

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Mae Lyons, Board Chair
Keith Atchinson, Secretary
Tana Jolley

Melissa Perkins-Banas, Vice-Chair
Justin Phaiah
Carolyn Hackbarth

Mission: The Brooklyn Schools will foster a drive for learning within each student to reach his/her greatest potential. To achieve this mission, the school will continually improve its educational programs and services to meet this community's expectations for a quality education for all.

The Brooklyn Board of Education held their monthly meeting virtually on September 23, 2020 via Zoom. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Atchinson, Mr. Phaiah, Mrs. Jolley and Mrs. Hackbarth. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, and Mr. Otto, Board of Finance, were also present.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Brooklyn Board of Education will conduct a virtual meeting in accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7B.

To support public participation the documents will be posted on the
Town of Brooklyn Website as well as the Brooklyn Public
Schools Website.

You are encouraged to send questions or comments to buell@brooklynschools.org prior to the meeting.

1. Attendance, Establishment of a Quorum, Call to Order

Quorum established. Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

2. Public Comment

Mrs. Buell received many emails today for public comment as well as several in the past week. She stated that many of the emails are of similar content. With permission from the Board, Mrs. Buell would like to summarize the emails and not read them word for word due to having public comment on the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Mrs. Buell continued that a lot of the contents of the emails will be addressed throughout the Board meeting. The Board gave Mrs. Buell permission to summarize the emails she received.

Kristen and Jim Elliott, regarding two children they have in the system. Their kids are loving being back in school. Some of the concerns they have are that their children deserve more than pre-recorded videos.

Mrs. Buell stated that many of the comments are about pre-recorded videos. She stated that staff have been recording videos to use for Brooklyn's distance learners and hybrid

learners. In addition to using videos for these two groups, many teachers are using pre-recorded mini lessons, usually 5-10 minutes, in the classroom to start their lesson and then they support the student work.

Mrs. Buell continued with the emails. When students are at home for two days, they are receiving pre-recorded lessons. They would like to see that when the students are in school that they are connected to the teachers and have more live teaching. Teachers have little face time with all their students. Mrs. Buell stated due to cohorting at the middle school where students have more than one teacher, they are not moving class to class and switch to a different teacher at the end of the week. There are different grade level teachers at the elementary that teach all content areas, different teachers are creating mini lessons. Mrs. Buell stated that the reason for pre-recorded lessons was for when students return to school or transition from remote learning, they would have the opportunity to get to know different teachers.

Mrs. Buell stated that some of the emails were on Brooklyn Schools doing better for our students. She continued that Brooklyn Public Schools is very proud of what we have created and we need to do better.

Another email was on using the specials teachers or related arts teachers supporting students on their distance learning days. Mrs. Buell stated that the reason for that is the classroom teachers are actually teaching the next set of students.

Heather Leonard emailed and wants to understand the rationale of pre-recorded lessons and videos instead of virtual teaching, distance learning, equity plan, and about the unified arts teachers supporting the students. She would also like to learn more about the material that is in pre-recorded lessons and understand how we are sharing information to use Google Docs, and the various platforms that we are using.

Elizabeth Hall Hecker emailed and describes the situation as a nightmare. She referred to the video lessons as well. She also commented about an announcement at the middle school for students to make sure they complete their work where grades close next week and they may not do well. The challenge may be more related to the model and less about the students. Also stated about needing positive correspondence from teachers.

Louise Morrison sent an email and would like to know when live teaching will be happening at the middle school. Why can't teachers move around to different classrooms and provide instruction? She also mentioned the announcement about the progress reports and believes that the Board of Education needs to look at this.

Mrs. Buell stated she received an email from Sergio Rodriguez, a Pomfret resident and a parent of a Woodstock Academy student, which is unrelated to the other comments/emails she received. He is asking other tuition paying towns to encourage the Board of Trustees at the Woodstock Academy to get more instruction in place for Woodstock Academy students.

Mrs. Buell stated that all the emails she has received are part of the content of tonight's meeting and she would like the opportunity to address them. She knows parents have a lot to say and there is a second opportunity to do that. She stated that most of the content are conversations she has been having with the leadership team trying to review the services, the model and improve our practices.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. August 26, 2020 BOE Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2020
(Jolley/Perkins-Banas)
No Discussion, unanimous vote to approve

4. Correspondence and Communication

a. Annual Report from Woodstock Academy

Mrs. Buell stated that she received the annual report from Woodstock Academy and she included it in with the packet of handouts and was posted to the town's website.

b. PPE coming from State

Mrs. Buell stated that we will be receiving PPE, cloth masks, from the State of Connecticut for students in Brooklyn. Steve Mylly, Department of Emergency Management for Brooklyn, will be picking them up for Brooklyn students. She stated that Steve Mylly has been gathering a lot of PPE on behalf of the Brooklyn Schools during the summer.

