

Committee of the Whole  
August 04, 2020 6:30 PM  
Dr. Matthew J. Conway, Jr. is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Committee of the Whole  
Time: Aug 4, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Every month on the First Tue, until Feb 2, 2021, 7 occurrence(s)  
Aug 4, 2020 06:30 PM  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81128957262>  
Meeting ID: 81128957262

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Gildea: Called to order at 6:33.

**a. Opening Ceremonies**



Pledge of Allegiance

**b. Roll Call**

Mr. Gildea: Six board members. Jim Gildea, George Kurtyka, Dan Foley, Tara Hyder, Melissa Cannata, that's five. Laura Harris, that's six. There are six.

Missing Rebecca and Ken and Janine.

**c. Additions/Deletions to the agenda**

**Motion Passed:** passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. George Kurtyka.

Mrs. Laura Harris

Yes

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Mr. Gildea: Any additions deletions or corrections to the agenda?

Dr. Conway: Delete the number 6, fiscal year 2021 non-affiliated salaries.

Mr. Gildea: Striking item number 6. Motion to remove that item from the agenda?

Ms. Harris: So moved.

Mr. Gildea: Second. Mr. Kurtyka. Any discussion.

Motion carries.

Any other additions deletions to the agenda.

## II. Public Participation

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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\* Prior to the commencement of any public meeting of any board of the city, the agenda for said meeting shall be posted in the meeting room and the first order of business of said meeting shall be the entertainment of public discussion on any item on said agenda and the conduct, length, and method of terminating said public discussion shall be determined by majority vote of the members of said board of commission.

Mr. Gildea: No one from the public spoke. Close public portion.

## III. Executive Session

**Motion Passed:** The Board of Education enter into Executive Session to discuss the appointment list of new hires, the FY 20-21 non-affiliated employees salaries, and the Superintendent of Schools is invited to attend. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Mr. Gildea: Item number III.

Ms. Harris: Motion that the Board of Education enter into executive session to discuss the appointment list of new hires and superintendent invited to attend.

Mr. Gildea: Second.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Mr. Foley. Any discussion. Motion carries.

#### IV. Academic Interventionist

**Motion Passed:** The Board of Education approve the hire of Jake DeVellis as the Academic Interventionists at Irving School, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. George Kurtyka.

Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Ms. Harris: Motion that the Board of Education approve the hire of Jake DeVellis as the Academic Interventionist at Irving School as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Kurtyka: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Mr. Kurtyka. Any discussion. Motion carries. Is he here.

Dr. Conway: Yes, he is. Aimee's going to speak in one second.

Ms. Misset: Welcoming and giving information about Jake.

Mr. Gildea: Welcome, Jake. Welcome to Derby and the Team.

Dr. Conway: Welcome, Jake.

#### V. Appointment of New Hires

**Motion Passed:** The Board of Education approve the appointment list for new hires, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. George Kurtyka.

Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
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Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

**Ms. Harris:** Motion that the Board of Education approve the hire of Martin Pasquale as Derby Middle School Seventh Grade Social Studies Teacher as recommended by Superintendent of Schools.

**Mr. Kurtyka:** Second.

**Mr. Foley:** Many years of experience in Derby making a significantly less salary.

**Mr. Gildea:** Thank you Mr. Foley. Opposed. Mr. Foley opposed.

**Ms. Harris:** Jim Gildea, Tara Hyder, Dan Foley, No. Rebecca O'Hara, not here. Janine absent. George Kurtyka, Ken Marcucio. Jim Gildea. Six yes and one no.

**Mr. Gildea:** Melissa.

**Ms. Harris:** Yes for Melissa. So we have six yes and one no, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Gildea:** Motion carries.

**Ms. Harris:** Motion that the Board Of Education approve the appointment list of New Hires.

**Mr. Kurtyka:** I second.

**Mr. Gildea:** Any discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.

## **VI. FY 20-21 Non-affiliated Salaries**

Skipping item number six.

## **VII. Capital Plan**

**Motion Passed:** The Board of Education approve the FY21 Capital Plan, as recommended by the Plant and Facilities Committee. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Ms. Melissa Cannata.

Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Mr. Izzo: We went through the capital plan. We did the playground for safety reason. We did the study for the brick and point repairs at Bradley. And then the balance of the money went to cover the track and field equipment. So that was last year's capital that we ended up spending.

One of our favorites, Chester retired last week, after 20 years experience. The Ford Explorer that sat for a while, actually got repaired. But I think we need to talk with Matt Cunningham and get a maintenance man. We're okay for now. We talked with the committee. What we'd like to propose for this year is for a new maintenance man. Start with at least asking for a new maintenance man that takes care of our new maintenance person when he comes on board. And then we still also need to address the brick and point repairs at Bradley. That's the proposal for this year's capital.

Next years, the underground tanks were never on our list. They were on our list for a while. There's a couple of options here. We don't have a need for them anymore at both Bradley and Irving. So I think right now there's no problem with the tanks, but as you know, they're not getting any younger, so we're going to have to take them out. We'll leave it on the list in case anybody wants to talk about it. But I think there's two avenues here.

Next one down is playground equipment at Bradley. Little by little more dangerous things have gone away, but that's something we need to put on the list of the 21/22 year. We can do that for around \$35,000. Then window treatment at Irving. A new item, putting in an air conditioner in the cafeteria at Bradley. The rest of the things you've seen before. I'll tell you budget meeting the City's total capital budget, Dr. Conway, \$200,000 if I remember correctly.

Dr. Conway: Actually they're lowering it to about 180.

Mr. Izzo: We put on the maintenance van and complete the Bradley repairs for next years capital for a total of \$92,000. That's where we are. Any questions.

Mr. Gildea: The Plant and Facilities Committee met and actually Laura was there as well. Thanks. They're all good stuff. Getting \$92,000 from the City may be a stress, so we'll have to see where we come in from the City. They're all good stuff.

Mr. Izzo: Thank you. Entire five year capital plan.

Dr. Conway: Five year capital plan.

Ms. Harris: Motion to approve the five year capital plan by the Derby Public Schools as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Gildea: All in favor.

Ms. Cannata: I'll second.

Ms. Gildea: Thank you, Ms. Cannata. Any discussions. Motion carries.

### **VIII. 20-21 District Calendar**

**Motion Passed:** The Board of Education approve the revisions to the 2020-2021 District calendar, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Dr. Conway: The State Board of Education allow three extra days for the staff training for the reopening models as we begin the school year. We've adjusted the students start date only in our calendar. Wednesday, September 2nd to Tuesday, September 8th, the day after labor day, so we have a week of training for staff prior to reopening.

It's just the start date for the students. We already got 183 in their calendar.

Mr. Gildea: Yes, sir.

Mr. Kurtyka: We approved the three days go on at the beginning and the school would be before labor day. I thought we agreed and we had a vote on that school starts before labor day.

Dr. Conway: Mr. Marcucio asked me to look at that which I did. So in my teacher meeting, we did not go down there as a Board. Mr. Marcucio offered it as a suggestion and we take a look at that. Go back and take a look at that, and all teacher meetings it was preferred to leave the school teacher year as is and start students later for a variety of reasons. It's a little cooler the second week. Everybody wanted to keep the same thing as well. I did propose those plans to the group.

Mr. Kurtyka: Go if you go back to the December meeting, I think that we go back before labor day.

Dr. Conway: The State reducing the student's school year by three days. We have to use those three days with staff to provide training. Unless we started staff that third week in August, we would not been able to use those three days for staff training.

Mr. Kurtyka: Is this going to be Statewide initiative to start all the school districts on this date?

Dr. Conway: A number of districts have moved theirs to September 8th. They are following the same in terms we are, following that week training the staff but there was no, this isn't an initiative Statewide starting after labor day. It will remain as far as I know, district by district decision. As you recall five years ago, we were

required for two years to do it as a region. And that didn't work out. It was an initial push Statewide date that didn't work out either. So it's now back by the district choice.

Mr. Gildea: Any other questions.

Mr. Foley: The professional days, are they being provided somewhat by the State or on our own?

Dr. Conway: A feedback committee will develop what these look like for the year.

Mr. Gildea: Any other questions.

