

**FRONTIER REGIONAL/UNION #38 SCHOOL COMMITTEES
JOINT MEETING**

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Google Hangouts Virtual Meeting

meet.google.com/gwg-gstb-vrn
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Live Streamed at:

<https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/7640a8cc-855b-4215-9b12-5eb7716f266d>

MINUTES

Frontier Regional School Committee:

Present: Chair Robert Hall, Robert Decker, Damien Fosnot, Mary Ramon, Judy Pierce, Keith McFarland and Olivia Leone

Absent: Philip Kantor, Ashley Dion, William Smith and Lyn Roberts

Union #38 School Committee:

Conway School Committee

Present: Elaine Campbell, Michael Merritt

Absent: Denise Storm, Ashley Dion and Philip Kantor

Deerfield School Committee

Present: Kenneth Cuddeback, Trevor McDaniel, Mary Ramon and Carey Etchells

Absent: David Sharp

Sunderland School Committee

Present: Keith McFarland, Jessica Corwin, Greg Gottschalk, Peter Gagarin and Maisie Shaw

Absent:

Whately School Committee

Present: Katie Edwards, Robert Halla and Maureen Nichols

Others Present: Superintendent Darius Modestow, Director of Business Administration Shelley Poreda and Frontier Regional School Union President Alison Walters

Chair Kenneth Cuddeback opened the Union #38 School Committee at 12:10 PM.

Chair Robert Halla opened the Frontier Regional School Committee at 12:10 PM.

Public Comment: Alison Walters, President of the Frontier Regional Teachers' Union and faculty member, praised the entire administration team and school committee members for their hard work through this difficult time.

Unfinished Business: Superintendent Modestow gave an update on school closure through May 4th. He stated that the district was in good shape and ahead of the curve due to the fact of our excellent administrators, teachers and all staff. He said that MCAS looks to be canceled. As to April break, the state is expected to give guidance but it is his opinion that they will direct it to a local level. Superintendent Modestow believes that everyone needs a break and it is his recommendation to continue with April vacation and allow staff and students to spend time with their families. The committees agreed.

He spoke about federal funding and how our FY21 budget will be affected due to this crisis. He stated that out of 2 trillion from the federal government, 31 billion will go to school funding for all 50 states but that colleges and universities will take 15 billion which brings it down to 16 billion for K-12 (50 states) and that if the Title I model is used to distribute those funds, the district will not receive much in federal funding with this model of distribution. We will be receiving reimbursement for our food program that is serving approximately 100 students per day and about 36 senior citizens. He thanked all the kitchen staff and volunteers who are delivering the food for all of their dedication and hard work.

Principal Lanides and Director of Secondary Education, Sarah Mitchell, presented the Next Steps: Closed May 4th or beyond.

Robert Halla asked if all students had ChromeBooks or some other device and Wifi capacity in order to participate in remote learning. Sarah Mitchell said yes and there are free hotspots being provided. She stated for those who require paper packets, they are being picked up at the schools or being delivered to the student with the meals delivery. Trevor McDaniel inquired as to purchasing mobile Wifi and Sarah said that they are looking into that. Damien Fosnot asked if any classes were going to require being made up, i.e. French, Health...Sarah said they will need to consider that as certain courses will have to be reviewed i.e. Foreign Language, Math.. She also stated that those students who are completing most of their work will not be required to make up anything but those that have little or no participation will need to.

Kim McCarthy, Director of Education, Elementary Focus, presented the Remote Learning Plan. She thanked all administrators and teachers and especially thanked our Technology Department.

Superintendent Modestow thanked the administrative team for working so hard and for hearing all the voices. He stated that teachers have been amazing from the start. He reminded staff to take care of themselves also through this time.