5. Administrative Reports

a. Brooklyn BOE Expenditure Report

Mrs. Buell discussed the expenditure report. She explained that if you see an item in red in parenthesis, it is a negative line item. She stated she will be requesting some transfers throughout the year as line items go in the negative, they will transfer funds to balance those negatives. Mrs. Buell continued to explain the negative line items. For example, one is for creating a 12 month Special Education Director position and creating additional teacher positions. She explained that they will be taking funds from a different line item that they are predicting will have a surplus in them.

b. Budget Transfer Request

Mrs. Buell discussed the line items she is requesting the budget transfer request

for. Mrs. Buell is requesting a transfer of funds to offset some of the negatives she discussed in the expenditure report. The total Mrs. Buell is requesting to transfer is \$250,132.97.

Mr. Otto wanted to state that he thinks this is a really positive development with respect to the transfer report. This is something that the Board of Education hasn't used in the past and should help the Board understand the status of the budget on a regular basis throughout the year. He congratulates the staff on putting this report together. Mrs. Buell thanked Stephanie Levin.

Motion to transfer funds in the amount of \$250,132.97 from twelve lines into six accounts for the reasons discussed and outlined on the budget transfer request. (Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No discussion, unanimous vote to approve

c. Enrollment Report

Mrs. Buell stated the enrollment report looks similar to August's report. Currently at the Brooklyn Elementary School, there are 344 students that are in person hybrid model, 134 students are opt-out distance learning and 32 students are being homeschooled. At the Brooklyn Middle School, there are 258 students that are in person hybrid model, 79 students are opt-out distance learning and 8 students are homeschooled. The High school enrollment has been consistent. There are 23 students that are out of the district.

d. Survey Results

Mrs. Buell stated that both schools did a survey of staff and families of the hybrid model after the third week of school. Mrs. Buell shared the parent survey results with the Board. Mrs. Buell stated that they asked about the pick up-drop off routine and seems to be running smoothly; Is the school taking the necessary precautions to be healthy in school, 93% agree; Parents reported that students feel safe/healthy in school, 92% agree; Students look forward to going to school, 76% agree; Your children are managing the current workload, 81% agree and 19% are struggling with the workload; Your child know how to access the instruction provided? 80% yes and 20% no; On distance learning Wednesdays, studentars are on for live instruction with a break. How is your child managing that routine? 72% well and 28% not well; The amount of work my child has received has been appropriate? 74% just right; I am receiving sufficient communication from my child's teachers? 81% agree and 19% disagree. Mrs. Buell stated that they are looking at all this information.

Mrs. Buell stated that one of the questions asked, when trying to look at pivoting to a different learning model, If thCOVID infection rate remains the same, in Brooklyn, CT, and no vaccine is available and we moved to a ull in-person model, approximately 17-18 students, which option would you choose? Overall, parents

who responded stated that 15 would remain in full distance learning, 5 would return to school, 25 would go to full distance learning, 182 would move from hybrid to full in person, 1 would move to homeschool.

Mrs. Buell stated that they are trying to get a feel of what would happen if we were to return to full in person learning. She stated that the Commissioner of Education, the State of Connecticut, and many parents are all split on this. They want children back in school.

e. Current Instructional Model and Projected Changes

Mrs. Buell stated that we had a reopening plan of full in person learning, hybrid, and full distance learning. Mrs. Buell stated that if we need to shutdown again, we are fully prepared and are in a better place now with better platforms. Can we get students back to school? Mrs. Buell stated our goals were to keep a healthy learning environment. We have our mitigation strategies in place wearing masks successfully and consistently. Everyone is doing a great job with that, staff and students. Masks breaks have been happening with staff and students. Related arts teachers are taking students outside. She stated that wearing masks is our top priority in controlling the spread of the virus. Other healthy environment items that Brooklyn has in place are hand washing, hand sanitizers, different cleaning schedule set-up. A question that Mrs. Buell has been asked is what happens on Wednesday when we are supposed to be deep cleaning? How can you deep clean when you are in session? Mrs. Buell stated that deep cleaning isn't happening. We are cleaning and disinfecting every night. This is the recommendation from the state, regular cleaning and disinfecting needs to happen and has been happening.

