

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SLINGER  
SLINGER, WI 53086**

**May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**6:00 P.M**

**SHS IMC/Board Room (Door 39)**

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Ken Strupp called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Members present were Ken Strupp, Bruce Hassler, Gary Feltz, Cherie Rhodes, Joe Havey and Jody Strupp. Excused: Roman Weninger. Also present were administrators: Daren Sievers, Jim Curler, Karen Hug, Jenny Boyd, Phil Ourada, Mike Daniels, Patrick Armstrong, 4 guests in person and 22 guests via phone conference.

Sievers affirmed the public notice.

Sievers summarized the last 10 weeks of decision making related to the “Safer at Home” orders and explained the change in the specificity of the guidance school districts are receiving from the State and from the County due to the recent Supreme Court ruling. The guidance from the county health department now are suggestions and recommendations. Sievers will be meeting with Slinger district administration weekly, CESA 6 superintendents weekly, and the Ozaukee/Washington County Health Departments every other week in order to develop the best plans possible for the first day of school 13 weeks from now. Sievers also highlighted the resources being referenced for the meeting’s topics of the evening:

- Guidance on face masks from the CDC
- Wearing masks from WI Dept. of Health Services
- Blueprint for Reopening Washington and Ozaukee Counties FAQ
- WI Department of Health Services re: Graduation

Hear public comments and questions:

Submitted Emails:

Sievers summarized the emails he & the Board have received from Linda Kleinhans, Krista & Ryan Bents and a group email from Jen & Eric Novotny, Kate & Jeff Schmidt, April & Tony Brodzellar, Carrie & Jeff Broman, Courtney & Daniel Rogaczewski, Anne & Dave Hill, Angela & Ryan Preuss, Angela & Tim Novotny and the Melissa Nettesheim & Jen Carviou families. These families are urging the Board to follow the recommendations of the CDC and Health Departments and require staff to wear masks. They are also asking for Board Meetings to be video taped or “Zoomed”. There was also a suggestion to form a planning committee for the opening of school with medical professionals and parent presence on it.

Tracy Strachan wrote an email urging the Board and administration to find a way to hold graduation on the Slinger campus if at all possible so the seniors can have a final event at their school.

In Person:

Jody King: Parent & Nurse - Shared her concerns about the use of masks. She heard about a group that is forming that is wanting to follow the CDC guidance. She and many others want to see kids in person at school and not to be scared. Wearing masks doesn't always prevent illness. She would like it left up to each staff member. She thanked the Board for serving.

Becca MacCudden: Parent & Staff Member – As a parent of an autistic child, she feels it will be very difficult for special needs students to wear a mask and understand. She feels it will be difficult for very young students. She is not in favor of wearing masks. She would like to be allowed to make her own professional decision and trust in her decision. She would take a temperature test if needed.

Jill McLaughlin: Parent & Staff Member - She is not in favor of masks. The phonics and reading skills require them to see her mouth. She is also concerned that the young students will have an emotional effect if they have to wear masks or have social distancing. She wanted to know if we could live stream into classrooms. She does know of families who will not have their children return to school if masks and social distancing are in place.

Candi Martin: Parent - She is in support of the use of face masks, and is a teacher in another district. She is understanding of other view points, but wants the Board to follow what the science says.

Phone:

Kate Schmidt: Parent – She is in favor of a multi-discipline approach to schooling next year. She would like a forum to address the issues of re-entering the school year, and use innovative ways to keep people safe, with members from all walks of life: teachers, parents, health care workers, etc.

Sievers said that the meetings are in place, but we are pausing with specific plans for the opening of school because the Department of Public Instruction will provide us with a template that has not been released yet. All superintendents are meeting weekly with the Washington County Health Department to get guidance from them. There are two questions...how do we handle the issues for this current year, and how to we handle next year. The most pressing issue is how to wrap up the current year, and then address the guidelines of returning to school in the coming weeks.

1. Hear a discussion regarding all critical matters related to the state mandated school closing due to COVID-19.
  - Video Recording of Meetings: Monday, a ceiling microphone will be installed that will greatly enhance the clarity of the broadcasting. Since the last board meeting, the topic of video recording has been requested. The decision on this means of communication was addressed back in March. There is no statutory obligation for recorded meetings. Guidance by WI State School Board

Association (WASB) during Covid-19 has been to ensure an alternate means to attend in person i.e. Call in number currently provided. Board meetings are set up to provide social distancing, and if necessary could be relocated to the PAC. After a discussion, the Board agreed to continue with the current format during this time.

