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Highlights

Transcript

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Hello, Derek.

Derek LaLonde: Hello.

Dawn Miller: Hey, Chris.

Christine Weber Mangini: Hi, how are you?

Dawn Miller: Good, how are you?

Christine Weber Mangini: Good.

Anthony Nicotera: Chris

Christine Weber Mangini: Yeah.

Anthony Nicotera: how are you?

Christine Weber Mangini: Good Tony. How you doing?

Anthony Nicotera: very good How are things at Cornell?

Christine Weber Mangini: Good.

Anthony Nicotera: Good good to hear.

Christine Weber Mangini: Very good. Yeah.

Anthony Nicotera: Good good to hear.

Christine Weber Mangini: Very good. Yeah. Yeah, she's she'll actually be home and finish her semester at home.

Dawn Miller: When is she coming home?

Christine Weber Mangini: November 14th and finish this year at home

Dawn Miller: 14

Christine Weber Mangini: now.

Dawn Miller: Yeah.

Christine Weber Mangini: another month left

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Yeah.

Christine Weber Mangini: And then I think she goes back early February.

Dawn Miller: Okay.

Christine Weber Mangini: Yeah.

Anthony Nicotera: That was scheduled that's not an emergency

Christine Weber Mangini: . Right that was scheduled that way.

Anthony Nicotera: Yeah.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Yeah.

Christine Weber Mangini: It was good.

Dawn Miller: Hey, hi, Michelle.

Michele L Brennan: Hi, how are you?

Dawn Miller: Good, how are you?

Christine Weber Mangini: I shall

Anthony Nicotera: Michelle

Michele L Brennan: How's everybody doing? Good.

Anthony Nicotera: Good you.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: but

Dawn Miller: Good.

Michele L Brennan: Good. Thank you.

Jim Dever: Can you hear me? Okay.

Dawn Miller: Hey, hi Jim. Yeah, we can hear you.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: yes.

Jim Dever: Okay good. Don you're exactly in the middle right? You should be

Dawn Miller: Oh good.

Jim Dever: on my screen. I don't know what it is on yours.

Anthony Nicotera: Jim can you move to the left a little bit?

Jim Dever: I was trying to hide what I was doing

Dawn Miller: well

Jim Dever: wrong.

Christine Weber Mangini: Yeah.

Jim Dever: Oh, yeah, how's that?

Dawn Miller: There you go.

Jim Dever: Okay. I got regular pants on so.

Dawn Miller:

Anthony Nicotera: alright

Jim Dever: Not in my pajamas long shorts, you know. We want to exercise stand up.

Dawn Miller: Yeah, I know.

Jim Dever: Okay.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Hi, Ron.

Ronald Critelli: Hi, everyone.

Christine Weber Mangini: and

Dawn Miller: Hey, Ryan.

Michele L Brennan: Hi, everyone.

Ronald Critelli: Hey.

Jim Dever: Off the Record. Ron I just heard that Clinton lost like nine teachers and I wondered like gosh what a Disappointment, I mean there's one thing to have a case, you know, but then to touch the staff in that way I thought what happened.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Yeah now it's that's the whole

Jim Dever: yeah.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: it's what we went through, you know, you I learned a lot about you know, what they have to go through and it's kind of the luck of the draw too. It just depends how much contact some of these people had to what level and does it raise to the level of having to quarantine somebody or just treat them as a contact of a contact and so, you know for our

RONALD J WHEELOCK: initial case we were fortunate and it's not going to take much where we have to do it.

Jim Dever: Yeah.

RONALD J WHEELOCK: There's just no substitute teachers out there to fill in.

Jim Dever: Yeah. Well it is good to see everybody?

RONALD J WHEELOCK: Yes.

Dawn Miller: You too.

Ronald Critelli: Yeah.

Michele L Brennan: Yeah.

Jim Dever: now will we each get 30 minutes to interrogate Ron during this time period

Dawn Miller: Yes.

