

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

0:00:00 JILL O'MALLEY: Good evening, and welcome to the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District Board of Education for May 12, 2020. District Clerk, please note that all trustees are present. I'll ask that you rise for the Pledge. You have your flag there, John? [chuckle] Alright. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, liberty and justice for all. Alright. Okay, item 4A... Let's see. Hold on, I got to... You put me on full blast there. Okay. Item 4A is the committee recommendations for the District Code of Conduct. And I saw Dr. Lewis is here with us today. Dr. Lewis, hello?

0:01:03 MICHAEL LEWIS: Good evening.

0:01:07 JILL: Are you going to be speaking about the changes or we're just reviewing what you sent to us? There weren't many... There was just a couple, about the...

0:01:16 MICHAEL: I do have a brief presentation.

0:01:18 JILL: Okay.

0:01:18 MICHAEL: Just two or three slides to just review for everyone who's watching in.

0:01:22 JILL: Yeah.

0:01:23 MICHAEL: And if you bear with me, I'm just going to share my screen real quickly.

0:01:27 JILL: Okay.

0:01:41 MICHAEL: Wrong screen. Here we go. Alright. So, we, like you pointed out, had a little bit of a pretty small set of changes this year. And today, we're going to go through some updated procedures based on last year, and feedback we received, and then spend one minute just going over some of the changes to the current code. Last year, we had gone through a pretty major revision. It involved blue-lining everything instead of redlining everything with a trauma-informed approach. We really built in many restorative practices, but we followed a traditional model of setting up one single committee to review the code over two meetings, and then make those recommended changes. We had some feedback last year during the Board meeting that indicated that some different kind of involvement or greater involvement would be preferred by the community, so Larry Scott and I devised a little bit of a different procedure that I wanted to talk about tonight, just to give everyone kind of a comprehensive look at how we change things. We focused more on parent and student input via forums that were created. So rather than, again, seeking one or two students and one or two parents from the community to sit on one committee, we ran several forums at different schools and different locations throughout the district before we ended up closing for the extended closure. So in a way, it worked out, because we got all of that data and information from participants before we were closed, and had we not done it this way, we wouldn't have had the participation that we did. We were looking for survey feedback, we contacted all the Parent-Teacher Association representatives for each school. We created essentially a Kenmore East location and a Kenmore West location to serve both sides of the community instead of just having it in one central meeting room, and then we also asked for... Through student representatives, student feedback via surveys. So all of that information was developed and organized and reviewed with the committee that represented staff. That district committee did meet via Google Meet to discuss the new process,

review the feedback, and talk about any changes. And as you noted there were very, very few changes. In fact, the entirety of the changes are on this one slide. So, there was some confusion about the behavior flow chart. Now, this is something that's usually typically embedded in school districts that use PBIS practices as a behavior flow chart. What makes us a little different is that we actually embedded that flow chart into the policy, into the District Code of Conduct. So we found that there was some confusion about if that flow chart was part of the policy, if it was simply a guideline, if it was enforceable, so we changed the language to help teachers, and administrators, and parents, and students understand that the flow chart is really a guideline to help staff understand who should be addressing that issue... Whether it be addressed in class, addressed after class by a teacher, by an administrator, or if it's more serious, outside of the school, into more of a district office issue. And then we also mentioned that it's not an exhaustive list, because a lot of people thought that unless it was written in that flow chart, it was not something that was enforceable or addressable through the code of conduct. So we made it clear that, that is not an exhaustive list. The only other change we made was really to align with single point of access requirements, especially in light of the approval of the capital project and all of the different single point of access changes and rules that have been going on. We noticed that there was some language that was older and wouldn't necessarily be aligned with our new ways to enter our school buildings, so we simply rewrote those sections to delete things like, "Report to the Office of the Principal," and enter things more like, "Go through the single point of access. Wait in designated areas as opposed to the main office." And that was really just to help us align with some other district practices that we just have recently engaged since the last code was accepted. Those are the entirety of the changes. I think you'll find them a little bit more to... In an email to the Board that went out last week. I do want to thank my committee, we did have several students and parents from around the community. Detective Krier always works very closely with us. We had Mike Haggerty and Matt Rains as the administrators representing the group. John Rigney from Kenmore West, and Carrie Whitney, who's a special ed teacher from Franklin Middle School represented the teacher group. And then Larry has been helping me out with this process for the last couple of years in his new role as the Alternative to Suspension Specialist. That is the entirety of my presentation. I'm happy to answer any questions or address any comments.

0:07:13 THOMAS REIGSTAD: Dr. Lewis, it's Tom, I do have just one quick question. I noticed on page 8 that at Edison, Holmes and Lindbergh, the Dignity Act Coordinators aren't named at the moment. You know, there's a change. And I was just wondering, when you expect to name those people and when that does happen, will it appear right away on the district website?

0:07:40 MICHAEL: That is our plan, yes. So the reason why they're blank today is because given the school closure, we're a little bit off schedule for when we would normally have run our transfer meetings. So there were some retirements in the district that impacted the DASA coordinator assignments for several of the schools. And we rather, for sake of this public hearing, rather just mark them as "to be determined" because we don't have transfer until later this week. So once we know which staff might move into those positions based on the schools they transfer into, we'll then enter their names based on the principal's designation. But there's also the possibility that some of those positions remain vacant, and they have to be posted and interviewed for, and then we really wouldn't know until the principal hires that person and it goes through the Board for approval. So our plan is to leave it blank for now, and then as soon as we have all of our staffing formalized and identified through Board action, then we'll update the document. And then of course, every school is required to post the name of the DASA coordinator in their main office anyway. So any parent that was going into a school, even if they didn't look at the updated document digitally, would still be

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

able to pretty easily identify who that person was, if they went into the school building next year.

0:08:57 THOMAS: Okay, thank you.

0:09:18 MICHAEL: Are there any questions coming through the YouTube channel, John?

0:09:23 JOHN BRUCATO: Nope.

0:09:25 MICHAEL: Okay.

0:09:28 MICHELLE TARBOX: I think I saw Jill trying to speak, but she's on mute.