Ms. Harris: Motion that the Board of Education approve the revisions to the 2020-2021 District Calendar as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Second, Mr. Foley. Motion has been made and seconded. Any other carries. Motion carries.

## **IX. Reopening Updates**

Mr. Gildea: Reopening updates. Dr. Conway.

Dr. Conway: Over the past week, first for parents to be able to choose whether they are going to participate remotely or in person. Second most significant is what you've seen in the media this past week is agenda four. This now provides to make a decision on the model you reopen and it's really between two models, full in person, based upon our current parent survey would be requesting to continue remotely. It's about two-thirds capacity or a hybrid model. And I have that broken down by classroom as well. The hybrid could be a variety of models. Fifty percent of the students in on Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday cleaning, and everybody on distance learning on Wednesday and other second fifty percent in on Thursday and Friday.

Take the classes, who they take the classes with. Maybe the high school get a hybrid model we can recommend. It is now the district to make those decisions as opposed to Statewide. The remote model, third model. Because one, have a high number of new cases. Have to go through the State Department of Ed and The Department of Public Health and the State Board of Education for approval opening up in a full remote model today. For opening purposes, authorization from those three agencies. I'll be meeting with the governance committee tomorrow for them to review the addendum that I shared with them.

I would like to put together a plan that the governance committee can recommend, so that we can at least give parents the information on if the data is on September 8th, here's the plan where we will be in. So they can be working with their employers on what they look like, they can be working on childcare. Our own teachers can be working on childcare, which we're helping them with that with the YMCA one in Ansonia and one in Derby where staff can bring their child for childcare needs. A third location, and that's for the Y, in Oxford where many of our staff live as well.

It doesn't mean you decided to open that model. It is just for funding purposes. There's an additional ninety-nine million from the CARES Act, that needs to be distributed across all districts. They're trying to determine

how to distribute that best. It will be based upon the model that you opened up in and what you have shown in the budget. So we submitted that back in July.

That's what it's based on today. I would like in the next week to go over with the governance committee and release that parent information that we have based upon the data that we have. I am meeting with parents every Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Gildea: Any questions, folks.

Ms. Harris: Doc, do we have a deadline date that we need to contact the busses for how many children are allowed at the pick up spot. Do we need to do that ten days before school begins?

Dr. Conway: The sooner we get that, the easier it is for them. Mark's been in contact with them, daily, weekly. I just talked to Steve Gardner again. We told him we hope to have that definitive information for him in two weeks. But, a lot of it is depending on parents providing us the information. So additional surveys will be going out to parents. And that survey, 32 percent of the 69 percent that ride the bus said that they would drive their children to school. That is to and from school.

Ms. Harris: That was my next question.

Dr. Conway: Bus routes, full reopening with 28 percent continue in remote learning and then a hybrid opening. Three reports we need for Allstar, two of which they're working on now. But the hybrid will be able to provide information. Those that are in the hybrid are going to be continuing in a remote model. Right now, we're looking at about 38 person on the busses, so we'll be able to social distance on the buses as well. It is going to come down two weeks before opening. Give us that additional time for planning. We probably won't know the most accurate information until September 8th.

Mr. Foley: In the lavatory disinfecting, in the lower grades when the kids have to go to the lavatory and they're going with other cohorts.

Dr. Conway: The lavatories have to be monitored for the number of students at any one time, as well as disinfecting. So we are hiring an additional staff member for each building, specifically for the disinfecting. Bathroom as being one of those areas, high touch areas need to be disinfected often throughout the day.

Mr. Foley: How about in the kindergarten and first grade where they have their own bathroom.

Dr. Conway: We're possibly looking at the limited use for those bathrooms in those individual rooms. And bathrooms will be set up for specific cohorts to be using.

Mr. Foley: And have we figured how much of an increase in our budget this would require?

Dr. Conway: All of this is being covered not by our budget. So there will be a significant amount of money coming from the State once that Act passes.

Kyle just shared with me today his final draft. I shared it with the teacher groups that were on. I still have more teacher meetings to go. There's different programs for different types of consideration for teachers whether they're at high risk, care for an elderly parent or care for their child. And each of those there is, within our federal guidelines that we have to follow provisions for financial support for those families, those staff



members, up to a certain time frame. So the initial is, every single person is eligible for 80 hours. You're entitled to FMLA, which will provide that staff member two-thirds their pay for the following ten weeks.

