

RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT
400 Main Street
New Eagle, PA 15067

AGENDA FOR THE RINGGOLD BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS'S SPECIAL MEETING FOR GENERAL PURPOSES OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held on March 23rd for reasons of personnel.

IV. VISITORS' REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

V. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the School District entered into an employment contract effective April 18, 2018 ("the Contract"); and

WHEREAS, the Contract allows the Superintendent to resign her employment with the School District; and

WHEREAS, section 9.05 of the Contract provides that:

In the event that Ms. Van Fossan should tender her resignation to the Board, and there are not proceedings for termination as set forth herein, Ms. Van Fossan agrees that she will continue her employment in the District for at least sixty (60) days after the acceptance of her resignation by the Board; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Superintendent tendered her resignation to the Board of School Directors ("the School Board") via email to the School Board saying:

I am tendering my resignation from employment as Superintendent of Ringgold School District pursuant to Section 9.05 of my Employment Contract dated April 18, 2018. I am willing to continue as Superintendent for 60 days after your acceptance of my resignation as set forth in this Section;

NOW, THEREFORE, *be it resolved*, that:

1. the Superintendent's resignation is hereby accepted effective immediately; and
2. Randall Skrinjorich is hereby appointed as Acting Superintendent until further action by the School Board.

MOTION _____ SEC. _____ VOTE _____

VI. RESOLUTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE DIRECTOR OF PUPIL SERVICES

Resolution

WHEREAS, the School District has lost a number of administrators either temporarily or permanently; and

WHEREAS, the School District is facing unique challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors ("the School Board") desires to provide a rich educational experience to its students while schools are closed and believes that additional administrative assistance is needed to ensure that such educational experiences are effectively provided;

NOW, THEREFORE, *be it resolved*, that:

1. Dr. Cathy Taschner ("Taschner") is hereby employed as an Administrator on Special Assignment to perform those administrative duties as assigned by the Acting Superintendent;
2. As long as the Director of Pupil Services is on a leave of absence, Taschner shall perform the duties and have the authority of the Director of Pupil Services and shall serve as Substitute Director of Pupil Services;
3. Taschner shall be chiefly in charge of developing the educational program to be offered while school is closed and shall have the supervisory authority over other administrators and staff as reasonably necessary to achieve this objective;
4. Due to the emergency nature of the COVID-19, Taschner will be permitted to work remotely, and shall have no direct contact with students as defined in applicable law until she has submitted all required clearances and examinations and shall obtain all required clearances and examinations as promptly as possible;

5. Taschner shall work on those days as assigned by the Acting Superintendent;
6. Not having a set schedule, Taschner agrees and represents that she is not entitled to be paid for any day which she is not asked to work by the Acting Superintendent and that any wage continuation legislation triggered by the COVID-19 emergency and school closings does not apply to her position; and
7. Taschner shall be paid at the rate of Four Hundred and Sixty Dollars and No Cents (\$460.00) per day for days or parts of days that she actually is assigned to work and does work, which is defined as a minimum of 7 ½ hours per day. She shall be paid a prorata amount for any partial day worked. She shall not be paid extra for any extra hours. She will not be provided any benefits. However, the parties recognize that her time is counted for purposes of PSERS and as an employee, she is protected under the Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act and the District's liability insurance policies, all subject to the terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions of the Act and the policies.

MOTION _____ SEC. _____ VOTE _____

VII. APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL CONTINUITY PLAN

Resolution

WHEREAS, at its public meeting on March 18, 2020, the Board of School Directors ("the School Board") directed the Superintendent and her staff to plan appropriately and to recommend to the Board of School Directors what educational services are to be provided during the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and staff conferred for the purpose of recommending an educational continuity plan; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the Superintendent provided the plan attached hereto as Exhibit "A" ("the Educational Continuity Plan") for the consideration by the School Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, *be it resolved*, that:

1. The Educational Continuity Plan is hereby approved by the Board of School Directors subject to the following terms, conditions and limitations;
2. The Acting Superintendent is authorized to determine implementation timelines and is not required to adhere to any timelines stated in the Educational Continuity Plan;

3. The Acting Superintendent is authorized to make such changes to the Educational Continuity Plan as may be reasonably necessary and desirable in order to best deliver instruction to students under the circumstances and as may be necessary to comply with applicable law;
4. Additional devices, supplies and equipment may be purchased as necessary to enable the Educational Continuity Plan to be implemented for all students effectively;
5. All teachers and administrators are expected to have internet access at their cost at their residence or other location if they want to work remotely for purposes of implementing the Continuity of Instruction Plan;
6. In the event that any teacher or administrator does not have internet access, he or she must report to school to provide access and must comply with CDC guidelines for social distancing, etc.; and
7. Nothing in the Educational Continuity Plan or in this Resolution is intended to limit the authority of Senior Management as provided in the Emergency Resolution approved by the School Board on Marcy 18, 2020.

MOTION _____ SEC. _____ VOTE _____

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION _____ SEC. _____ VOTE _____

Ringgold School District

Continuity of Education Through Planned Instruction

(March 25, 2020)

I. Introduction

In light of the continued closure of schools in Pennsylvania due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (“PDE”) suggested that school districts revisit decisions related to continuity of education. Guidance from Intermediate Unit One on March 24, 2020, indicated that school districts pursuing continuity of education may offer “Planned Instruction” or “Enrichment and Review.” Planned Instruction refers to formal teaching and learning, while Enrichment and Review refers to informal activities to support prior knowledge. Ringgold School District (“the School District”) seeks to provide Planned Instruction, as described in more detail below, during this crisis. As a result, School District leadership has developed this plan which incorporates elements of the School District’s existing flexible instructional day plan.

