

The Board of Education of the Borough of North Caldwell in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in executive session on March 3, 2021, via an online Zoom Meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator, indicated that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting had been properly advertised and the agenda had been posted at the appropriate locations.

In addition, a notice was posted on the Entrances of Grandview Elementary School and on the Board of Education Website, that March 3, 2021 meeting would be done via the Zoom Online Meeting Platform.

Roll call by the Business Administrator:

Present: Mr. Robert Projansky, President
Mrs. Mindy Oppen, Vice President
Mrs. Jordan Shumofsky
Mrs. Sapna Malige
Mrs. Johanna Stroeve

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Linda Freda, Superintendent
Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator / Board Secretary
Mr. Chris Chechetto, Gould/Mountain Principal
Mr. Ian Adlon, Computer Technician

ACTION ITEM

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION

O1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the use of the Zoom Online Meeting Platform, to conduct the March 3, 2021, Board Meeting in compliance with A-3850 which was signed by Governor Murphy on March 20, 2020, so that Board of Education business can continue, during the State of Emergency for the COVID-19 crisis.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Oppen

Yes: 5 No: 0

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Projansky reported that one hundred and twenty (120) people were attending the zoom meeting.

Mr. Projansky thanked the COVID Committee, Dr. Freda, Mr. Halik and Mr. Checchetto for all the work they have done to get the district to this point. He stated that tonight's meeting would be in an informative format with the opportunity for input from the community.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None

COVID COMMITTEE REPORT

The COVID Committee gave the following presentation with a final recommendation.

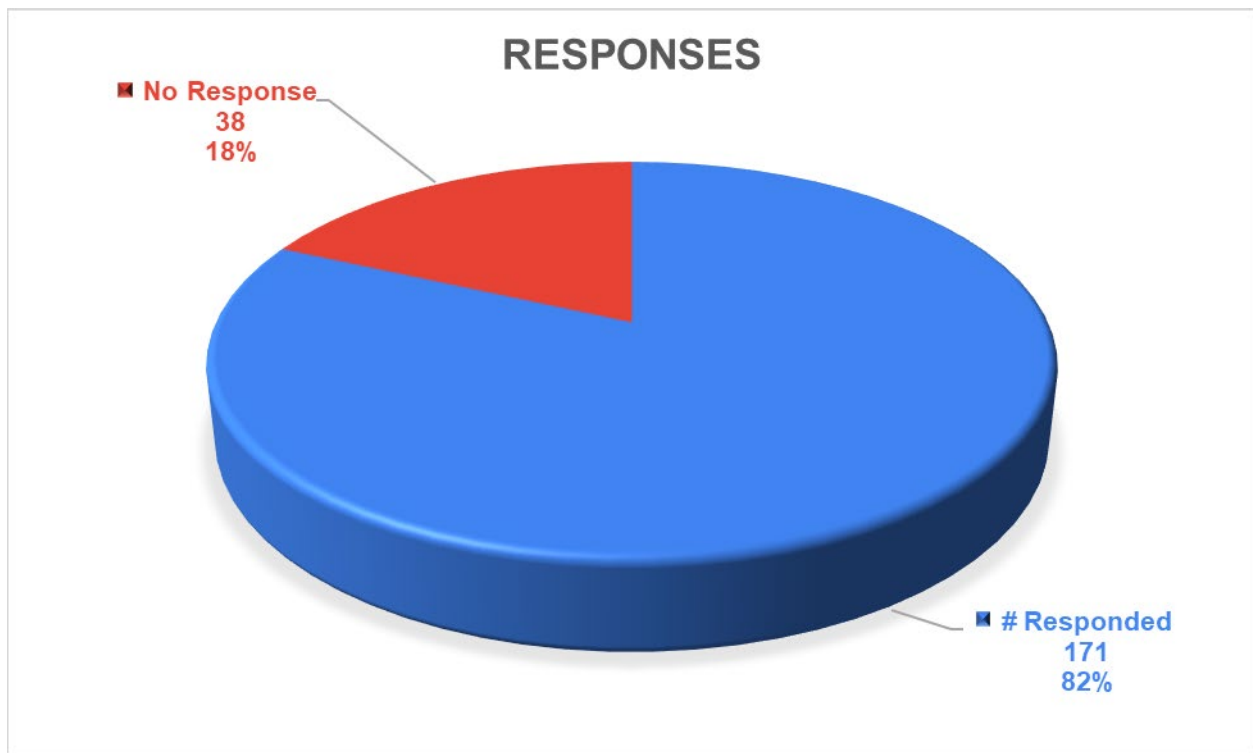
- **Current Fourth Grade**
 - 105 Students
 - 3 Remote
 - 102 In-Person
- **Current Fifth Grade**
 - 105 Students
 - 11 Remote
 - 94 In-Person
- **Bringing 4th/5th in every day: Considerations**
 - CDC Recommendations
 - Health Department Recommendations
 - Teacher Input
 - Parent Survey
- **Two factors**
 - Case rate (total new cases per 100,000)
 - Percent positivity rate
- **Essex County in moderate category (Yellow)**
 - Case rate must be 10-49: *Essex County is 37*
 - Percent positivity rate must be 5-7.9%: *Essex County is 7%*
- **CDC's 5 Mitigation strategies**
 - Universal and correct use of masks
 - Physical distancing
 - When transmission rate is in Yellow zone – "Physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible"
 - Hand-washing

