

Monday, May 4, 2020

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE OF THE
BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held by video
conference, Bridgeport, Connecticut, May 4, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Committee members present were Chair Hernan Illingworth and Albert Benejan. Board member Joseph Sokolovic was present.

Acting superintendent Michael J. Testani was present.

Mr. Benejan moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 3, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth and unanimously approved.

Mr. Illingworth expressed his gratitude to the facilities department and all the custodians for working extremely hard and being on the frontlines every single day in the buildings.

Robert Hammond of the facilities department said to date about \$74,000 had been spent on COVID-based materials such as hand sanitizers, masks, bleach, hand towels, gloves, and spray bottles. Currently about 500 masks a week are being used by the facilities staff. There are about 8,000 masks in stock.

Mr. Hammond said unfortunately two custodians tested positive, but they have returned to work. About ten personnel were quarantined and they have also returned to work. He said a nurse performs mandatory temperature checks of

employees.

Alan Wallack noted the department's budget has not been increased over the last several years. He said the current situation will require more cleaning and more overtime. Mr. Hammond described the personnel reduction that has taken place in the department over the years.

In response to a question, Mr. Hammond described the mixing of bleach with water to clean and a solution recommended by the health department listed by the CDC.

Mr. Benejan expressed concern about the employees exposed to COVID, but Mr. Hammond said the two schools affected did not have any other symptomatic employees.

In response to a question, Mr. Hammond said over-the-counter bleach was being used.

In response to a question about ventilation and mold at schools, Mr. Hammond said he has sent out directives to change any ceiling tiles with water stains and custodians are required to report any leaks. He said a lot of small detail work has been taking place with the schools closed to students.

Mr. Hammond said the guidance he has received indicates the virus does not live on surfaces more than a few hours. He said he was hoping to receive notice that students' desks can be cleaned out as is done at the end of the school year.

Mr. Testani said he was anticipating the governor would announce tomorrow or the next day the cancellation of school for the remainder of the school year. He said he has spoken with Mr. Hammond about setting up a safe way for

teachers to clean out their rooms so summer cleaning can begin. Trades people have been performing tasks during the closure. He said he believed there might some limited outdoor camps at schools through Lighthouse during the summer, but without access to classrooms.

Mr. Illingworth said he was pleased to hear that unfortunately schools would not be reopened during this school year in order to keep everyone safe.

Mr. Testani said it was anticipated there is going to have to be hand sanitizer dispensers in main offices, entry ways, near the cafeteria, and near custodian locations. Ms. Earley of the nursing department has been instructed to obtain 75 to 100 forehead thermometers.

In response to a question, Mr. Hammond said custodians are supposed to use one mask per day.

Mr. Testani said it is expected that a donation of 10,000 masks will be received this week for distribution to security, food & nutrition, custodians, and those working in buildings.

Mr. Illingworth thanked Mr. Testani, Mr. Wallack, Mr. Hammond, and the frontline staff.

Mr. Benejan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod