

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

Finance/Operations Committee Meeting Minutes

The Finance/Operations Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. via a teleconference using Google Meet.

Attendees: Board of Education Members; Mr. Gary Blanchette, Ms. Miriam Underwood, Ms. Elizabeth Nord and Ms. Kerry Socha

Administration: Brian Greenleaf and Rebecca Gonzalez

Agenda:

1. Citizen and Staff Forum: None
2. 2020 School Reopening

Ms. Gonzalez presented on the ventilation system for the schools and provided a memo which is incorporated into said meeting minutes. Specific numbers were not provided as to the air exchange. It was reported through Ms. Gonzalez that the systems would be operating at 100% to maximize the air exchange to the outside air. The system would run an hour prior to school opening, continue during the school day and run 2 hours at the close of school at the 100%.

Additionally, box fans were purchased for the classrooms and spaces that would support the box fans. Said box fans would be used to put in the windows to increase airflow. A few issues arise in this situation, mainly the temperature of the rooms would be the same as the outside temperature, which may not be optimal. If the outdoor temperature is hot, room temperatures will be hot and may even be hotter than the outside air with rooms being occupied. Box fans would not be able to be used in the interior rooms without windows, nor would they be able to be used at Windermere due to the window design. Also worth noting is that the box fans are used to pull the inside air out not pull outside air in.

Ms. Socha asked about commercial floor fans, and those are not allowed under the current guidelines. Ms. Gonzalez reported that running our systems at 100% puts an incredible amount of strain on them, which will likely cause issues and shorten the life span of the ventilation system. On extreme temperature days the schools may be closed for learning as we are maximizing the outside air. Ms. Gonzalez will be monitoring the air exchange on a daily bases.

Ms. Nord inquired about the cleaning processes and bathroom maintenance. Mr. Greenleaf state that children in the upper grades would be allowed to clean their own desk shield and carry them place to place. Each child will have their own desk shield. Bathrooms under the guidelines will need to be cleaned twice daily as opposed to the once daily routine. Ms. Gonzalez noted custodial staff are being assigned differently to assist with the increased workload.

Meeting was for informational gathering purposes, no vote or recommendation at this time. Ms. Socha requested a follow up meeting with Mr. Greenleaf to discuss safety drills and any additional information that becomes available on the ventilation and cleaning processes.

Submitted by,
Kerry A. Socha
Chair of Operations