0:09:35 JILL: And bet you there's people that wish that existed in real life, but no such luck. Yes, I was just asking if there were any questions from the Board or any questions, you know, any public comments, but you guys covered that. So no nothing? Okay, then we need a motion to approve the revised District Code of Conduct for our first read.

0:09:57 MICHELLE: Moved.

0:09:57 MATTHEW: Moved.

0:10:00 JILL: So moved by Michelle, second by Matt, I think that was. Any discussion? Again, Dr. Lewis, thank you for putting this together and thank you to your team. And I know you guys usually put a lot of work into this, and I know obviously, this is an unusual time, so thank you for your work on this.

0:10:19 MICHAEL: I'm just excited to have been able to wear a tie again.

0:10:24 JILL: I know on Mother's Day, I put on perfume, I was like, "Oh, I almost forgot what that smelled like, okay." [chuckle] Alright, all those in favor, so signify with aye.

0:10:34 MATTHEW CHIMERA: Aye.

0:10:34 ANDREW GIANNI: Aye.

0:10:34 THOMAS: Aye.

0:10:34 MICHELLE: Aye.

0:10:34 JILL: Aye. Okay. Any opposed, any abstentions? Okay, motion carried unanimously. Alright, thank you. Okay, item 5A is the approval of the agenda, may I have a motion to approve?

0:10:51 ANDREW: So moved.

0:10:51 JILL: So moved by Andrew, second?

0:10:52 THOMAS: Second.

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

0:10:54 JILL: By Tom. Any discussion? There being none, I call for a vote. All those in favor, so signify with aye.

0:11:00 MATTHEW: Aye.

0:11:00 ANDREW: Aye.

0:11:00 THOMAS: Aye.

0:11:00 MICHELLE: Aye.

0:11:02 JILL: Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? Motion carried unanimously. Motion to approve the April 7th regular... April 7th 2020 regular Board of Education meeting minutes.

0:11:15 MATTHEW: Moved.

0:11:16 ANDREW: Second.

0:11:17 JILL: So moved by Matt, second by Andrew. Any discussion? There being none, I call for a vote. All those in favor, so signify with aye.

0:11:25 MATTHEW: Aye.

0:11:25 ANDREW: Aye.

0:11:25 THOMAS: Aye.

0:11:25 MICHELLE: Aye.

0:11:26 JILL: Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? Okay, motion carried unanimously. Item 5C approval of the minutes from the April 21st 2020 Special Board of Education meeting for the BOCES budget and candidate vote, motion to approve?

0:11:40 THOMAS: So moved.

0:11:42 MICHELLE: Second.

0:11:42 JILL: So moved by Tom, second by Michelle. Any discussion? There being none, I call for a vote. All those in favor so signify with aye.

0:11:50 MATTHEW: Aye.

0:11:50 ANDREW: Aye.

0:11:50 THOMAS: Aye.

0:11:50 MICHELLE: Aye.

0:11:50 JILL: Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? Okay, motion carried unanimously. Okay, Mr. Bovino... Just to give a little bit of background for people who might not know what this is, before I have Mr. Bovino run through this... Is every year, the three top students from each high school and their principal from all of the regional high schools, public, private, parochial, gather for the Student Achievement Recognition Dinner (SARD), it's a really nice night for us, and the Board presidents go with the superintendents. It's a really nice night to sit and talk to the graduates. Obviously, we won't have that opportunity this year, because it's hundreds and hundreds of people. It's nice to talk to these students that have done so well, informally and ask them. And I'll tell you, for doing this, the first year I was on the Board, our then President couldn't make it. So I've gone every year since I've been on the Board and we always ask the same question. "What was your best thing about being a student? What did you enjoy the most?" And hands down, the number one response was the opportunity to travel. So I thought that was great to hear from our students. And we always like to hear where they're going. So I'm really happy, Steve, that you put this together, to be able to recognize the students. I know it's not the same, free dinner. It's not the same as PowerPoint, but I'm happy nonetheless to celebrate these students. So I'll turn it over to you.

0:13:26 STEVEN BOVINO: Thank you. Just to add to what Jill said, this is an event that's been put on for 40 years by the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association. It's usually attended by 400 plus folks. And unfortunately, for all the reasons we know, we couldn't have it, so the association asked us at a Board meeting to represent... To recognize these students. So I will start with East first. Our first student, valedictorian is Evan Haeick. You can see the group activities he was involved in and his future plans are to study mathematics. John Abramo, salutatorian, future plans are to study computer science. And Madison Fox is our third student and she plans to study cybersecurity and continue her athletic career at Tiffin University. We'll go over to West. Our valedictorian is Olivia Kandler and she plans to study biology in the future. Maura Dungan is our salutatorian and she is planning also to study biology at the University of Buffalo. And Alyssa Quinlan, who will be, again, another biology pre-pharmacy at Canisius College. They must have a great science program there. West, nice job. So we want to congratulate our 2020 SARD recipients. I'm very proud of you.

0:15:00 JILL: Yes.

0:15:00 STEVE: We have one more congratulations to Kenmore West and Kenmore East. They were named by US News & World Report in their Best High Schools designation. They both placed in the 25th percentile of schools nationwide. And what we understand they were looking at was college readiness, career, curriculum breadth, which we excel at, math and reading proficiency and performance, and a number of other factors. The complete details were in the gram message that we sent out. School gram message. But, again, congratulations to Kenmore West and Kenmore East. That's quite an accomplishment. And we're finally getting some recognition that Business First just can't see fit to provide the school that deserves it. So thank you.

0:15:53 JILL: Very nice. Okay. Well, thank you for that great news. I wonder if Alyssa is Anna's younger sister. That must be. I know Anna Quinlan. I remember her from a couple years ago. Also another rock star from West. Okay, so now we are on to item seven. Mr. Brucato, you want to give us your [inaudible].

