

Lewiston-Porter Central School District
Work Session - Regular Board of Education Meeting 08.10.2020
Transcript via Zoom Meeting

BoE President Riordan:

Welcome everyone to tonight's meeting, we will stand to do the Pledge of Allegiance.

All right I would like to move to accept tonight's agenda for 08/10/2020

We had our first policy review committee, Anne.

BoE Orr:

In terms of policy and there are two revisions one is the leaves of absence for staff voting for being able to vote in the election and the changes are that they will be excused for up to two hours if they do not have sufficient time to vote it used to be four hours and so basically, I think we're pretty well covered for all the staff here for November election under the area of patriotism citizenship and rights education which is adding in some language around that we will instruct have courses in civics and patriotism citizenship and we're adding in civic education value our shared history of diversity and the role of religious tolerance in this country along with old language which included rights issues etc. So those are the only final items there is getting into the regular review policy of policy section in 7000, attendance was placed on hold until further review and the rest of the sections have no changes. They are pretty first straight through and we will be adopting our policies from previous years without changes.

Claims Audit – Dr. Grupka:

No major items to report on the claims audit, process is working.

Dr. Grupka/Dr. Lyon/Mr. Casseri:

As you know we got both a deduction for our pandemic adjustment and then we received the CARES Act money both were the same amount so roughly \$234 000 when we received the adjustment back though we were told that it needed to be shared with our non-public private so they got a small portion of that.

It is going to be spent on child care distance learning all most of its already been spent quite frankly PPE I just wanted the board to know that the application is in and I think you know it's money that we needed to spend on safety they don't get any you know at the end of the day we will also help support them in some of our efforts we provided everyone launched during the last shutdown no matter whose children or what school they went to we have you know we have a nurse a part-time nurse that we find 10 clubs we'll be providing her with PPE as well facilities update look at me with all these things so in the middle of our everything else and our return plan we had a little incident at the middle school where we had an electrical short normally when you have an electrical short you can fix it quite easily this time the short is underground in the cloud space so if you can you know if you can imagine the work that's going to have to happen down there our fellow slaves in the middle school basement is not a particularly pleasant place to be to begin with this is in 600 where the green line runs exceptionally and he was very gracious in his conversation with us he's going to allow us to start remediation immediately and then we'll put this through an emergency project Mr. Feathers did reach out to three different electrical contractors only one of them responded and that was Ferguson we've worked with Ferguson and before they've done a really nice job for us so we're going to you're going to see a resolution to move forward to get the work done it's a minimum of a two week job it is going to be able because we're going to do it as an emergency project but it's got to be done we can't we can't do it I mean we could easily if we had to start here with the generator we could but that is not a long-term solution right now there's no time no problem with the and that

