

**SABIS International Charter School
160 Joan Street
Springfield, MA 01129
Board of Trustees**

Minutes of SABIS Board of Trustees Meeting – August , 2020
Education Committee
via conference call

In Attendance: Ellen McDonald, Sonja Shaw, Patrick White, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Louis Aponte, Atu White, Joyce Williams-Gondek, Paula Maera, Daryl Johnson, Dena Facchini, Freddy Lopez

Guests: Vanessa Pileggi, Justin Baker, Amy Wesley, Maretta Thomsen, Christi Seiple-Cole, Sarah Davis, Christie Rensley, Carol Flores, Christine Drungo, Katherine Borgati, Melissa Witherspoon, Tyrone Witherspoon, Tim Tynan, Kimberly Tynan, Mark Blaubach, Ann Companion, Orlando Sanchez, Nicole Walls-Cox, Roasaria Pellicier, Angelica Cruz, Ashley Hogan, Nivea Miranda, Kathleen Dupui, Donna Cote, Maria Octaviani, Peter Caufield, Daniel Rivera, Shirley Vazquez

Not Present: Derryl Gibbs, John Delaney

I. Meeting called to order at 5:03 p.m.

II. **School Reopening Options**

Maretta Thompson reported:

Commissioner Riley set main parameters containing five key points:

1. Safe return to In-Person Learning
2. Prioritize In-Person Education
3. Decisions made with Students in mind
4. Parents decision to have Students learn In-Person or Remotely
5. School year changed to accommodate additional 10 days of professional Development for staff. Number of school days shortened from 180 to 170 days

SABIS plans to start school September 15th in line with Springfield public schools due to busing. Buses can only carry 62% capacity. Ms. Thomsen will get clear information regarding buses in writing. Commissioner Riley states he will support decisions made by school committees and boards. Submission deadline for the reopening plan moved from August 10th to August 14th. Commissioner Riley cited a study by John Hopkins saying our state was ready to open schools although the virus rate has increased; not hit the 5% mark indicating a school should be closed.

Students and Staff are SABIS first priority. DESE feasibility plan requires three feet social distancing as long as the other safety measures are observed. Feasibility study also includes calling all Teachers and Families. Three seat distancing allows 1,1400 Students in the school instructional setting. Approximately 15 Students per room. Parents have the right to choose In-person or Remote learning and may change their mind reversing their decision at any time. Commissioner Riley emphasized that the plans may interchange throughout the school year depending on what COVID brings.

Poll by grade:

Grade	Total Students	Remote	In Person	Undecided	Not Reached
K	103	3	17	3	80
1	107	16	20	2	69
2	117	30	25	17	49
3	160	17	25	14	104
4	128	37	52	4	35
5	126	39	15	3	68
6	145	36	15	3	89
7	127	42	24	33	28
8	129	19	16	3	91
9	116	10	36	12	58
10	94	17	17	11	49
11	101	16	24	10	54
12	106	7	41	10	48

Justin Baker reported:

Hybrid learning model - Cohort A are Students learning in-person. There will be staggered entrance and exit doors and times. Students remain in classrooms while teachers rotate. Student breakfast and lunch provided in the classroom. IX and LEXI accounts will supplement services curriculum. Cohort A will be broken into two groups if

capacity is reached. One week first group would be on site and vice-versa. Following DESE guidelines, a separate room will be used for students or staff showing COVID symptoms until picked up by the parent. Cohort B are Students learning remotely. Chromebooks provided. Follow the same curriculum as in-person students. Recorded and live teaching on Teams digital platform. Homework and assignments will be on SABIS digital platform including Student assessments, counseling and tutoring. Attendance will be monitored in both cohorts.

Education Committee will review the Student Opportunities Act plan and report decision to the Board of Trustees. **Ellen McDonald moved to authorize Education Committee to approve and submit Student Opportunities Act plan. Seconded by Paula Maera and approved by voice vote YES: Ellen McDonald, Sonja Shaw, Patrick White, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Louis Aponte, Atu White, Joyce Williams-Gondek, Paula Maera, Daryl Johnson, Dena Facchini, Freddy Lopez**

Nurse Kathleen reported:

Parents will report any symptoms from home. Any Student showing symptoms in school will be removed from class and examined. Parents and primary care Physicians will be in constant communication.

Tim Tynan reported:

Wipes, hand sanitizer, etc. will be in constant supply for each classroom. 1,200 masks are on hand. Parents will provide their own pediatric masks. SMG is the new sanitizing company. Carpets as well as all flat surfaces will be ionized and disinfected daily and nightly. All cleaning chemicals have been approved for use in the school and are applied in the evening. Ventilation system is being upgraded and vents will be cleaned. Filters will be changed seasonally. Increasing exterior airflow from 10% to 21%.

Maretta Thomsen requested decision to reopen SABIS ten days later on September 15th. **Ellen McDonald moved to start classes on September 15th. Seconded by Paula Maera and approved by voice vote YES: Ellen McDonald, Sonja Shaw, Patrick White, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Louis Aponte, Atu White, Joyce Williams-Gondek, Paula Maera, Daryl Johnson, Dena Facchini, Freddy Lopez**

Anne-Marie Nicolai suggested voting on a reopening plan now. Ms. Thomsen will get written confirmation that SABIS will be reimbursed for transportation costs. **Anne-Marie moved to move forward with Hybrid model reopening plan contingent upon SABIS being able to provide meals and transportation to students. Seconded by Luis Aponte and approved by voice vote YES: Ellen McDonald, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Louis Aponte, Atu White, Joyce Williams-Gondek, Daryl Johnson, Dena Facchini, Freddy Lopez. ABSTAINED: Patrick White, Paula Maera, Sonja Shaw**

Ellen McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Atu White. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Nicolai, Secretary
SICS Board of Trustees

Attachments

n/a