

**WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 27, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**N.J. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW**

In view of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the emergency orders and directives at the federal, State and local levels, and consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., as amended by P.L.2020, c.11, (“OPMA”) the Woodland Park Board of Education is conducting this meeting, originally designated to take place at the MUNICIPAL BUILDING, remotely using video and/or telephone conferencing technology. The public has been advised of this venue and format change and instructions have been provided in order to access the meeting and to participate during the public comment section(s) of the meeting. You will need to dial-in/login to the remote meeting platform(s) in order to attend the remote meeting. All public comments should be submitted via email to pmurphy@wpschools.org before or during the meeting and will be included in the record. P.L. 2020, c.11, which permits remote conduct of meetings, was signed into law by Governor Murphy on Friday, March 20, 2020, effective immediately. The Board recognizes the importance of open transparency and public access and participation in its work. In view of the current crisis and the brave new world in which we live, the Board asks all citizens to bear with us as we work to meet the health, safety, welfare, and educational needs of our students, staff and all members of the Woodland Park community.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present – Chris Mania, Jairo Rodriguez, Adam Chaabane, David Amanullah, Maryann Perro, Laura Vargas, Joe Giammarella

Members Absent –Lisa Marshall, Christine Tiseo

Also Present - Michele Pillari, Paul Murphy, Adam Weiss

**Discussion - Reopening of schools.**

The Board all stated that they were in full support of Dr. Pillari’s reopening plan and thanked her for all her hard work putting everything together. Dr. Pillari thanked everyone for their kind words. She ensured that although there are many components in the planning, they all go hand in hand and that if she thought for any reason it was not safe to reopen she would go completely remote immediately.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Please remember that this is a public meeting. Anything you say will be public record. As a result, pursuant to law, the Board Members cannot respond to you publicly concerning certain matters, such as those regarding an individual student. If there is a matter that you wish to remain private concerning personnel or students, please contact the Superintendent’s office. In accordance with Bylaw 0167, statements will be limited to 3 minutes in duration.

The following all had questions and comments on school reopening.

Jessica Sterba – Is there a plan for parent training as to the remote learning programs so they can help their kids? Are the remote teachers all regular full time WP teachers? Will remote students be assigned the same teacher everyday? Is the curriculum the same for remote & in school students?

Amy Quintaro – Can parents schedule a visit to the school to see how classrooms are set up? Will masks be required at all times? How are you going to keep kids social distanced when outside playing? What is the number of cases that would warrant schools to shut down due to COVID?

Elaine Diaz – What will the process be to change from remote to in school learning?

Tammy Hasbi – Wanted to know why the decision was only recently made to offer remote & in school learning.

Dyanara Pena – Can children come back to in school learning at the same time even if marking periods are different?

Elaine Shavin – With busing being suspended, can the BOE assure a safe walking route for students who would normally get the bus.

Maria Billson – Since the kindergarten had a virtual orientation, can one also be done for the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders since they are the only other grade going to a new school this year? When will find out homeroom and class schedule? When will be told when to pick up books? Will back to school nights be in person or virtual? Can the students use their own personal computers as opposed to the school supplies one?

Nicole Orgo – How will students receive speech services?

Andrea Saldutti- Is worried about the safety of her children walking to and from school since busing was canceled. Asked to reassess the canceling of bus service.

Georgiana Gerardi – Who do we notify if we need Chromebooks? When can they be picked up? Are textbooks virtual or hardcopies?

WPEA – Why isn't the board meeting in person? WPEA request a copy of the letter of assertion and also be shared with the public. Have any of the Board members toured the buildings to ensure the safety of the students and staff? Is there a possibility that a class will have more than 18 students?

Mayor Kazmark – Made a lengthy statement regarding the importance of reopening the schools and that he is in full support and is confident that the environment will be safe for all.

*Dr. Pillari responded to the questions and concerns of reopening. She stated that all teachers will be WP teachers. Remote students will have a designated teacher as well as the in school students. There is no difference in curriculum between remote or in school students. Dr. Pillari said videos were created to show students and parents how the schools will look and procedures for this year. The Board members have not toured the buildings but have seen the videos. Masks are required to be worn throughout the day. Students in pre-k – 5 will get masks breaks during snack time. Set dates are put in place for remote students to return to in school learning. The district will be using the 4 marking period dates as in Memorial. Dr. Pillari has been in communication with the Chief of Police and the Mayor regarding safe walking routes for students. Packets will be going out shortly with all information to start school. Personal computers can be used but the district would prefer that the students use a school issued device as it contains monitoring software on it. Pickup time of laptops and books is in the process of being finalized.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. by RODRIGUEZ, Seconded by MANIA

Voice Vote: 7 YES