Mrs. Buell stated that the next piece is social distancing or physical distancing. The message was we need to be six feet apart and mixed messages of putting as many students on a bus as we want, which isn't social distancing. Mrs. Buell stated CDC guidelines to wear a mask and maintain six feet social distance as much as possible. Mrs. Buell reached out to the Superintendents Hotline, the Department of Public Health (DPH), the State Department of Education, and our local NDDH. Mrs. Buell stated they say yes we say six feet, and the CDC says six feet, but if you're using the other mitigation strategies we don't have to maintain six feet. She stated we can be less than six feet and she has seen students and staff are less than six feet apart. Mrs. Buell thinks if we are using the mitigating strategies, and using the guidance she's received. When Mrs. Buell has spoken to NDDH, to have communication to monitor what's happening and in coordination with NDDH we would talk about when do we close and when do we open. Mrs. Buell stated that American Academy Pediatrics states it would be nice to be able to achieve six feet, but three feet between students doesn't increase the spread of the virus. She stated the State Department of Education has said that there has not been one case of transmission from a school. She stated that there have been no cases of transfer from one person in the school to another person in the school.

Mrs. Buell stated she's also spoken to Sue Starkey with NDDH, based on guidance we can start on planning on a reopening plan. We need to do some things first. Mrs. Buell would like to bring students back five days a week in school.

Mrs. Buell stated there have been questions in regards to ventilation. Schools have different levels of ventilation. Custodians are coming in early and opening doors and windows to get the air flowing and will continue into the winter as well.

Mrs. Buell stated if we bring students back, we need to look at additional classrooms. There are a few rooms available at the elementary, the OT/PT room, the STEAM room. They have sinks and bathrooms in those rooms. At the middle school, each grade level has their own student bathroom and they can make the move for each grade level to have their own student bathroom at the elementary school.

Mrs. Buell wanted to share what Brooklyn's Plan looks like. We have already started to bring back some of our high need students that are returning next week that have difficulty accessing instruction and need special education instruction for the bulk of their day. With speaking with administrators in both buildings, they are looking at the option of bringing back half of the elementary students and half of the middle school students will return October 7, 2020. They are looking at half of the schools to start to transition slowly. The second half will return October 13, 2020. The students returning will be by certain grade levels coming in by October 7th and the rest of the grade levels coming in October 13th.

Mrs. Buell stated that administrators are looking at lunches and working on a plan. She stated half of every class will stay in the class for lunch the other half will go to the cafeteria. Students will be spaced out, not facing each other for lunch because that is when transmission may happen from talking.

Mrs. Buell stated we will continue to cohort. If someone does get sick in that class and we are closer than six feet for more than 15 minutes, then we can isolate that class. She stated if we are not cohorting, we would be isolating a grade level or multiple grade levels.

Mrs. Buell stated that we will be using bathrooms and sinks in classrooms that are not being used currently. We will be using the cafeteria. We will be adding more cleaning to bathrooms and monitor the parent drop-off.

Mrs. Buell stated the bus company is doing a bus count on the number of students on each bus for the A and B hybrid students to reassign buses to other areas if needed to space students out on the bus. Bus routes may be impacted.

Mrs. Buell stated she has already communicated with Brooklyn Parks and Recreation. They have been using the school gym and cafeteria and will need to

be relocated and will work collaboratively with them to have space to use for the before and after school program.

Mrs. Buell stated if a teacher is out sick, what happens if there isn't a sub? The administrators have two options. They can cancel the class and students will be told to work remotely that day or we can combine two classes together in a larger area to spread out more, such as the gym. It has been done at the middle school on two different occasions. There is a possibility of having remote days if too many teachers are out on the same day, somewhat similar to a snow day if parents have to plan on childcare.

Mrs. Jolley stated that Mrs. Buell said that students are coming back as soon as next week, she assumes that they are students with IEP's? Mrs. Buell stated that is correct. Mrs. Jolley asked given you are going to start your next round by grade level, what about students with IEP's that parents have not been notified of when they will return? When is the priority going to be to get students with 504's and IEP's in a class or are they just going to shuffle in with the regular class even though they are the ones that are supposed to be getting help and aren't getting help? Mrs. Buell stated that the first round is September 28, 2020 and the next round is October 7, 2020. Mrs. Buell stated they are trying to move it along as quickly as they can and that Mrs. Toth, Special Education Director, has been working on this for everyone. Mrs. Buell stated that if by chance we choose not to reopen on October 7th due to some metric that occurs and we are unable to make this happen, Mrs. Toth has been working on case by case with case managers for students.

