

**PROFILE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HYBRID MEETING HELD ELECTRONICALLY
VIA ZOOM
BETHLEHEM, NH 03574**

**DATE: December 12, 2020
Time: 4:00 pm**

EMERGENCY PROFILE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ELECTRONICALLY HELD MEETING: see below under Call to Order

PRESENT REMOTELY: Board Chair - Kim Koprowski, Tim Burger, Dr. Alice Rocke, Business Manager - Toni Butterfield, Principal - Kerry Sheehan, Interim Superintendent - Tari Thomas, Vickie Moore - board clerk, Ruth Heintz, Adam Boyer, John Devlin

PUBLIC PRESENT REMOTELY: Amy & Eric Mullins, Anik Avar, Melissa Pratt, Ava Garneau, Monique Raymond, Jill Brewer, Veronica Morris, Shawna Murphy, Kyle Jacobs, Lani Lovas, Samantha Presby, Ken Grey, Thea Dow, Dr. Erin Heiskell, Kim Johnson, Marc Cote, Melody Brown, John & Kim Dimarzio, Gail Huerter, Kristen Briggs, Bob Weir, Angela Broscoe, Cindy McLaren, Janel Lawton, Amanda Clough, Samantha Patel, Gordie Johnk, Molly Fulton-Smith, Kim Knighton, Mike Charron, Nicole Bell, Joel & Hannah Brantley, Jason & Jae Tors, Amy Rasmussen, Tine Brown, Mya Brown, Maddie Koehlor, Bode Dimarzio, Noah Boyer, Tammy Queeney, Emily Russell, Ann Eaton, Elaine Sojka, Ellen Skonburg, Shellie Koehler, Crystal Hodgdon, Dr. Jessica Jacobs,

CALL TO ORDER: Kim Koprowski called the public meeting to order at 4:04 pm. This emergency school board meeting was called to hear the public input about Profile school re-opening on December 14, 2020, or stay Remote until January 19, 2021. Everyone that would like to speak please add your name into the chat, everyone will be heard, please keep comments kind and respectful. The board will go non-public to discuss and vote after hearing everyone on this matter.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Amy & Eric Mullins (Franconia) - Concerns with college choices, students that are having to leave or not attend school to help with younger siblings that are not in school at this time. There are not that many cases of Covid in the area and feels that the students should remain in school these next 7 days.

Anik White (Bethlehem) - The safest place for students to be right now is in school from 7:30 am - 1:30 pm, wearing masks and following the school protocols that are in place. Parents have to work, kids are done with remote school by 10:00 am, and my eighth grader is then on his own without wearing a mask.

Melissa Pratt (Sugar Hill) - Social and emotional well being of students is the concern. Profile has got the space, staff to keep the kids safe and protocols in place. There are other schools that have cases and are still staying open. Remote learning ends by 10-10:30 am, school sports are affected by this and that is a huge part of school.

Ava Garneau (Bethlehem) - School is a second home to students, students count on school as a schedule to their day. This is my senior year and I find it a personal struggle with remote learning and hard to get motivated while on remote. Profile is keeping students safe, socializing is key and helps with depression and motivation. Mental health is draining, students are feeling stressed while remote learning. Students are following the protocols that Profile has to remain safe during their school days, the student body will continue to follow these protocols to be able to go back to school on Monday December 14, 2020.

Monique Raymond (Bethlehem) - When do students go back to school? Kim K., responded that this meeting is what is deciding that date. Monique went on about the structure of the school day and how it helps her son, feels that we should go back on December 14, 2020.

Jill Brewer (Franconia) - Opened with her role at Profile School as a guidance counselor, agrees that remote is far from ideal, but safety is concern. Living in the Franconia area and is very proactive to the metrics on the community spread of Covid - 19. Data is showing a significant spread in the county, we are in the red and should be shut down. Virus is the enemy, school board is not, this virus is killing 3,000 plus people daily, come spring those numbers will be higher. We need to fight the virus by wearing masks, staying 6 feet apart, and yes the school is safe but until the community spread is safe, school's need to be protected. Student's need for social and emotional interaction is important but school opening needs to go by the data in the community. This virus is new, students can spread it as well as getting it.

