

11/18/20 - Regular Business Meeting

Present - Patrick McCabe, Roxanne Rebmann, James Grant, Heather Cayea, Robert Masse, Erik Polkowski, Deborah Forrestel, Jody Brege, Philip Kenline

Jim - 7pm Call meeting to order. Pledge to the Flag. Agenda item #2 Hearing of Individuals and Delegations. Do we have anything?

Roxanne - We don't.

Jim - Thank you. Item #3 Superintendent's Report.

Pat - Alright, Mr. Schreiber is going to pull up an informational presentation that I'll be reviewing, but as he's doing that I know that the board and the community are fully aware of our recent designation being in a yellow zone. What I'll do this evening is talk to you about that, some implications from that designation. This information, as it's coming up on your screen, was shared with the community embedded in a letter that I sent out, so they can click on a video link that kind of walks through the same presentation that I'm providing to you right now. The number one question that I'm asked is how are we going to have to pivot to a fully remote, and if so what will cause that? There are four contributing factors. One is if our district is designated as an orange or red zone. You saw other districts across the county now have that designation. That goes into effect on Monday, as does our designation as a yellow zone will take effect on Monday. The second factor that would influence a decision to cause a fully remote model would be any confirmation that we have the COVID-19 spreading within our school. We have had no indication of a student contracting COVID-19 or staff contracting COVID-19 within the school. If that were ever to happen that would trigger the need to close everything down and move to remote. The third thing would be insufficient staffing to continue in-person learning. I'm gonna be talking more about that after this presentation to give you some numbers that we're currently at, but I'll foreshadow and say it's getting close, very close. The last would be if we were unable to perform the COVID-19 testing in the school simply because it's not feasible. I will be sharing information about that as well. The intent here is to give you an informational update and demonstrate transparency where we would like to be on a number of key issues, and talk to you about next steps. I will go over the slide briefly because I know you're aware, but it's an important distinction that was recently made. Now if the district is in a yellow zone, you can continue with in-person learning, provided you test 20% of the population over a two week period. They're allowing more time to conduct the testing. They've added this, if your school district positivity rate is lower than the 7-day rolling average, you can discontinue the testing. However, if it's higher than the 7-day rolling average, then we would need to continue to test on a bi-weekly basis.

Jody - So the 7-day average of our zone?

Pat - Our zone, correct.

Jody - What is our current rolling average in our zone?

Pat - That's the challenging thing, quite frankly, is they haven't because Akron in our 14001 zip code has been so low that they haven't been reporting it. We don't have access to that. I don't know what the exact is for the Town of Newstead because it hasn't been reported. We know it's over 3% or we wouldn't be designated yellow. I don't know.

Erik - Likewise, in regards to the zone, because the district travels into adjacent counties.

Pat - I shared that with you in a previous update about the three different zones that impacted, that our students technically fall into. For the most part, I think the county health department defers us to the Erie County numbers. I would also venture to guess that most districts are lower, the in-person population is a lower percentage of COVID-19 than the wider. Two important challenges that we're facing. The Erie County Department of Health and our district's medical director have not agreed to partner with us in order to become a limited service lab. In order to be a limited service lab, your license allows you to administer the tests with your medical staff, you need a director that has a health practitioner certification. We saw, for example, in Monroe County when they started this, the Monroe Department of Health allowed districts to use their number and certification in order to test. Erie County has not allowed for

that. Frankly, I was disappointed when I reached out to our medical director and our doctors that we have a contractual relationship with. They said they weren't willing to serve in that capacity due to insurance reasons. I have been working diligently trying to find a partner for Akron for well over a week and a half. This is a huge obstacle for us right now. The other challenge we have is we need to collect parental consent information in order to maintain in-person learning for the hybrid modality. I'll let you know that I did survey the staff and I had 234 respondents. Approximately 84% of the staff said they would participate in random testing. Our next step would be to ask our staff to sign the official consent form. Ideally, that goes out tomorrow. Parent consent forms went out today.

