

April 7, 2020 Regular Board of Education Meeting held via Zoom

Full Transcript

Initial start of recording is just getting members logged in and able to hear and talk

Starting at 7:07pm

District Clerk: I believe I have all Board members here except for John Antalek. So Matthew is here. Susan, are you here?

Susan Ramos: yep

Anthony Welcome: She has a pink hat on

District Clerk: Jessica?

Jessica Berner: yep

District Clerk: Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: yes

District Clerk: Tony?

Anthony Weclom: yes

District Clerk: Elizabeth?

Elizabeth Phillips: yep

District Clerk: Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: yep

District Clerk: and Regina?

Regina Rose: yep

District Clerk: Alright, everyone can hear and talk then Matt, I'll let you take over.

Matthew Nelson: Great. Thank you, Mindy and good evening everybody. Mindy thanks for your effort together with Paul and the IT team in putting this together. Appreciate it. Glad to see everybody's faces albeit from afar. Why don't we call our meeting to order. It is 7:08 by my clock so we'll call it to order at 7:08. I'll go ahead and get us started with the reading of the Mission Statement: "The Ichabod Crane Central School District is dedicated to preparing students to become contributing members of society in an ever-changing world by valuing diversity; providing a safe environment; and promoting unique talents, a desire for life-long learning, a strong spirit of community, and Rider pride."

We're not going to announce fire exits. I hope you all know where you need to go if your house catches fire in the midst of this meeting and I hope that doesn't happen. And we're going to dispense with the flag although, Jason, you do have a flag behind you, so we could do it. Yeah, let's do it. Since we have a flag, let's do a Pledge of Allegiance. You can stand or stay seated, whatever you're comfortable with. I'm going to stand.

All: recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Matthew Nelson: Okay first for everything. First I've done the Pledge of Allegiance on video, let alone on Zoom. Alright so let me ask, please, for a motion for the approval of the present agenda.

Susan Ramos: So moved

Anthony Welcome: second

Matthew Nelson: I heard a motion from Susan and a second from Tony. All in favor? I'm going to... let me just actually go back and I'm going to do a quick ground rule. We actually talked about this in our preparations. Since we want to make sure that we adequately account for everybody's votes, I'm going to go through a roll call and I will call out your name so you shall be unmuted but give it a second after I call your name just to make sure your voice is heard without any delay. In no particular order. Regina?

Regina Rose: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: Yes, aye

Matthew Nelson: Tony

Anthony Welcome: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: Yes. Aye

Matthew Nelson: Elizabeth?

Elizabeth Phillips: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Jessica?

Jessica Berner: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Susan?

Susan Ramos: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Okay, and I'll vote 'aye' as well. And with John absent that's eight votes in favor so the motion carries to approve the present agenda.

Before we go any further let me just take a couple minutes. We've done our Round-robin here. We've done now a sound check. We've done our ground rules for discussion. When when I call your name again just take a pause for a moment just to make sure that there's no delay. Sometimes there's just a little bit of a lag so if you want the first of what you say to be heard you want to give it a minute or a second rather. And then if you want ... I can see almost everybody on the screen so if you do want to say something next in order, you know, I can call on you just raise your hand or somehow make a notation so we don't speak over each other. Before we go any further after saying that I want to make a couple of acknowledgements.

First of all, I want to thank everybody who is on tonight for taking time out of their night to come and that includes any members of the public who are watching with us on Zoom tonight. I want to take a minute on behalf of all of us to say thank you to Jason, Suzanne, Mike, Todd, Dan, the principals of each of the buildings and, most especially, although they are probably not with us

tonight, all of our teachers who have over the last couple of weeks, you have collectively done a tremendous job on behalf of the parents and students of our district, marshalling your energy and resources together to do an incredible job of keeping the ship afloat and keeping things moving forward. I don't think anybody in our lives would have expected to have to deal with a pandemic that's caused this much disruption so I think from all of us a heartfelt thank you to each of you for what you're doing and In particular, not that anybody stands apart from anybody else, but I do want to acknowledge that Jason, who started with us two months ago has jumped right into the frying pan here, so to speak, and he has not been home to see his family in the - I don't know what? five? six? weeks he's been living up here.

Jason Thomson: Since March 8th

Matthew Nelson: Yeah so, I know how hard that must be for you. And the rest of us get to hug our kids and see our wives and husbands and you're here working on behalf of all of us so a special thank you from all of us to you for what you're doing and how well you're doing it.

Jason Thomson: Thank you. It's a privilege and an honor. Thank you.

Matthew Nelson: And to our student community, well, for doing the best job they can deal to with the day-to-day changes and having to be at home dealing with parents all day. I can't imagine what that's like. I know what it's like for my kids. Alright so with that, again thank you everybody.

And we'll move on with the rest of the agenda as presented here. So item 4 on our agenda tonight is consideration for approval of the minutes of the March 3rd, 2020 Regular Meeting. The minutes were presented in draft form as an attachment to the agenda as distributed to board members previously. I'm going to make a motion for the adoption and ask for a second please.

Susan Ramos: Second

Matthew Nelson: Okay, I heard Susan and saw Tammy so we'll take Susan's second and ask if there's any discussion about the minutes? I'm just going to go around and if there aren't any you can just say no. Regina?

ReginaRose: No

Matthew Nelson: Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: No

Matthew Nelson: Tony?

Anthony Welcome: No

Matthew Nelson: Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: No

Matthew Nelson: Elizabeth?

Elizabeth Phillips: No

Matthew Nelson: Susan?

Susan Ramos: No

Matthew Nelson: Jessica?

Jessica Berner: No

Matthew Nelson: Okay and that was on comments. And now I'm going to do a vote so all in favor of the minutes as presented? Regina?

Regina Rose: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Tony?

Anthony Welcome: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Elizabeth?

