

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Madison Central School was held on January 29, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the Auditorium and with some members present via google meet.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Laura Billings
Mrs. Jennifer Lavoie
Mrs. Brittany Rizzo - virtually
Mr. Jona Snyder
Ms. Jennah Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Jessica Clark
Mr. Mike Filipovich

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Jason Mitchell, Superintendent
Ms. Tracey Lewis, District Clerk

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Mrs. Lavoie called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

- I. Executive Session

MOTION # 1 - ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

ON THE MOTION of Mrs. Billings, seconded by Mrs. Turner, the board moved to enter into Executive Session at 6:02 pm to discuss matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed. (public safety matter). Motion carried 5 yes, 0 no.

- II. Adjourn Executive Session and Resume Special Meeting

MOTION # 2 - ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RESUME REGULAR MEETING

ON THE MOTION of Mrs. Billings, seconded by Mrs. Turner, the board moved to adjourn Executive Session at 6:25 pm and resume the regular meeting. Motion carried 5 yes, 0 no.

- III. High Risk Sports
 - a. Mr. Mitchell shared all available information available for high risk sports from the governor, County Boards of Health and other school districts. In Madison County 7 out of 10 school districts have indicated their plans not to participate in high risk sports at this time. In our sports league 2 teams are opting not to participate because they are following the Madison County guidelines. Three teams are located in other counties. The team in Chenango County will require testing of athletes. The two teams in Cortland County have not gotten guidance to make the decision at this time. If high risk sports were allowed, it would be at the varsity levels only. Districts are also considering practices and intramurals for basketball. Wrestling may be more of a weight lifting opportunity.
- IV. Question and Answer Opportunity
 - a. Are we still considering a soccer season? We are not ruling it out.
 - b. Are we considering track? Spring sports are looking more promising than winter sports but it is all still to be determined.
 - c. The District will explore ways to begin some form of practicing to start preparing for the possibility of any form of season. A shortened basketball season would likely only include a couple area districts.
 - d. A statement was read which expressed unhappiness in that the Governor has offered mixed guidance and left the decision on each district. Further, the statement spoke on the benefits of sports that are far from the field or court including learning how to handle defeat, health and wellness life routines, morals, sportsmanship, dedication to both a team and self. The statement supports that sports are very beneficial to the mental well being of our students as well.

- e. A community member wanted to be sure that the District continues to support our students and find opportunities to support the mental and physical well being of our students due to all the negativity caused by this pandemic.
- f. The board expressed its confidence and support of Mr. Mitchell in continuing to work towards getting sports and activities back into the school day.
- g. It was noted by a community member that we cannot stop all activity until “all” risk is gone because “all” risk will never be gone.
- h. Coaches have indicated that they would be willing to volunteer their time and service, however, the board would still find it appropriate to compensate our coaches in a pro-rated amount. This delay of sports is not a financial decision, but rather a health and safety decision.
- i. Another member of the community expressed disappointment that the Governor’s announcement gave our student athletes false hope.
- j. There were questions regarding whether our students would be coming back to school for 5 days a week any time soon. The District is trying to get more students in on Wednesdays. There are a few hurdles including social distancing in the classrooms and on the buses.
- k. There was conversation regarding the option of running two bus runs a day.

MOTION # 2 - APPROVAL OF MOTION FOR DELAY PARTICIPATION IN HIGH RISK INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

ON THE MOTION of Mr. Snyder, seconded by Mrs. Billings, the board moved to approve the motion to delay the participation in high risk interscholastic athletics for at least one month. Motion carried 5 yes, 0 no.

V. Adjournment

MOTION # 3 - ADJOURNMENT

ON THE MOTION of Mrs. Billings, seconded by Mr. Snyder, the board moved to adjourn for the evening at 7:08 pm. Motion carried 5 yes, 0 no.