RONALD J WHEELOCK: Fire away. We'll see if I don't have any technical difficulties.

Dawn Miller: Okay.

Michele L Brennan: There are quite a few lately.

RONALD J WHEELOCK: Yeah.

Michele L Brennan: It went.

RONALD J WHEELOCK: All right Dawn it is seven.

Dawn Miller: All right. We'll go ahead and call the meeting to order at seven o'clock. If everyone could please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Anthony Nicotera: Pledge allegiance to the flag.

Dawn Miller: Hi.

Michele L Brennan: skip

Dawn Miller: two flags of the United States

Anthony Nicotera: the United States of America

Ronald Critelli: skip

Dawn Miller: America and to the Republic for which

Anthony Nicotera: and to the Republic for which it

Dawn Miller: it seemed one nation under God

Anthony Nicotera: stands one nation under God.

Michele L Brennan: individual

Anthony Nicotera: indivisible liberty and justice

Dawn Miller: indivisible with liberty and justice for all. Okay. We don't have any presentation scheduled for tonight.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: That's correct.

Dawn Miller: Okay, we'll move on for public to be heard. Do we have anything in the chat room?

Derek LaLonde: We do not.

Dawn Miller: We do not. Okay.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Nothing at this time.

Dawn Miller: We can wait a few minutes, see if anything pops up.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Yeah.

Dawn Miller: And just remind everyone that we will come back for public to be heard at the end of the meeting if anyone has any questions or comments, they would like to get into the chat room feature. We will like you said come back at the end of the meeting.

Dawn Miller: No, nothing. Okay. Yeah, we'll move on for students to be heard. No, no, okay. We'll move on to Board of Education subcommittee reports.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Okay subcommittee reports. I do not have any other but I will touch upon the COVID related leave policy I did send you. It is a state leave that basically is a regulation or a law I guess so we just need I know we have FMLA in our policy but nothing specific to COVID so it would be something we would be following anyways, but we should get it in policy. So that's what I've sent out to you guys to look at. If you have any questions, please let me know and certainly if you want we can discuss it further at the next board meeting. But if you're good with it, like I said, it's pretty much in law and what we have to follow anyways, but we can certainly discuss it and adopt it next meeting or discuss it if you can feel it needs to go back for Any other changes or things of that nature but most of it like I said is pretty much what we're told what it has to be like so and then pretty much mirrors FMLA but it's specific to things that could be put people out of work specific to COVID, especially when we're talking about quarantining people that's out of people's hands in some cases. So, you know, it is what it is. They have to deal with it and that's a direction that comes down from Department of Health. So that's coming out. I do have a several other policies that I'd like to continue to chip away at that I will put out to you guys. Some of them may be open to more discussion or may need more discussion. But again, some other ones are just changes for new regulations that they've now

taken from our old policies and added those new things and I can certainly Point those out to you when when I share them with you. So be looking for those coming out here within the next week or so once I get them back from the policy office. So that's all I have for the sub-committee reports.

Dawn Miller: Okay next we'll move on to superintendent's report.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Yes, the meet the candidate programs. They're still going on. They're doing those through Zoom. I know they had one tonight for Congressman Brindisi that was on at 6:30 tonight. As I stated at the last meeting I did attend the one with assemblyman Miller and and a counterpart running for the same seat Chad McAvoy from down near Otsego County way. Tony typically, how is the attendance looking for for these meetings because there wasn't many on that night that I was there. But I also know, not every elected official is represents every District.

Anthony Nicotera: Right, right.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: I would have actually gone on to see Anthony Brindisi tonight if not for this meeting and I do know we have Claudia Tenney I believe it is on October 22nd

Anthony Nicotera: Correct.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: that one, you know, again, they'll still be through zoom and you know to have an opportunity to speak there and I haven't heard anything on Senator Griffo yet, but I also don't know if he's running unopposed.

Dawn Miller: Yeah.

Anthony Nicotera: Yeah.

