

Albany School Board Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2020

5:30 pm

Remote meeting via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95950515164>

Or by phone: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Special Meeting of the Albany School Board

Board Members present - Tim Sorgi, Jeanette West and Dan Bianchino

- I. Call to Order - Chair Tim Sorgi called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm
- II. Transportation for 2020-2021 School Year - The Albany School Board reviewed the proposal from Maclver Transportation with proposed increased costs for transportation as a result of COVID-19. Discussion ensued about the need/availability of a bus monitor and increased hours for the bus driver to clean and sanitize the bus between bus runs.

Dan Bianchino made a motion to allow school officials and Douglas Maclver to address securing a bus monitor and authorizing additional hours for the bus driver for a period of two weeks to start the school year. Motion seconded by Jeanette West. **Tim Sorgi-yes, Dan Bianchino-yes, Jeanette West-yes.**

Tim Sorgi asked to be informed of any updates regarding the bus monitor situation.

- III. CARES Act Funds - Kevin Richard explained the process used to determine allocations for CARES funding. Whereas Albany does not have a school, the students get counted in the Conway allocation. The CARES money for Conway is expended to benefit all of the students in the Conway schools with no money going only to Conway students. Some expenditures include cleaning supplies, plastic barriers in high volume areas, staffing to support distance learning, and purchase of tents for outside classrooms. Conway cannot use CARES funds to supplement the Albany School District budget.

Dan Bianchino asked if there is enough money in CARES funding to support all of the needs due to COVID-19. Kevin Richard responded that there is not enough money and that other budgetary considerations may need to be discussed as the year progresses.

IV. Board Member Issues - Jeanette West asked about distance learning options and stated that VLACS (Virtual Learning Academy Charter School) had already closed out classes due to over enrollment. Kevin Richard explained that most schools in the state are only offering face to face learning or VLACS as an option. SAU 9 has provided a distance learning option for students who prefer something other than face to face learning. Distance learning students will be assigned to SAU 9 staff with an option for VLACS. Not all face to face courses will be offered through distance learning.

Jeanette West asked to have a survey distributed to Albany families to find out if they were going to be face to face or distance learning and what their needs were for bus transportation. Kevin Richard explained that a survey had been distributed with follow up phone calls from building principals and administration. Kevin will bring the number of distance learners and bus riders to the next school board meeting.

V. Adjournment - Dan Bianchino made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tim Sorgi. Roll Call vote **Tim Sorgi-yes, Dan Bianchino-yes, Jeanette West-abstain.** Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Richard
Superintendent of Schools, SAU 9