Elizabeth Phillips: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Susan?

Susan Ramos: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Jessica?

Jessica Berner: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Okay, and I'll vote in favor as well. Motion carries, 8-0

Next on our agenda is item number 5, Board Discussion of Committee Meetings. In the time since our meeting of March 3rd we've had one committee meeting, given our elective lockdown and limitation. So our academic committee meeting met on the 3rd of March. The minutes of that meeting were sent in draft form as an attachment to the agenda. I will turn it over to Regina if you're interested in giving a brief update on that meeting.

Regina Rose: Um sure. If we had met in person I think everybody would have been given a copy of the supportive data report. You all remember the data report. And that's basically what we talked about at the meeting. I think one very important thing, if you didn't see the minutes yet, the seniors graduated last year, in the 2019 graduating class, achieved the graduation rate of 94.9% which I think is really excellent and Jason or Suzanne correct me if I'm wrong, but that figure represents the kids on campus and if you see a figure lower than that it's because the state includes district-wide, everywhere. It's special ed, that's residential, that are cerebral palsy, you know, kids that are not going to get a regular high school diploma so that brings the number down. But for the kids on campus, almost 95% and the goal for this year is 95%. So I think I'm correct of that. I don't hear anybody saying I'm not.

And then we looked at data for the high school first failure, so far in the middle school and those numbers are good. They are small numbers for the percent, overall percent. There was ?? from course to course, but overall percent below. The kids ... well doesn't matter anymore but they were on track for having a 85% mastery. That one third of our kids would have achieved 85% or better on the regents. But no one has to worry about the Regents this year. And then we talked a little bit about common assessment but those are not really ... that data is not really something for us to get into. Those common assessments are to try to keep the grade level for the subjects

there is in sync and gives teachers a way of gauging where more work needs to be done or identify kids having problems but it's not indicative of the kind of data that we look at as a Board of Education. It's way down in the weeds and I totally understand. We do not need to report all that out. And that includes Fountas and Pinnell. I was excited... I'm sure now it's going to be on hold... the district is researching standardized norm-referenced tests to measure our kids' progress in reading. And Suzanne and Tony Marturano were going to go to a training session and learn more about a specific test which is widely used but I'm sure that was cancelled. And there was going to be a pilot of it this year and I mean, that's impossible. So that whole process probably is going to be set back for some time. But you've all heard me complain about norm-referenced standardized measures for tests so we know where our kids are for reading. So that will come, but now of course, everything will be a little delayed. And Suzanne talked to us a great deal about the committee work that's being done, that these committees have been really active the last few years and they really hone in on specific kids and what those kids need and how teachers can improve their instruction. There's a lot of good work going on. And we did not talk about cursive. I appreciate Tim and um, now I'm having a memory lapse I can see your face but I can't...

Suzanne Guntlow: Andrea

Regina Rose: Andrea! Thank you. You know their presentation to us I took home and that kind of bubbled through my head And I thought but it's not very consistent and I hope, I hope it really gets taken seriously because we brought that from... we were gonna at least just we were going to make a Board policy demanding it and then you know Jason and I talked and you know the administrators were on board and it's probably not necessary to have a Board policy but I'm sure that that will become more consistent as time goes and that's it. I hope I haven't put you all to sleep.

Matthew Nelson: I think I can speak on behalf of everybody we missed that Regina so thank you. It's reassuring to hear your voice and get some discussion about cursive

Regina Rose: Thanks

Anthony Welcome: Not about class size

[laughter]

Regina Rose: I'll get to it, Tony.

Matthew Nelson: Suzanne, do you have anything you want to add or follow up on there?

Suzanne Guntlow: Nope I think Regina did a nice job of summarizing the meeting. We had a lot of good conversation and we are still moving forward. We're looking at a potential pilot next year. Hopefully we'll be back in school so we can... this year... so we can pick right up where we

left off but you know that kind of remains to be seen. But the committee is doing a great job looking at some standardized assessments and working together as a K to 12 team to look at what we're currently utilizing

Matthew Nelson: Great. Jason, just before we move on do you have anything you want to add?

Jason Thomson: No. Everything the ladies shared was spot on.

Matthew Nelson: Any board members from the academic committee or otherwise have anything they want to add or ask about?

Susan Ramos: No, I'm good

[pause]

Matthew Nelson: Okay, very good so let me just to identify this. Typically our agenda if we were meeting in a normal course of business would have had a public comment period. You know, we pride ourselves on having that opportunity at our board meetings. Not every school board does that. In this era of Zoom meeting, however, the state has dispensed with that, set aside the requirements for that. We did offer for members of the community to email if they have, at this point in time or any point in time, comments or questions. I know we have a number of community members who joined us tonight perhaps more than would come to a regular meeting. So maybe we should move all our meetings to Zoom to get more public participation. But nonetheless I want to acknowledge those folks that are with us tonight again and thank them for coming and just identify that for the messages that we did receive, Mindy receives those at the district office level and she does a fantastic job of getting them out to all of us. So I can assure anybody who has reached out or will reach out we have all received that. We are not in the position to respond to those in this forum but will follow up accordingly for any correspondence we did receive. Just wanted to make note of that.

Alright, moving on. I do see that we have Anna and Trevor with us tonight so I want to thank both of them for taking time out of their day. I'm sure it's a nice change of pace for the both of you so thanks for joining us and we are interested in some student perspectives on how you guys are bearing and how distance learning is going. Anna, this will be a whole different kind of distance learning conversation than we started back in September. So with that, Mindy, if you wouldn't mind I think you're halfway there, if you can unmute Anna and allow her to provide an opportunity to give the Board an update. So, Anna hold on one second cuz you're still muted. Let you know when you're good to go. Anna the floor is yours.

Anna O'Shea: Oh my goodness, can you hear me?