Dawn Miller: Yeah Joe.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: so

Anthony Nicotera: I

Dawn Miller: It's on a post.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: yeah.

Anthony Nicotera: I didn't attend today session with Anthony, but I did not do that the others. I'm gonna say they've been hit and miss.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Yeah.

Anthony Nicotera: I think they're not formal meaning so I think what some people do is hanging on they listen for a few minutes and they take off and others will join in at different time. So, I think it's it's a matter of what's convenient for everyone, it's an opportunity for people to listen and to get a you know they stand from each of the candidates.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: And I'll say under this format doing it virtually. It's even better that they

have some of the questions. already planned out and shared which I know we've done in the past and sometimes you know, I'm kind of in the middle of the road on that but for this particular environment, I think it's good to have that it helps move the evening along helps keep the candidates in the discussion. I know they're appreciative at least to have some heads up so that they can at least share knowledge or gain some knowledge in preparing their response.

Anthony Nicotera: Yeah, that was the first time we did that we gave them to questions in advance.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: I actually I didn't mind that. I know some might have a different view some might rather see the more gotcha approach sometimes but I'd rather know what they know and what they can share with us and what they're willing to find out too. So I thought that was good.

Anthony Nicotera: Yeah.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: So, all right, that's all I have for superintendent's report.

Dawn Miller: Okay, we don't have anything under old business. New business. I'll read 9.1 to 9.8 as a consent agenda if anyone has any questions or would like anything pulled for further discussion. Please let me know. 9.1 is appointment of substitute teacher 9.2 is resignation 9.3 appointment of Coach 9.4 appointment of coach. 9.5 approval of minutes of the September 29th 2020 meeting 9.6 resolution authorizing payment of bills approved by the claims auditor dated September 30th, 2020 9.7 treasurers report of balances May in June and 9.8 committee on special education recommendations. Does anyone have any questions for 9.1 to 9.8 or would like anything pulled for further discussion? Okay quiet group tonight. Alright, then I will need a motion to approve 9.1 to 9.8.

Christine Weber Mangini: some

Michele L Brennan: someone

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: I got Michelle.

Dawn Miller: Michelle, yep, I need a second, please.

Christine Weber Mangini: I'll second it.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Chris

Dawn Miller: Christine yeah, okay all in favor. I

NYSPPHSAA: I

Dawn Miller: any opposed

Anthony Nicotera: I

Dawn Miller: no, okay.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: He had seven zero on there.

Dawn Miller: You got it.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Thank you.

Dawn Miller: Yeah, okay. We will move on to. miscellaneous top

Anthony Nicotera: Right. I just had one. Is there a Target date that we're gonna reevaluate the the school calendar as far as in-person learning for the others or is that still off in the distance?

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Yeah, I would say that's the guidelines haven't changed as to why we're in this hybrid model that we're in and until those guidelines change I don't see us, changing that. So if our Protocols are still social distancing, which those are the things that effect us, obviously if that can change and we feel comfortable coming back in that realm it may be possible. I don't see our state being willing to do anything with that right now and I happened to be listening to the CBS Morning News this Sunday and Governor Cuomo and his three daughters were on there and they were talking about how he when this first came out in March. called his daughter and says, I want you guys home. I want you here and this is serious but in that segment, and he spoke, about how New York State, is kind of getting applauded for how the state has reacted and how they're currently doing now, but people were kept him humble reminded him how it started out in the beginning . I understand where he was coming from in a sense. We seemed ambushed and it hit us quickly and kind of got out of control quickly before we could really get your arms around it and no more about it. And since we did that we've made adjustments, but I think the key point he made is that we may be doing now but we have hot spots popping up. He sums it up best saying we are at halftime right now, you know things happen to us at the beginning. We made some adjustments before the half to kind of get to where we are now, but it's half time now, we have a whole second half to go and we don't know when the end of the game's going to be. I thought that kind of summed it all up and I think that's the approach. We all have to continue to take precautions even though it's as frustrating as it is. I I kind of agree with that I suppose and that being said I don't see us in knowing that hot spots are popping up even in our own state that changing and we're just getting into the flu season now and determining the difference between flu and COVID symptoms. But the fact that symptoms mirror of covered can lead to you staying home even if you tested negative because you have symptoms that might present that you may have to wait a couple days to realize that we can now maybe safely diagnose that as the flu. But also that being said if it's a staff member or a spouse or children of a staff member those people may be told to stay home because they're treating as though that spouse or sibling with like symptoms and as a precautionary measure they may be told to stay home as well. Even if there is a negative result or may whether it's certainly if they're waiting on the results of a test that could have an impact as we said before, school districts that have been impacted their staff has been impacted. That's what's forcing them to go to remote because there's simply no substitute teachers to bring in. You've already have that remote instruction going on. So they just continue to do it just now all from home though. If that happens in our elementary school where we are all in person I can't fill the rooms with people for supervision. We may be forced to then go on a temporary remote until we can get our staff back so that that we're certainly crossing our fingers but that's a strong potential in the ramifications of the contact tracing and how they determine who has to quarantine who should stay home or what have you.