0:16:26 JOHN: Yes, absolutely. Let me just share my screen here. Okay. So tonight, I'll be taking you through the 2020-2021 budget recommendation. First, I want to thank the Board and our

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

administrative team and our principals. Really, it's been a very difficult time putting this budget together, at least the most difficult that I've had since working at Ken-Ton. We've been in strong financial condition for some years now, but it doesn't make it any easier planning into the next year and the years after that with some unprecedented conditions we've been faced with. So really, what we're doing is just reviewing the recommended budget for next year. So a brief summary of our timeline. It's been mixed up a little bit from what we're used to in the past, but you can see, we're at the budget adoption, which is later than usual. We're usually in May when we're adopting the budget, but today, May 12th is our date because of the pandemic. Again, typically in April. And then we have June 2nd is our budget hearing and then the vote on the 9th, which will be done via mail-in ballot. So here's a few updates since we've last met, and we were able to close that \$1.3 million budget gap. How we did that were through some additional retirements, so we have some breakage with teacher retirements there. We've looked and have reduced some staffing for next year. So again, it was a difficult decision, but I commend the building principals with working with district administration to best prioritize some staffing. We had some lower enrollments in BOCES that helped us out in terms of cost for next year. We are in a position where we did not have to appropriate any additional reserves. However, given the fact that Governor Cuomo may look back in the month of April and then again in May, in terms of how the New York State budget has been performing, there could be a potential for us to have a reduction in state aid. If that is the case, we are not looking to make any programmatic or staffing reductions as much as possible, but we'll lean on reserves in fund balance if need be, if those reductions come through. Just spoke to the state look-back a little bit. Here's a quick comparison of our state aid and you can see, I believe we spoke to this last time, that the aid has been reduced pretty significantly with that pandemic adjustment. Now, that's supposed to be a wash coming from the state aid reduction and then back-filled through federal funds, but we're still waiting on the specifics on how that's going to come to us. So, here's a summary of the 2021 recommended budget. So we're looking at a total budget of just over \$169 million which is a \$1.8 million increase over 19-20. So 1.08% increase over the current fiscal year, which is one of the lower increases we've seen in recent years. We're looking at a 2.59% increase to the tax levy, which would bring that to a total of just over \$88 million. And that would be an estimated tax rate of \$52.94. Now, remember, that's based on current information that we have, current valuations of the town, and a 33% equalization rate. We've reduced our reliance on fund balance reserve usage by about 3 million or 300,000 rather for next year. And the increase on 100,000 full-market value house is estimated to be at \$44. But remember, this is just an estimate. Typically, it's lower as evaluation goes up for when we get those figures over the summer. So here's a look at our expenditure budget for 2021. Again, majority of our expenses are through instruction. Here's our revenue budget. We say this every year, we would like to see at least 50% coming from state and federal sources, but every year that green piece of the pie seems to be shrinking and we're more reliant on our local taxes. So as I said before, 1.08 is one of the lower budget increases that we've seen in recent years, we did really work diligently to minimize any increase going into next year, knowing the revenue shortfalls that were to come. So again, I commend our team and our principals, and our Board for supporting us through this budget development process. A quick look at use of fund balance in reserves. Thankfully, we're still in a position where we're still hoping to add to our reserves. Looking back years prior, we've, I guess, really been gearing up for a day like this where we've potentially had to rely on our reserves and fund balance. So, again, it's been a difficult journey and we've been able to turn the corner in terms of our finances, and have been strong for the past five or six years. But this is why we always want to look to add to reserves as appropriate because when times like this come, when there's a lot of uncertainty with state revenue and the local economy, we do have something to kind of rely on and mitigate any kind of further reductions to staffing and programming. So there are three propositions this year, of course,

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

proposition one's going to be the budget. Prop two is the bus purchase, we're looking at purchasing 10 buses, so that total proposition's a little over 1.1 million, but aided at 70%, the true cost to the district is really about almost \$350,000. And then the third proposition, this is similar to the proposition we had in, I believe it was 2016/17 where we established a capital reserve fund. Now, we want to be clear that this isn't expending any monies, this isn't adding any funds to a capital reserve, this is essentially opening an account that we can use in the future to fund, as long as we have surplus fund balance that we can put in there. The current capital reserve is at about 14 million and is coming up on its cap of 15 million. We plan on using majority of those funds to fund our 2020 capital project, but again, we're always trying to plan out to the future. So as we see surpluses in the future, if we have those, we can then fund a reserve like this. But again, we do need authorization from the voters to establish a capital reserve fund. But again, we're not adding 20 million, we're not doing anything like that. This is just authorizing us to open up a new capital reserve.

0:23:24 JILL: John, you mentioned that we expect to use almost all of this money that we have set aside in our current fund towards the 2020 capital project. You said almost all. Do we get to roll that over to this next capital reserve if we don't?

0:23:41 JOHN: Yes.

0:23:41 JILL: Okay, okay.

0:23:43 JOHN: Yeah, so we have... So our capital reserve right now is \$15 million, so we can only put another about \$1 million in there. It's like 14 and change that's in there right now. But there's a 10-year life span on the current one, so we can let it sit in that account, and we can draw down on it, we just can't add anything further to it. So that's why we would need to open up and have another one authorized by the voters. So if we look to fund a capital reserve further and breach that \$15 million cap in the current one, we can then tap into this one for future projects as well. And that really is it for my presentations, presentation rather. Is there any question from the Board?

0:24:27 THOMAS: John, I have a couple. First of all, thanks for working so hard on putting this budget together, and also stepping up for your role in directing IT. The question I have is, I guess in connection with the mail-in ballots that I know Patrick and Gina have been working so hard on as well, but will there be a chance to explain to voters who might be voting for the first time, who never went out to Hoover or whatever, to vote physically, and they see \$169 million in a piece of mail. And maybe the tendency would be to vote no. Will there be a way to include a statement or two about what you had just told us that stressing that this year's budget is one of the lower increases in recent history? Maybe giving a two or three-year look back about the budget numbers that are not too much lower than what this year's would be. And also a statement about the buses, that this is typical to have about this number of new bus requests.

0:25:51 JOHN: So, Patrick Fanelli's been diligent in getting some literature together. We're making sure to get all those points out to the voters because that's one of the things that we were concerned about. People who come out to vote tend to come out and vote every year. But now that everybody is having a ballot mailed home, it's kind of uncharted territory, so we want to make sure that those that typically wouldn't see or come out to vote, rather, are well-informed that we've been pretty diligent on keeping our expenses as well as possible given the circumstances. So again, Patrick Fanelli is going to be putting literature out and information out to the voters.