Matthew Nelson: We can. Yep.

Anna O'Shea: So I talked with Mr. Shull about what I was going to talk about today because it seems pretty overwhelming and you know a big change for all of us. And, yeah, it's been it's been funny seeing, you know everyone have transition to this kind of distance learning idea that you know the actual you know the distance learning students it's a little bit easier of a transition for us, I think. Honestly because it's pretty similar with like the Google meets and that kind of thing. Me and Mr. Shull thought that maybe you guys would be interested if I talked about what like an average day looks like for Ichabod students at this time because it's been obviously a really big transition from being in school everyday to having to managing your own time and you know adjust to this new type of learning. So there are a good amount of teachers that are doing Google meet which is similar to Zoom. There is chat in it and there's, you can see what's on the teacher's computer screen and in that way you know a classroom can be simulated pretty well. Other teachers are sending packets or videos of them doing notes or examples and that's another way that teachers are providing educational resources. Another interesting thing has been band and chorus and for those non-conventional subjects where it's, you know, you wonder how you could learn virtually for like band you know even like sending in videos of participation I know that's also an option in gym. But I think it's been a difficult transition because it's a lot of time for students to manage but I think something really helpful is when teachers or administrators offer a sort of office hours for students where they can come in if they want to and ask any questions one-on-one in something like Zoom or Google meet. I think Mr. Shull, Trevor, he mentioned something you said something similar

Trevor Wolfe: Yeah I ... it's definitely been the most

Anna O'Shea: It's been really useful. I don't know if you want to speak to that at all?

Trevor Wolfe: Yeah, absolutely. Can you guys hear me?

Matthew Nelson: Yeah, we can.

Trevor Wolfe: Alright awesome. So yeah definitely the office hours have been the most helpful I know I've utilized them a few times. But and I think more teachers are going to that and Mr. Shull has been awesome about staying in contact with us as students, about what we feel needs work in our classes and maybe particular teachers he's reached out to that they are being very willing to change to help us through whatever it might be. Like Anna said videos, Google meets, and the office hours are awesome because that's when you can break it up into specific questions and what you have. I think a lot of people are utilizing those. But yeah I think it's been really fun to kind of have a totally new setting but totally a change-of-pace as you said, Mr. Nelson. I know Anna and I were actually joking about it before because when we were trying to log onto the Zoom we were like look at us we're supposed to be the tech savvy ones and we can't figure out how to get on. it was funny but...

Matthew Nelson: You need a third grader.

Trevor Wolfe: Yeah, exactly.

[laughter]

Matthew Nelson: They're really proficient. I've come to learn how my second and third grader are.

Anna O'Shea: Do you guys have questions about how people have been doing with online learning?

Matthew Nelson: Yeah does anybody...Regina I'm just going to go around just to keep some order. Regina do you have any questions?

Regina Rose: No, I don't.

Matthew Nelson: Tony?

Anthony Welcome: I have a question but it's not... it would take too long... what does the day look like? The whole class in front of the teacher at the same time? Trevor, I'm looking at you

Trevor Wolfe: Yeah, yeah, it's hard to tell who you're looking at on here.

[laughter]

Anthony Welcome: He's the one on my screen right now.

Trevor Wolfe: So yeah, I'll just touch on this really quick. I like to get up early. I think one of my classes starts around 9 o'clock. Not everyone...

Anthony Welcome: And everybody is there?

Trevor Wolfe: So a few times last week before we went to this 'A day / B day' schedule there were some overlapping classes and not everyone would be able to make it. So I know every teacher that has hosted a Google meet or a Zoom class has posted a recording of the video on Classroom so you generally get probably about 80% of the class there. I think it's kind of fun to see the other kids that are you know kind of like just waking up, you know. kind of clearly, but other people kind of like to sleep in and then watch the video later. Usually it's a little bit harder, I think, because they have to answer questions like every five minutes throughout the video to make sure they're paying attention. But I think it's also kind of fun to wake up and see everyone just kind of just dragging out of bed, and I don't know, I just kind of like that.

Anna O'Shea: It's also nice it's a nice resource because there are some kids that can't make all the videos. I know I have to work a lot of days and then I can go back and watch the videos the teachers make. That's a really helpful resource.

Matthew Nelson: That's great. Tammy, any questions?

Tammy Crawford: No

Matthew Nelson: Elizabeth?

Elizabeth Phillips: No

Matthew Nelson: Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: No questions

Matthew Nelson: Jessica?

Jessica Berner: No

Matthew Nelson: Susan?

Susan Ramos: No

Matthew Nelson: Okay Great. Well that's really it's really insightful and I really appreciate you both getting on tonight and giving us some insight into what it's been like. It's obviously a big change but we trust you guys are capable enough to keep on marshalling through it and stay focused. You have a great group of teachers helping you get through it.

Trevor Wolfe: We absolutely do.

Jason Thomson: I have one question / comment, Anna and Trevor. I just want to ask because this is very stressful. I'm worried about all of our students' mental health. Be sure that you know, to reach out to a guidance counselor. We have online resources available. You know it's just if you have a friend that seems stressed out, just reach out to them say 'hello' and just make sure that they're mentally Okay.

Matthew Nelson: Yeah, that's great

Trevor Wolfe: Absolutely. I know Mr. Shull and Mrs. Sanchez are doing those office hours like Anna said and that's we really appreciate that too. And also I don't know if we mentioned this but we're doing virtual spirit week this week which is kind of cool. So we're sending pictures to Ms. Two-Axe. We're going to put them in the yearbook, I think. And so it's a nice little thing to keep the spirit alive during this time.

Matthew Nelson: Great you've got to keep your spirit up right? That's the most important thing. So you guys both have smiles on your faces which is refreshing, like you're getting through it all, right? That's good. Craig, did you have anything that you wanted to add? No? Okay. How about Tony? No, he's muted. Sorry, Tony, you're muted. Okay great. Well, Anna do you have anything else for your report? Or does that conclude your update for us?

