

## MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

A regular School Committee meeting was held at the Administration Building on Monday, September 27, 2021.

Members Present: Sonya Barbosa (remotely), James Carvalho, Eric Graham, Thomas Rodrigues, Scott Rowland.

Superintendent of Schools John J. Robidoux and Assistant Superintendent Elizabeth White were in attendance.

Visitors included: Brian McCann, Student Representatives, Richard Cordeiro, and Natalie Salvador. Debbie Kelley taped the meeting.

Chairman Rowland opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

He announced that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20(f), any person in attendance who wanted to record any portion of the meeting must notify the Chairman. School Committee meetings are broadcast live and also recorded for broadcast on Sunday at 12:30 p.m., Monday at 6 p.m., Tuesday at 2 p.m., Wednesday at 10 a.m., Thursday at 10 p.m., Friday at 10 a.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m. on Swansea Cable Access Channel 15. Meetings can also be accessed over the internet at [swanseacabletv.com](http://swanseacabletv.com).

There was no executive session.

Chairman Rowland led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Graham offered a moment of silence for all those lost due to COVID especially his friend Mike Tagliere.

### Consent Agenda

Chairman Rowland established a Consent Agenda consisting of #4 Personnel Items, #5 Correspondence, #6 Informational Items, #9 Approval of Bills. Action on #8 Approval of Minutes to be taken later in the meeting.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### Joseph Case High School “Cardinals” Marching Band Trip; November 2021

Director of Music Richard Cordeiro and CHAMPS President Natalie Salvador were in attendance to provide further details on the trip to East Rutherford, New Jersey to participate in band competition scheduled for November 5-7, 2021.

Supt. Robidoux advised Director of Nursing Leslie Stolts reviewed the plan with regard to health. Her only concern was testing and the vaccine.

Mr. Cordeiro said this plan is the best scenario. They will be ready to address anything that might come up.

Mrs. Barbosa did not have a copy of the plan.

Mr. Graham asked about the availability of the Rapid Test.

Supt. Robidoux said that is usually done by the nurse and would not be available to them. There will be testing before the trip.

Mr. Rodrigues asked if quarantine would be in a separate room if needed.

Mr. Cordeiro responded it would depend on availability.

Chairman Rowland said he had raised the question regarding the process in the event a student is diagnosed with COVID. He is satisfied that Mr. Cordeiro will do what's right.

He commended Mr. Cordeiro for the amount of work he puts in and providing the School Committee with all the information in one document.

Asst. Supt. White is pleased with the plan. She said it is comprehensive.

Supt. Robidoux also appreciates Mr. Cordeiro's work. As Superintendent of Schools, he will always support these kinds of trips for students to enjoy. He noted they will have to monitor conditions in New Jersey regarding COVID. He asked about refunds if the trip has to be cancelled. He thanked Mr. Cordeiro and Mrs. Salvador for attending.

Mr. Cordeiro said it is fully refundable.

#### Introduction of Student Representatives to the School Committee

Joseph Case High School Principal Brian McCann introduced this year's student representatives. Liren Ferreria, Enma Villarubia, and Brady Couto. Ana Silva was not in attendance.

They were welcomed by the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and School Committee members. Chairman Rowland noted he is a huge supporter. He urged them to ask their fellow students about any issues they might have.

Supt. Robidoux noted that, prior to COVID, he would meet with student representatives at the school.

Asst. Supt. White noted that Liren is returning from last year.

New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. (NEASC Report)

Mr. McCann noted that he has been through five accreditations at Joseph Case High School starting when he was a student.

He said the Collaborative Conference is working with accreditation standards and looking at what principals are trying to accomplish using the power of the School Improvement Plan. The Conference didn't do anything for a year because of a back log and then COVID.

He is pleased with the honesty of this report. The reflection of different voices particularly teacher voices. He said he could not have put this quality work together without the help of faculty and staff. They believe in the process compared to the past when it was a battle to get people on board. He said the co-chairs, Chris Kenyon and Rebecca Hall, were outstanding in gathering the work. Teachers did a lot of work. They were given the reports at the last faculty meeting.

On that same day, he got the notification that the Collaborative Conference had voted to award the school continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The first Collaborative Conference was in March and the follow-up is in 2023.

Mr. McCann talked about the commendation and recommendations.

He said Case is one of the few schools that figured out the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Expectations. Other communities inquire how to do it. There have 21 reports.

He is proud of the commendations for Cases Little Faces and the theater company.

Mr. McCann talked about personalized professional development. He will suggest a technology work force group to look at needs.

He said his principalship changed when he attended a Principals' National Conference in 2014. He watched what they did in social media.

Mr. Rodrigues said the high school has gone through quite a transformation. Mr. McCann should be very proud of his team. He is confident that McCann will address the recommendations.

Mr. Graham thanked Mr. McCann for the report. He said the amount of progress at the high school is because of his leadership. The staff has pride and ownership in accomplishments. . He noted that he suggested Twitter when he first joined the School Committee.