Bob - You need 20% of the in-person. What if you don't get a lot of parents willing to allow their kids to be tested.

Pat - What is being done as I just kind of eluded to is we're exploring other options to become a limited service lab so that we can administer next-hour rapid tests. We are currently asking parents to complete consent forms. They were sent, there's a digital form and a paper form. The paper form is also going to be mailed to make it more accessible to families. We had an ongoing partnership with the Town of Newstead to support school and community-based testing. I had a parent reach out to me after watching my video and say what if my whole family wants to be tested? We're currently applying for in-school testing of our students and staff. We'll partner and direct families to the Town of Newstead, to their testing site. We just don't have the capacity to do mom, dad, grandma, and so on. We're working on all those logistics to perform the test during the school day. I think it's helpful to see this presentation. How the test is actually administered, Mr. Kenline and I were talking about how the other test, the deep nasal swab is administered, but this shows the BinaxNow. As that video clearly demonstrates, something that we could easily administer here at school. After collecting the sample, I'll describe a little bit more what we'll do with the data in upcoming slides. How many people do we need to be testing each week? Again, 20% of our population in order to continue with the hybrid model. For us, we have currently 1277 students and staff participating in in-person learning. 20% of that is 256 individuals. Again, notice I used individuals. It doesn't have to be equal distribution of students and staff, just you have to get to 256. A breakdown by building is provided in this slide. For example, the elementary school will need 86 students and 17 staff members to have 20% of that building.

Jim - You have to test by building?

Pat - Yes. You have to obtain 20% per building. Akron is unique because you think we're a super-campus district, but you could think of neighboring districts that might have multiple elementary schools or two middle and a high school, 20% of each. Our middle school, 20% is represented by 20 students and 10 staff. High school would be 6 students and 12 staff. District-wide we would need 11 staff members to represent 20% of district staff. 206 kids plus 50 adults, the magic number of 256 is what we need for 20% to be tested over a two week period.

Erik - Just a quick question on that. In regards to 20%, I know something was indicated previously when they were asking you to test every week, was that 20% on a rolling basis? If you tested 20% in week one, week two could not be the same 20% and had to be a different 20% of the population. Is that still applicable?

Pat - That is not still applicable, but thanks for asking that clarifying question. We changed our original parental consent forms to clarify that. The ones I drafted over a week ago had that clause in there that said on average your child could be tested up to four times, thinking 20% per week, about once per month. That's no longer the case.

Erik - Because now the old standard you would have had at least 40% participation because would have to update each week those percentages.

Pat - Again, there's also the new addition that if your site is lower than the regional average, then you're done testing. Honestly, it would be a fair bet to assume that if you did one round of testing, you might never have to test again and you wouldn't have to worry about the students being called back. Testing requirements and in-person learning activities per the governor's order, parents are supposed to agree to allow their child to be tested. Again, I repeat, only children that participate in in-school programming need to be tested. Kids that are fully remote don't need to be tested. There's been a lot of questions about what happens if staff members refuse testing. There's no official guidance. Mr. Kenline?

Phil - If you have students that are participating in the fully remote and volunteer to be tested, do they count toward your 20%?

Pat - I would say no because it's all about containing the spread within the school.

Phil - Ok.

Jody - What if they're 100% remote but in a sport?

Pat - I don't know. I'd have to look into that. Right now, based on the consent form those parents wouldn't even be filling out the consent form.

Jody - Ok.

