few if no issues. Kids now more than ever need to do stuff athletically, not enough for kids to do. We are fully capable to play and handle COVID. He hopes the Board gives kids the opportunity to play.

Morgan Cady – President of Pop Warner – to caveat on what Mr. Hennessey said, kids played Pop Warner in the fall with no issues. Credit needs to be given to kids and parents, they are dedicated to playing. He has high school aged children and this is rough not being able to play sports. This will be the last chance his daughter who is a senior will have to swim. He wants to try everything to allow kids to play sports.

Andrea Renwick – Mom/Nurse – Both of her children swim and one is a senior. She is a nurse and has been in the thick of COVID, but she knows that with proper safety protocols and working together we should be able to have sports. We need to look at the psychological effects this has on our kids. It can be done.

Mr. Kramer thanked everyone for their comments.

Mr. Brach explained at the last meeting the Board had a discussion about Fall II sports. As a district if we are discussing taking chances to play sports, why aren’t we having the discussion about taking chances to get kids back to in-person academics.

Mr. Kramer explained the other issues in their discussion about sports are the pool being under construction, number of students wanting to play and the lack of coaches. This is a very fluid topic changing every day.

Mr. Kramer asked if anyone has any questions during the discussion to just to raise their hands.

Rescind Motion:

Mr. Kramer asked the Board for a motion to rescind their decision from the February 23rd meeting to cancel Fall II sports. Motion made by Mr. Brach, seconded by Mrs. Sturtevant; carried 6-1, Mrs. Ingersoll.

Mr. Brach stated as a district, if we are going to offer sports, we have to get kids back for in-person learning. He wants to hear how we are going to get kids back to school. He agrees with having sports, but he feels it's not just about sports.

Mrs. Ingersoll stated she agrees with Mr. Brach. One of her concerns about sports is the new turf. She does not want to see shovels on that field.

Mr. Roberts reviewed the number of students for sports and level of interest in sports, the numbers are increasing to around 100. He stated he has reached out to New York State School for the Deaf to use their pool and that is a possibility for the swim team.

Mr. Gallo asked about the two week overlap of sports. He talked to the Remsen athletic director and they are not overlapping. Mr. Gallo said he is more conducive to sports if there is no overlap, does not agree with having multiple teams practicing in the facilities.

Johnny Hennessey asked if they could shovel off the grass part of the football field. Mr. Kramer said that could be a consideration.

Mr. Roberts went over the numbers for girls', boys' and mod soccer. He talked about mod football and possibly having skills and drills, and cross country.

Ray Hennessey asked why you can't shovel the turf off of snow. Mr. Gallo explained it effects the warranty on the turf. If there was any damage done to the turf while using shovels on it, it would cancel the warranty.

Mr. Brach stated eight days ago this Board had a discussion about Fall II sports. This week New Hartford School brought kindergarten through second grade back five days a week. It is a priority to get kids back to school. Where is the priority at Adirondack, it is an embarrassment. We need to have kids back to school, we need to take chances/risks.

Mr. Emery stated top priority needs to be bringing kids back to school.

Mrs. Sturtevant asked about the 3-5 program and how it is working for students who play sports. Mrs. Cihocki said students can get extra help at 2:30 also.

Mr. Hennessey said we have taken risks bringing back special needs kids and it has seemed to work. We need to take a calculated risk with sports. Yes playing football sometimes we are 3 feet even 3 inches apart, that is a calculated risk, coaching is a risk, but those are risks he is willing to take.

Mr. Brach asked if we could have enough dividers to bring K-5 back. He would like to see K-2 back in two weeks and 3-5 back after spring break.

Mr. Niznik said we're waiting on Mrs. Cihocki to order dividers. Mrs. Cihocki stated there are about 185 dividers in the MS waiting to be used and more can be ordered.

Mr. Kramer said transportation and the cafeterias also need to be looked at with bringing students back.

Mr. Kramer stated the Board will make a decision at their March 9th meeting regarding Fall II sports. He asked if there were any further comments/questions.

He also stated under no circumstance will helping Mother Nature to clear the fields be tolerated. He doesn't want to go by the field and see people shoveling snow off of it.

At 8:31 p.m. Mr. Emery moved and Mr. Brach seconded, carried 7-0 to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Board members returned from executive session at 9:42 p.m. Mr. Muha moved and Mr. Emery seconded; carried 7-0; to go into regular session.

At 9:43 p.m. Mr. Emery moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 7-0, to adjourn to the Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Boonville Elementary.