0:26:27 THOMAS: Okay, thanks.

0:26:29 JILL: That, I guess to be mailed separately though, right? Gina, maybe you can comment on that? That cannot be... There's some restriction on what can be mailed with those ballots, right? You can't have any additional literature with those ballots I thought, right?

0:26:43 GINA SANTA MARIA: We could have, but we're going to mail it separately.

0:26:46 JILL: Okay.

0:26:46 GINA: Because we don't want to do just a single page, it's not enough information. So we decided to do a separate budget gram like we usually do, to get the information out.

0:26:56 JILL: Okay. Okay. Sorry to... Sorry, Tom. I just...

0:27:00 THOMAS: Oh no, that's informative, thanks.

0:27:03 JOHN: I do want to mention though, with mailing these ballots home, we're looking at, I believe, the number's about 46,000 pieces that we have to mail, and then have to have return address to us. And the estimated cost right now is about \$53,000 that we weren't budgeting for. So, when we talked about unfunded mandates and what we have to do as school districts, we're trying to make ends meet as it is, so throwing the \$53,000 expense at us in May is... Can be challenging. So we're hoping that the state can come and meet us financially on that or potentially that may be eligible for some FEMA funding that we've been kind of keeping a tally of that we can submit for, but I just want the Board to be aware that although it sounds in theory that mailing these ballots home is convenient for the voters, which it is and I don't necessarily disagree with it, there's always a cost to something. So right now it's about 53,000 for us.

0:28:00 JILL: And we probably don't want to take for granted that... I don't even know if anybody's even watching this meeting or not, but just as a matter of public record, what we're facing here. Governor Cuomo in his executive order last week, mandated that school districts would need to send absentee ballots to all eligible voters in their districts. Now, we are... Gina, what did you call it? A self-registration district, right?

0:28:24 GINA: Or personal registration district.

0:28:27 JILL: Personal registration district. So we don't have some of the same requirements. Right now, it has to be currently registered voters that we have to mail that to, not in some districts, you could just show up, be 18 years of age and live and register to vote on the spot. So that is not the case in Ken-Ton, which saves us a little bit. But I know they give the recommendation every year that Board members are not supposed to... We have the opportunity to support the budget through our budget adoption, but we're not supposed to tell voters to vote for the budget. But it's really important that people do get the word out about what this budget represents. As John, I was waiting for him to say it, it was going to be a question I was going to ask, but he touched upon the use of fund balance, so that we would not have to make any staffing or program reductions. If we have to... If this budget is rejected by our voters, there really isn't any time to go back to have another vote. We wouldn't even be able to get the paperwork on time, which means we'd likely go to

a contingency budget, which means it's last year's budget, which means we would have to have program staff reduction. So it's important for our community to understand what this would signify if this vote didn't go through. And I echo Tom's concern, several years ago, we started this process that we would, the Board members that were not running for office, as well as the cabinet, of course, Gina's there all day and the superintendent would go to the budget meeting and answer questions. And that has been elucidating to understand the thought patterns that people, and the buses are the number one things. People don't understand that we bus to over 100 schools every day, people don't understand that we're on a 10-year replacement. Because they'll ask "Why do we need new buses every year?" We got these nine programs or 10, including Big Picture. But we are on a replacement cycle for all those buses, and they don't understand they're aided, so the true cost to us isn't really what's on the proposition. So I think I would ask people that are not only associated with the district here at this meeting, but for those listening, that people, if they have questions, please reach out to Board members. Mr. Brucato would be definitely happy to answer your questions, so that you are making informed vote. Because it is really important, especially in this year where we don't have that turnaround time for those budgets and we would have to make some pretty hard, I think, decisions, if we were to go to a contingency plan, especially when we don't know what lies ahead for us. So is there anything else, John, you want to add to that regard? Or Steve? I think it's important for people to know, because this is the one shot we're getting probably.

0:31:17 JOHN: So, especially with a contingency budget and given the fact that we... We build a budget for next year that is tighter than any budget that we've had to put together in the past. Regardless, we would have to rely on fund balance, because if we, for those who were watching, if we adopt a contingency budget, we cannot increase the tax levy a penny over the current year and that's a few million dollars that we would have to make up. Luckily, we're in a position that we would not have to cut as much staff as typically we would otherwise, had we not had fund balance, but that's certainly something that we're going to have to rely on but it's important to remember that that's not a long-term solution. That'll bridge the gap from one year, maybe two years, but we're going to be right back in the same position trying to make up for that. And when we're in an environment of a tax cap scenario, we can't just go out in two years and try and reach the cap to make up for lost time. I think in theory that would work out even worse than using fund balance. So it's a delicate balance between using our reserves to carry us through, but then having a back-up plan to kind of get us off of those reliance on reserves. And we did that, from the recession, we finally turn the corner around 2015-16, where we weren't relying on our reserves as much anymore. And I'm happy to report that we've been tapering that back, but we may be in a position where we need to rely on those reserves. But again, we need to look out five years and that's why we do that five-year financial plan to really kind of chart where we're headed with our finances. So hopefully, we won't be in that position. Our community has been incredibly supportive of our budget. But we also haven't had potentially 46,000 voters. So we'll see how it goes when we get these ballots back in the mail.

0:33:07 JILL: Very good. And we all also have loss of revenue from sales tax, right?

0:33:13 JOHN: Yeah, we don't have a number on that yet, but Erie County has given us some different scenarios based on whether it be anywhere from 20% all the way up to 90%. It's pretty scary to look at that because our budgeted number is \$8.3 million. So if we lose 90% of that, again that's another piece of revenue that we'd be losing and we'd have to lean on our fund balance and our reserves for that. But again, that's just a short-term solution. We hope the economy will come back and we'll see stronger sales revenue or sales tax revenue. But our savings account is only

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

going to carry us so far.

0:33:48 JILL: I think you started sweating a little bit when you had to say that number. I don't know, my resolution...

0:33:52 JOHN: I turned my video off.