Pat - We'll say not. Obviously, the consent form just went out today, so we're going to monitor that. My thought is that many, many families want in-person learning to continue and recognize we need this 20% if they read the form and are listening to the video I presented. Beyond that, they just might want to know if their child, whether or not they were infected by the virus. Again, if we are unable to perform the testing, we must go fully remote. How will people be selected? A comprehensive list of all in-person students and staff members that consent to be tested will be generated. Random-generating software will be used to select 20% of the total in-person population. A parent will be notified if their child has been randomly selected. Those letters are ready and set to go. We touched on parental consent already. Not to be redundant, the letter went out today in an electronic and paper version. Parents are asked to read the form, complete it, and return it. We already saw, I checked within 45 minutes there were 40 people that already completed it. I just haven't had the chance to check where we are now. These are the questions that I've been asked. Will the district be reimbursed for expenses associated with testing. The test itself comes free of charge from the NYS Department of Health. However, there are many other associated costs. For example, additional staffing or staffing hours. We exploring contracting with, we already have contracts with Supplemental Health and other nurses' providers in the event we need additional nurses to assist us with administering the test. You are required to upload the data within three hours of taking the test. Vacating the spreadsheets for confidentiality, reporting to SED, then just the logistics of other adults available to support children. Be their familiar faces, accompany children while they're waiting for the results of the tests. I'm thinking the multi-purpose room will be ideal. We can wait, socially distanced in the seats. Administer the test, wait for results, find out if they're negative, return them to class. If they're positive, escort them to the nurses' quarantine area. HIPAA issues, obviously we're talking about medically sensitive data on individuals, so all HIPAA rules apply, and will be just like all our medical information on students. We'll carry the same safety protocols to secure that data. Will schools provide results to all staff and families? Absolutely yes. Those individuals that may test positive will be notified immediately. Those who test negative will probably be more toward the end of the day. What will happen with the test results in the case a person is positive? I just alluded to this. They would immediately go into isolation here on campus. Parents will be contacted to pick their child up. Staff members will be sent home and told to contact their primary care physician. Will meals still be provided? Yes. Mrs. Goodman's been working on a plan for staffing and working with transportation for meal delivery. How much notification will we receive if we have to go fully remote? This is an important point that I wanted to discuss with the board, but if you will, I'd like to wait until the end so we can talk about that, given some of the variables we're facing. Ideally, at least a week's notice so families can make childcare needs. I know some of our neighbors in areas outside of Akron are getting notified tonight. Will athletics continue if the district goes to remote learning? No. I think I shared this with you earlier as part of the governor's order. The last question that I've been asked, and I've been asked this quite a lot by a lot of different people. Wouldn't it just be easier if we went fully remote? And I will repeat my answer. It's not easier for students to learn fully remote, it's not easier for families to care for their children and support their learning fully remote, and it's not easier for teachers to teach fully remote. What would be easier if we didn't have to test. I believe strongly, as I know our teachers do, that our kids struggle with remote learning, and they do better with in-person learning. Our data shows the same. I think the commitment to keep our school open is imperative. Our ability to do that won't affect our commitment, but our ability is something we need to talk about. Some next steps. We're still working progressively to enter into an agreement with local healthcare agencies to secure our license. The last thing we checked on late today, we have an arrangement with someone that sends us an athletic trainer and that athletic trainer operates under a doctor's license. Forgive me, I forgot the name of who it is, but we contacted them today to say would you be our