Anthony Welcome: Not even in school, to report on.

Tammy Crawford: You're muted again.

Anthony Welcome: Anna's muted.

Matthew Nelson: Anna, if you're good give us a 'thumbs up'.

[thumbs up from Anna and apologies from the District Clerk for the slow unmute]

Matthew Nelson: Alright, very good. So with that the meat and potatoes of tonight's meeting is going to fall to our esteemed superintendent who's got a long roster of updates to give us and while he does that, Mindy, maybe I could ask if you could just mute everybody else for the time being because when people make noise in the background it pops their faces forward so give Jason the floor to go ahead give the Superintendent's Report. Go ahead, Jason.

Jason Thomson: Good evening, everyone. I've got really five major updates at this point. The academic report and updates. So all state assessments including the Regents now have been canceled for 2020. We're currently digesting the guidance document that came out today and we're discussing this with department chairs. Basically good-news-bad-news to Trevor, Anna and the rest of the Regents crew, you're not exactly off the hook. You have to pass your course to gain that credit for the Regents which is a good thing that it doesn't completely wreck the learning for the remainder of this extended amount of time which we don't know what that's going to be. Again that's just a brief overview we're going to be talking with our team leaders as well about how how this will look moving forward. We are continuing to provide on learn online learning remotely for [grades] 4-12 and we'll be beginning new remote learning K through 3 starting on Monday. Our administrative team has been in contact on a regular basis to update and troubleshoot any issues that may arise. We've also scheduled limited building access for all teachers who need to come to the building, into the classrooms for more teaching resources during this extended closure. I want to thank Steve and his staff and principals for coordinating working together on this endeavor. MiFi technology updates. MiFi devices were delivered on Tuesday and they'll be distributing this week to K-12 families who do not have internet access. Chromebooks will also be distributed this week to K-3 families who do not have a device. Budget vote. I know Matthew, or excuse me, Michael is going to go into greater detail with that but the potential budget has been pushed to June 2nd that's not definitive yet. I know Michael has a meeting tomorrow and what we'll learn more tomorrow hopefully in that regard. The 2020 Board elections. They've been suspended until June 2020 as well. The construction project is out to bid. The opening date has been extended to 4-16-2020. We have a 3:00 meeting with our attorneys, Jay Girvin's office, for clarification of essential and non-essential projects so we're hoping to have further clarification in that regard but at this point we're moving forward as if everything is normal. We know not everything is normal. We have to keep in mind that some of these larger factories are shut down so that may cause a potential delay in the project as well. But like I said we're going to learn more tomorrow at three o'clock. Paul, I'm going to jump back to the technology update. Paul, did I leave anything out or do you have any updates no updates at this point? Okay, again, I want to mirror what President Nelson has said that the staff has

been absolutely outstanding. You know, the administrative team is incredible. Our teachers are amazing and our students and our parents are amazing. And I just want to publicly thank everybody for being very patient and very understanding and we will get through this together, for sure. So does anybody have any questions? I know it was kind of brief but there's a lot there's a lot of details but I just wanted to give a broad overview.

Matthew Nelson: So why don't we just do our little round robin here and I'll just go again... oh, go ahead Mindy. Mindy you're muted.

District Clerk: I don't have everybody unmuted just yet. Give me just a second.

Matthew Nelson: Okay, I'll start with those who I can see are unmuted and we're just gonna go in no particular order. So Tony did you have any questions on anything Jason covered?

Anthony Welcome: No

Matthew Nelson: Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: No questions.

Matthew Nelson: Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: No, it sounds like we're going to get more information as it comes.

Anthony Welcome: Does anyone honestly think we're going back to school this year?

Jason Thomson: Pardon me?

Anthony Welcome: Does anyone honestly think we're going back to school this year?

Jason Thomson: I have my opinions but I'll refrain at this point.

Anthony Welcome: Okay. I have mine too. We'll be lucky if we're back in September.

Matthew Nelson: You are supposed to refrain. That's not refraining.

Anthony Welcome: I'm sorry, I'm sorry I'm sorry. I've got a big mouth.

[laughter]

Matthew Nelson: It's Okay. Elizabeth, any questions for Superintendent Thomson?

Elizabeth Phillips: No, it sounds great. Thanks, Jason.

Matthew Nelson: Great, Regina?

Tammy Crawford: She's not unmuted yet.

Regina Rose: just wondering if you know anything about what's essential and what's not essential or have they sent any guidance yet? Or is it too soon to ask yet because you were going to be...

Jason Thomson: No, no, that's a valid question, Regina. We are going to learn tomorrow more on what's essential. The long and short of it it's very complicated. Personally, I think they're navigating through it currently as we speak and there are so many unknowns at this point. Like I said, Regina, we're going to find out more tomorrow and what I will do for the board is I will include that in my update letter on Friday.

Regina Rose: Okay. Thank you.

Jason Thomson: You are very welcome.

Matthew Nelson: Okay, Jessica, any questions?

Jessica Berner: I'm good

Matthew Nelson: Susan?

Susan Ramos: I'm good.

Matthew Nelson: Okay great. Alright, so Jason, thanks for that and thanks for your continued, you know, regular updates to the board via email. We appreciate getting those updates. And for any board members who aren't checking the NYSSBA updates, NYSSBA's doing a great job sending stuff out to us in a timely manner all the updates as they come. So keep your eyes open for that. Okay just before we go on, Jason, I just have to say, you got your haircut and I just have to say you look stunning with your hair cut. But that plant behind you, when you position yourself perfectly you look like an 80s hair band rocker. Alright, so is that if we can unmute and...

Jessica Berner: Hey Matt, Anna has a question.

