

MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SLINGER SCHOOL DISTRICT
SLINGER, WISCONSIN
June 24th, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Strupp at 6:00 PM in the High School IMC.

Members answering roll were: Ken Strupp, Bruce Hassler, Gary Feltz, Cherie Rhodes, Roman Weninger, Jody Strupp and Joe Havey via call in. Also present were administrators and directors: Daren Sievers, Jim Curler, Karen Hug, Patrick Armstrong, Cindy Fassbender, and 36 in person guests and 62 call in guests.

Sievers affirmed the public notice.

K. Strupp began the meeting with a statement to the audience on behalf of the entire Slinger School Board: "Please know that student welfare and safety is priority one, but so is providing the optimum learning environment for our students. We have worked very hard to keep our buildings modern and state of the art in terms of safety and programming. We have also worked very hard to hire and retain the best staff providing the best learning outcomes and programs. I can assure you that we will work very hard to manage these pandemic circumstances to the best of our ability and find a balance between safety, quality educational services, and normalcy".

Public comments and questions:

Debra Yogerst - How would families be split if days/weeks are split?

Amy Helminiak – There is a need for teacher accountability for all; same agendas for same grade levels; more teacher interaction & learning activities

Candi Martin – Son had great experience with HS virtual learning...teachers did very well.

David Leiter – Specials classes were not very productive.

Ron Reichle – He had two children in elementary; experience was awesome; specials teachers did not take a day off as it is hard to keep kids engaged to pass; asking for better teacher resources.

Lee Ann Lau - Slinger did an awesome job at on-line learning; review curriculum and teachers' ability to succeed in on-line learning for fall – invest in teacher training.

Sherrie Meyer-Peter - Slinger did a great job; son struggled; against virtual learning for those that cannot do virtual learning; need to find a way to help those students.

Ashley Bungert – Virtual learning is very tough; elementary need face to face especially for IEP students.

Rachel Blonski – Same as Ashley Bungert – daycare does not have technology to support virtual learning

Sievers began his report to the Board regarding all critical matters related to the state mandated school closing due to COVID-19 and the preparations needed for the 2020-21 school year.

The Slinger School District Mission Statement was read aloud to help relate our everyday goals to how the District is putting every aspect of the mission statement in place for the fall return to school plan.

Sievers presented the results/summary of a parent survey conducted by School Perceptions, LLC on behalf of the Slinger School District in June to help develop plans to open school in the fall of 2020. Overall, the survey had an excellent response rate with 1,945 parents responding of 2,970 emails going out (65%). Sievers walked through the highlights of each question and will send the results out to District families by the end of the week.

Curler presented the progress the administration has made on back to school plans. He is chairing a committee consisting of administrators, business office staff, Go Riteway bussing, food service director, building and grounds manager, St Peter's Catholic School representative, school nurse, and representatives from other points of value as they are needed to make decisions for the good of all. The committee has already met and started the process of developing a plan for how to offer face to face instruction as well as online options for those families who prefer not to come back in September. The plan will encompass stages of a student and staffs' day from start to finish and it will have specific guidelines for the possibility that an individual shows symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. Curler went through the different areas that will need additional attention as far as nursing services, cleaning services, bussing/transportation services, technology services/equipment, etc... He also referenced the Education Forward (Safely and Successfully Reopening Wisconsin Schools) booklet provided by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) that was published to all districts on June 22, 2020; highlighting what DPI wants us to consider via charts. Page 31 of the booklet will be the immediate focus.

Example of 9 stage student day plan: home, bus, entrance, classroom, recess, lunch, specials, dismissal, extra-curricular, Kool Kids (after school daycare)

Items already addressed by the committee/Board:

- Official back-to-school plan to go out August 3rd to public.
- Increase nursing services by 40%
- Building and Grounds staff trained and certified in Infectious Disease Control
- Similar curriculum platforms per grade level to be sure the delivery is similar for all
- PPE (personal protective equipment) items have been ordered and will be present throughout the schools
- Hygienic faucets ordered
- Bottle filled water dispensers ordered
- Increased technology capabilities have been planned for

Sievers reported on recent conversation with transportation company. Still in preliminary stages and planning. Conversations around 12-48 students per bus; loading from back to front of bus;

etc.. A survey may go out to parents to determine if bringing students to school vs bus service is an option for families and how many families will be taking the bus in order to know bus routes.

An additional survey may inquire how many families will be bringing in their own lunches in order to meet staffing needs and social distance needs.

Sievers presented his findings from the Ozaukee/Washington County Health Department meeting to include surrounding area school districts on June 23, 2020. The Public Health's role:

- advise and provide guidance with no mandates (due to county differences)
- report positive student and staff cases (10 days out and 72 hrs of being asymptomatic)
- recommend "DPI – Reopening of School Risk Assessment Tool" as a starting point
- Ozaukee/Washington County Blueprint as "go to" resource (copy handed out)
- Would not endorse any one "back to school" model
- Local decision based on School Board and Community (no two are alike)
- "Safe" vs "As Safe as Possible"; stay at home vs going to school
- Risk Mitigation should be the focus
 - Social Distancing – 6ft
 - Masks are recommended but not required
 - Shields cannot replace masks; provide additional protection to eyes
 - PPE for Health Room Assistants – masks/gowns
 - Keeping sick students and staff home – parents doing the checks before they leave home

Areas of Priority: Sports (WIAA guidance – contact sports), Meals (53,000 during closure), Transportation

Public comments and questions:

Leann Lau – Need an alternate plan as two streams of educating seems to be difficult; suggested home schooling as it is very simple and easy to do in WI. Are Public Health Dept, County Health Dept, and DPI working together? YES

A. Campbell – Health dept notifies of positive cases - how will we handle if someone is positive?

Pam Konrath – Nursing up 40%? In fall we will have a full time RN replacing our part time from last year. The RN has physician consultation built into the Slinger agreement with Ascension. The District also has trained staff who receive extra pay for nursing duties as outlined in the Educational Support Staff Handbook.

Rachel Blonski – applauds the efforts of the school district

K. Strupp gave a closing comment to reference that lots of work needs to be done by the board and administration to keep the interest of all parties a top priority.

Important Dates:

6/25 – Email to district families regarding survey results

7/08 – Special Board mtg – To hear/approve progress of back to school plans to date

7/22 – Special Board mtg (tentative) – To hear/approve progress of back to school plans to date

7/27 – Regular Board mtg

8/03 – Announcement to district families of back to school plan

Motion by Hassler, seconded by Weninger to adjourn at 7:16 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cherie Rhodes
Clerk