partner in securing our LSL number so we can order the tests. Mr. Polkowski provided me with some information of other entities within our area and the doctors they use. Mrs. Rebmann and I discussed this, for example, the Newstead Fire Department. Their doctor is through ECMC. We don't have an arrangement with their doctor. Our Native American Reservation has an arrangement with the doctor, but we don't have a contractual relationship. We intend to explore that, but the timing of developing those relationships and board approving is a challenge. I'm hoping, quite honestly, that the athletic trainer relationship that we have, we can somehow talk that doctor into it. I'm still pressing hard at Erie County, emailing Dr. Burnstein. I called Niagara County today as well. We still intend to apply for the LSL. I mentioned the parental consent forms. We will create lists of students and staff as soon as that consent information comes back. Lots of collaboration with the Town of Newstead emergency coordinator and their local responders, we've been doing that for weeks to prepare our entire community and their willingness to support us with some of the logistics. We're working out the details with facility use and personnel allocation, and as we are here tonight, trying to keep our community informed to the greatest extent possible. I just want to share with you some current data as of today. Currently, we have 39 students, and I feel like I say this at every board meeting, I just found out a few minutes ago, some of our students in out-of-district programs through Harkness, 4 additional students. We're now up to 43 students in grade K-12 who are currently in quarantine. One recent positive case resulted in 18 students being placed in quarantine. Four staff members are currently placed in quarantine. Today there were 15 unfilled vacancies across the district. Eleven of those vacancies were teachers. Four were other staff members. I know there is a tendency to assume that teachers count more or more challenging, but honestly if it's a bus driver, if it's a monitor, if it's an aide, those are just as challenging vacancies to overcome as a classroom teacher. Everyone matters. Some of those 11 teachers and 4 staff members who were out today were in quarantine, others were out because they are symptomatic and are awaiting test results. That number can certainly change. If they were to test positive, and let's hope and pray they don't, but if they do test positive that could then spiral to additional close-contacts and additional quarantines. To give some perspective, the previous dates of unfilled vacancies over the last week or so would range in average from 7-10 staff members per day. There was one 11, but the average was 7-10. Today's 15 certainly was a higher level than we've been seeing. It's important to note that many of our staff members live outside of Akron and many of them in towns like Clarence, where the rate was very high. They are being subject to quarantine. That is where I say Akron does not operate in a bubble, unfortunately. Our students that are in CTE courses at Erie 1 BOCES and special ed. programs in specialized placement, such as Stanley Falk, are going to need remote instruction as of Monday because they are in the orange zone. Many of our staff members with children in surrounding school districts, their children will be fully remote as of Monday. That's important because although we would hope they could provide childcare for their children if their children are now learning from home. If they aren't able to find childcare to come work with us, they have provisions to request childcare leave through the emergency paid sick leave and the Family Medical Leave Act. These were legislation that was passed around the time that COVID-19 became prevalent. These leave acts are currently available through December 31, 2020. They allow staff members to stay home if their child's school is closed and they don't have any access to childcare. We need to be cognizant of that because we would anticipate that some staff members would take advantage of those provisions and the law that would allow them to stay home.

Phil - Those students that are in special programs, Stanley Falk and so on, requiring remote instruction, will we be providing that or will they be?

Pat - Those agencies will continue to be providing it. I hadn't spoken to anyone at Stanley Falk and that is something that Mr. Dunham would have done. I've been in contact with Mike Capuana from Erie 1 BOCES, who runs their Harkness program, their Edge Academies, they had the Pilot Academy years ago. They have already articulated to families what their fully remote model will look like. They will be notifying our kids who are in-person with us and go off to Harkness, they will be notifying them that they will have to go fully remote because their program is in an orange zone. A challenge for sure. Another complexity. I want to sum up this very cheery presentation, that I unfortunately have to provide, with a few key bullet points. We have a testing capacity issue at Akron. We have an emerging staffing issue making in-person learning very difficult to attain. We have four days of in-person learning before parent-teacher conferences before the Thanksgiving Recess. Thursday and Friday of this week. Monday and Tuesday of next week. Wednesday is fully remote and we have parent-teacher conferences. My personal feeling, but I want to hear the will and thought of the board, we need to use this time we have available to monitor three key critical areas to make a determination if we have no choice but to go fully remote after the Thanksgiving break. Those issues are the ability to obtain the LSL designation, the willingness of staff and parents to consent to testing, and finally, the ability to maintain

appropriate staffing levels to remain open. It's a community effort, WNY Community effort. I'm in constant communication with colleagues who are superintendents, with healthcare entities. Everyone is facing this burden. In talking to some of my colleagues who were yellow last week, even without the orange designation, they were going to close this Monday. The announcement today of orange, they're closing on Monday. Again, they said even without the designation, we no longer have the staff to stay open, and we're not ready to test. We find ourselves somewhat fortunate that we lagged behind in yellow for a little over a week, but now we find ourselves in the same position. With that, I would like to hear some perspectives of the board. I didn't mean to paint you into a corner, but I have to give you the information.