[laughter]

0:33:56 JILL: Okay, alright, very good, thank you. Any other questions for John about the budget? We'll be voting on that adoption later in the meeting. Okay, thank you very much, John, and thanks for your hard work on closing that gap.

0:34:08 JOHN: Thanks.

0:34:10 JILL: Okay, let's see here. Sorry, I just got closed out of my agenda. I've got it running off to the side here. Okay, there we go. Okay, so now we are to public comments. Do we have any public comments? I don't know, John, if you... Do we have any viewers even?

0:34:31 JOHN: We have 18 right now.

0:34:32 JILL: No.

0:34:32 JOHN: So kind of a party. I do have a public comment that was sent in by Karen Whitelaw of 463 Woodland Drive.

0:34:41 JILL: Karen Whitelaw.

0:34:41 JOHN: She mailed it in.

0:34:41 JILL: Never heard of her.

0:34:42 JOHN: May have heard of her, maybe not. She goes, "The Ken-Ton PTSA Council had planned on holding a Candidates Night for all Board of Education candidates. Due to current circumstances, the format had to be changed. Questions may be submitted to the Ken-Ton PTSA Council's Facebook where the most frequently asked will be given to all candidates for an opportunity to answer. Once all answers are received, they will be posted on the Council Facebook page the week before the election. Email Karen at kwhitelaw1@aol.com with any questions."

0:35:19 JILL: Okay, we can put that up on our district website and have Patrick also put that out on Facebook, right? Stephen, any objection to that? Stephen Bovino, are you still there?

0:35:34 STEVE: No objection.

0:35:35 JILL: Okay, alright, that'll be good. Yeah, yeah, we can't... The Board of course, can't run something like that. I know it's been run by the League of Women Voters in the past, but I think some good questions, I might even toss some questions in there, I'd like to see some responses. So great, thank you, Karen. That was it?

0:35:53 JOHN: Nothing else.

0:35:56 JILL: Okay, then we are on to item 9A, Board reports. I don't know that anybody's been participating in any meetings or anything, so I don't think we have any Board reports. No? I'm trying to think what I... I've been busy with ECASB stuff, but nothing really for the Board except for the superintendent search which we're going to give an update on that. Okay then, any comments from the Board? Okay, alright, superintendent search. So this evening, well, this afternoon, I had a chance to talk to Dr. Fusco and want to make sure that we have out there the most up-to-date information, what's happening with the superintendent search and also had a chance to talk to the Board about some of these nuances. So, the Board has really... We took a long time, we have had the luxury of time with this, which is not really ever seen in any other district. We started talking about succession plan for Steve, I think it was February, Andrew first brought it up. We got to start talking about this. And then in the fall, we really started ramping things up. And one piece that was important to us were these constituent interviews. We have decided to move forward with those constituent interviews. We're obviously on a bit more of a compressed timeline. Lynn, Dr. Fusco is unavailable next week, but she will spend this week reaching out to the constituents to see who may still want to participate. And you may recall, we had an administrator's group that included the cabinet. We'll have students, we'll have support staff, teachers, parents, and then also other community members. And she's hoping to conduct those interviews, obviously through... She'll be using the WebEx platform, but virtually, on May 26th, 27th, and 28th. Then on the 29th, I will be picking up the binders, the candidate binders, as well as the constituent feedback forms and our own personal notes and bringing them to the Board. So, they'll have them to look at over the weekend. And then, on June 1st, we will be interviewing the candidates. It's not really an interview, it's more of an informal talk. We were supposed to go out to dinner. What we'll be doing instead is beginning at 3:00 PM, interviewing them, speaking with them separately. And then that evening, we hope to make our decision. So we will have had that weekend to review our constituent feedback forms and our own personal notes and their binders, and then we'll come together. I had asked Dr. Fusco, because we had to move our Board meeting to June 2nd, if we could maybe potentially announce then. And she recommended not, just in case there were any problems with the contract. So we'll spend that week negotiating the contract. And then Gina, this is for you, I'd like to add a meeting please, for June 8th. It was important for the Board. We obviously want to announce the results publicly, but it was really important for me to make sure that we get this done before the actual election and budget vote. So I'd like to schedule a public meeting for June 8th, where we will announce the successful candidate. We'll also invite the successful candidate to be part of the Zoom meeting and introduce that person to the public for the first time. And then we'll also be talking with Superintendent Bovino and the successful candidate about the next steps as well. So, I don't know if the rest of the Board wanted to chime in or ask any questions if I missed anything? I'm trying to think if I missed anything. I don't think so. Dr. Fusco did indicate that she believes this Friday, the Governor has a press conference scheduled for 1:00 PM that he may discuss to start the Unpausing plan, and that this would qualify if we wanted to perhaps consider a face-to-face interview with our three finalists that were chosen. What I've encouraged the Board to do is, we'll just wait and see if that Unpausing does begin to happen. We have been in conference with our attorney about this going down in the procedure and people we know, we may not be able to keep the constituent groups completely the same number. We won't introduce new people, that's one thing I didn't say, if we can't have all 10 participate for each group. As long as we have several within that group, we'll keep the groups the same. And then, at that June 8th meeting, we will also... Sorry, at our June 2nd regular Board meeting, because the interviews will have happened by then, we will let the public

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

know how many participants were giving us feedback from each of those groups, so that our public knows what that end result was. So, any comments or questions from the Board? No? Any... Steve, any input or anybody else for that matter? Okay, very exciting times. Lots of work ahead. Alright, item 8D is, or 9D, pardon me, is our student rep report. Emily or Lucas, do you guys have anything?

0:41:44 LUCAS MARCOTTE: Yeah, we have... We sent out just a short survey, and it was just pretty much about the student experience while in quarantine and stuff. And basically, I think that we just wanted to see if the students were, like any issues they had or anything they thought was going well. And obviously, we asked questions like, "Do you feel like that they had the proper resources at home?" And the majority said yes. And the majority said they prefer the school environment for learning. But I think like the biggest things that I found from it were in the open response section. And some students said that what was going well for them was they're able to manage their own time better now that they don't have to be going to school, I guess, and that a better work environment, which I guess, it's like they get to work whenever they want. I think that's pretty much what was concluded from that. And they said that anything bad, it wasn't a vast majority of the comments, but some of them talked about communication issues between students and teachers that some of them were facing and a lack of motivation to do work sometimes. So that's basically what I got from it. And we also asked about senior celebrations, which I don't know if Emily wants to head on to that.

