

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200
Minutes of the Return to School Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Monday, October 26, 2020
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Brian Haselhorst at 6:00 p.m. The following Committee members were present: Joe Bennett, Alexis Booth, Julie Brosnan, Nicole Difford, Ashley Doetch, Tim Fleming, Sarah Fleming, Jason Geiger, Dr. Mike Greenlee, Wanda Grover, Amanda Hahn, Jake Hubert, Lisa Leden, Dave Lessard, Christi Morelock, Ed Mulholland, Jarrod Peterson, Kari Neri, Andrea Sowers, Marcy Wilson and Katie Windelborn. Absent: Jodi Rogers and Tracy Schabacker. Also Present: Tom Kinser and Mary Maxey.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Mr. Hubert read a letter from a group of concerned teachers. The teachers felt reporting to the school building every day to deliver remote instruction was an unnecessary exposure, when they have the tools they need to work from home. They stated teachers are a valuable resource and commodity, and deserve respect and the opportunity to protect themselves and their communities.

Ms. Ginger Tessema submitted a video describing her distress in being a single parent and juggling remote learning. Her son also shared a video asking for a return to in-person learning.

Mr. Owen Costanza, Village Board President shared a video which stressed the importance of in-person learning.

Mr. Haselhorst read a letter from a kindergarten parent that wished to receive the same in person options as older students.

Another letter was received from a family that wished to keep their students in remote learning due to current metrics and concern for their health.

METRICS

Mrs. Neri and Mrs. Brosnan reviewed the current metrics, and said the District is trying to find the best way and time to phase in students. The K-4 teachers were polled and asked if the District should continue to follow science and the Health Department as a guide to bring students back in-person. The K-4 teachers replied overwhelmingly with a yes response. The Committee discussed the possibility of tracking our in house school numbers as we bring back students. One speculation was if we went purely by the metrics, we may not see students back in person until March or April.

The Committee discussed whether they should take a vote on where they stand on the topic of following metrics. In the K-4 survey, teachers preferred to teach as they are doing now instead of having 2.5 hours of in-person school, as they felt they have more instructional time.

CURRENT PLAN

Dr. Greenlee said our phase in plan dates are now: Phase I - November 16; Phase II - November 30; Phase III - January 4, and Phase IV – semester.

Mrs. Neri reviewed the details of the current plan, and discussed the number of changes that would be necessary if K-4 students were both remote and in-person. Mrs. Difford noted the impact on students would be nearly 100%, which the teachers found disturbing.

Dr. Greenlee suggested a targeted assistance plan where they would work with buildings to bring back smaller groups of students. At risk and struggling students would be the first priority. He asked if the Committee was open to exploring small groups returning. The majority of the Committee liked that idea, and there was a consensus to explore that approach. UE and MS Special Education teachers are ready to go with that plan and have already calculated the estimated number of students, and how they could keep the students socially distanced between two rooms.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(none)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be Monday, November 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Google Meet.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

Brian Haselhorst, Chair