Bob - I prefer to see us do it in a planned fashion as opposed to going down in flames and all of a sudden having us shut the doors immediately. Your suggestion, I think what you're alluding to, is maybe next week we start putting a plan together. We know what's coming Monday. I just don't think it's a good idea as close as we're getting a lot of things and the lack of all the other things that we need to all of a sudden just slam the doors shut and leave everyone kind of scrambling.

Jody - How does the school get out of the yellow zone?

Pat - In the event that we stayed yellow, a couple of ways to get out of that designation. The best way, quite frankly, would be that our rates of infection would drop and we would be out of the yellow zone. That would be good for, not only because we reopen and not have the testing requirement, a sign that our community is getting better.

Jody - And the rates have to be under 3%?

Pat - Yeah. The other though is our ability to perform the tests. I think if we had tests in hand and had staffing, we would reopen. If we're unable to meet the governor's protective order, that's 20%, we have to close. We can open on that ability to perform those tests.

Bob - When do you have to have that ability?

Pat - Right, you have two weeks from designation. I don't know whether or not Thanksgiving Recess counts, although we were designated today, the County Executive said it goes into effect for school districts on Monday. It would be two weeks from Monday, you'd have to test 20% of your population. That's what other districts were facing, they were designated yellow quite a while back, and they only had two to three days to test, and they still didn't have their LSL and they still didn't have tests available. I know of two districts that have tests in our area. That's Erie 1 and Erie 2. Two districts that have tests ordered for that, but they had their medical director sign off on their LSL.

Jim - You cannot obtain tests until you have the LSL.

Pat - Correct. The LSL application actually takes 2-3 weeks. However, on the test ordering form, you can check boxes and say your application is pending. I know those districts that got tests, were not approved as LSL, and they shipped them the tests anyway because they were in a pending status.

Bob - They can't use them, can they?

Pat - I don't know.

Bob - They're not an LSL.

Pat - They're in orange now.

Bob - Now it doesn't matter, but you see what I'm saying.

Pat - Yeah.

Bob - So you get it all figured out, 3 weeks, tests are here sitting in a room, you can't use them. So what are we doing?

Pat - Yep.

Heather - I have a question. I know there has been some concern from the community already about the fully remote model. In just reading through the letter, can you just clarify, will there be direct instruction from the teachers on the remote learning model. I'm thinking people are thinking that there won't be direct instruction.

Pat - The building principals work with the teachers to come up with plans to allow the teachers some latitude on providing synchronous and asynchronous learning. It's my understanding that there are going to be periods throughout the week of direct instruction provided synchronously. There is also going to be release time where kids are working independently. There's office hours for teachers and students to connect.

Heather - Ok.

Pat - When you say in the letter, are you referring to the letter that went home from the building principals?

Heather - Yeah.

Pat - Ok. Mrs. Cayea, I would encourage you to ask those questions and have our parents ask those clarifying questions right to the building principals and to teachers themselves because they're going to have the most accurate answers. More on this?

Jim - After Mr. Masse's comments that we need to, as you're suggesting, continue to prepare and explore options through this week and see what progress you can make.