Anthony Nicotera: Thank you. Thank you.

Dawn Miller: Any other miscellaneous topics any questions?

NYSPPHSAA: Ron I have two

Dawn Miller: Sure.

NYSPPHSAA: number one is to go on what Tony was saying to is in terms of I don't know which question I want to ask first. I'll ask this first Ron. Is there been any discussion with the center State Conference? With our school and with the section regarding winter sports that is coming up around the corner. Able to start for low and moderate Sports and November the 30th unless the section does something different or the league or the schools do something different and then high risk Sports can start practicing on that day without any contact. Hopefully the state of has said that they would reevaluate it by December 31st, that could be anytime between tomorrow and December 31st.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: right

NYSPPHSAA: But has there been any discussion? You know what section 3 is doing what the center State conference is doing and what our school is plan doing with winter sports.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Section 3 is planning to have a meeting of League presidents. And as the chief school officer rep to the section I plan on attending that meeting and to discuss just that. I know for the fall Sports it was the section needs to jump in on this so the section got in on it late, but that was I think because they got pushed a little bit to by people who weren't happy. I don't think that Sports were going to be allowed to happen at all in the fall and they wanted the section to kind of weigh in on that. I think after going through that process, less and less people wanted the section actually have the last say in that and because some started to say that should be a local decision. So it was actually I would say was pretty split. It wasn't 50/50. It might have been 60/40 and that's kind of how the voting came out to allow fall Sports to go forward if a school so chooses to do that. There was a significant number of schools that have opted not to do fall Sports and in our conference alone, where there's 24 schools I believe nine or ten of them are not doing fall Sports. So and I'm anxious to see if their thought patterns are going to change any coming into the winter because I think that's even more difficult situation being inside. So yes, there is going to be some discussion trying I think to do that earlier and see what role the Section should take. I don't know what you're seeing in the state. But what are they considering low risk Sports for the winter low and moderate risk?

NYSPPHSAA: bowling indoor track and field swimming boys swimming and boys swimming indoor track and field. bowling

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: how about skiing

NYSPPHSAA: Yes and skiing. That's the fourth one.

NYSPPHSAA: So the high risk sports are basketball ice hockey competitive cheer and wrestling.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Okay.

NYSPPHSAA: So to piggyback on that question too is then and my memory may fading but I don't believe we have appointed winter coaches yet. Have we

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: No.

NYSPPHSAA: So I don't want that to slip by too. Because if we do decide to move forward on November the 30th, we need to appoint those coaches. Hopefully by our meeting in November.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: right

NYSPPHSAA: So I just want to bring that out to the Forefront is and I'd hate to get caught without appointing those coaches.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: and if we do, I think we're safe in doing so and they will be made aware they are working under the understanding that if you are hired it is pending whether or not that sport actually takes place and then also it might be a shortened season such as the fall and that, your scale of pay will be relative to the length of that season. So, you know, we have come to an understanding on that with the Union. So but yes point taken and if we have them lined up ready to go with the you know it that part we can get done and I think you know and be held harmless in a sense for that to just you know, everybody will Understand that this is you know, you're being appointed. However, it is contingent upon us actually having a season.