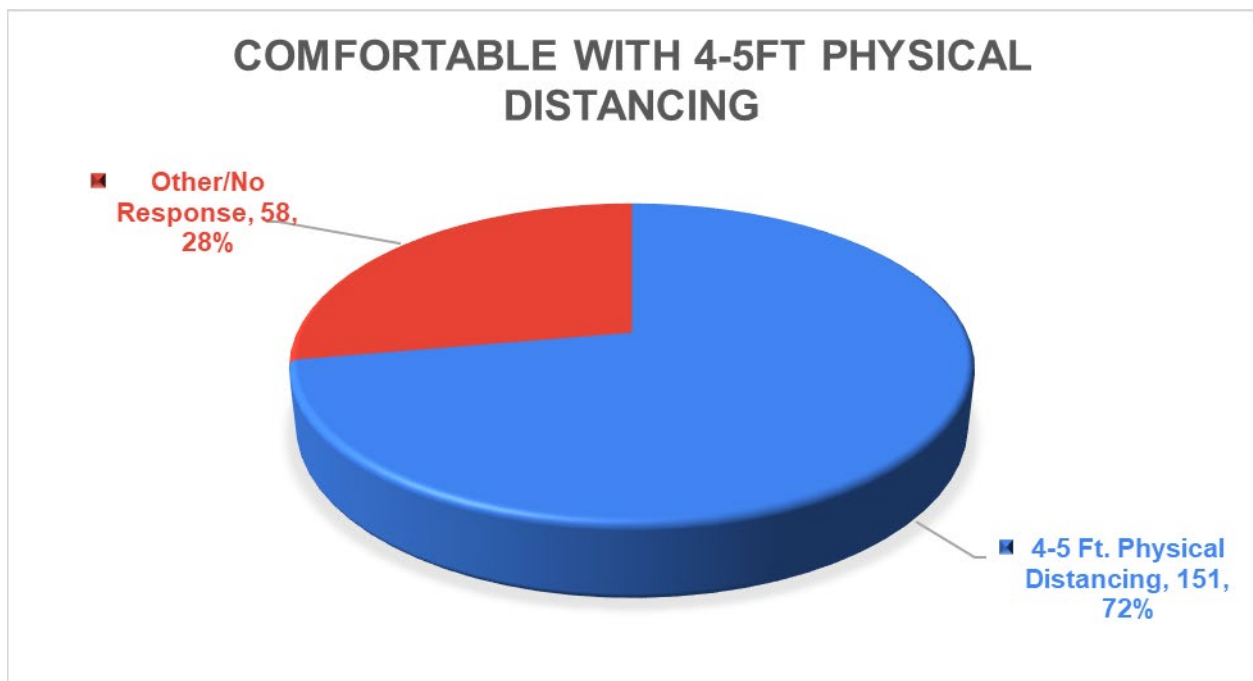
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine
- **Additional mitigation strategies in North Caldwell:** no mixing of classes, open windows, ventilation system

Health Department Recommendations

- **Regional Assessments:** Essex, Bergen and Hudson counties (Northeast region)
- **Northeast Region Using CDC Markers**
 - Case rate must be 10-49 to be moderate: *Northeast region is 27.96*
 - Percent positivity rate must be 5-7.9% to be moderate: *Northeast region is 8.42%*
- **Northeast Region Using Health Department Markers**
 - Case rate must be 1-10 to be moderate: *Northeast region is 27.96*
 - Percent positivity rate must be 3-10% to be moderate: *Northeast region is 8.42%*

Survey Response



4th and 5th Grade Parent SurveyCOVID Committee Recommendations

- ‘ All 4th and 5th graders return for in-person instruction five days per week on March 15th
- ‘ An additional classroom will be added to each grade level
 - ‘ 4th grade additional classroom will be in the cafeteria. Mrs. Gallo will be the homeroom teacher.
 - ‘ 5th grade additional classroom will be in the technology lab. Mrs. Linden will be the homeroom teacher
- ‘ Physical distancing between students will be a minimum 4 ½ to 5 feet
- ‘ The following mitigation strategies will continue to be implemented:
 - ‘ Mask wearing
 - ‘ Hand washing
 - ‘ Desk Shields
 - ‘ All desks facing forward
 - ‘ No sharing of materials
 - ‘ Disinfecting of all classrooms on a daily basis
 - ‘ Windows open for increased ventilation.