Matthew Nelson: Oh, let's unmute Anna. She's got a question. Alright Anna, go ahead.

Anna O'Shea: I had a few students ask me to ask you guys, do we know anything about getting honors on your diploma with mastery? I think for sciences it's like three Regents you get Mastery on to get honors in science on your diploma or honors in math and students were wondering if they were counting on this year to give them mastery in a subject if that would be affected if there are no Regents this year? if you don't know, that's okay.

Jason Thomson: I had a hard time hearing

Matthew Nelson: So let me recap for you, Jason. The question was about honors designation and mastery for diplomas. In short, I mean that's not everything Anna said but that really covered it. Do you have any indication from State Ed as to how they're going to look at that relative to the disposal of Regents exams or is that too soon?

Jason Thomson: We're going to dissect that document tomorrow and look at it in cabinet with the principals and more information will be forthcoming, Anna.

Anna O'Shea: Okay thanks.

Jason Thomson: You're welcome.

Matthew Nelson: Okay so with that I think Mike is unmuted and I don't know if Todd needs to be. Mike, does Todd need to be unmuted?

Michael Brennan: Oh yeah, Todd's going to give a food service report.

Matthew Nelson: Okay. Hang tight for just a second. Okay, good to go.

Todd DiGrigoli: Alright so as you know we've been serving meals since the seventeenth, I think it was. Yeah it was our first day. We started out with three locations. We partnered with Saint Joseph Catholic Church down in Stuyvesant, the First Presbyterian Church in Valatie and then we were serving out of the high school. But as this thing wore on and we started seeing some numbers change we decided we were going to go to 3 days a week so now we're serving Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays but we're only serving out of the high school from 9am to 1pm and St Joseph Catholic Church down in Stuyvesant Falls from 10-noon but we've also partnered with the transportation department and they're delivering meals for us as well. But to give you an idea, we've served so far 5,538 meals for the children in the district over the last 22 days. We're basically doing about 174 breakfasts and 174 lunches everyday. That number keeps climbing a little bit. But to give you an idea, we did over a three-day period. So Fridays we send breakfast and lunch for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. So last Friday we sent out 1,038 meals, ones that were picked up at our locations and ones that were delivered outright. That number keeps on climbing a little bit. But we're keeping busy. We're taking care of our kids. And I will say many many families have been super thankful that we've been able to do this for them. We also partnered with the backpack program so we're getting them on a regular schedule. Their backpacks will go home on Friday. Dan Doyle, the transportation department is taking care of that and that's how we decided to do the deliveries and it's working out well.

Matthew Nelson: Todd, do you have any issue with supply chain, deliveries, keeping stock?

Todd DiGrigoli: We've run into a couple minor issues with certain items but we haven't run out of anything yet. Like I've had to like Ginsbergs is our main supplier right now. I have a real good contact at Ginsburgs. Say we need uncrustables because we do peanut butter and jelly

sandwiches, ham and cheese, turkey and cheese and then we serve a variety of other things for breakfast yogurt, bagels, depends on the day. We just try to keep it fresh and rotated every now and then because all different districts do similar things, they might get low on, say, Uncrustables and they don't have them on Monday but like today I ran up to Ginsburgs and was able to get five cases of those so we haven't had any real major problems. Our milk company's been fantastic. Our bread company has been terrific. Ginsburgs has been terrific. So we haven't had any major issues where we weren't able to supply a student with a breakfast or lunch.

Matthew Nelson: That's great. Well we are really grateful for what you're doing. How's the Food Bank? Are they helping out or are we helping them in partnership?

Todd DiGrigoli: We've been getting some donations in, mostly monetary donations because I think that's kind of what's been easier for them. But we've secured a lot of money for them. We've secured money for donations for the backpack donations as well. I know the church in Stuyvesant gave \$500 to the backpack programs, you know collectively. You know \$500 for the three of them and the food bank as well. So people have been very very generous. We've had some other generous donators from the community so we're very thankful for that.

Matthew Nelson: That's great. Well our thanks to all those folks who are helping out as well and we really appreciate you and in particular the transportation department for working through this period, helping provide all those services.

Jason Thomson: Matthew, may I interrupt real quick? I'm sorry.

Matthew Nelson: Yeah, go ahead.

Jason Thomson: Anna, to go to your question. If you go on our web page and you click on Regents exams cancelled. Go to 2020 Regents exams cancelled. We have an FAQ and if you click on advanced designation and endorsements you'll be looking at a very similar document that the principals and the rest of the admin team will be looking at. Questions 24-29 address exactly what you asked me.

Anna O'Shea: Thank you.

Jason Thomson: You're very welcome. Sorry, Matthew.

Matthew Nelson: No, no worries. Thank you for pulling that up and answering. Alright I'm going to turn it over to Mike Brennan for the next item, the business office report. Mike?

Michael Brennan: Thank you, Matthew. And thanks for Todd for the Food Service report. Also wanted to thank each of the directors of our operations: Steve Marotta in Facilities, Paull Caputo in IT and Dan Doyle in Transportation. Each have done, as they always do, an outstanding job

and their staff has really stepped up. So I just wanted to give each of them a thank you to show my appreciation today. I did prepare PowerPoint slides. So Mindy were you able to put that up?

Matthew Nelson: And Mike, before you get started on this, Mindy, if you don't mind just going back through and muting everybody else so their faces don't pop back up when they make noise in the background.

Michael Brennan: Also to echo a little bit what Jason said is there's a lot of unknown there's a lot of information still to come. However some of the information I put together is things we do know. Regarding where we lie with the tax cap and some of the revenue. We'll just go through the topics for tonight being: take a quick look at the vote dates; the state aid run that came out at the beginning of the month; the tax levy; quick snapshot of revenue and appropriations and we're going to look to go next what decisions will be making next on vote dates.