Pat - I think it's imperative that the families have an opportunity to arrange for childcare and consider implications of fully remote. My goal would be to notify them ideally by Monday, at the latest, so children can participate in in-person learning Monday and Tuesday. We'll have Wednesday virtual, then Thanksgiving Recess. There's no student instruction because of parent-teacher conferences anyway. I will tell you it will be a challenge. I believe to maintain appropriate staffing Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday, I met with the building administrators today at the end of the day after the governor's announcement, the 15 vacancies, the 11 teacher vacancies today, we have a lot of kids sitting study halls at the secondary level, and we have bodies covering at the elementary level. It's unfortunate there's no subs available, but it is our reality. I will continue to update the community and the board. Transportation aid, I know you probably heard about this. On November 6, 2020 SED published a notice that transportation aid would be reduced. This goes back to March 13, 2020. March 18, 2020 would be the official date, the decision was made the 13th. That period of time from March to the end of June, where students were not in school and we were not transporting students to and from school, they were not going to provide transportation aid for those three months. It's ironic because at the same time we were told to keep people fully employed, work with our unions, find work for people. We did what every district did and our transportation department was outstanding in supporting us. Delivering meals, delivering student materials, coming in and doing other jobs throughout the districts. Our assumption was they were still going to collect transportation aid because they were still providing transportation of needed materials and food to families. Right now there's a lot of lobbying and advocacy going on to try to get SED to reverse that decision. For Akron, should that be fully materialized, according to Mrs. Tretter's numbers, a worst case scenario would be a loss of \$399k of aid. I saw today on the NYSSBA website that they have a letter that school boards can use, a template, to send to our state legislator as well as the governor's office for advocacy. If we have an opportunity to do that, I would be happy to co-sign the letter or sign it on behalf of the board. I think it's important that we advocate in that area. Athletic update. I will try to update you the best I can as this has changed significantly since last week. Swimming had been approved to start, it's now been pushed back to December 4, 2020 as an interscholastic sport. The other high-risk sports, wrestling, basketball, competitive cheer, are not authorized at this time. They're looking at a potential start date of January, however, that is now further in question. We need to reevaluate the situation over the next week. We have an opportunity on December 2, 2020, the board has an opportunity to meet again to evaluate, see what information comes. Potentially appoint our swimming coaches and our lifeguards for the December start of their season. We can also have a conversation about those other sports. I will share with you whether you're a fan of my position or not, I do think it's an important part if we have in-person learning to have our kids participate in any way. Even if they can't have competitive seasons, there is an opportunity for them for conditioning through practicing. I talked with our athletic trainer, I used basketball as an

example. He's got an app out where there's 6 basketball nets in the gym. One student per net. Taking a small group of 6 kids, maybe 6-8 kids, 6 kids at the nets, 2 kids doing some other drills away from the nets, and then a rotation over a 45 minute block. The next day bring in another 7 kids, let them rotate. Wrestling has a very similar idea as does cheer. Our athletic trainer has created very detailed sports-specific guidelines and has all safety protocols that are unique to Akron, in terms of locker room use and places to go, and how to participate in the sport safely, including washing hands in between various athletic activities. We may not have the opportunity to have a traditional season, but there may still be an opportunity to engage kids. I'll update you when we know more. Are there any questions on that or anything else I shared? That's it for me.

Jim - Thank you very much. Item #4 is Minutes. Our recommendation is that the Akron Central School Board of Education hereby approve the meeting minutes of October 21, 2020 and November 4, 2020, consent items #4A and 4B.

Debbie - Moved.

Phil - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments on the minutes?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Thank you. Item #5 Personnel Instructional. Our recommended action is that the Akron Central School Board of Education upon the recommendation of Patrick D. McCabe, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve instructional items, consent items #5A-5C.

Jody - Moved.

Debbie - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Thank you. Item #6 Personnel Non-Instructional. Our recommended action is that the Akron Central School Board of Education upon the recommendation of Patrick D. McCabe, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve non-instructional items, consent items #6A-6C.

Heather - Moved.

Erik - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments on these three items?

Phil - On the vacancy for student services, Mrs. Tiedt? Given difficulty in procuring, has that already been advertised or do we have to wait for this meeting to?

Jim - Mr. Klose is in the audience. I would like to welcome him and congratulate him on being appointed tonight and also to thank Mrs. Tiedt for her many years of service to the district. You can vote.

Roxanne - Item #7 District Items. Our recommended action is that the Akron Central School Board of Education upon the recommendation of Patrick D. McCabe, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve District Items, consent items #7A-7D.

Bob - Moved.

Phil - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments on these items?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Thank you. Item #8 Special Education. The Akron Central School Board of Education upon the recommendation of Patrick D. McCabe, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve Special Educations items, consent items #8A and 8B.

Debbie - Moved.

Heather - Second.

Jim - Questions or comments on Special Education?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Thank you. Item #9 School Board Correspondence. Thursday, November 19, 2020 is the ECASB Legislative Team at Erie 1 BOCES. I believe that is a virtual from 6:30-8:30pm. Thursday, December 3, 2020 is Speed Boarding at Erie 1 BOCES, again virtual. See Mrs. Rebmann for registration. There are some good topics on that if you're interested. What is the deadline?