Mrs. Buell stated a lot of furniture needs to be moved. There may be overtime for custodians to set-up classrooms with furniture. She stated that they need to reach out to families to see who wants to full return or full remote.

Mr. Atchinson asked if this is for the elementary school or the middle school. Mrs. Buell stated it is for both schools.

Mrs. Buell stated she is looking at staff that have higher risks. How do we ensure to maintain six feet with more students in the classroom? They are working one by one with those situations.

Mrs. Buell stated she believes we need to hire two additional teachers. She has spoken to municipalities and we may be able to use some of our Connecticut CRT funds funds and have some flexibility on it to cover costs.

Mrs. Buell stated that paras are working four days a week and some are riding buses. Their schedules will need to be adjusted for full in school learning. She believes we will stay in this model for as long as we can.

Mrs. Buell stated that she has had conversations with administrators, do we take this step to bring everyone back or stay in the hybrid model? She stated the health risks have been clarified that it is a low enough risk that we might be able to do that. The emotional and academic challenges families are faced with now are a higher risk right now.

Mrs. Lyons thinks it will be better for students with consistency and parents will still have the option to keep their kids home if they want.

Mrs. Hackbarth stated the more normalcy we can get, she thinks the mitigations are awesome and everybody is doing a great job. She thinks to move forward in those steps is a positive thing.

Mrs. Perkins-Banas concurs with Mrs. Hackbarth with all the necessary precautions have been implemented and the decisions that are being made are the result of continued collaboration with the State Department of Education and Department of Public Health and she supports Mrs. Buell's recommendation.

Mr. Atchinson is wondering about both schools and companies trying to get through the cold and flu season and the worry it may spike again in October or November. What have they said about that? He's all for returning full time, but the timing might be bad. Mrs. Buell stated the Commissioner of Education and the State Department of Education they want us to go back to school. She stated that the DPH is talking about this. Mrs. Buell has heard that they are more concerned about everyone shutting down in late November, December, January. She said they are saying to get back to school for as long as you can before everyone has to go remote. Mrs. Buell stated we will get back to school for as long as we can.

Mrs. Lyons believes continuing with hand washing and wearing masks is a good thing.

Mrs. Jolley stated that students with IEP's don't get the support they need at home, and using three different systems throughout the week does not help. She stated that going back is definitely a good thing for a lot of kids with not having to worry about emotional breakdowns.

Mrs. Lyons asked if the Board needs to make a motion on this? Mrs. Buell said they don't need to.

Mr. Atchinson stated he heard surveying what the students would do if we go back full time. He wanted to know if there was anything about how teachers felt going back full time? Do we have teachers that won't return if students are in school full time? Mrs. Buell stated that there is concern. Every family has different situations. There may be family members with high risks. There are staff members that do have concerns about seeing 18 students per day versus 18

students per week.. Teachers maintain 6 feet from students. Mrs. Buell stated that they are looking for teachers to maintain six feet from their students and having a fuller class, teachers may be more cautious of that. The school can provide shields, all teachers have desk shields now. A bigger shield may be provided too. If a teacher is having a hard time maintaining the six feet due to the class size, there may be a larger space to relocate the teacher and their class. Mrs. Buell staged if teachers have medical leave needs, and she can't accommodate them, and we don't have teachers to back fill. It is a concern.

Mrs. Jolley asked when kids go back to school, she knows there was a lot of concern in the emails about videos and not live teaching. Will the learning look a little more normal? Mrs. Buell stated all teachers are required to record a lesson everyday. Teachers are using that as part of their instruction. She stated the initial thought was that it would look a lot like a live lesson. Teachers will be using less pre-recorded lessons. There will still be zooming at the middle school due to teachers teaching certain content areas.