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crawl but you know this also gives us an opportunity as we're moving forward to get the other election at a bigger never a good time to lose your electricity replacing the sewer line it should be done shortly they're moving pretty quickly actually yeah well obviously this week we begin our current as you know the governor basically opened up schools depending on where the district was at and as you can see we made the precedent but we seem to rectify that situation so despite the fact that every news agency decided this is a huge story so you know the governor has said schools will be open but has created a number of different new criteria for that which includes these parent forms which we will study and we have a teacher for that is governor made it quite clear that we have to we're very willing to do that but we also cannot alter the planned sustenance guidelines and guidance that is established for instance you I know there are many families out there that are upset about the issue of the hybrid model with my children on Mondays and Fridays overlook the landing of social distancing that must take precedence over everything else it says it right in the guidance now it's the whole reason why we haven't moved quickly away from I can tell you that you know Dr. Grupka and I are reaching out to the YMCA to see if there's anything they can offer to us in terms of whether that's child care for our employees families but they have limited you know there would be limited opportunities so we have limited space so just because we can the whole point of having less you know breaking the case is because we couldn't keep social assistance I can't run a 200 kid daycare so we'll see we'll see how it all plays out I don't you I know for instance there was a dad today that was really upset I feel for him I wish I had a better response to him I do apologize to him for not having a better response I know you know I don't have an answer so that dialogue will continue but you know obviously we're all making sacrifices if there's any ideas or thoughts about that and I'm very rewarding I know that that is an issue for families but we'll continue to make that part of her dialogue. He's taken really everything from our plan and very much expounding the work that's taking place from a teaching and learning standpoint so this this eight-page docent here really uh summarizes and encompasses everything that we're doing and uh hopefully once we'll have these available for families you know this will give a parents a good user back for our learning plan so that they can make choice to decide if they're going to cardio certified teachers certified special education teachers and teacher aides in the instance where students need that sort of support and I spent a lot of discussion with our special education families with regard to work my child has done it since they get a one to one eight every day so that eight come to my house so you know i know that that's going to be problematic for some families but you know we're hopeful given the work that's going on right now with teacher planning around both of these opportunities and the experience that we had in spring that will be stronger with our gain in terms of our responsiveness and we'll continue to work again all of that to September 8th but you know again starting a school year off in a hybrid model with some students 100 remote other students here on campus in a very limited fashion none of us have ever done this before as administrators or teachers so there's going to be a learning curve from September 8th moving forward this is not going to be seamless there are going to be gaps we are going to do our very best between now and September remote side we're still having a conversation tomorrow about who is going to be working there we still have not determined from our teaching staff who's with us we need to look at the population of kids that select the world in terms of the staff that need to be dedicated to it and we won't know that until families make those decisions as to what they want to do so you know there's a lot of moving parts to try to build this and even after it's moving it will be growing as we develop it pushing through the first 10 weeks I could have families and they said well you know what happened you know we choose the first 10 weeks but we want to come back I simply will be placed in the classroom with a classroom teacher and we'll join that class you know do significant benchmarking and diagnostic testing early on school year that's all going to continue to take place whether it's in personal mode so you know we will know where students are at we know that they will rest as a result of what happened in march well we can't say that for sure many students did quite well in the remote model and spread some others didn't do it as well we'll see through the diagnostic testing and benchmark festival the teachers will have a better handle on where the students are at you know I've been pressed on quite a bit but we know that they request we don't know where I would very much I would feel very comfortable and I've asked you to reach out to you and not necessarily that you have to say anything but the mere fact that you're there with us as leaders in the

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community so yes if you are available on any of those nights we would ask that you would come down to the primary auditorium with the central office administrative team the building administrators so that we can show you know at least a unified front with regard to the opening of school yeah that would be great so we can work on that we do obviously we've got Wednesday and Thursday you don't have to sign up so I'll open it up to questions from the board of education now that you've had a chance to digest this community feedback both formally and informally lives outside basically we were told today that they the department of health handles testing schools don't and if we need you based on a case we will contact you to help us with contact tracing but schools would have no role in testing whatsoever schools are not will not according to the department of health you know no nurse is going to call the department of health their County Department of Health if you know Johnny Smith has cough and sniffles even those of those may be symptoms we're going to follow the protocol in the flowchart largely that as I've mentioned to you the fourth column which talks about established students this year but it's one or more symptoms but it's not suspected of having problems so there's a lot and the Niagara family health department talked about you know the nurse needs to talk with the family make sure that you refer them make sure to get them tell them to see a primary care person an emergency character so I know that there was a there's a there's a working group Greg who's from North Tonawanda and Superintendent Michelle Bradley from Lockport is going to meet with the head of the nursing cohort county health department and if you looked at the department of health guidance that came out that I forwarded to you did you see that I forwarded that to the board what they're going to work on are those particularly under contact tracing those questions yeah supplemental guidance that came out and I sent to everybody you'll notice under contact provide details about how each school will support so the department of health is going to work with those two superintendents they're going to draft kind of a I guess an FAQ to those two three two specific areas testing and contactors and so that we can then review it and that will be placed on the website because we have to make sure that we have on our website specifically pulled out the stakeholder communication and outreach the remote learning testing context rates according to this guidance so but what I learned today uh was that the Niagara County Health Department of schools are not in any way shape or form because I believe that was the same message as well Niagara County had 13 test sites and now have seven Niagara County had access to a significant number of tests that has been reduced by half statements so there's less places to get tested less tests and the turnaround time for the test is up to five days so by a political official with those in the context of those parameters I don't understand the governor has done an outstanding job there's no question in terms of beginning but some of the most recent you know edicts for him to say for instance today it's irresponsible but I had a parent email me because apparently I won't get political because I do like the job that the government has done to get your state where it's where it is right now I do believe that he cares happens to new Yorkers very much so you know I don't want to we'll just figure this out we'll just figure it out I just keep saying we got to keep moving forward I can't get admired in what happened three hours ago because what's going to happen in three hours it seems to change just got to keep looking forward and pushing forward and you know it's not going to be easy it's just it's not it's definitely not going to be easy the one question is popping up and it isn't well addressed in our plan because our hand size that will cooperate for help follow the reputation it was quite clear from Dan Stapleton that if a case develops and that that student had had contact in school that would not in any way force the school to shut down they would have to conduct their contact tracing and those individuals that were identified through the contact tracing but it would not shut us free if it's what they want to know we want to know you know and we might not even so for instance if you're passing someone you would have to be in that person's presence consistent with the ten minutes unmasked in that correct so in those instances if let's say that the majority of the teacher and the majority of the kids in that class then we might have to shut that class down for those kids that are not being asked to foreign but I don't envision us shutting the school down completely it was a larger spread than they said it could be shut down for 24 hours 48 hours but the closure the closing of score or the closing of the class will have to be done on a case by case there can't be there's no set policy in terms of student a contested positive reporter and the other thing when that would give us more information about the lead that they're entitled to and the fact that unemployment might be

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available to me I don't know what their employers apply for but there's some things that are just in law that they should be maybe we could at least put up something that says you know these might be an animal like for instance if your school is places so if you're supposed to close for three days to you I mean but it's supposed to you could still qualify for unemployment so sometimes I get it what other questions I mean my next question and we'll come back okay the follow-up to that is what percent of those people yeah and then the other question I have is bringing you I guess maybe I misunderstood last time in here it says the apex learning program does provide advanced placement courses so the kids who will be in ap classes and of those 604 families who have responded at this moment 86.8 or 524 of those families are going to come to campus which means or 80 families are choosing not to and those 80 families of course represent more than one child yes and there's going to be a lot of a lot of families I will also tell you that 11 families have indicated that there is a medical assumption that's important information as well and we are working now to look at how that's more than a fair amount of families are saying they are going to be driving it took him 10 years is still by their guidelines too there's already an existing one directing 10 or 15 minutes from the high school to the middle school like the child would be late to school was there ever a consideration for would it be possible within going to violence that the younger kids come to school full time and the older kids go remote when they're more capable so you put some of the younger kids into the intermediate school center or something right something like the problem we have is we don't have what do you think and we have to make those special accommodations for those students in more restrictive environments but we're getting quite a fair amount of respect for students which we have a significant population of students that are in that it's called the consultant teacher mark and it would be virtually impossible so some families as well but we want to see where the numbers shake down but clearly we have to abide by children's IEPs that was going to have significant synchronous contact with special education teachers special education aids particular students we're just going to have to make that happen uh but as though that will obviously grow organically once we know who those kids are and get those special education teachers on campus someone working in heather's model pd to develop plans as well so but we have to abide by those IEPs so there's just no two ways around teachers are going to have to do that and have to be aggressive around the secrets that means one-on-one face-to-face contact whether that's in person or providers peer coordinator because you know this falls on that same umbrella as well and these are highly skilled and trained people who have had drilled into their heads for their entire careers confidentiality is key and right now we are saying confidentiality is key but not more important so when you think about remote and providing problem therapy which is what our related service providers are going to have to provide it's it's a really challenging situation so we're working through that the federal government and state government has come out and said so teletherapy can be provided and confidentiality is important but not as important as throughout the service and so working with families to create spaces for that to happen in a way that allows for the but also the comfort and security of knowing that there's probably an adult in the bathroom you know depending on the age of a child who's going to be on the other side of that this is our starting place not our end and so we're going to figure out where we are right now start and then we're going to as we know better we will do better and that's the best we can do but even in the you know they're we hope to do as much in person as we can you know even the students who are 100% remote with regard to related services we hope that you know for those parents that are able and capable you know we can set up almost like a doctor's appointment so we'll see how that plays out but I you know obviously we're going to continue to try to promote that training will most likely take place on those first couple days of school right it doesn't matter how prepared you are because every situation like every child is unique and near deals with thousands and we know it so we'll continue to continue to move. The process forward is there any further.

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NEW BUSINESS		
Approval of the 2020-2021 Tax Warrant	RESOLVED , that the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 Tax Warrant as submitted by the administration. Motion made by Riordan, seconded by Warrick to approve NA-1.	NA-1 Approved, CARRIED 7-0
Approval of the Total Collection Solution, System East	RESOLVED , that the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education approve the Total Collection Solution, System East agreement for tax collection software. Motion made by Riordan, seconded by Orr to approve NA-2.	NA-2 Approved, CARRIED 7-0
Approval of SEQRA Resolution Relating to Failure of Electrical System at Middle School	<p>A RESOLUTION, DATED AUGUST 10, 2020, OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE LEWISTON-PORTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, NIAGARA COUNTY, NEW YORK (THE "DISTRICT") DECLARING THE DISTRICT'S PROPOSED EMERGENCY CAPITAL PROJECT INVOLVING NECESSARY AND IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SIGNIFICANT AND UNEXPECTED FAILURE OF THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM FEED AT THE DISTRICT'S MIDDLE SCHOOL TO BE A TYPE II ACTION UNDER SEQRA</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Lewiston-Porter Central School District, Niagara County, New York (the "District") is in the process of responding to the significant and unexpected failure of the electrical system feed (the "System") at the District's Middle School at 4061 Creek Road, Youngstown, New York (the "Facility"), with the work involved being anticipated to include, but not necessarily be limited to, the removal and replacement of a damaged/failed conduit, installation of a new 4,800 volt rated cable, replacement of a deteriorated splice box and various other System components, as well as the investigation of the overall system, with components thereof to be removed and replaced (to the extent necessary) if such components are found to be in a similar deteriorated condition, all in compliance with applicable statutes, regulations and standards (collectively, the "Emergency Capital Project"); and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the District's architect, Trautman Associates ("Trautman"), has determined that the System failure at the Facility poses a risk of injury or harm to District employees and other users of the Facility (essentially rendering the Facility unusable for its normal functions), and recommends that the District pursue an emergency capital project with the State Education Department to facilitate the immediate reconstruction/replacement of the system, thereby allowing the Facility to be rapidly returned to its full intended and critical function and ensuring the health and safety of District employees and other users of the Facility; and</p>	NA-3 Approved, CARRIED 7-0

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	<p>WHEREAS, Trautman has specifically recommended that the District implement the Emergency Capital Project that is anticipated to include, but not necessarily be limited to, the removal and replacement of various System components, as well as the investigation of the remaining System, with such components to be replaced (and removed, as needed), if such components are found to be in a similar deteriorated condition, to meet current Code requirements; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, Section 617.5 of the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") Regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617) provides that certain activities are Type II actions which are not subject to review under SEQRA and that such activities include "emergency actions that are immediately necessary on a limited and temporary basis for the protection or preservation of life, health, property or natural resources, provided that such actions are directly related to the emergency and are performed to cause the least change or disturbance, practicable under the circumstances, to the environment," "routine activities of educational institutions," "maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility;" and "replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site...unless such action meets or exceeds any [Type I] thresholds in section 617.4"; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the proposed Emergency Capital Project constitutes such emergency actions, routine activities of educational institutions; maintenance or repair activities; and/or in-kind, same-site replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction activities;</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the final determination of the District's Board of Education that the Emergency Capital Project is a Type II action, which is not subject to review under SEQRA and the proposed action will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment.</p> <p>Motion made by Riordan, seconded by Mullen to approve NA-3.</p>	
Approval to Authorize Emergency Declaration Resolution Relating to Failure of Electrical System at Middle School	<p>A RESOLUTION, DATED AUGUST 10, 2020, OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE LEWISTON-PORTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, NIAGARA COUNTY, NEW YORK (THE "DISTRICT") FINDING AND DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION ARISING OUT OF SIGNIFICANT AND UNEXPECTED FAILURE OF THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM AT THE DISTRICT'S MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF DISTRICT STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, AND THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF DISTRICT FACILITIES AND</p>	<p>NA-4 Approved, CARRIED 7-0</p>