Mr. Gildea: So the first 80 hours you would get paid, compensated, get full pay. After that, you would be protected under FMLA for other salary.

Dr. Conway: Correct. COVID funding and ten days they would be unpaid.

Mr. Gildea: You mentioned childcare.

Dr. Conway: We're going to have a need for remote learning for students. We really are trying to work with everybody and trying to be as compassionate as we can as we go through this process together.

Mr. Gildea: You talked about distance learning. I recognize that on March 12th, you know, we didn't have a whole lot of notice. I think what we did for March 12th, we made the best of a difficult situation.

Dr. Conway: Yes, it does Mr. Chairman. We're getting better at what we didn't know before. So we're getting better at remote learning as a State. But we don't know at what point we're going to transition back and forth to any of the three models even. So students need that structure to maintain continuity of their learning and especially if they're going to be offering two models at one time. The in-person and the remote or the hybrid and the remote. We don't have the teaching capacity to do both at the same time unless we're doing it at the same time.

Resources for teachers, students and parents that's in the beginning stages now. While we've been looking at it, participated in our real introduction to it formally this past week, Monday. That they are trying to field out supports for distance learning in the learning. And also partnership with Columbia University. So both of those have been rolled out between Monday and this week.

Mr. Marcucio: How do you know this is going to work?

Dr. Conway: We don't. We don't. We're trying to get better at something that we never did before. Columbia University spent its time researching distance learning and has put together a framework that again all brand new, Mr. Marcucio, like, I can't answer if it will, but it is something that we are now exploring and the State has been exploring by the State Department of Education. It's all brand new. But it's a better support place than we were in March.

Mr. Gildea: Tara.

Ms. Hyder: Dr. Conway, you said you had been putting in technology in all the classrooms so that kids at home can be learning at the same time as their peers. What money are we using and what exactly is the technology and is it in every single classroom?

Dr. Conway: CARES Act Funding that is supporting it. Initial plan was to having each of one class of grade level in the elementary school, one class for grade level for specials in the middle school. And then area by grade level in high school.

Ms. Hyder: In terms of the kids who will be learning from home for whatever reason they choose, and if they're following the school schedule, how does that work in terms of that they have the technology, the wifi if there are siblings in the home. If there's two, three or four kids in the home and they all need a laptop, are we

making sure that everyone has what they need, you know, their laptop is broken. Are we still making sure that everyone has what they need for this.

Dr. Conway: Yes, we are. I think our team has done a great job and the State has stepped in to help support us as well.

Ms. Hyder: And in terms of the kids at home following the schedule. I see the benefits in that absolutely, having now sitting in front of a computer so often in a job where I never used to, there's a lot of cons in that as well. So the kids are at home, not seeing their friends, are we really going to expect kids to sit in front of their computers for six hours a day and only really have like a 17 minute lunch. And really have them sit in front of a screen all day like that. Are we going to shorten the schedule a little bit to make it less facing the screen. That's a lot of time in front of a screen.

Dr. Conway: The students at home, their time on the screen that the teachers provided for that lesson and then supplemented by possibly another teacher in Zoom, who has to teach remotely to support that child as needed in a Google classroom. It's only temporary. That is temporary, they did not put an end date on it. We're open. The child struggling returning or the parents not confident at this time based upon the different information they hear from the media and other places.

Resources for parents, teachers, students, utilize from homework and it's supplemental to what you're already doing. Again every day they're adding things to the learning.

We are working on the State doing a Statewide.

Ms. Harris: Talked about looking into CPTV.

Dr. Conway: So PDF resources are part of the learning. Trying to organize it in a user and friendly way for distance learning.

Mr. Gildea: Some of the teachers invited me to their Google classrooms.

Dr. Conway: Simulation of the remote learning.

Mr. Marcucio: Yeah, the remote learning.

Dr. Conway: Yes.

Mr. Kurtyka: When schools closed, a quarter of the students went MIA. Mr. Chairman Gildea says Emmett O'Brien does make sure that the kids show up. Hartford found out that the kids don't have internet.

