

**The Board of Education of the Borough of Lodi, New Jersey,  
Special Meeting, 21 August 2020, via ZOOM broadcast at 12:00 P.M.**

**I. Call to Order – President Schrieks**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Sunshine Law**

The following statement was read by Mr. Schrieks:

"The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Lodi Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof sent and/or published in the Herald News, Bergen Record, Office of the Borough Clerk, and the entrance to the Board of Education Meeting Room."

**IV. Roll Call**

	Present	Absent	Arrival
Cardone	X		
Delgado		X	
A.Mastrofilipo	X		
K.Mastrofilipo		X	
Ramos	X		
Salvacion	X		
Scorzetti	X		
Telep	X		
Schrieks	X		

Quorum confirmed: [x] Yes [ ] No

**Also, present:** Mr. James R. Sekelsky, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, Dr. Douglas J. Petty, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Matthew Giacobbe and Mr. Joe Garcia, Board Attorneys.

President Schrieks announced that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss and vote on a possible full virtual school opening based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Petty presents and recommends the virtual learning plan to the Board members.

The Board Attorney clarifies that this vote is only to authorize the submission of the Full Virtual Plan to the County Superintendent of Schools. The county will notify Dr. Petty when the plan is approved.

Trustee Cardone clarifies that the Board is not required to approve the re-opening plan. Attorney confirms that no board approval is required.

Trustee Cardone also confirms that there will not be a closed session held at this meeting as indicated on the meeting notice.

Trustee Scorzetti confirms with Dr. Petty that the virtual plan is a full day plan.

Trustee A. Mastrofilipo addresses the agenda and confirms that the Board can ask questions after the Hearing of Citizens.

## **V. Public Comment/Hearing of Citizens**

Marisol Salomon- 45 Roosevelt Avenue- If the board decides on an all virtual program, the students should have the opportunity to connect via Zoom or another virtual platform to be able to engage with their teacher and the students. The paper packets are not as effective for their progress. Thank you.

Trustee A. Mastrofilipo questioned why the district is changing to an all virtual plan since there has not been any state guidance issued since previous plan was adopted. He would like to keep the Hybrid model.

Trustee Cardone states that for the safety of the students, all students should remain home and attend school virtually.

Dr. Petty explain what has changed is the lack of Personal Protection Equipment to open safely.

Trustee Cardone supports going virtual due to lack of equipment and staff training. Also, the issue of the schools lack of HVAC and children wearing masks in times of heat.

Trustee Salvacion clarifies that the situation can change again in the near future and that going virtual is the best option at this moment.

Trustee Scorzetti confirms that the teachers will be in the schools full time.

Trustee Telep asked about the ability to have all teachers streaming classes at one time and was informed that the district will be increasing the bandwidth to allow the increase in streaming.

Dr. Petty explained that he and the District want to bring all students back when it is safe.

VI. MOTION

Motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the request to open school on a full virtual plan to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

Motion to adopt: Scorzetti Seconded By: Schriecks

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Cardone	X			
Delgado				X
A.Mastrofilipo		X		
K.Mastrofilipo				X
Ramos		X		
Salvacion	X			
Scorzetti	X			
Telep		X		
Schriecks	X			

Motion Passed: [x] Yes [ ] No

V. Public Comment/Hearing of Citizens

Debbie Ferreira- St Joseph Blvd - I am voicing my opinion regarding the reopening of Lodi schools. The coronavirus is here to stay - nothing will miraculously change in a couple of weeks. After months of protecting our families we are throwing children and teachers into the lions den. How will masks stay on young children? How will they keep their distance from their classmates in the classroom? What happens when they have to use the bathroom? Will they wash their hands? I honestly don't see how much they will learn vs. remote learning if school closes because of someone testing positive for the virus. Will students and staff be tested before school reopens? There is no point in starting school if you will have to shut down - it's been happening in schools that reopened all over the United States. It is the perfect environment for this disease to spread. While I understand kids want to be back in school and parents need them to be back in school so they can work now is not the time. Students and teachers need to be in a safe environment. Please reconsider opening schools here in Lodi. It has to be done right and there hasn't been enough time to do that

Jennie Jimenez- 44 South Main Street- I just wanted some clarification. I understand that the students participating in the virtual instruction will participate using Google Classroom. These virtual lessons will be pre-recorded. Are we working on a way where the students can participate in live sessions? Google Classroom offers live streaming. Are we utilizing that? This can potentially alleviate any extra time the teachers have to put in to create virtual lessons and the students can get their typical 6 hours of school vs 4 hours. Not to mention, it may help meet the social and emotional needs of the students when they will be able to have some interaction with their teachers and peers even if it's through a screen.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**


Motion to return to public session and adjourn meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Motion to return and adjourn: Cardone Seconded By: Telep

Vote was by voice and unanimous.

THE PRECEDING IS A CONCISE STATEMENT INTERPRETED BY THE BOARD SECRETARY AND MAY NOT INDICATE THE PRECISE INTENT OF THE BOARD MEMBERS. THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ARE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE BOARD SECRETARY.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Sekelsky", is written over a horizontal line.

James R. Sekelsky  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator

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