

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
Board of Education

North Boone High School

Commons / Cafeteria

17823 Poplar Grove Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Joe Haverly.

Present: Brian Haselhorst, President Joe Haverly, Vice President Tom Kinser, Lisa Leden, Secretary Mary Maxey, Ed Mulholland and Carl Rudy.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Kinser and seconded by Mr. Rudy to approve the Agenda as amended. Move Item V.B - E-Learning Plan before V.A - Re-Opening Costs.

Ayes: Mr. Haverly, Mr. Kinser, Mrs. Leden and Mr. Rudy

Nays: Mr. Haselhorst, Mrs. Maxey and Mr. Mulholland

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Ms. Becky Self expressed her concern about the return to school plans. She stated 70-80% of students want to return to school in person, and felt there would be a lack of connection with teachers in on-line learning and also cited problems with connectivity.

Mr. David Lessard expressed his thoughts on returning to school, and was in favor of in-person learning based on his interpretations of the pandemic statistics.

Mr. Jason Jurs thanked the Board and Administrators for their dedication. His concern was regarding the expenditure of \$500K or more for Plexiglas dividers, when we may get sent home. He said to consider taking that money and dividing it up amongst schools and staff for the impact it is having on them. He asked if the Board would re-commit to In-Person and Remote learning.

Mr. Haverly read concerns that had been submitted online which included the comments below:

- Are teachers allowed to work from home?
- My child needs to be around other students and social workers. Please make it possible.
- In-person is not the safest option, as there is quite a risk to be had. I hope the Board votes for e-learning.
- This is a difficult decision, but computers cannot replace teachers. Has the District considered splits for K-8? Please consider the whole child.
- Choice is the best option.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. E-Learning Plan (moved to before Item A)

Dr. Greenlee noted the plan was developed from guidelines from ISBE and the Department of Health. He thanked the staff and Board for their time invested into the planning. He stated his priority is to keep students and staff safe and do what is best for kids. Dr. Greenlee said, in working with students, staff, parents, the Health Department and Board it was every intention to be in-person, however, at this point the risks seem too high, and he recommends e-learning, with the intention of re-evaluating at quarter. The Administrators generally felt teaching in person was probably best, but did not feel they could be 100% positive they could keep kids safe, as it would be contingent on all students following rules and social distancing. The new survey results show 66% of the NBEA staff wants e-learning.

Mr. Mulholland thanked all the Administrators and apologized for giving them any resistance in the past regarding the learning plans.

Ms. Sager stated from a health standpoint, the nursing team has worked diligently all summer to bring students back safely, but said there are numerous examples of how quickly this virus can spread and this is shaking all of nursing. Right now, Boone County's numbers are higher than they'd like and Winnebago County is on the warning list. The nursing staff felt starting students remotely would keep kids as safe as possible, and if we can keep the numbers down, we could bring the kids back. Their goal is to keep everyone as healthy as possible.

Mr. Kinser felt e-learning was for if the Governor shut us down and felt if we met ISBE, CDC and the Illinois Department of Health guidelines, we could bring back students. His opinion was we should allow parents to make their individual decisions. Mrs. Maxey thanked the Administrative team for working hard on the three plans in an impossible situation. She doesn't see how a school setting can keep kids safe, and is supporting of Dr. Greenlee's e-learning plan and re-assessing the situation in the future. Mr. Haselhorst supported the e-learning plan and wondered about life skills and small groups. Dr. Greenlee stated at a safer point, we could do small groups and modified learning. Mr. Rudy asked if this was the threshold and it was unmanageable, what conditions would drive the approval for students to return. Dr. Greenlee said the Boone County Health Department wants to see a substantial decline and downward trend in numbers.

A motion was made by Mr. Mulholland and seconded by Mrs. Maxey to approve the E-Learning Plan as presented.

Ayes: Mr. Haselhorst, Mr. Haverly, Mrs. Leden, Mrs. Maxey, Mr. Mulholland and
Mr. Rudy
Nays: Mr. Kinser

A. Re-Opening Costs

Ms. Geyman presented estimates of the additional costs to re-open during the pandemic. The addition of Plexiglas dividers would add \$500K to our expenditures. With the decrease in O&M and Fire Prevention funds, the total would be approximately a \$418K deficit considering the extra Covid costs.

OTHER ITEMS

(none)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey seconded by Mr. Mulholland to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.
The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

PRESIDENT _____

SECRETARY _____

APPROVED: