

Lewiston-Porter Central School District
Special Board of Education Meeting 12/04/2020
Transcript via Zoom Meeting

BOE President Riordan:

I would like to move to accept the agenda for December 4th, 2020 can I have a second okay

BOE Member:

Yes

BOE President Riordan:

all in favor yes if everybody seconds they're in favor new business I would like to move to approve NA-1 approval of the limited services, any discussion Paul do you want to give a quick update or are we good.

Superintendent Casseri:

well I mean we're pleased that we were able to gain the designation to conduct the test under a limited service lab license we were I guess smart in the fact that we also applied for the multi-site license so actually all of our buildings are considered testing sites which you know is helpful and as I just was mentioning uh we are going to be I'm going to pick up 40 tests today and next week we're going to work with dr ferguson and the nurses and hopefully aveena who you're going to approve if we can get a couple of their people here just to practice what this might look like if we were designated if we have to move to a zone designation one of the things that one of the things that we still need to discuss is uh how we want to approach and I it's not something we need to discuss right now but how we want to approach uh those individuals within our school community that are not going to test there are some districts that are requiring all employees to test but not worrying about those families that are not interested in testing there are some districts that are requiring all employees in requiring all students and moving those students that refuse to test to remote that would be very difficult for us as I mentioned in my notes because of the way our remote process is set up so we will have to we will have to make some decisions we have had these discussions patty and I have had these discussions with Susan McLaren in terms of legally what we can do and so we'll make those decisions moving forward I can tell you that for instance north Tonawanda decided not to they're testing right now they're in a yellow zone and they've been testing since last week they started testing on the Wednesday before thanksgiving they decided not to fight the fight and just are testing those people that are willing to test we you know patty and I asked the unions about this we are they offered us questions so we're creating an FAQ uh and in that FAQ you know there are some people out there that are you have some you have the majority of the people who are like are pissed off that the other people don't want to test why should I have to be the tester and you don't have to test but then you get to stay and then there are the people who I'm not testing because you can't tell me what to do so we've got that little bit of thing going on so we'll have to make those decisions moving forward I would keep you fully updated if we decided to much like we drug test everybody who's an employee you can't become an employee here and lose the border without going through our drug test we legally can require all our employees to test there are some districts that are doing that and that their employees refuse they send them for a 9 13. so 913 you recall that's where the district can determine medical issues that a person is having if they're out in most instances it's psychological but you could you could send someone for a 913 and record much like they would have to do a battery or psychological test you could say you have to test and if they refuse to test then they're

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you can bring them up by the 3020 charges so I put that out there we don't necessarily want to go in that direction but I'm just letting you know some of the nothing is ever easy

BOE Warrick

if we do have to start testing we have to test a certain percentage of our population on a how frequent basis

Superintendent Casseri:

well they've changed it now which is interesting betty because it was you were test first of all you were it started off you had to buy the test you had to set it up and you had a test weekly and then in the yellow zone and then it was 20 of your population weekly and then it was 20 of your population bi-weekly every other week now it's yellow zone 20 of your population randomly over a month so over a month all you have to do is test 20 percent of your population in the orange zone go ahead so this isn't something that we really have to worry about unless we run out of volunteers correct that's cool yeah well again the only the small issue we face is you know you're right buddy do we want to fight the fight and is it and make and say to our employees listen you know we expect you to test or do we just want to say forget about it and you know this is a short term issue and situation that we're dealing with and let's just move forward you know right and testing now will keep us open in all the all the colors right a certain percentage 20 orange and then if we were to be designated red 30 and it's over a month and it's random testing and there's also an opportunity for pool testing which is a unique situation where you can actually you don't know specifically who you're testing it's a very unique is doing pull testing and I would recommend against it because what ends up happening is you get a positive in your group you all have to quarantine initially until they tell you who's positive and I don't think families would like that we won't do that but with having the destiny destination are we able to also test anybody just randomly like that comes in with symptoms or anything like that or just no actually no we cannot test anyone with symptoms not with these tests not with these right no these tests don't work with symptoms okay however we could if we really wanted to get aggressive much like Niagara falls we could actually order I mean when you once you're a limited service lab you can get the testing those kits that we had you could do full blown testing you can also apply the tests for measles mumps and rubella you could we could end up doing it all we are just focusing on the COVID that would be for asymptomatic people and it would only we would only test if we were designated as though.