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	<p>PROPERTY.</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Lewiston-Porter Central School District, Niagara County, New York (the “District”) is in the process of responding to the significant and unexpected failure of the electrical system feed (the “System”) at the District’s Middle School at 4061 Creek Road, Youngstown, New York (the “Facility”), with such work being anticipated to include, but not necessarily be limited to, the removal and replacement of a damaged/failed conduit, installation of a new 4,800 volt rated cable, replacement of a deteriorated splice box and various other System components, as well as the investigation of the overall system, with components thereof to be removed and replaced (to the extent necessary) if such components are found to be in a similar deteriorated condition, all in compliance with applicable statutes, regulations and standards (collectively, the “Emergency Capital Project”); and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the District’s architect, Trautman Associates (“Trautman”), has determined that the System failure at the Facility poses a risk of injury or harm to District employees and other users of the Facility (essentially rendering the Facility unusable for its normal functions), and recommends that the District pursue an emergency capital project with the State Education Department to facilitate the immediate reconstruction/replacement of the system, thereby allowing the Facility to be rapidly returned to its full intended and critical function and ensuring the health and safety of District employees and other users of the Facility; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, Trautman has specifically recommended that the District implement the Emergency Capital Project that is anticipated to include, but not necessarily be limited to, the removal and replacement of various System components, as well as the investigation of the remaining System, with such components to be replaced (and removed, as needed), if such components are found to be in a similar deteriorated condition, to meet current Code requirements; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the District has been in contact with the Facilities Planning Unit of the New York State Education Department (which has indicated that the Emergency Capital Project is to be appropriately treated as an emergency situation, with an expedited review and an accelerated flow of State building aid); and</p> <p>WHEREAS, a project number is in the process of being obtained from SED, and the District has solicited cost proposal(s) and retained and/or will retain one or more contractors to undertake and complete the Emergency Capital Project, as well as any reasonably required additional work to address the described situation; and</p>	
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	<p>WHEREAS, the District proposes to undertake the Emergency Capital Project for the general protection of the public and, specifically, for the restoration and continued use of a safe and reliable Facility for the benefit of the District, to ensure the safety of District employees and other users of the Facility;</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District finds that the situation described above: (1) requires immediate action to restore and preserve the physical integrity of the Facility, and to protect the health and safety of District employees and other users of the Facility; and (2) constitutes an emergency within the meaning of Section 103(4) of the General Municipal Law; and be it further</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Emergency Capital Project shall be limited in general scope to those items of work that have been deemed by Trautman to be immediately necessary or advisable to restore the integrity of the Facility, to return it to its intended function and use on an expedited basis, and to ensure the safety of District employees and other users of the Facility; and be it further</p> <p>RESOLVED, that it was the final determination of the District's Board of Education that the Emergency Capital Project is a Type II action, which is not subject to review under SEQRA, and that the proposed action will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment; and be it further</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board hereby declares that the expenditure of funds for the purpose of undertaking the Emergency Capital Project in an amount up to \$73,889.00 (being Trautman's preliminary estimate of the maxim total cost of the work involved, including incidental expenses), constitutes an ordinary contingent expense of the District, on the basis that such action is immediately necessary to maintain the District's educational program, preserve property and assure the health and safety of District employees and other users of the Facility; and be it further</p> <p>RESOLVED, that all of the expenses associated with the Emergency Capital Project (including, without limitation, the costs of the Emergency Capital Project, and the undertaking of any reasonably required additional work to address the described emergency situation, as well as the incurrence of necessary architectural and engineering costs, legal costs and other related incidental costs), all of which are hereby declared to be ordinary and contingent expenses in response to the emergency situation, shall be initially funded by the expenditure of up to \$73,889.00 (or so much thereof as may be necessary) from the District's General Fund and, ultimately, from State building aid that is anticipated to be forthcoming (on an expedited</p>	
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	<p>and accelerated basis) in connection with the Emergency Capital Project; and be it further</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools, the Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services and other appropriate District officials be, and they hereby are, authorized to work with the District's contractors and/or Trautman to develop and complete the plans and specifications for the Emergency Capital Project, to solicit (in accordance with State Education Department guidance) cost proposals/quotes/bids for the work on the Emergency Capital Project, to enter into (in the case of the Superintendent, only) contracts for the work on the Emergency Capital Project on behalf of the District, and to undertake such other actions as</p> <p>may be reasonably necessary for the District to undertake, carry out and complete the Emergency Capital Project as soon as reasonably practicable, all in accordance with applicable New York State law.</p> <p>Motion made by Riordan, seconded by Mullen to approve NA-4.</p>	
ADJOURNMENT		
Adjournment	Motion made by Riordan, seconded by Warrick to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm.	Approved, CARRIED 7-0