The primary method for delivery of Planned Instruction will occur through Google Classroom, a platform through which students are accustomed to receiving instruction. Google Classroom allows teachers to create learning experiences and communicate with students, but as detailed below, alternatives to the use of such technology may be necessary in some cases.

II. Electronic Devices & Internet Access

The following is being done or has been done to ensure that the infrastructure for remote learning is in place::

1. Purchased 100 AC power adapters for district Google Chromebooks;
2. Purchased 400 additional Chromebooks to be used students in grades 1-8, or as otherwise needed;
3. Sent a Technology Survey to Ringgold Parents/Guardians to determine if students have access to the Internet and a web based device;
4. Established a phone number for parents/guardians without access to the Internet to call in to complete the survey;
5. Prepared 100 Chromebooks for possible distribution;
6. Created an IT helpdesk email address of rsdhelpdesk@ringgold.org;
7. Researched the possible purchase of Wi-Fi hotspots;
8. Research how parents currently without Internet access can receive low cost or free Internet access;
9. Created a database of all Chromebooks that will possibly be distributed;
10. Obtained student roster information for the distribution database;

EXHIBIT

A

11. Existing Chromebooks are being cleaned and sanitized in preparation of distribution; and
12. Provided a Chromebook to every student in grades 9-12.

Each teacher and administrator has been provided a computer by School District to work from home. A new survey was conducted to ensure all teachers had continued access to technology and internet access on March 23, 2020. All teachers have computers however, two need internet access to work from home long term. The School District is exploring options for how to remedy this issue for the two staff members.

III. CONTENT DELIVERY

Teachers have created Google Classrooms for each course/class they teach, through which teachers can post classroom content and instructional activities. Teachers will plan instruction from 8-10am and work with students from 10am-12pm and 12:30pm-3pm, or at such other times as established by the Superintendent or her designee. All staff will have a lunch break from 12-12:30pm. This schedule will be followed Monday through Friday, unless altered by the Superintendent or her designee..

Providing teachers with this time at the start of the day allows them to adjust weekly instructional activities as needed, given that students will be working at home rather than at school. It ensures such plans consist of meaningful learning activities, as teachers design instruction using the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework, personalizing activities and assessments for learner variability. This time also provides building administration an opportunity to verify that teachers' assignments have been uploaded to Google classroom for students to access at home. The building administrators will check each teacher's Google Classroom/s to ensure all instructional activities are uploaded. Students will be able to communicate with their assigned teachers via Google hangout or email, and administrators will be available via email or telephone during school hours. Additionally, school nurses and counselors will also be available to students and families, through email.

All regular and special education staff that serve students with disabilities will review every child's plan to determine the extent to which Planned Instruction moving forward can meet each child's needs. At the same time, staff can consider alternatives, if any, for those accommodations that may not be effectively implemented in a virtual or other setting as contemplated in this plan. Special education teachers will offer students support by way of a Google Classroom which will be utilized for individual and/or small group assistance.

Intermediate Unit 1 services for English Language students will continue to use i-Ready, with lessons focusing on areas of need, as well as using resources from Readinga-z for elementary students and Scholastic Action for secondary students through Google Classroom. The English Language teacher will support students in content areas as needed and work with classroom/content teachers to assist English Language Learners with online learning.

Related services will be provided virtually, unless otherwise agreed upon by the team.

IV. Attendance

Student attendance will be taken by completing a Google form on the RSD website, in the same way they reported attendance on a Flexible Instruction Day. Families will be reminded to submit student attendance each day via the one-call system. Families may also contact the school attendance office via email to the attendance officer in the building where the student attends. Attendance must be reported by 10am each school day.

V. Technology Issues and/or Other Issues

The School District is working to determine which students have access to technology and the internet. Typically, students will complete instructional activities as outlined in Google Classroom for each course. Assignments through Google Classroom can include options for completing the work online and may include other options for completing work if technology access is not available, for example, via pencil and paper, then sending a photo of the work via email or text message if agreeable among teachers and families. Students without access to technology at home, but who may have access to email via a cell phone, may receive assignments via email from their classroom teacher/s and complete those assignments via paper and pencil. All such work will be submitted digitally to comply with social distancing requirements.

Students are expected to engage in the learning experiences provided by their teachers. Students and families have the opportunity to reach out to teachers via email and by way of Google Classroom for support, and teachers will provide feedback on student work as they would in a traditional classroom, but perhaps in a different format.

The School District recognizes that for some, learning through a virtual platform may provide challenges or barriers for any number of reasons. Technology access may fail or prove unreliable or students may struggle to process content through an online lesson. As teachers, administrators, and/or other district leaders learn of such barriers, the School District is committed to working with students and families in a professional, collaborative, and flexible manner to determine alternative ways that may be necessary to educate all children.

Teachers will continue to plan based on the School District curriculum and applicable standards, with the understanding that pacing, methods, and learning strategies cannot be identical to those within a traditional classroom. As such, teachers will utilize the time remaining in the school year to prioritize teaching of essential content specific to their respective grade level and course(s).

VI. Resources

Teachers will continue to receive access to and support with implementing supplemental materials which are reviewed over time.