0:43:06 JILL: Oh, Emily, I don't think you're, you're unmuted, honey.

0:43:12 EMILY SCHOFIELD: Okay, sorry.

0:43:13 JILL: There we go.

0:43:15 EMILY: Another thing with the issues of online learning that I saw, was students concerned with new curriculum being introduced, just because it was a little bit harder for some of them to grasp some of the stuff, since it is online. Other than that, Lucas pretty much covered it. With senior celebrations and stuff, I think a lot of people wanted it or want it the traditional way, even if that means postponing it a little bit longer. Lucas, I'm pretty sure you probably found the same thing. Some people talked about drive-ins and how, [chuckle] I'm just reading one of them, they don't want virtual graduation or prom. They said there was no point to that. So I don't know. There's definitely mixed feedback, but I feel like the general census is that, they'd rather had something happen than absolutely nothing. And obviously, the best case scenario would be having it normally but that's obviously not really known at this point, what can happen with that.

0:44:19 JILL: Steve, what are you hearing from the other supers? Like what are some things that they're suggesting or what are we... Are you ready to talk about that?

0:44:28 STEVE: Sure. I think a lot of superintendents were waiting to see what the Governor's reopen plan was going to look like. They also were relying on Erie County Health Department. So pretty much the general consensus is, any large gathering just is not going to be able to happen in June. Can't say for July or for August, so a bunch of ideas are being discussed. Some are going virtual, some have talked about this transit drive-in, although I don't think anybody signed up yet. Some are talking about these car parades but... Some have talked about, "Could we do something outside on one of the athletic fields if it's later in the year and we get the clearance?" So right now,

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

when I get to my report, I'm going to talk a little bit about the Governor's plan. And I would say, based on his plan, we're not going to see large gatherings this summer. It's just where I think we're at, at the moment. So we're going to have to make other arrangements.

0:45:39 JILL: Okay, well I think we should keep the conversation open. I think that's valuable feedback that they'd like something a little more traditional, even if that has to be delayed. So I don't know, I want to see what other... Not only just other districts, but other municipalities are doing... I mean, maybe... Maybe we'll close off Delaware Ave. Is Joe Emminger listening? I don't know, then people are able to walk long distances, they're not, I don't know, something, but that's valuable feedback. So let's keep that conversation open. I will say, I want to thank the district for buying the signs or the schools for buying the signs for the seniors. I live next door to a Kenmore East graduate, a senior, I should say, and it was really a bunch of people showed up. I know my husband delivered for West and it just was really heartwarming to see that he had no idea he was getting it, so it was a surprise to him, and he was super excited to have one, so we want to thank the high school leadership and I think Nickel City Shirts did those signs so that was nice. Did you guys get your signs, Emily and Lucas? You probably did, right?

0:46:57 EMILY: Yeah.

0:46:58 JILL: Very nice. I know, see, I wonder though, if kids are embarrassed about that stuff, sometimes I feel like that stuff is more for the parents, right, than anything else. I know my son would be. He's in seventh... Moving up to eighth grade science, so that's okay.

0:47:13 EMILY: I mean one thing that is nice about all this is the community definitely is coming together and the teachers are still showing their students the love and support that we would be in class. For us, NHS, for Teacher Appreciation Week, excuse me, we put together a video for the teachers just thanking them, and there have been a few videos out of the teachers just saying that they're still here, and supporting their students, so that was really nice too.

0:47:40 JILL: Yeah, we've had a couple on the website and I have adopted a senior... Actually... So when I first heard of the Adopt a Senior program, I thought it was for senior citizens, and then I went to the Facebook page, I saw that it was high school seniors and it was, but it was seniors all over the United States. So my friend who invited me, Jade Wilkins, I had asked if she had any interest in creating a group for Ken-Ton seniors and that's been wildly explosive. So, I adopted Emily. She is our intern at the... From the Big Picture Program. She's our intern at the Closet. We actually have some great cookies downstairs we're going to be bringing her after when the meeting is done, and that's just been fun too, is kind of just trying to... And get my family involved in that. They want to celebrate. They're sad. My daughter doesn't even know what prom is and she's super sad that people aren't going to be able to get dressed up and go, but we... We'll welcome your feedback, both of you, please keep us, even after you're done, let's hear from your peers about what you would like to see.

0:48:49 EMILY: Sounds good. Thank you.

0:48:50 LUCAS: Thank you.

0:48:52 JILL: Okay, Mr. Bovino. Superintendent Report.

