

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING – PUBLIC HEARING – August 22, 2023 – 4:45 P.M.
Administration Building – 929 York Street – Kernan School**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph H. Hobika Jr, Presiding; Danielle Padula, Robert Cardillo, Donald Dawes, Tennille Knoop, James Paul, Jason Cooper

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Kathleen Davis, Acting Superintendent, Andre Paradis, Ann Marie Palladino, Kathy Hughes

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President Hobika, Jr. called the Special Meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance Board Clerk Kathy Hughes conducted Roll Call. All members of the Board of were present.

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Public Comment to the Board of Education

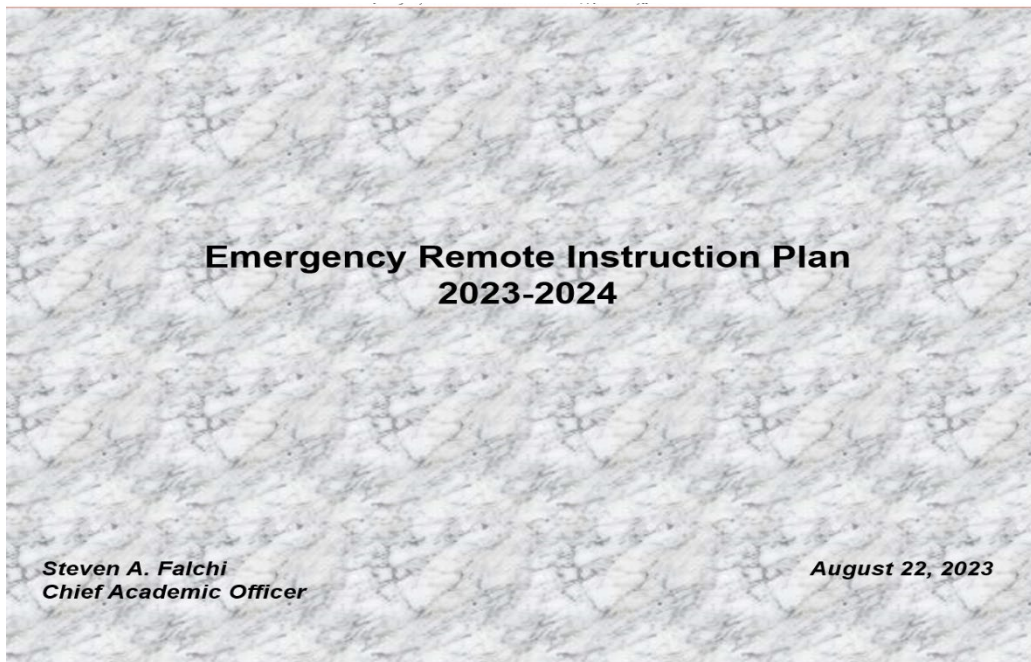
None

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Public Hearing – Presentation

Utica City School District’s Emergency Remote Learning Plan – Dr. Kathleen Davis, Acting Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Davis presented the following PowerPoint:



Emergency Remote Instruction Plan

- Pursuant to recent amendments to the New York State Commissioner's Regulations, all school districts are required to have an Emergency Remote Learning plans as part of the school district's District-wide School Safety Plan.
- This requirement is effective for the 2023-2024 school year. All plans must be adopted by the Board of Education by September 1st.
- All District-wide safety plans, inclusive of the Emergency Remote Learning plan must be submitted to the New York State Education Department by October 1st of each school year.

Emergency Remote Instruction Plan Requirements

Plans must address the following key items, which are described in detail in the Utica City School District Emergency Remote Instruction Plan:

- ✓ Ensuring that computing devices will be made available to students (or other means by which students will be able to participate in synchronous (live) instruction).
- ✓ Ensuring access to internet connectivity during emergency remote instruction.
- ✓ Establishing expectations for school staff to ensure synchronous (live) instruction with asynchronous instruction as a supplement.
- ✓ Description of how instruction will occur for those students where digital technology may not be available or appropriate.
- ✓ Description of how special education students services and related services will be provided according to the student's Individualized Education Program.
- ✓ The number of instructional hours the school district intends to claim for each day spent in remote instruction due to an emergency condition.

UCSD Emergency Remote Instruction Plan Highlights

Availability of computer device and internet accessibility

The school district conducts surveys to assess which students need computer and mobile Wi-Fi devices. This survey information will be used by principals to prepare for the deployment of computers and mobile Wi-Fi devices in the event of an emergency school closure.

Expectations for school staff to ensure synchronous (live) instruction with asynchronous instruction as a supplement

All teachers will establish and train students in the use of their Google Classroom at the beginning of the school year. During an emergency school closure, teachers will provide and students will receive synchronous (live) instruction, utilizing a virtual platform such as Zoom or Google Meets according to their daily schedule. Asynchronous instruction may be posted in the teacher's Google Classroom to supplement the daily lesson; however it may not supplant synchronous (live) instruction. Guidance Counselors will execute lessons, classroom and student support in accordance with the school district's guidance plan.

UCSD Emergency Remote Instruction Plan Highlights

Instruction for those students where digital technology may not be available or appropriate

The proportion of synchronous (live) and asynchronous instruction will be adjusted at the discretion of the teacher or grade level team with authorization from the building principal to ensure that it is age and developmentally appropriate (i.e. severely disabled students and students in grades K-2). Instruction may combine live instruction, teacher check-ins and independent activities as approved by the building principal.

Special education students services and related services will be provided according to the student's Individualized Education Program.

In order to implement supports and services for students according to their Individual Education Plan to the greatest extent possible, teacher assistants will be present in virtual classrooms as per their daily schedule to provide assistance and support. Related service providers such as Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, and Physical Therapists, as well as Social Workers will provide IEP services virtually as per the student schedule.

UCSD Emergency Remote Instruction Plan Highlights

The number of instructional hours the school district intends to claim for each day spent in remote instruction due to an emergency condition.

By providing synchronous (live) instruction during an emergency school closure, the Utica City School District intends to claim the same number of instructional hours on an emergency remote day that it would report during a regular school day:

Elementary – 6 hours (1,080 instructional hours per year)

Middle and high school – 5.6 hours (1,008 instructional hours per year)

**The Utica City School District builds five (5) snow days into its yearly calendar in order to meet the required minimum of 180 days of instruction. At this time, emergency remote instruction will not take place on these days unless otherwise announced by the school district.



Adjournment

Mr. Dawes made a motion to adjourn the August 22, 2023, Special Meeting – Public Hearing; seconded by Mrs. Padula.

The Special Meeting – Public Hearing was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 7-0.**

Respectfully transcribed and submitted,

STEPHANIE LYNESS
Assistant Board Clerk