

# COCALICO SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Denver, PA

A special meeting of the Cocalico School Board was called to order on Monday, May 4, 2020 by the President, Rev. Kevin Eshleman, who welcomed all those in attendance.

### Board Members Present

Richard Brenner	Lin Sensenig	Desiree Wagner
Pamela Blickle	Randy Renninger	Douglas Graybill
Juanita Fox	Brett Buckwalter	Rev. Kevin Eshleman

### Administrators Present

Dr. Ella Musser	Dr. Stephen Melnyk	Dr. Beth Haldeman
Sherrri Stull	Chris Irvine	Anthony DiMatteo

### Guests Present

Bradley Kafferlin	Kim Marselas	Bernadette Dolan
Jerry Harding		

Rev. Eshleman turned the meeting over to Dr. Ella H. Musser, Superintendent, who introduced Mr. Anthony DiMatteo, Cocalico Middle School Principal. Mr. DiMatteo shared information on the Middle School's efforts to continue student instruction during the COVID-19 quarantine. He stated that teachers were set up in teams, with two teams for each grade level and special subjects. Mr. DiMatteo commented that teachers were working together to serve their special needs students as well. He showed a video/audio example of Edpuzzle, a software application that creates interactive video lessons for students, and stated that teachers were also utilizing Schoology Discussion Boards to interact with their pupils. Teachers will be assessing student comprehension and adjusting their lessons as necessary in addition to collaborating within their departments.

Mr. Chris Irvine provided a handout describing graduation and other events being planned to honor this year's senior students. He shared that on May 20<sup>th</sup>, Eagle Stadium will be lit at 8:20 PM with the scoreboard counting down 20 minutes beginning at 8:30 PM. On May 30<sup>th</sup>, seniors and their parents will each attend an "individual" graduation ceremony on the football field with a photo opportunity and announcement of the graduate's name while receiving a diploma and graduation materials. A bus parade of seniors through the district communities will take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, complete with an escort of police and fire departments. Also on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Blue Ridge Cable will broadcast a pre-recorded baccalaureate service that local pastors and seniors are developing. In addition, Blue Ridge will broadcast our graduation ceremonies, beginning at 8:00 PM. A slide show of seniors in their caps and gowns will be included. Mr. Irvine also announced that the district is planning to create a Senior Newsletter to highlight these events.

Dr. Musser provided information concerning the development and analysis of if/then scenarios in case the start of the school year looks different than that of the past. Staggered in-

person schedules and hybrid instruction, among other ideas, are being considered. Related to the current use of virtual instruction, Dr. Musser reported that the district could apply for up to (5) Flexible Instruction Days to be used, if necessary, during the 2020-2021 school year. Students would take their laptops home during emergency school closings, and teachers would post lessons for them to access virtually. If approved, these could be utilized by public school entities as an alternate approach to delivering instruction if a circumstance arises that prevents instruction in customary manner.

In the 2020-2021 budget update, Dr. Musser shared that the district is slated to receive \$343,513 in funding through the CARES Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). Mrs. Sherri Stull, Business Manager, reported that although no changes were made to the budget since the last Board work session, the district business office is currently monitoring the effect COVID-19 will have on the district's revenues for this year and next year. She stated that those revenues include investment income, local income tax, real estate transfer taxes, and property taxes. Mrs. Stull added that state revenues will be negatively impacted as well.

Dr. Musser provided an update on district construction projects. She announced that Cocalico had received information that both the Middle School Chiller Replacement and Adamstown Elementary Addition/Renovations projects could move forward as planned, as long as CDC guidelines for construction sites are followed. Additionally, the district is currently working with its architects and related construction companies on this process.

Dr. Musser reported that the district was recently approached by Denver Borough to participate in an intergovernmental cooperation land bank agreement through Lancaster County. She explained that the Land Bank acquires blighted, condemned, or tax delinquent properties, working with both the municipality and school district in which the property is located. The taxing authorities agree to discharge tax claims and liens, and allow the Bank to hold the property tax-free while it is revitalized. Once the property is sold or leased after redevelopment, the municipality and school district share up to 50% of its real estate taxes for the next five years. Dr. Musser shared that Denver Borough has such a property located at 336 Main Street. Mrs. Stull added that the arrangement is beneficial for the community and similar to the LERTA program the district shares with East Cocalico Township.

Time was given for questions and answers after each presentation. There being no more business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned. Rev. Eshleman announced that the School Board would be holding an Executive Session immediately afterward to discuss Employee Evaluations.

Sherri L. Stull  
Secretary