0:48:57 STEVE: Good evening. I'd like to start off by thanking our parents, teachers, staff, and students for the hard work, their caring, their patience, during these very unprecedented times. I know in a lot of cases, it's been stressful, different, but we're going to get through it. And you know, following up on what Emily said, there's been a lot of positive interaction between students and teachers that we've seen, and we will get through this. I'd also like to extend my appreciation to staff who come in on-site every week. Don't want to forget those folks who are providing a valuable service, and that includes our food service, bus drivers and mechanics, our tech support, our custodians, our heat techs, our directors, our building and central office administrators, and our central office staff. I want to thank John and his team, everybody that helped put together the budget. When we started this budget process, we were, we had a \$4 million gap. And we thought that was tough. And we worked hard to close it. And then this COVID crisis hit us with the potential for greater cuts. So this afternoon, I was part of a superintendent conference call with Congressman Brian Higgins, and on that call he announced that the house Democrats were going to be putting up a \$3 trillion bill, of which 500 billion would be directed to the states to help close some of these budget gaps. Now, just before the meeting, the Republicans in the Senate who control the Senate, didn't particularly care for that idea, but hopefully that's the beginning of a negotiation. Then this afternoon, New York State Senators, Mayer and Staviski, introduced the bill called the SHARE Act to protect public schools and universities from budget cuts, and what that bill is proposing is a temporary income tax on people making more than five million, which excludes most of us, but regardless of what happens with either of these pieces of legislation, it's good to know that our legislators recognize that the school districts cannot absorb any kind of drastic cut. And while John alluded to the fact that we could certainly use fund balance to get us through, by using fund balance, we're cutting into that rainy day fund. So any help we can get from the federal government or the state government is going to be greatly appreciated. One last set of thanks goes out to our District Clerk, Gina Santa Maria and Patrick Fanelli, our Communications Coordinator, for getting this massive logistical nightmare of 46,000 absentee ballots out. It sounds simple, but when they got into the details... The details were many, there was a lot of confusion, they persevered, got the right answers, found a vendor to get this done, and I think we're hopefully on our way. Some questions that have come my way that I'd like to try to answer. One is, "When can staff and students get back in the buildings to retrieve their belongings?" As it stands today, right now, we're still in the pause, state of emergency. And until that's, until we get to phase one... I should mention the Governor put out a plan called New York Forward. Actually, this little brochure is available on his website, it's 51 pages. If we get to phase one and that could happen next week, then we will start scheduling, in a very organized fashion, students and faculty to get back in the building, but we'll do that in a way where all safety precautions will be in place. The state right now, in terms of the Governor's phases, is set up not by county, but by 10 regions. So we are in the Western New York region and if you will listen to the Governor's press announcements right now, we have not, as of today, met all the metrics to move to phase one. So we'll keep close track of it. Another question that's come up is "When will the school year end?" We will have an announcement on that no later than Friday this week. As everybody knows, students and teachers were at work during our break week. So it's safe to assume that the district is going to end the school year earlier than usual, but we'll have the exact dates no later than Friday. And a thing that came up already, "What are the plans for graduation and final grades?" We're still working on those and it's probably going to be another week or two before we come to some final decisions. Another question that's come up, "What about high school summer school? Will it be held?" If you look at the Governor's plan, for schools to be reopened it's going to require that we've reached phase four. And if you work out the calendar, at this point, it's kind of unlikely that we'd be in phase four for summer school. In the event we do, which is unlikely, we'll be ready. But at this point, Kelly and her team are probably planning a summer school that's

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

going to be another online event, simply because we can't meet that phase four. "What will school look like in the fall?" We're awaiting guidance from the state. We've looked at some documents that other organizations have prepared, but again, we're going to have to wait and see what the state provides us. One thing that's going to have to happen, if you read the government's document, we have to be in phase four and the regional planners for education and that's not... Whoever those people are, have not been designated. So whoever the regional planners are for Western New York, which is probably the BOCES district superintendents, have to submit a plan to the state for approval before the region will allow schools to open. So more details will be coming in that process. In the meantime, like I said, we're looking at a number of reopening plans for a number of organizations. The crisis is that it's kind of a fluid situation, it requires constant attention as things change rapidly. So we will continue to update the community every week through the school gram and on our website, and we'll keep you posted. Are there any questions I can answer for the Board? Okay then...

0:56:10 JILL: Sorry, sorry, I was muted. You mentioned that... So we are considering doing online summer school?

0:56:16 STEVE: If we don't get the okay through the Governor's plan to have kids come in, yes.

0:56:22 JILL: And this will be... Do we know or when will we know what offerings... Course offerings we'll have? Maybe these are questions also too, for Kelly.

0:56:32 STEVE: You might want to pass those to Kelly when she has her presentation, but we're working on it. Her team is working on that as we speak.

0:56:42 JILL: Okay, because I do know obviously with not having regions, that changed some things for people, but there are others that are hoping to make up some credits or do whatever they needed to do. So, okay, I'll just wait until Kelly comes along.

0:57:00 STEVE: At this point then I recommend the proposed budget for adoption.

0:57:05 JILL: Okay, may I have a motion to approve the 2021 proposed budget?

0:57:10 MICHELLE: Moved.

0:57:12 JILL: So moved by Michelle.

0:57:12 MATTHEW: Second.

0:57:15 JILL: Who was that? That was Matt?

0:57:17 MATTHEW: Yes.

0:57:18 JILL: Okay, second by Matt. Any discussion? There being none, I call for a vote. All those in favor, so signify with aye.

0:57:26 MATTHEW: Aye.

0:57:26 ANDREW: Aye.

0:57:26 THOMAS: Aye.

0:57:26 MICHELLE: Aye.

0:57:26 JILL: Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? Motion carried unanimously.

0:57:33 STEVE: Thank you. At this point, I'll turn it over to Assistant Superintendent White.

0:57:39 KELLY WHITE: Thank you. So related to your questions about summer school, processes are only slightly different right now than it has been prior years. So we are beginning to run reports of our student management system, to see which students may be in danger of not turning the course credits, so we have some idea of what courses we may need for the summer. And then toward the end of the school year, once those grades go in, we confirm that list. And when we place summer school teachers, they understand that it's contingent on the students needing those courses. At this point, it's anybody's guess what summer school numbers are going to look like. You could predict that potentially, there would be fewer students because there wouldn't be any test preparation to get ready for the Regents exam when students have completed the course credit. On the other hand, you could predict that there are a number of students that may need the summer to recover some of the course credit, because they struggled with the learning environment and/or [inaudible]. So, we can't really predict where we're at, but we are running reports right now and have been over the last couple of weeks to kind of get a gauge for what our needs will be. And as Mr. Bovino mentioned, we are forging ahead with plans for a virtual summer school and hoping that things change and we're able to return to some degree of normalcy, we'll be able to plan it, but the chances of that are pretty unlikely.

0:59:25 JILL: So the students that have devices, they'll obviously keep those. Is there any plan? If somebody maybe didn't think they needed a device, maybe they had like a laptop in the house and the parents returned... Are we going to have another offering to give students device? And then the piggyback on that question, this is actually for John, do we have any kind of budget or plan in place for the loss of those devices, replacement of those devices, wiping clean of those devices? Because I'm sure, I don't know if that would fall under FEMA funding or not, but.