BOE Warrick:

So, the other question I had then is we talked about people who travel and then have and come back and whether they might have to quarantine now you can test out of the quarantine can we do those tests for our employees

Dr. Grupka:

No, those are different tests so the test that we're doing is a screening test if you fail our test you still have to go for another test so we could do all of that Betty but we would have to buy we would have to get more sophisticated with our and the things that we would need to use to test

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BOE Warrick:

Okay down the road okay this is it down the road question if we're not requiring faculty to test.

Dr. Grupka:

What happens with the vaccine once it comes are they required to vaccinate we will not know that for a very long time so initially we recognized there's in the first row December January there's not going to be enough vaccines anyway right so whether or not we are required to vaccinate is not going to be a district decision that's going to be a department of health decisions probably at a much higher level.

Superintendent Casseri:

Well but it also it could end up being a district decision much like testing we could require it as part of their employment relationship with us but pre-employment not once they are employed. I don't know Patti they say everything to the districts you know so we'll see.

BOE Huebschmann:

Are you kind of considering if like how we handle this as kind of a precedent for how we would handle vaccination.

Superintendent Casseri:

Well I mean it's our real first communication not first communication but it's our first attempt to look at COVID in with us to the capability of a medical component and so I guess you're setting the precedent with how you might handle the vaccine but it might come through this State that you have it could come a public sector uh organizations approach that versus private sector versus you know are people able to opt out of the test but are you know I mean vaccinations we know are required there was a when the flu vaccination first came out of course it didn't end up but there was discussion that a flu vaccination would be a required vaccination for schools.

BOE President Riordan:

NA-1 Approval of the Limited Service Laboratory, may I have a second.

BOE Orr:

Second

BOE President Riordan:

Yes

All:

Yes

BOE President Riordan:

Approval of the Pediatric Home Nursing Services dbc AVEANNA Healthcare Contract NA2 if I may have a second;

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BOE Warrick:
Second

BOE President Riordan:

All right discussion it's pretty straightforward as to why we're doing this and who they are you all received a copy of the contract did anyone have any questions any discussion.

Superintendent Casseri:

So AVEANNA is going to help us if we get to a testing situation they would provide LPN's to us on our us so the LPN's at least four one for each building to work with our nurses and we would also have administrators Brad Halgash and Chris Hidalgo, is our trainer who was you know kind of uh in limbo right now because there's really no season so we would rely on Chris to help us as well but the LPN's would do the swabbing and our nurses would do the reading that's generally how we anticipated it going.

BOE President Riordan:

Okay anyone have any further questions all right favor yes so carried all right I would like to move to adjourn if there isn't any further discussion any before we adjourn

Superintendent Casseri:

I had mentioned in my notes anything out there that you are wanted to bring up or discuss anything that has transpired since the issue that we have with the middle school as you can see we're trying to take a different approach in terms of just isolating those individuals that we are able to identify and try to keep the school open to the best of our ability that has been the kind of new guidance particularly K-8 to keep your school open as best as possible were these new cases related in some way or are they all individual instances random community spread instant that's what I'm hearing well I have a question about I know the note you mentioned in your notes the notification is coming from the schools now more so than the health department yes are you are you going to put that maybe in a message to the community because I think there was some confusion I planned on that today and talking a little bit okay and things like that you might also want to mention that it was community spread because people are wondering if they could kids got it at school and it doesn't look like they did no yeah and it's actually you know it's what we've been doing all along even prior to the health department having a little better handle on the uh notification we were Patti was still getting a lot of the information first before the health department we were as all districts have been doing we were giving people a heads up listen you are we are asking you to remain at home because you are going to be contacted by the health department and ultimately quarantined and that was largely due to the conversation that Patti was having with the health department and they were kind of giving us that guidance what Dan Stapleton told the superintendents on Tuesday was look it's we're not we're not even sure we're going to be able to get to people it's we've got so many and so we are expecting you obviously with phone calls to our people but so that we kind of know what's going on but we are expecting the schools to help us with the quarantining uh you know the isolation piece is still they're still being aggressive with the isolation that's for a coveted positive person but even in those instances patty often is getting that information and passing it on to the health department before the health

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department even sees it in eclairs so uh we are also and most parents have been good about that they're their child is positive they're isolated you know they're not sending them to school obviously but uh we are still oftentimes making those directions to families prior to the health department actually talking to them so but yeah I'll certainly get that out to families just to let them know that it's become overwhelming for the health department in many instances in consultation with the health department we are advising on isolation and quarantining before the health department is even able to connect to them awesome anything else patty that's kind of where we're at right that's it.

BOE President Riordan:

All right then I would move to adjourn let me have a second;

BOE Warrick:

Second

BOE President Riordan:

All in favor, yes. All right everyone has a good day and d you will see all again next week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19am