NYSPPHSAA: My last point I know at the last in the meeting in September I wasn't able to attend you had an audit committee meeting. I would like to have another audit committee meeting before our next meeting and I would like to plan an audit committee meeting at least once a month. I think it's important to get those updates. I think it's important to have those discussions and if we have to get information out to our community, you know, we need to keep on top of that and I don't know if Charlie attended that last audit committee meeting, but I think it's important that he's involved now and I would like to ask if we could schedule an audit committee meeting before the next board meeting.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Marie if you can make a note of that, I'm definitely all for that and we only have one meeting a month anyways in November and December both of those meetings, we can have follow-up and then have discussion on how we want to be able to engage our community in that discussion and that's going to take some publicity too because in using our mass communication that just gets out to the parents that have kids actively enrolled in the district. So we need to make sure we can get that out. So I will be mentioning that and maybe between now and when the next newsletter goes out, I'll bring it up in our newsletter. We might be able to set up a forum in how we may try to do that and maybe even have multiple dates where we want Community involvement. So Todd, thank you for bringing that up. That was a I wanted to make sure I brought up Charlie and I have had some discussions. To that point we probably didn't have much here to share now, but as we get a little deeper into the year seeing what's going to happen in another month or the end of this month with the State, if the state is going to withhold more money or not. And then also just getting an idea of where our finances are falling to give us more basis to have those discussions. We started those discussions last March and April, and in those discussions we spoke of the need to breach the tax cap. And those are those are discussions that really have to take place for people to understand. To know, what's at stake, why the need to do that in trying to make sure we can keep the districts is viable as possible, make it a place that people have chosen to come here, hopefully want to stay here and that we can still provide a quality education and be able to keep up with all districts in the area. But there's things we can do and need to support to be able to make sure our kids are poised and prepared for their futures.

Dawn Miller: Okay. Thanks Todd any other questions? Any other comments? Okay, we'll move on then for public to be heard. Ron do we have any questions or comments?

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Not at this time, but I will we'll give a little bit of a wait here.

Dawn Miller: Sure, absolutely.

Anthony Nicotera: I had one more thing if we're waiting.

Dawn Miller: Yeah, sure Tony. Go ahead.

Anthony Nicotera: I I know Ron referred to this and I think his update we passed 9.2 the nursing position. But is there anything that we need to start talking about that will solidify those positions and we don't keep having that turnover.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: I know salary keeps coming up. We can't compete with nursing pay out in the real world. I mean we can do our best but anything we do to change that we have to be mindful that that's not the only position in that unit. You know that unit that represents nurses is a very diverse unit. This position may be attractive for some, but it doesn't end up staying attractive. It is 10 months, and has benefits and for some that's all they really are looking for and that works for them. The pay may not be what they needed to support their living situation. I think we try to be as competitive as we can but I will say probably if you go around the area, it's not highly paid. Most districts have it in their non-instructional contract. But again, you know any shift that we do in that is going to be a shift in budget for that. So, you know, it's kind of somewhat of a timing issue for you know, the time that we had this person and it made sense but then another opportunity come up that they couldn't look away from and I get it and we're not going to be able to compete, even if we went to the higher end of our pay scale on that, I think that's still the low end of Nursing pay.

Anthony Nicotera: Was that our third turnover?

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Yes, within a year. We had a retirement last December or January.

Anthony Nicotera: Mid-year, yeah.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Then same thing happened. I think that their job was abolished, they took this position and then another opportunity came back and , they're like you can't shy away from, that changes your living or your ability to sustain your level of living that you're used to and want to live at

NYSPPHSA: I don't know if it's Utica college or MV or I believe there's a pretty successful nursing program in our area. I may be wrong.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Speaking. I think St. E's has a good nursing program.