Alright the executive order 202.13 as we mentioned that postpones the budget vote to no earlier than June 1st, we are waiting for confirmation on the final date and format I have heard some, I don't know if it's chatter or if there's any teeth behind, it there could be consideration that, as long as you are within your tax cap, school boards can approve a budget and we don't have to have a full public vote. We're waiting for that final confirmation once we do have some of that final information we will need to adjust the timeline accordingly. So if the vote happened to be June 2nd, when would be a budget adoption? When we have our hearing? When will we send out a newsletter? We will update that timeline as soon as that information becomes available.

The next thing is is that a plan for the vote itself will need to be created and put together. Mindy and myself will take a look at that as far as what machines are available or if we would have to do paper ballots or if there was another methodology for collecting votes that will be used for this year. Again once we have more information we'll get that information out.

Big news for us this week was about state aid. Found out that foundation aid is flat, meaning that it's going to be held at the 2019-20 levels. The expense based aids such as BOCES, Transportation, no changes to the formulas and it's not rolled into Foundation Aid as we had seen in the January run. They carve those back out which is good news and which is what we anticipate. What's new in this last run that came out is an adjustment being referred to as Pandemic Adjustment and then there's also restoration, Federal Cares Restoration. The amount for Ichabod Crane is just under, just over \$214 thousand. What does that mean? It means that it gives New York State budget, the Governor gives them certain leeway that if the New York State revenue doesn't reach a certain threshold that a portion of the aid will be withheld. A portion of that \$214 thousand would be withheld if we didn't hit certain thresholds so a lot of districts are looking at different ways to handle this. I can say that certain districts got hit a lot harder than this and we were not so bad. My recommendation to the board would be, we budget as if the restoration was going to occur. And I'll show you what that looks like and some possible ideas if that did happen.

Here's a breakdown 2019-20 to the 2020-2021 breaking out all the aids. You see now that the expense-driven, such as BOCES, are not rolled up into Foundation Aid. You do see that the amount is flat from one year to the next. You see our expense-driven aids and where they are. The Building Aid we expected to be at this amount this year. What is different, as I said, is that

adjustment. So you see the negative \$214 and then the restoration of the \$214 so the total amount of 15,760,805 is a relatively flat budget, which in this scenario, I don't think it's too bad. As I would say, as we move forward, I would keep the \$214 into the budget and if it is pulled and we don't receive it at year-end in 2021 that we use some reserves that we have available to build back or we could use a little bit of fund balance. Another idea would be to if we have over fund balance we could set aside so this amount. That would be my recommendation.

The tax cap I've calculated out a few different times based on what the aid amounts are. I think the last time we met we were somewhere around 2.7%. I have redone that and our maximum allowable is now at 2.57%, which is an additional Revenue of \$616,000. Ever since the tax cap came in, we've never exceeded our maximum and went to a supermajority, which means all eligible taxpayers have received state refund checks. There's no changes to the STAR and how that who's eligible and how that's calculated. Again I do have a recommendation to maintain all of our program and staffing levels, that we go up to the maximum of the 2.57%.

This your next slide. I just like to show history. So this every year just showing where we've been and usually there's a couple of off-cycle years where we weren't allowed to go very high but just showing that we've been, up as high as 2.7% and as low as under 1% and our voter approval rates have been fantastic in this period of time, at 62% and as high as 75%. So we certainly have support for our budgets and our district.

Just take a quick snapshot at the revenue to break it down. Our tax levy with that increase would be a little over \$24,600,000 total state aid which we looked at \$17,760. Then there are other miscellaneous incomes so we have a little bit over \$1.1 million and then using fund balance and reserves, that's up a little bit this year but that is a planned item because of debt service funds that we used to maintain a fairly level tax levy. So that's at \$825,000. The total revenue increase at this point in time, just under 1.9%, total budget of \$42,382,980.

A couple of the highlights of our appropriations, as I said, we were able to put this budget together even at a flat aid with no cuts to staff, maintaining all of our programming, includes any union contract updates and it includes the retirement replacement. In past presentations we look at this slide. I like to update that to show between the instructional and non-instructional that our instructional budget is 53% of the total, non-instructional at 47%.

And just the last slide showing at this point time you know we have a balanced budget. So our next steps. A lot of that is going to depend on the guidance that we get from SED or from the state regarding the vote. Regarding dates and when we have to approve the budget so at this point time until we have those dates, until we have when we need to adopt the budget, I don't think the Board needs to take any action at this time. There's a couple other things that we need to look at. 80% of the BOCES purchasing for next year has been finalized. There is a little bit left to do. They pushed back their date to May 15th. I don't see any reason why we can't hit May 1st but they gave us a little more time. I always like to go back and review and finalize all our codes to make sure we missed anything and then, as I said, once the executive order has been

clarified, we'll revise the budget timeline, establish new meeting dates, and create a vote plan and protocols. So at this time I can Mindy can unmute people and take some questions or do you just want to go round robin again, Matthew? I think you're still muted Matthew.

Anthony Welcome: He is.

Michael Brennan: Tony's on.

Matthew Nelson: Okay, here we go. Alright, thanks, Mindy. Yeah, why do we do round robin first. Yeah, thanks Mike, for that presentation. I'll just be the first to go. I think I speak for everybody district-wide to know that we're looking at a more positive scenario than one might have expected given global circumstances to be no cuts, flat budget, inside a 2% overall on the increase of the budget. Those are all positive and to have a cushion with that anticipated pandemic reserve, it's all good. So looking forward to in a you know, clarity on when you can move this forward to public vote. Hopefully in June we'll have that opportunity and get back to normal. But a great report. I don't have any questions, just that commentary. Tony any questions?

Anthony Welcome: I don't have any questions, no.

Matthew Nelson: Okay, Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: No questions.