Roxanne - I am not sure.

Jim - I know I printed the agenda, but I didn't check that. Certainly with it being

Roxanne - Honestly, I'm not sure they even have a deadline because they didn't know what kind of a format.

Jim - They are asking you to register in advance so they can figure out the format. Upcoming Dates. Thursday, November 24, 2020 Parent-Teacher Conference is virtual from 4:30-7:30pm. Wednesday, November 25, 2020 Parent-Teacher Conference is virtual form 8:00-11:30am. There is no school for students. Thursday and Friday, November 26 and November 27, 2020 no school for Thanksgiving Recess. Wednesday, December 2, 2020 is our Workshop Business Meeting 7:00pm here unless things change, we will be streaming via Zoom for the public. Item #11 Hearing of Individuals and Delegations for Non-Agenda Items. Anything from the board?

Erik - The only thing I had was with the question, which I had forwarded Pat a conversation in regards to there were some questions in regards to use of facilities for the Town of Newstead Recreation Program. They're not just looking for in regards to just winter and spring, but also what the long-term effects might be in regards to summer. I said that there could be some discussion on it, but for the foreseeable future, I don't think there'd be anything to do with facilities. I think just from the standpoint the town wants to plan a budget for whether or not a program will be imposed.

Jim - I know we had tabled reopening the facility to outside groups until November, and it's an appropriate time for us to look at it, but my recommendation is with us considering not being able to continue hybrid education, opening the building to outside groups should continue to wait.

Bob - Agreed. Obviously, summer is a whole other deal, but we gotta wait for now.

Pat - We can't have group sizes over 10.

Jim - Right. I do recognize the hardship that that places on the organizations that normally use our building, but we have to keep the safety and health of our students and staff primary in our mission right now.

Debbie - And be consistent.

Erik - In regards to their summer program, obviously it's 9 months off. Is it something the board would consider and discuss in April? What will be a timetable in which to return a response to them to reach back out. Obviously, I know everything's been changing.

Pat - We can provide them with ongoing updates, obviously, but I'm leery of projecting a definitive answer that might only be, we don't know that, even in April.

Erik - Ok.

Jim - Mr. McCabe, Mr. Polkowski and I did virtually attend the Albany Update presented by Dave Little. Focus really continues to be broadband access, issues brought on by COVID-19, state funding, and the proposed 20% shortfall in providing. The meeting went fairly well considering it was ECASB's first attempt to do a Zoom meeting. A few technical difficulties, which Mr. McCabe pointed out in a group chat or group text message that it points out to the issues our children have with remote learning.

Erik - On a similar note, I was just going to say I did also attend virtually as well on Saturday. They had the Legislative Breakfast. They did it virtually. They also had three representatives, two of which are newly elected, none of which are within our district. All three seemed to be very first-timers. Two of them I believe are moving up from lower governmental ranks and very anxious to get their feet wet and engage with both Erie County School Boards and trying to advocate on behalf of the children. Similar topics, questions in regards to funding, the 20%. The question I asked earlier was a direct result of one of the questions asked and just to kind of piggyback where you indicated only two districts that had requested tests or had received tests. One of the districts that was represented at the breakfast was Orchard Park, and Orchard Park had requested for tests and had not heard anything. I think also Grand Island was the other district. I think both fairly large-sized districts, they're kind of spinning their wheels there in regards to trying to get testing as well. While the governor can mandate testing is required and say that all the testing supplies will be there, the caveat is whether or not that is truly going to be applicable.

Jim - Next item on the agenda is Executive Session. We do have a need to go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

Phil - Moved.

Debbie - Second.

Jim - Questions or comments?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - We are at 7:52pm. We do not anticipate conducting any business when we come out of Executive Session. I wish to thank the members of the community who joined us tonight and Mr. Schreiber for his assistance. Thank you also Mrs. Rebmann for coordinating.