1:00:02 KELLY: So we have... We're still working out the details of your device return and then device redistribution, and if we are able to close a little bit early for students than typical, there may be a gap between that period of time and summer school that is not typical. And so that may impact how we go about retrieving those devices and for redistributing those devices to summer school. And so we're not really sure if we will retrieve them and then reissue those for students who are in summer school, or if we'll be able to predict at that point which students are going to need them. And certainly, John can weigh in on it. I can tell you, the elementary level for the most part, because our technology, our devices are on a replacement cycle, we did everything we could to distribute those devices that were going to be close to or nearing the end of their life span. So that we... That was a lesser risk for us. And the state has widened the opportunities for us to... And the ways that we can use our grant funds to allow us to increase our purchases for devices that we didn't have, that we didn't have that same flexibility in the past. So they have generously offered us the opportunity to spend our money differently... [chuckle]

1:01:33 JILL: Wow.

1:01:33 KELLY: To recover from this. I don't know, John, if you have anything to add to that.

1:01:39 JOHN: In terms of lost devices and replacements, as Assistant Superintendent White was saying, we're in a good position for replacement. In terms of lost and unrecoverable devices, that's something we've been in conversation with our insurance company with. But when you look at it in terms of what our deductible is versus what the cost of a device is, that's something we'd have to kind of look at in terms of breaking even, so we're hoping that we can recover majority of the devices. But that's something we'll have to plan for in the next budget year. We may have to forgo purchasing new devices for a lab or something like that in order to supplement with learning from home devices.

1:02:18 JILL: Okay, great. Thank you.

1:02:22 KELLY: Thanks. So on my report, I've included a report from Jan Cerra at the Family Support Center, who sort of recapped services from the Family Support Center, both prior to close and after close, were the main highlights of that report and... Is that at the time of close, we were on track for a 30% increase in their services. And if we had maintained that same trajectory of increase by the end of the school year, we were projected to have a 43 and a half percent increase in services for Family Support Center. So our people are definitely tapping into those services and they are continuing to grow. Currently, they are doing a phenomenal job, everything that they can to provide continued support to our families, including video sessions with families, they're also offering yoga classes, and mindfulness courses, and everything that they can think of, to give our families some place to connect back to the Family Support Center. So that is available for your review. Other than that, I have two items on the consensus agenda. Are there any questions on either of those items?

1:03:45 JILL: Nope, I don't have anything.

1:03:46 KELLY: Okay, so that's everything. That concludes my report. Thank you.

1:03:50 JILL: Thanks, Kelly.

1:03:51 STEVE: Now we're up to Assistant Superintendent Brucato.

1:03:56 JOHN: Thank you. I just had a few items under my report. Both Tim Ames and Jim Nestico provided their annual reports. Tim did a nice job kind of summarizing what they've been going through in terms of sanitization and cleaning our facilities and how they're dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. And Jim kind of goes over technology and what's coming down the pipe with transportation and how we're going to leverage some new technologies there. And then the only other things I have are a few contracts. One of the contracts with Education Law 2-d, we're starting to make sure that any companies that are potentially accessing personally identified information, whether it be for students and staff are complying with those 2-d laws. So we have one of those contracts in consensus and then a few others. Other than that, if there aren't any other questions, that concludes my report.

1:04:51 JILL: Okay.

1:04:52 STEVE: Okay. Assistant Superintendent Richards.

1:04:55 JEFF RICHARDS: Thank you. Good evening, everybody. Now the budget season is winding down, so to speak, that starts to inform our staffing, which is a multi-step process and kind of like spring in the renewal, we have a multi-step transfer process, which the first of which concluded last week. We go through residual transfer this Thursday, which will really inform our recruitment and selection. You'll start to see a lot of postings coming out after that. We've already begun interviewing some of the pre-known or previously known openings, and I just had my first virtual final interview last week, and it was pretty interesting. So it's an adjustment, the committees are all going through that same adjustment of the virtual interviewing. And it's gone pretty well, overall. I'm very proud to say that Pat Moses did a great job and really refining what we do, in putting them into the Google Forms. Everything's Google driven now to maintain integrity of information. And it's a pretty good process, but we're still looking for more feedback. Ms. Evans just interviewed today and yesterday for the assistant principal. We anticipate final interviews sometime next week. And she used the process and she reported today, it went very well. So and thank you to Dr. Lewis and Kia who first went through the process a couple weeks back with the psychs, the psych interview, so everything's moving in the direction into our busy time in HR, and we're excited about that. And other than that, I don't have any other report.

1:06:30 JILL: Okay. Thank you.

1:06:33 STEVE: Okay, at this point, I recommend a consensus agenda for the Board's consideration.

1:06:40 JILL: Okay, is there any request to withdraw specific items from consensus? Okay, then I need a motion to approve the consensus agenda as presented.

1:06:53 MICHELLE: So moved.

1:06:53 MATTHEW: So moved.

1:06:54 JILL: So moved by Michelle, second by, was that Matt?

1:06:57 MATTHEW: Yes.

1:06:57 JILL: Okay, all those in favor so signify... Oh, I'm sorry, any discussion? Pardon me. Okay, all those in favor, so signify with aye.

1:07:06 MATTHEW: Aye.

1:07:06 ANDREW: Aye.

1:07:06 THOMAS: Aye.

1:07:06 MICHELLE: Aye.

1:07:06 JILL: Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? Okay then, motion carries unanimously. I do not believe we have other matters other than I'd like to just take a moment to thank our food service

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

people and our bus drivers and our B&G folks that are still working and coming in our schools and making sure the buildings are sterilized. I saw, I think they were up to 16,000 lunches in the most recent report each week for our students, and just want to express on behalf of the Board, our gratitude for those people that are coming in and interfacing with the public. We really appreciate that. Okay, and we already had an executive session, so we just need a motion to adjourn.

1:07:53 THOMAS: So moved.

1:07:53 ANDREW: So moved.

1:07:53 JILL: So moved by Tom, second by Andrew. All those in favor, so signify with aye.

1:08:00 MATTHEW: Aye.

1:08:00 ANDREW: Aye.

1:08:00 THOMAS: Aye.

1:08:00 MICHELLE: Aye.

1:08:00 JILL: Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? Motion carried unanimously. Okay, we are adjourned. Thank you.