Matthew Nelson: Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: Great job, Mike. Boy, I thought that was going to be so much harder.

Michael Brennan: Thank you.

Matthew Nelson: My point exactly. I was expecting it to be a lot more draconian. I think what we've done over the last couple years, coupled with our approach to the early retirement incentives last year and again this year, I think it all comes together that and the single bus run. So lots of prior-year planning put us in good pandemic shape. Alright so, Elizabeth?

Elizabeth Phillips: No, all set.

Matthew Nelson: Jessica?

Jessica Berner: Good.

Matthew Nelson: Susan?

Susan Ramos: Just want to say, Mike, great job and Todd you, too.

Matthew Nelson: Regina?

Regina Rose: I do. Just one. Michael, the number of fund balance reserves number \$825,000 is like a big chunk of the reserves you know like are we going to be cleaned out just wondering how that worked?

Michael Brennan: No and where that jump comes from, and as I said, it was planned from previous Capital projects and when you're trying to keep the debt line even, there was a need, a spike of fund balance going from somewhere in the range of 80,000 last year up to about 320,000 this year. But as I said, that was planned that would be something that would be in this budget regardless if we were in this situation or not. It was just planned to keep that debt line even. It's money set aside in a Debt Service fund for that purpose alone.

Regina Rose: Oh, okay, thank you, Michael, and let me just say great job.

Michael Brennan: Thank you

Anthony Welcome: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Okay, great.

Michael Brennan: Matt, can I add one thing?

Matthew Nelson: Yeah, please.

Michael Brennan: Also, too, I just wanted to mention that we do have the second piece of the referendum which is the bus purchasing plan. My intent is to move forward with that as we provided at the non-instructional budget presentation, but we'll come back and give that a second look when we look at the full budget again.

Matthew Nelson: Great, sounds good.

Michael Brennan: Thank you.

Matthew Nelson: Welcome and thanks again. Alright, Mike, nothing else from the business office, right?

Michael Brennan: I'm all set. Thank you.

Matthew Nelson: Jason, anything else on your end that you you want to cover before I move on that you didn't hit on already?

Jason Thomson: Just to second. Great job with all the departments: Dan Doyle, Steve, Todd, Michael, Suzanne. They are doing an outstanding job.

Matthew Nelson: Agreed. Okay so we'll move on then to item 9 on our agenda, which is the consent agenda. We adopt the consent agenda as a block without discussion. As it was previously presented as part of the present agenda so consent agenda tonight includes items 9(A) through 9(T) as in Tom. I'll make a motion and ask Tony for a second.

Anthony Welcome: You got it.

Matthew Nelson: Okay and I'll go around and do a vote so let's see here. Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Jessica?

Jessica Berner: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Susan?

Susan Ramos: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Elizabeth?

Elizabeth Phillips: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Regina?

Anthony Welcome: Regina?

Regina Rose: Can you hear me?

Matthew Nelson: Yes, you vote in favor or against or abstain?

Regina Rose: I said aye

Matthew Nelson: Aye, great and Tony?

Anthony Welcome: Aye. I seconded it.

Matthew Nelson: Of course, I just like to ask just to be sure. The motion carries. The consent is adopted and with that item 10 Discussion Action. At this point in the I'll turn the meeting over to Jason.

Jason Thomson: Under 10(A) under item 10,10(A) I just like to advise everyone that I'm filling in for trustee John Antalek in his absence and he has full support of this resolution and I'm going to read through, 10(A) consideration for approval.

WHEREAS, an appeal to the New York State Commissioner of Education was filed by Jeffrey Ouellette on March 23, 2020, pursuant to New York State Education law §306; and

WHEREAS, the Petition names as respondent Matthew Nelson, as President of the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane (Kinderhook) Central School District; and

WHEREAS, the appeal seeks, inter alia, the removal of said respondent; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane (Kinderhook) Central School District desires to have its attorneys, Girvin & Ferlazzo, P.C., defend Matthew Nelson in his capacity as President of the Board of Education;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane (Kinderhook) Central School District hereby authorizes its attorneys, Girvin & Ferlazzo, P.C., to defend Matthew Nelson, President of the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane (Kinderhook) Central School District, in his capacity as President of the Board of Education, in and throughout the administrative proceeding referenced above, including but not limited to the filing of an answer and supporting affidavits and memorandum of law and for any necessary personal appearances on his behalf, and further authorizes the Board Vice-President or his designee to execute and verify any necessary documents.

Discussion?

Matthew Nelson: Jason, just point of order, first if you just ask for a first and a second and then if there is a discussion.

Jason Thomson: Motion, please?

Susan Ramos: I will second or first it or whatever

Jason Thomson: and a second, please?

Anthony Welcome: Tony will second it.

Jason Thomson: Any discussions?

Anthony Welcome: what is it, can we ask Jeff what this is about?

Jeffrey Ouellette: It's a matter I can't comment on a legal matter ... there is a document that is

Anthony Welcome: There's a document that's on file with the district?

Jeffrey Ouellette: The document is on file with the State Education Department

Anthony Welcome: Okay, gotcha

Susan Ramos: Is there a reason why? Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: I would refer to the document

Susan Ramos: Okay I don't have the document. You wrote the document. You filed the document ...why?

Jeffrey Ouellette: The document was served to Mr. Nelson

Tammy Crawford: And is it public knowledge?

Susan Ramos: if it's public knowledge, we might as well know what it is.

Tammy Crawford: Go ahead and tell us what it is.

Jeffrey Ouellette: again I would refer to the document ... it may be made available through the district clerk.

Anthony Welcome: Do you have it? Mindy has it?

District Clerk: I don't have that document.

Susan Ramos: So where is it? It's somewhere else we don't know what it is.

Jeffrey Ouellette: The document is with the State Education Department and a copy was given to...