Mrs. Lyons stated she has seen people in stores wearing headbands with plastic over their face. Has there been any conversation if that is effective? Mrs. Buell stated that some students and some staff wear a mask and a face shield. She stated you can't substitute a shield for a mask because there is space for particles to go under the shield. You can wear a shield, but you have to wear a mask with the shield.

f. Brooklyn's Best

(Mrs. Buell missed mentioning this, but stated she would get it out somehow at a later date)

i. BES

1. Students and staff are thrilled to be back
2. New staff have transitioned nicely into our community
3. Staff is taking advantage of the warm weather and getting the students outside
4. Staff are beginning to use our new book collections for social emotional learning and social justice lessons
5. SEL and technology professional development offered at the beginning of the year was well received

ii. BMS

1. Successful opening to school
2. Staff and students are happy to be back
3. Students are doing a fantastic job wearing masks
4. Our new staff has settled in nicely and are connecting with students, families and colleagues
5. Grandparent handmade over 50 masks for her grandson's cohort and staff

6. Board of Education Committee Reports

Nothing to report

7. Board Representatives to other Committees

Nothing to report

8. Old Business

a. PV Update

Mrs. Buell stated that Eversource came out this week to swap out the transformer. The modules on the front of the building are installed and the crews have moved to the back side of the school. The module installation is about 65% completed. The contractor intends to make the interconnection of the solar equipment into the existing switchgear next Wednesday while there are no students in the school. Substantial completion is still expected for mid October.

BROOKLYN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		
MILESTONE	COMPLETION STATUS	NOTES
DAS APPROVALS	100%	
DESIGN	100%	
PERMITTING	100%	
PROCUREMENT	95%	Monitoring device is only outstanding item
MOBILIZATION	100%	
SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION		Anticipated date of 10/16
---SITE WORK	100%	
---TRANSFORMER REPLACEMENT	100%	Replaced 9/9
---ROOF WORK	65%	Front done, back high roof 50%, working on pipework 85% DC conduit
---ELECTRICAL WORK	70%	Tie-in/shutdown planned for Weds. 9/16
PROJECT CLOSEOUT	0%	
---COMMISSIONING	0%	
---PERMISSION TO OPERATE	0%	Anticipated end of October
---ZREC REGISTRATION	0%	
---DAS REIMBURSEMENT	0%	

This project is awaiting arrival of the racking product in order to proceed with installation. The crews will be focusing on finishing the elementary school over the next few weeks until the last of the material has arrived.

BROOKLYN MIDDLE SCHOOL		
MILESTONE	COMPLETION STATUS	NOTES
DAS APPROVALS	100%	
DESIGN	100%	
PERMITTING	100%	
PROCUREMENT	75%	Contactor arrived, expected on-site 3-4 weeks
MOBILIZATION	100%	
SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION		Anticipated date of 11/16
---SITE WORK	100%	
---ROOF WORK	25%	Conduits routed to roof and panelboard mounted. Awaiting racking to begin module installation
---ELECTRICAL WORK	50%	AC Conduit routing completed, shutdown in 2-3 weeks
PROJECT CLOSEOUT	0%	
---COMMISSIONING	0%	
---PERMISSION TO OPERATE	0%	Anticipated end of November
---ZREC REGISTRATION	0%	
---DAS REIMBURSEMENT	0%	

9. New Business

a. Hiring of new Administrative Assistant and Director of Human Resources

Mrs. Buell stated that the school and the town had a shared position of an Executive Assistant and a Director of Human Resources. She has spoken with Mrs. Levin on the budget and Mr. Ives and they would like to move forward with having one Executive Secretary and one Director of Human Resources. The school and the town would share the Human Resources position.

Proposed salary for each full time employee: \$57,000

Exec. Secretary: \$57,000

Budget: \$41,097

Director of HR: .5 FTE \$27,500

Budget Needed: \$84,500

Difference needed annually: \$43,403 + insurance as needed
This year we will need an additional \$30,000 depending on hire dates
Proposed funding: to be taken from the transportation line.

Motion to approve the hiring of a 1.0 administrative assistant and .5 HR staff to be shared with the Town.

(Perkins-Banas/Hackbarth)

No Discussion, Jolley abstained due to not having enough information

b. Hiring an IT Support Personnel

Mrs. Buell would like the Board to consider hiring an IT support personnel. There are currently two stipend positions that do a lot of IT work for the Brooklyn Public Schools. They are both teachers and as we continue to add more and more devices, it has become overwhelming. Mrs. Buell stated that this teaching environment is enough and they have also been doing IT support, and summer work. She stated we do have some funding in the budget for additional IT work. Mrs. Buell stated to maintain the level of tech work and support that we are trying to do, it becomes challenging.