Timeline

- ‘ Thursday, March 4th - Parent Selection of Remote Learning Form will be emailed to all parents.
- ‘ Monday, March 8th - Remote Learning form due. Please note, there is *no* opportunity to opt-in to in-person learning for the rest of the year.
- ‘ Wednesday, March 10th - New homeroom assignments available on Genesis through the parent portal.
- ‘ Thursday, March 11th and Friday, March 12th - Full remote days for all 4th/5th graders to prepare the building.
- ‘ Friday, March 12th - Updated procedures (morning line-up, car line etc.) will be sent to parents
- ‘ Monday, March 15th - Daily in-person instruction begins for 4th/5th grades.

Changes to Current Quarantine Procedures Following Travel

- ‘ Travel Quarantine Guidelines
 - ‘ Students and family members should consider getting tested 5-7 days after the trip. If test results are negative, students need to quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
 - ‘ If testing is not available (or if the results are delayed), travelers should quarantine for 10 days after travel.

Spring Break

- ‘ Currently, no plans to close for in-person instruction following the break
- ‘ Continue to follow all health and safety protocols over the break (hand washing, mask wearing, limiting large gatherings indoors) so that we are able to remain open for in-person instruction.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Jason Ginsberg, 11 Elm Place – sent in the following question, “Will school be virtual the week after Spring Break? Has there been any talk about this? Sorry if you have addressed this before and I have missed it. 1 child in Grandview and 1 child in Gould Thanks so much.”

Mr. Projansky noted that school will not be virtual following Spring Break.

Grace Cordovano, 28 Cambridge Drive – thanked the Board for all the time and effort and asked some follow up questions.

Julie Baruch, 5 Acorn Place – thanked the Board and asked if there were any plans for full day, especially K-2.

Maria Apolito, 30 Highland Drive - said thank you and stated that being in school daily is important. The big problem is how people spend time outside of school and doing things such as having large gatherings indoors and outdoors which could have a negative effect with schools being able to remain open.

Mary Mokris, 89 Grandview Avenue - thanked the Board and inquired about busing for next year.

Kerry Howe, 7 Rose Avenue - asked if there would be a dialogue regarding busing and the return to full days in school.

Mr. Projansky stated that a report by the Transportation Committee on busing would be presented at the next Board Meeting on March 16th.

Dorie Eisenstein, 63 Estella Avenue - asked what would happen with technology instruction as the teacher will become a homeroom teacher.

Mr. Projansky responded there will be no technology, it will be infused where possible. However, it's a small price to pay to have students in school daily.

Mr. Projansky discussed the recommendations proposed and stated that he supported the plan as he asked the Board to weigh in. He thanked everyone for being supportive as everyone spoke in favor of reopening the schools.

The Board all spoke of the plans and everyone was in favor of making the change. The Board thanked the COVID Committee, the administration, Mr. Checchetto and the teachers for all their work to get this done.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

G1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve payment to **Karen Gliniecki (Advancing Opportunities)** for an Augmentative Communication Evaluation in the amount of \$1,320.00 for **student #8005610**.

Moved: Mrs. Oppen Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

P1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve **Monika Zaccareo** as a full-time custodian (currently a part-time hourly custodian) at a

prorated salary of \$43,785.00 (Custodial Step 1) effective March 16, 2021 to June 30, 2021.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

- P2. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Suzy Giantonio** for up to twelve (12) hours of discreet trial and programming at a rate of \$90.00 per hour effective March 8, 2021 to March 26, 2021 for **student #8005727**.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

- P3. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Kathleen Householder** for up to ten (10) hours per week of discreet trial instruction at a rate of \$30.00 per hour effective March 25, 2021 to June 22, 2021 for **student #8005727**.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

The following resolution was called at approximately 8:36 p.m.

RESOLVED that in accordance with section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, the Board has the authority to adjourn to closed session to discuss matters pertaining to: personnel and negotiations. Said matters will be made public upon their disposition.

Moved: Mrs. Oppen Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

As there was no further business to discuss, the Board adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SESSION

MARCH 3, 2021

Michael Halik
Business Administrator / Board Secretary