Veronica Morris (Bethlehem) - State of New Hampshire, SAU 35, Profile were called to be hybrid due to community spread, if this was in the reopening plan then the plan needs to be changed. Parents have sent students back to school with the understanding that the plan was going to be followed. Looking at the data and seeing the virus attack students can be a significant hit. I live in a multi-generation home, students can come home and give it to the older adults in the home.

Kim K. interrupted to go over the rules of this meeting, due to chat comments.

Veronica continued with the students struggling with socializing, is there a way that Profile can set up a peer program or buddy check in program? There have to be other ways to solve this besides coming back into school.

Lani Lovas Profile School Nurse and Covid coordinator (Sugar Hill) - Went over her background degree and what she is doing on a daily basis. Looking at the data, we are above the 1%, daily counts are increasing. In the fall we were under 1%. Looking at the hospital ICU beds, the numbers are okay for now but a surge will cause an overload. Community is increasing in spread, and some staff do not live in the community, students travel for sports, and community travel out of state, we are on the edge. It is not going to get better, schools are not social spreaders but the community is. State of New Hampshire only has to wear a mask. The Profile

reopening committee knows and wants students back in school, but numbers in Covid-19 cases are rising. The DHHS metric data says the least restrictions on schools should be hybrid or remote.

Samantha Presby (Franconia) - Lafayette school nurse, no cases to either Lafayette and Profile schools also no community outbreak in the area. Went over the shut down and if there were cases, there are no cases so the question is why would Profile go remote?

Ken Grey (Bethlehem) - Agree with stress on the families and the students at this moment. The difference between long term needs, with holidays coming it would be easier to look back and see students safe. Remote is temporary, students and families would be safer.

Thea Dow (Franconia) - Being the art teacher at Profile School and a parent to a child that goes to the Franconia Child Care Center, which the center had a case of Covid a couple of weeks ago. While doing a weekly check in with one of the seniors over a zoom, the student said that she would rather be out second quarter if it means coming back for third and fourth quarter.

Dr. Erin Heiskell (Franconia) - As a family practitioner speaking with patients about living life with a pandemic, I feel life is an everyday risk. Profile has done a great job on safety, wearing face masks, social distancing and kids should be in school. Data is not getting better but what if we don't come back after January, the social piece for the students is what she is concerned about.

Kim Johnson (Bethlehem) - Seeing more testing and feeling that there are more false positives. Seeing so many out of states coming here, it will not be better come January. What about the emotional well being for students? No cases are at the school, what if we close down in January?

Mark Cote (Bethlehem) - Did not know about the reopening plan, thinks that we follow the plan. Students are scared, he had heard about a suicide that was remote related. Children are our future, we know the fear of this virus, watching his son decline while out during remote, concerned about son and college acceptance. Put the children first over this pandemic, too much time on students hands with remote learning, Afraid of suicide rates going up with this pandemic.

Melody Brown (Bethlehem) - What is the original reopening plan? If there were cases in the school, is that in the plan? Kim K., let the panel know that on the Profile School website the reopening plan is there and invited everyone to go look at it, it is long. Melody appreciates the board but wants them to take into consideration of no to few cases in the community. What about sports? If there is face to face at school there will be sports, if we are remote there will not be sports.

Lani Lovas - While we are remote students are having weekly check-ins with staff. We are following up with students having issues with classes, social and emotional issues. We have had some close calls, we have discussed not closing if there was one case in the school. I do not feel comfortable seeking out staff or students that may have Covid, but will address symptoms. The advisory committee is making decisions at school level not state level, but has to keep community numbers as a part of the decision process. I am grateful to get feedback from the parents and also concerned about the social and emotional piece regarding the student body.

John & Kim Dimarzio (Franconia) - Agreed that remote learning is better now than what it was in the spring. Appreciates the phone calls from staff weekly, but feels that students are not saying how they are really feeling. Wants to see kids back in school, sees changes in her kids attitude while remote. Internet connection is hard, some towns do not have the best connection, both parents work from home and have a hard time to work when students are in zooms doing remote learning. Challenging with remote and internet connections.

Kristen Briggs (Bethlehem) - Has one child that is immune compromised and one that has anxiety. Sat down and talked with her children about the situation, and they want to be in school, feels there is no structure with remote learning and that in person learning is better. Mental health needs to be a part of this decision. There is an anxiety build up with remote learning especially when students email teachers and the response time is not right back. Profile school so far has done a great job, no cases so far in the school and just feels that the mental health of students needs to be taken into consideration and in person is very important.