He said we do not have a professional development committee in place. He felt there should be more voices. He is aware of what is already in place. He thanked Mr. Kenyon and Ms. Hall.

Mrs. Barbosa liked the Google form.

Chairman Rowland stated he decided to run for the School Committee because of his children's experiences in the schools. He is amazed and impressed with the school community and what can be done as a district working together. He likes professional development as a priority. He said technology is the key in today's world. We need to do it without asking for huge sums of money from the town. The School Committee always supports that kind of investment. He looked forward to Mr. McCann's continued success on the part of the district.

Asst. Supt. White thanked Mr. McCann for the report. It was clear and reflected on feedback he talked about earlier. This is a prospective of years of work. She said it is amazing at what we have to offer for such a small school. Other superintendents are impressed. She agreed that technology is rapidly changing. She congratulated Mr. McCann and staff.

Supt. Robidoux appreciated Mr. McCann sharing the areas of growth with the committee. He liked that Mr. McCann allowed teachers and staff to go through the process. He talked about book study.

He is meeting with Mr. McCann and Mr. Silveira to talk about how to enhance and improve the curriculum from eighth to ninth grades.

He said they need to have in depth conversations on one to one device. As far as technology, a lot of devices have been replaced.

Mr. Graham said this is important and he is glad Mr. McCann took the time to present a lengthy report.

#### Review Face Covering Policy; File: EBCFA

Supt. Robidoux said the sub-committee looked at it and came up with thoughts. He distributed copies to the School Committee, One document is from MASC.

Mr. Graham felt the wording that face coverings must be worn outside should be eliminated.

Supt. Robidoux noted that some of the changes he made were for clarification. He included what MASC originally proposed because CDC guidelines are more stringent. He added that gaiters or masks that do not provide protection will not be allowed. Religious exemptions are not allowed. Parents may not excuse their child by signing a waiver.

Mr. Rodrigues agreed with the DESE document because it focuses on the local level.

He asked about the School Committee's position if the governor lifts the state mandates.

Supt. Robidoux noted the School Department has to follow DESE mandates.

There was discussion about the last paragraph. School Committee members agreed to amend as follow: “This policy will remain in effect until rescinded by the School Committee. The Committee will consider input from the local Board of Health, Commissioner of Education, and Governor of Massachusetts in any decision to edit the policy.”

### ACTION ITEMS

#### Vote to Approve Joseph Case High School “Cardinals” Marching Band Trip – November 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Rodrigues, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the Joseph Case High School “Cardinals” Marching Band trip to Rutherford, New Jersey on November 5-7, 2021.

The vote: Mr. Carvalho – Aye; Mr. Rodrigues – Aye; Mrs. Barbosa – Aye; Mr. Graham – Aye; Chairman Rowland – Aye.

#### Vote to Approve Face Covering Policy; File: EBCFA

A motion was made by Mr. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Rodrigues, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the Face Covering Policy; File: EBCFA, as amended.

The vote: Mr. Carvalho – Aye; Mr. Rodrigues – Aye; Mrs. Barbosa – Aye; Mr. Graham- Aye; Chairman Rowland – Aye.

### NEW BUSINESS: FUTURE DISCUSSIONS BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Barbosa thanked Supt. Robidoux for putting the observation request forms on line.

Mr. Graham suggested the next agenda should include discussion on the questions for the MASC Conference and the vote on a delegate and alternate.

Supt. Robidoux said that Mrs. Barbosa is already registered to attend.

Chairman Rowland suggested any other members interested in going should contact him or Supt. Robidoux.

Supt. Robidoux advised that DESE has extended the mask mandate until November 1, 2021.

He said the playground at Hoyle School is done.

The state program to test exposed students and staff is going well but nurses need help. The state was supposed to provide people.

There will be a COVID clinic at the high school on October 30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is an opportunity to get vaccinated and opened to the community. Students need parental permission.

The theater company will present Beauty and the Beast on October 15, 16, and 17. All sports are on-going.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Rodrigues, and it was

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the minutes of September 13, 2021.

The vote: Mr. Carvalho – Aye; Mr. Rodrigues – Aye; Mrs. Barbosa – Aye; Chairman Rowland – Aye; Mr. Graham – Abstained.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next regular School Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 18, 2021.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Rodrigues, seconded by Mr. Graham, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

The vote: Mr. Rodrigues – Aye; Mr. Graham – Aye; Mrs. Barbosa – Aye; Mr. Carvalho – Aye; Chairman Rowland – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Gamer  
Secretary

Items Distributed at the September 27, 2021 School Committee Meeting

New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. – Continued accreditation of Joseph Case High School

Policy File: EBCFA – Face Coverings - Current

Policy File: EBCFA- Face Coverings During a Pandemic – Proposed

Brown School News 9/10/21

Joseph Case Junior High School – Message to families

The Gardner Chirp – Volume 5 Issue 1

The Gardner Chirp – Volume 5, Issue 2