Strong Foundations Charter School

Emergency Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2020

Present: Jocelyn Perez, Mark Sisti, Bri Rys, Heather Warfield, Dina Condodemetraky.

Meeting called to order at 11:03 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss what action to take regarding either keeping the school open or closing it due to the COVID-19 virus.

Option 1: Keep the school open for the four scheduled days in the upcoming week and use Friday’s PD day to prepare for remote learning.

Option 2: Close the school as of Monday, March 16

Pros and discussion for Option #1:

1. No community transmission to date: Discussion included the lack of testing to rule out existing cases
2. Very few cases of the virus in NH: Discussion included the possibility that with more testing the number of cases would rise.
3. Children don’t appear to get it: Discussion included the possibility that children could be asymptomatic carriers.
4. Parents work and need notice to work from home: Discussion included actual situations of parent board members.

Closures starting to happen across the state. Pembroke and entire SAU#53 has closed. Concord is having a meeting Sunday night to discuss plans

Sisti shared impact on legal system in NH

* All jury trials have been postponed in NH
* Federal criminal system has been shut down.
* Institutionally, the jails and prisons are not allowing visitation except for lawyerrs.
* Most major institutions are going to shut down.

Discussion:

* Either postpone the decision 24 hours or make a decision to close effective Monday.
* Board discussed whether shutting down would be too strong a reaction to the current situation.
* Family situations shouldn’t factor into our decision to close. Have been getting more impactful statements from government leaders.
* Currently have 36-48 hours to put people on notice. If board chooses to close today, families would have a buffer to prepare in an orderly fashion.
* Every family is putting contingency plans in place.
* School could take 4 days while we prepare for the online learning. On the other hand, keeping open is going to stop us from preparing.
* People are not going to be happy with whatever decision is made.
* By Monday the overwhelming majority of schools will be closed. 7th confirmed case came in this morning.
* More research being done on what has been happening in other districts.
* Our school includes students who live in multiple districts affected in multiple different ways.
* Don’t want us to be the outlier, and one of the few who is open.

Condodemetraky made a motion that we close the school beginning Monday, March 16 with the plan of beginning online learning by Wednesday, March 18. of next week. Second by Rys.

Roll call vote: Sisti: yes; Condo: yes; Heather: yes; Perez: yes; Rys: yes

Motion to close passed unanimously.

There is no definite end date. Board will revisit when needed

Condodemetraky offered to assist as needed.

McClure wants to keep hourly workers working throughout the closing. The board supports that decision.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.