Proposed salary for 1.0 FTE \$65,00-\$70,000/year

Budget: Two stipends at \$7,546

Summer work: \$7,400

Tech Support: \$20,000 Total: \$42,492

Difference needed annually: \$27,508 + Insurance as needed

Motion to post and hire an IT Support staff for district and possibly a shared position with the Town.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No Discussion, unanimous vote to approve

c. Modified Teacher and Administrator Evaluation for 2020-2021 to reflect the current educational model

Goals will focus on social emotional needs

Equitable access to education

d. Approval of the Brooklyn Administrator's Contract for 2021-2024

The Negotiations Committee and the Board of Finance Representative have had an opportunity to review the off the record proposal and believe they have come to an agreement.

Motion to approve the proposed off the record Brooklyn Administrator's Contract for 2021-2024.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

Mr. Otto stated before you vote, He's not sure if the members of the Board that aren't on the negotiating committee have had a chance to look at the negotiations of this contract. He states it is a good step to try and negotiate and adopt a contract without having to hire a lawyer and he's very supportive of that. It looks like you are giving more vacation days paid in addition to personal and paid holidays. For example, for a one year administrator, gets 21 days paid vacation in addition to their five days of personal days and 12 holidays. If this is the norm throughout the state and we can't hire administrators without providing this, then I guess we don't have a choice but he believes it is quite excessive. Mr. Otto wanted to comment that they eliminated the 10 month Special Education Director and went to 12 month, but now paying the same salary as a principal. He knows the Special Education Director is a specialty and deals with situations that Principals usually aren't involved with. Maybe it's a supply and demand situation.

Mrs. Buell asked if the Board wanted her to comment on any of the items Mr. Otto mentioned. Mrs. Lyons stated they had a hard time to find a Special Education Director. It's hard to say we are overpaying that person when it seems it is the going rate.

Mrs. Lyons stated that there is still a motion. Are there any additional comments?

Mrs. Hackbarth has some concerns. She agrees that the salary shouldn't be the same as administrator there is a difference in responsibilities and the amount of vacation time. She thinks she might want to change her job. She stated it is a lot of vacation and personal time. She is voting no as it is.

No further discussion. Motion still carries.

10. Public Comment

Mrs. Perkins-Banas asked if there are a number of people that would like to comment and if so she would like to propose to limit comments to the five minutes time limit to give everyone an opportunity to comment.

Mrs. Buell stated that if you are an attendee and you would like to speak, to raise your hand and Mrs. Buell will unmute you. She stated that Mrs. Perkins-Banas will time the comments and there will be a warning ten seconds prior to the timer going off. She stated that they welcome their comments. Comments are for the Board to listen and we are not in a position to provide feedback to the comments. Mrs. Buell will be taking notes on the comments.

Kelly Coddling stated now that they presented a full reopening plan, some of her concerns have been mentioned, she would like them to consider the 7th and 8th graders that do not get a recess that are in school full day with no recess. They get two brief masks breaks of 10-12 minutes. It is a long day and long week with no movement. She would like the She

respectfully asks the Board to consider recess, or movement breaks for the 7th and 8th graders.

Amy Landis is pleased to hear the prospect of going back five days a week. She's glad to see that we're building layers of protection in the building, masks, hand washing, we're staying six feet apart, staying home if sick. She's hoping with all these mitigation strategies that we are using that it seems feasible that students and or teachers can move classes in the middle school so that kids are able to see all their teachers throughout the day.

Eric Anderson would echo those sentiments of pre-recording videos, he was shocked to hear that was going on in our schools. He stated to Mrs. Buell as a FYI, his kids are in 5th, 6th and 2nd grade, videos are approaching 20 minutes in length. He doesn't like pre-recorded videos. He's happy to hear they are working on a plan to go back to school, but he would like to have more information. From how he understands it, what will school day look like? Will they be changing classrooms? He doesn't believe kids sitting in a classroom listening to one teacher and then other pre-recorded videos in the same classroom, it thinks there could be a much better, cleaner, safer way to give them live instruction and live teaching. He would like more clarification on what middle school would look like so they can make the determination as a family to continue with the school district or homeschooling or finding an alternative.

Jill Cote would like to speak to Mr. Otto about the salary for a Special Education Director. She thinks we need to think about how to bring our school system to a different level. She believes administrators are the least paid in the state. It's hard to get professionals to come to northeast Connecticut. She believes that our Superintendent and our Administrators are the least paid in Connecticut and we need to draw in people that can support our community.

Mrs. Lyons thanked everyone for their thoughtful comments.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm
(Jolley/Phaiah)
No Discussion, unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DiBenedetto

Donna L. DiBenedetto
Board Clerk