NYSPPHSA: Right. So is there a way to maybe to go and speak to them and upcoming graduates? Because it seems to me in the schools that I've always been in and in our school in this case, you know our nurses that have families and they have to support their families and it seems like maybe if we went after a younger nurse who was just coming out of college, especially with our Hospital situation that we have in the Mohawk Valley right now. I don't know how much the other hospitals are gonna be hiring because they're gonna be consolidating and their staffs the new hospital. I mean, that's a couple years away. I'm sure but you know, I just think that may be an Avenue to go speak to the nursing program and ask those recent

graduates and say hey, here's an opportunity. This is what we pay. You do have to work 10 months with your Summers off and you want to travel while you're young and you don't have a family you may be living at home and you don't have the expenses that some of these other nurses have and then you could go into the medical field if you wanted to but just a thought I had and share

RONALD J WHEELOCK: All right. It's not a bad idea. And you know, I know some will supplement during the summer months, it all depends if hospitals will take on people. I mean just because a lot got laid off doesn't mean that there's not work for them to do. It comes down to economics just similar to what we do in school. It's not that we feel we can do without the personnel. It's we can't afford the personnel, what's left is to work even more hours and it becomes physically exhausting and mentally exhausting.

Jim Dever: Another another excellent fit for a nurse is a young mom who has kids in school because the schedules jive perfectly and they make some cases a significant savings on the child care piece to plug holes.

RONALD J WHEELOCK: Yes.

Jim Dever: There's been people that I've met in the past that actually left nursing for that during that time period where their kids were in school, so

Michele L Brennan: There is career days, you know. That you can go to like Mohawk Valley. And put up a little table. And you just go and present yourself and you can I think it's coming up. It probably won't be there but I bet they'll have a virtual fair in you can you know present yourself?

Jim Dever: I wonder if anyone on our own board might be qualified like possibly.

Michele L Brennan: Well, I probably

Anthony Nicotera: I think that's a great idea Jim. I I think she would be perfect for the job.

Ronald Critelli: I think she's I think she's a little overqualified.

Anthony Nicotera: personality fits right in

Ronald Critelli: Hey, I don't think you'd go for the pay. I don't think right.

RONALD J WHEELOCK: that the job

Michele L Brennan: Actually, yeah. I'll come up with it to plan.

Anthony Nicotera: Michelle we already have Todd fill in one need for us last week. Now you can fill this need for us.

Michele L Brennan: Yeah. Oh work on that.

RONALD J WHEELOCK: All right. Well

Dawn Miller: Alright, okay.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: as far as I can see still quiet in the public to be heard like one last

Dawn Miller: so quiet and okay public to be

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: call out.

Dawn Miller: Okay. Alright, then. We'll move on. No executive session.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: One second .

Dawn Miller: I'm sorry.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: I will just make sure it is still quiet.

Dawn Miller: Okay, I'm sorry.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Okay.

Dawn Miller: Yeah, okay, then we're no public to be heard. We have no executive session this evening.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Correct.

Dawn Miller: Correct. Okay, then we'll need a motion then to adjourn at 7:28.

Anthony Nicotera: some

Dawn Miller: Tony I need a second, please.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Tony

Ronald Critelli: second

Dawn Miller: Was that Ron?

Ronald Critelli: Yeah.

Dawn Miller: Okay all in favor.

Anthony Nicotera: I

NYSPPHSA: I

Dawn Miller: I any

Ronald Critelli: All right.

Michele L Brennan: I

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: That was seven zero.

Dawn Miller: Yeah, seven zero you got it. All right everyone. Thank you so much. Have a good evening Take Care. Thank you.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Thank you.

Michele L Brennan: you

Dawn Miller: Good night.

Anthony Nicotera: thank you.

Christine Weber Mangini: Need everyone.

Dawn Miller: Good night.

RONALD J WHEELLOCK: Bye-bye.

Ronald Critelli: Good night.