Susan Ramos: But, Jeff. come on. You're part of the board and you have an issue. You presented it to the commissioner. let us know what it is.

Tammy Crawford: But not the rest of the Board.

Susan Ramos: Yeah, I mean it's a big secret.

Jeffrey Ouellette: it's not a secret. There's protocol and practice. That's how the commissioner that's the process for filing with the commissioner.

Susan Ramos: Great, so we're the board. We are responsible. I'm just asking for information.

Jeffrey Ouellette: We will make certain that you're all as as long as it's appropriate we'll get everyone copies but that needs to come I believe to the Clerk.

Anthony Welcome: Okay.

Jason Thomson: Mindy, do I need to have a motion all in favor.

District Clerk: We need to call for a vote if there's no more discussion, yes.

Jason Thomson: Is there any more discussion?

Regina Rose: I guess I would like to say one thing. Can you hear me?

Susan Ramos: Yes, we can.

Regina Rose: Okay so I'm going to vote for this because it's in Matthew's defense. I do not like having to vote for the whole idea of anything related to removing Matthew. I don't know if that makes any sense but I...

Anthony Welcome: It makes great sense.

Tammy Crawford: it makes great sense.

Regina Rose: ...but I would vote for it because I have a lot of appreciation, gratitude, confidence in Matthew.

Susan Ramos: Ditto

Regina Rose: And he deserves a good defense against this.

Anthony Welcome: ??

Jason Thomson: If there's no more discussion, Mindy, would it be prudent to do a roll call vote?

District Clerk: Yes, please.

Jason Thomson: No particular order. Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: No

Jason Thomson: You're voting no?

Jeffrey Ouellette: Correct.

Jason Thomson: Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: Yes

Jason Thomson: Regina?

Regina Rose: Yes

Jason Thomson: Elizabeth?

Elizabeth Phillips: yes

Jason Thomson: Tony?

Anthony Welcome: yes

Jason Thomson: Sue?

Susan Ramos: yes

Jason Thomson: Jessica?

Jessica Berner: yes

Jason Thomson: Did I forget anyone?

overlapping : Matthew

Matthew Nelson: Me. I'm abstaining.

Jason Thomson: Matthew's abstaining and John's in favor.

Anthony Welcome: But you can't put his vote down because he's not here.

District Clerk: John can't vote.

Jason Thomson: Just to acknowledge that he asked me to delineate that to the board. I'll turn the meeting back over to you President Nelson.

Matthew Nelson: Thanks, Jason. I appreciate it. One last thing I want to do before we call for an adjournment. I do want to acknowledge that we have Kara Udvary and I apologize if I butchered your last name. Did I do it alright? You're muted. I can't hear you. But nonetheless if Mindy wants to unmute you she's more than welcome. I just want to acknowledge Kara and her team. We've done a lot of thank yous tonight for folks who've been instrumental in helping us get through this crisis. And OK Kids and Kara and her team stepped up and have been filling in and providing much-needed child care services. We'll call it that I think that's what the state is calling it for family members of emergency responders and essential workers and other people. And you guys deserve a lot of thanks for putting yourselves on the front line and helping out. If there's anything you want to say, you are unmuted so feel free to say it.

Kara Udvary: Oh, I just want to thank you guys for all your support and together we make it work so thank you very much, too.

Susan Ramos: Thanks, Kara.

Kara Udvary: You're welcome.

Matthew Nelson: Alright, okay, so so if I didn't acknowledge anybody by name or if Jason didn't do the same, thanks blanketly to everybody for all that you've done over the last couple weeks and will do over the ensuing couple weeks. Our next meeting is expected to be a Special Meeting of the board on April 21st. It is a Tuesday at 7:00. I assume we'll be back here by Zoom and not in-district since schools are closed through April 29th. but we will advise accordingly. But that Special Meeting has a singular purpose should it go forward. That purpose is to adopt

the Questar III BOCES budget for the next academic year. There are some discussions underway with respect to their budget adoption process as there is with ours. So we'll keep everybody posted as to whether or not that date sticks and Mindy, Jason, I assume there hasn't been any change to that as of yet, right?

Jason Thomson: No, sir.

Matthew Nelson: Okay so following that our next Regular Meeting is our May meeting which is scheduled for Cinco de Mayo so Coronavirus may not let us celebrate Cinco de Mayo together but we'll see hopefully we get through the month of April and we're back together in May. We'll have to find a room big enough to separate us by 6ft. The library won't do it. Those are our two upcoming meetings and if anything changes with those we'll be sure to advise the public accordingly.

This meeting pursuant to the executive order in place in accordance with the amended open meetings law will be posted on our website and I believe transcribed at some point as well so the public will be able to see this in its entirety so if anybody asks about it they can do that and I will just ask one last time, Jason, do you have anything for the good of the order here?

Jason Thomson: Yeah, I would just encourage to get the word out to everyone to please, check our web page on a regular basis. Our IT team is working hard on putting the most up-to-date information together. And publicly if anybody has any questions, any thoughts, any concerns you can email me anytime and same with the Board if something comes up tonight that you wanted to ask or you forgot to ask please, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Anthony Welcome: thank you

Matthew Nelson: Okay great so thank you for that Jason and again thanks to everybody and we hope everybody's continued health and safety and well-being in this time and with that I'm going to make a motion to adjourn and I'm going to ask Tony since he's on my screen to second that motion

Anthony Welcome: Second

Nelson: Okay we'll go through and do a final roll call for the night. Susan?

Susan Ramos: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Jessica?

Jessica Berner: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Regina?

Regina Rose: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Elizabeth?

Tammy Crawford: She's muted.

Elizabeth Phillips: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Ah, there she is. Okay, great. Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: Aye

Matthew Nelson: Great, very good. Our meeting is adjourned at 8:16 p.m. Thanks everybody and we'll see you all again soon.

All: bye