We found that out too when the children went to the Derby Green. So these kids can connect to the laptops. So the other part of the laptop story is were given to the children were never used. They were requisitioned to other places for monetary means.

Dr. Conway: I can also assure everyone.

Mr. Kurtyka: Kids have to go back to school. Our kids go to the school. If we have to go into distance learning that we look into it.

Mr. Gildea: I'm sorry.

Dr. Conway: At least our students in Derby, Hartford and New Haven are doing, is to get an internet that is available. That is one of the considerations we're going to be submitting tomorrow. Any student did receive a hotspot. We gave out as many as were needed so that everybody had connectivity.

Mr. Gildea: Study earlier. Don't we run the risk the later we go, the longer chance the numbers will turn?

Dr. Conway: It's a risk either way, but certainly adding that additional time to prepare, I think it's supportive in the model overall. We have not seen the numbers change drastically over the past week.

Mr. Gildea: Okay. Any other questions, folks.

Dr. Conway: This is the model we're recommending so that we can provide parents with as much notice as well to work with their employers and addressing the other child care issues that they might have.

Mr. Marcucio: I would agree with that.

Mr. Gildea: August 20th, when we meet again as a Board, we can really focus in on what our plans our, school will be about two weeks from then.

Ms. Hyder: Doctor, would you be willing to share, I know you don't have it off the top of your head, but the percentage per grade level of students who are willing to do in-person schools in September?

Dr. Conway: I do have the ones with children's remote. I do have the grade level with the children's remote.

Ms. Hyder: Okay, yeah. I'm just curious to see per grade level what the trends are, based on the ages of the kids and how parents are, you know, making those decisions and what each building might look like for how many kids might be in school?

Dr. Conway: Give you a ball-park as of yesterday, what that looks like. At Bradley, those that said want to stay in remote learning. That information may change based on State data. In Kindergarten and Bradley, so overall Bradley school 53 students. Irving, overall 61. So as a percentage, Bradley probably has a higher percentage of those that said they might continue on remote. DMS total of 49 school wide. High School, total 33 for the school. But again a large percentage that we'll be contacting are still unsure. We have a total of 724 that have answered in total so far.

Ms. Hyder: At what date will you ask for that final response?

Dr. Conway: Maximum, within the next two weeks. We'll be sharing this, knowing your answer change as the data changes. Our doors have to be open to all students every day.

Mr. Gildea: Every parent will have the opportunity to opt out.

Dr. Conway: While all of that is in a plan, it is not in any way enforceable.

Mr. Marcucio: Kids stay at home and do their work at home.

Dr. Conway: With the remote learning this time around we have different expectations for parents and kids. So we will deal with those as we would if the child is in person at school. If they're playing hooky, we will use the same strategy and address it with the family the same way.

Mr. Gildea: Doc, can I clarify one thing. Did you say playing hooky.

Dr. Conway: I did.

Mr. Gildea: I'm just double checking. Any other questions. Good stuff. We'll be back at it on August 20th. Meeting scheduled for August 31st.

Dr. Conway: We did receive the CIAC reopening fall sports guidelines. Those are still being discussed daily. CIAC is aware that they now have to work with the Governor's Office. Have to review it as well as a part of reopening. Can we leave it up to the district to make a decision does he play sports in the afternoon. As a plan, that will be up to the district. It's going to come down to a legal decision. We're waiting for a decision on that Statewide.

Mr. Gildea: We know that. All right. Any questions.

Ms. Hyder: It kind of makes sense to me because when you go to school you're in a closed building. And that might not be the location whereas if you are a runner and you're sport is running outside. It might feel safer for the student. So I kind of do understand if the sport is outside. I thought about that too though.

Dr. Conway: Yes, it is.

Mr. Gildea: I think that's going to be a decision made by others. I think there should be some legal discussion. Meeting scheduled for 8/20. Thanks to all the folks on the line. Thanks, Doc.

## **X. Adjourn**

**Motion Passed:** The Board of Education adjourn its meeting. passed with a motion by Mr. Kenneth Marcucio and a second by Mrs. Laura Harris.

Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Mr. Gildea: Motion by Ken.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion to adjourn.

Ms. Harris: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries. 8:09

