



Minutes of the Board of Education

February 1, 2021

Members Present: Chris Foster
Samantha Hicks
Doug Kelley
Meghan McGarry
Ann Morone
Peter Schaefer
Jessica Zweig

Others Present: Superintendent of Schools: Dr. James R. Franchini
Assistant Superintendent: Matt Hladun
Assistant Superintendent for Business: Michael Ouimet
Director of Personnel Development: Kimberly Nugent
Athletic Director: Mark Bubniak
Athletic Trainer: Rachel Brown
Co-Directors of Nursing, Val Miller and Rebecca Everett
Coaches: Malenfant, Organ, Pugliese, Spence

A meeting of the Board of Education was held virtually via ZOOM on February 1, 2021. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

- I. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance Ms. Zweig, President
- II. Public Comment - Community members seeking to provide questions or comments to the Board of Education should email them to the District Clerk. Comments and questions that are received before the conclusion of the Board of Education meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021 will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Board of Education members received 25 emailed questions/comments.

- III. Discussion on High-Risk Winter Sports
- IV. Resolution to approve Winter Higher Risk Sports

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2021, the Governor and the New York State Health Department authorized schools to operate certain higher-risk winter sports effective February 1, 2021 as may be permitted and authorized by local county health departments; and,

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health subsequently issued updated guidelines for the operation of Sports and Recreation related to higher-risk winter sports; and,

WHEREAS, NYSPHSAA and Section 2 have issued revised guidelines for Return to Interscholastic Athletics for the 2020-21 season: and,

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2021 Rensselaer County Executive Steven F. McLaughlin and Public Health Director Mary Fran Wachunas approved schools within Rensselaer County to operate winter high risk sports should schools wish to participate in one or more Winter High Risk Sports; and,

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has shared with the Board the plan to provide Winter High Risk Sports in accordance with all applicable New York State Department of Health, Rensselaer County Department of Health, and any applicable league health and safety requirements which will be implemented during all practices and games.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Averill Park Central School District hereby approves the following:

1. Implement the following interscholastic sports for the 2021 winter season:
 - Participate in athletic competitions in the following sports/levels:
 - Girls Basketball (JV/V)
 - Boys Basketball (JV/V)
 - Competitive Cheer (JV and/or V, depending on numbers)
 - Wrestling (JV/V)
 - Skill development sessions and intra-squad only scrimmages in the following sports/levels:
 - Boys Basketball (Modified)
 - Girls Basketball (Modified)
 - Non-contact training/workouts
 - Wrestling (Modified)
 - We are waiting for further guidance on the following sport:
 - Hockey (V) - Will participate if Albany County high-risk sports
 - Practices, skill development sessions and/or non-contact training/workouts will begin on February 1, 2021 or as soon thereafter as practicable.
 - Athletic competitions will either be as part of the Suburban Council or as part of a Rensselaer County league
2. Each parent/guardian must sign a district/school developed COVID-19 informed consent for participation form that is issued by the District.
3. The Board delegates to and authorizes the Superintendent to take any action he deems necessary and appropriate to ensure that such sports are implemented in a safe manner consistent with all guidelines (NYS, County, and Section). This includes the authority to temporarily suspend District participation in any of the above sports if the Superintendent deems such action necessary.

On a motion by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Dr. Schaefer, to approve resolution to approve high-risk winter sports.

YES: 5 (Foster, Hicks, Kelley, Morone, Schaefer)

NO: 2 (McGarry, Zweig)

MOTION CARRIED

V. Adjourn Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Foster, seconded by Mrs. McGarry, to adjourn meeting at 9:33 p.m.

YES: 7

NO: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Linda Primeau

Linda Primeau, District Clerk

Board Approved: 02/08/2021