Jae Kim (Sugar Hill) - Thank you to the administration, teachers and staff at Profile school, great reopening plan and a great job done so far. What Profile is doing, I feel is containing the spread, following the CDC guidelines and wants to have face to face next week. Feels that the school protocol that is in place is working. Question- Is this district wide decision or separate for each school in the SAU? Some families have multiple children in different schools.

Kim K., responded that it is different for each school in the SAU 35 district on this decision. Each chair from the school board meets monthly.

Tari Thomas - Superintendent for SAU 35 commented as well that Bethlehem Elementary School is remote till January 19, 2021, Lafayette will be revisiting remote options on Monday December 14, 2020 in an emergency school board meeting.

Gail Huerter (Bethlehem) - Has a problem as well with the internet, both of her sons can not be on Zoom's at the same time without one being kicked off. Feels bad for the senior class and athletes. Her Sophomore son has a lot of work to do, whereas her Junior son does not have a lot to do. Kids should be back in school for structure, thank you for the great job that everyone is doing at Profile.

Molly Fulton (Bethlehem) - Immune compromised, and is watching son struggle and almost failed his sophomore year last year while remote. All for students to be back in school and to play sports. Profile has done an amazing job while the students are back in the building, with keeping everyone safe. Being in school is good emotionally, socially and structurally for the students. Feels strongly on returning, was upset to see there is a possibility of not happening, feels that it is uncalled for with no cases being in the school.

Nicole Bell (Franconia) - Has questions but first wants to thank administration, teachers and the staff at Profile for the great job they are doing. Out of the box thinking is great, regarding the reopening plan, can the school operate if it opens on December 14, 2020? Is there enough staff? Is there a facility issue?

Kim K. responded, the facility has no issues that she is aware of, filters are being changed regularly, staff wise I would like Kerry the principal at Profile touch on that.

Kerry Sheehan (Principal) - thank you Nicole for that question, as of right now I do not know if we'll have enough staff on Monday. I know that as of right now we have two staff members that will not be back until January 19, 2021. Will be a day to day thing, does not want to do this to families, but it is a reality of not knowing what staff may be out. Substitutes do not have the legality of what needs to be done. Teachers will be teaching remote but still need to have a substitute in the room.

Nicole Bell questioned the sub pool, is Profile able to hire a full time substitute?

Kerry responded that Profile does have a full time sub that works four days a week, if we have five staff members out, we do not have enough coverage and that is our threshold.

Kim K. - Would like to hear a couple more people speak before going into the non-public.

Madeline Koehler (Franconia) - Student at Profile, feels that we should be back in school.

Thankful to Profile staff for keeping everyone safe this far. I Want to go back to school on Monday, December 14, 2020.

Mya Brown (Bethlehem) - Student at Profile, Does not feel that remote learning is very beneficial over face to face. With face to face the students get an answer to questions from teachers immediately whereas as remote you have to wait awhile to get a response. Remote learning ends early for her and she has nothing to do after, but in school she would have other things to do, and have sports. Question- how will sports be handled?

Kim K., responded with if in school there will be sports, if we stay remote there will be no sports until we are back in school face to face.

Janel Lawton (Bethlehem) - Considerations made daily that Kerry has to make. The data is looked at daily and I have a senior and want her in school but want her safe. We are lucky to have Lani Lovas on the reopening committee and at the school, looking at the data daily and keeping us informed. What was looked at in the fall and the plan was made, do we need to revisit the reopening plan and change some things? If you look at the reopening plan the school should be remote and not be in session. We need to put emotions aside and ask if we are sticking with the plan. Things change daily, the plan was voted on by the board and community. What are our risk levels that we feel comfortable with? Is it higher now? The future is unknown, this decision is for the next seven days that's it. With coming back on January 19, 2021, back to being full on with activities back on regular schedule. We need to compress the curve, immunization coming out, everyone needs to understand about the decision that was made in the fall, should the plan be changed?

Kim K. - Thank you all for attending at this time we will have the school board go into non-public to discuss this further, board went into non-public at 5:48 pm.

Back to public at 6:28 pm

Adam Boyer motioned to have Profile School to be back to face to face on Monday December 14, 2020. John Devlin seconded the motion and the board all voted for school to be back to face to face.

Kim K. motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm, Dr. Alice Rocke second it.