Shelley Poreda, Director of Business Administration, spoke about payroll adjustments regarding revolving accounts; Early Childhood, Out-of-School Time and Lunch Programs specifically. She gave an overview which has all staff being paid thru June 18th, if the closure is extended. She spoke about Unemployment - 3 of the 4 towns fund themselves. Employees would have to go through those towns which would mean the town budget would be affected. She also pointed out that any employees laid off would have to go through COBRA (100% employee paid) to retain their insurance benefits and that for those people that is not doable. She spoke about credits may go to families in the Early Childhood Program if that program is closed until June 18th. She stated that we are tracking all meal expenditures and that all purchasing has been frozen but that Principals will have some discretion in that for needed materials/services. Superintendent Modestow has asked all Principals to review their budgets for any possible savings. Bob Halla asked if any of the towns were laying off employees and Trevor McDaniel stated that to his knowledge, Deerfield was not. He said it would be too difficult to get them back and that he believes all towns would like to continue to support their employees.

On a motion from Trevor McDaniel, seconded by Michael Merritt, the committee voted to pay all Union #38 School District staff through June 18, 2020.

Roll Call:

Michael Merritt	yes	Greg Gottschalk	yes
Maisie Shaw	yes	Keith McFarland	left meeting
Jessica Corwin	yes	David Sharp	yes
Ken Cuddeback	yes	Trevor McDaniel	yes
Mary Ramon	yes	Carey Etchells	yes
Katie Edwards	yes	Bob Halla	yes
Maureen Nichols	yes	Elaine Campbell	left meeting
Philip Kantor	abs	Ashley Dion	abs
Denise Storm	abs	Peter Gagarin	left meeting

On a motion from Olivea Leone, seconded by Damien Fosnot, the committee voted to pay all Frontier Regional School District staff through June 18, 2020.

Roll Call:

Judy Pierce	yes	Olivia Leone	yes
Mary Ramon	yes	Damien Fosnot	yes
Bob Decker	yes	Bob Halla	yes
Bill Smith	abs	Keith McFarland	left early
Lyn Roberts	abs	Ashley Dion	abs
Philip Kantor	abs		

Superintendent Modestow talked about moving the April 7th Joint School Committee Meeting to the end of April but would like all individual school committees to meet prior to that as budgets need to be reviewed due to this crisis. All chairs agreed.

Shelley Poreda spoke about the signing of warrants via electronic signature and the designation of one school committee member from each committee. This will be brought up at the individual meetings in April.

Damien Fosnot asked about Spring vacation and just wanted to be clear that spring vacation would remain and that there would be no school activities.

Jessica Corwin asked about Union #38 Teacher negotiations. Superintendent Modestow stated that everyone is overwhelmed right now and that the negotiations are on hold.

On a motion from Judy Pierce, seconded by Mary Ramon, the committee adjourned the meeting.

Roll Call:

Judy Pierce	yes	Olivia Leone	yes
Mary Ramon	yes	Damien Fosnot	yes
Bob Decker	yes	Bob Halla	yes
Bill Smith	abs	Keith McFarland	left early
Lyn Roberts	abs	Ashley Dion	abs

Philip Kantor abs

On a motion from Trevor McDaniel, seconded by Bob Halla, the committee adjourned the meeting.

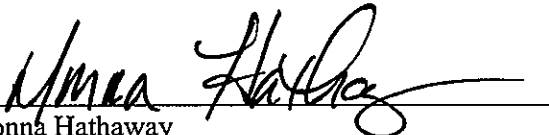
Roll Call:

Michael Merritt	yes	Greg Gottschalk	yes
Maisie Shaw	yes	Keith McFarland	left meeting
Jessica Corwin	yes	David Sharp	yes
Ken Cuddeback	yes	Trevor McDaniel	yes
Mary Ramon	yes	Carey Etchells	yes
Katie Edwards	yes	Bob Halla	yes
Maureen Nichols	yes	Elaine Campbell	left meeting
Philip Kantor	abs	Ashley Dion	abs
Denise Storm	abs	Peter Gagarin	left meeting

Documents:

1. COVID-19 Work Requirements (non-union)

Transcribed from Meeting Recording of 4/01/2020



Donna Hathaway
School Committee Recording Secretary

Access video recording of meeting [HERE](#)