- Mask usage for remainder of the school year: The issue before the Board is should the staff be required to wear masks if they are in the building with book returns, laptop returns, yearbook pick-ups, etc. The Board was presented with information from the CDC, WI Dept of Health Services and the Washington/Ozaukee Public Health Department regarding masks. The CDC guidance is the use of face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. After a discussion the Board agreed that for those staff members who will come closer than 6 ft to students/families and social distancing is not possible, the district asks you to wear a mask. Otherwise a different role will be given to that staff member to perform. If the staff member will be working with staff only, it is recommended but not required to wear a mask
- Summer School: Curler reported that a survey was sent out to staff and parents with 3 formats for the summer. The survey was looking to understand the availability of staff on a condensed schedule of 2 or 4 weeks and interest from parents with a no bussing option. His recommendation was to offer a virtual summer school that prioritizes remediation and credit recovery with some in-person where appropriate for students who need more support. The in-person “interest based” classes will be greatly reduced or unavailable. The Jump Start program would not be offered and become a part of summer school. After some discussion, the Board encouraged the recommended plan presented by Curler with the addition of offering as many in-person classes “interest based” classes as possible. Ourada asked for credit-recovery learning at the HS level to be held in the HS. Sievers will let Riteway know that there will be no bussing offered for summer school.
- High School Athletics: Daniels reported that the Spring season was cancelled back in April by the WIAA. A 30-day summer session would be allowed by WIAA but after discussing with other Athletic Directors in the county and conference, enthusiasm for that has waned, and we would not have anyone to play in our area. The proposal is that we allow the spring coaches to utilize up to those 30-days if they so choose with scrimmages, friendly competitions, etc. If seniors don’t participate, they are limited to 5-days instead of 30.

Code Violations: Sievers presented a recommendation to address any/all appeals for an Athletic Code violation that were to be served during the spring sports season. The student athletes would be asked to serve in district approved community services opportunities equal to the number of hours that would have been lost during their competition season. Approx. 12 hrs/student athlete. This would be completed by the first day of practice, or prior to any competition. All hours would have to be served. After some discussion the Board recommended to increase the number of hours to a flat 20 hrs/student athlete. Student athletes effected by this will receive a letter outlying the process.

Coaches Pay: Daniels presented a recommendation that the district pay spring head coaches & assistant coaches a partial stipend based on research he did about what other districts were approving. Ranges were from 100% to 50% for head coaches and 100% to 25% for assistant coaches. The proposal by Mr. Daniels uses 33% (\$35,830) of the total budgeted amount and calls for head coaches to receive 50% and assistants 25% of their stipends. The coaches are required to have certifications, be on call with phone calls and emails, provide off season workouts, and serve as mentors for our athletes. Some of the coaches are having Zoom meetings and other communications with the athletes. Daniels appreciates the support the Board has shown the athletic department and is willing instead to spend money out of his athletic budget to pay these coaches. The Board appreciated the suggestion but encouraged administration to pay out of HR budget and preserve the athletic capital expenditures budget. Feltz moved, Hassler seconded to agree to use the athletic department funds to pay the head coaches the 50% and the assistant coaches 25% of their stipends. Motion carried.

Field Usage: Daniels reported that players from other schools were potentially using our facilities. We were not allowing competitive games. Village police chief said it was difficult to manage that scenario. Schools can not use those facilities until after July 1. People who are not tied to the school district like the community baseball program are able to use those shared facilities. Nothing school sponsored until after July 1.

- Camps and Clinics—coaches are reviewing what this would look like after July 1, if possible at all. They are looking to move forward with some, but not all activities. Sanitation and social distancing would be upheld. Daniels is working with coaches.
  - Strength & Agility Camp: Tony Callen loaned equipment to students and families and offered on-line things for people for free. He is confident that after July 1, he will be able to facilitate something for the students that would be safe and beneficial.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation/Promotion—Sievers reported Mr. Goneau’s plan for distributing 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion certificates will be to wear a mask when students/families arrive by car in the lower level to receive. Pictures will be taken.
  - Slinger High School Events: Ourada reported out on the following topics.
    - Awards Night Plan—Waiting on half a dozen organizations to notify us of the recipient for certain scholarships. They will create a booklet similar to the Honours booklet and they will be mailed to the recipients. He’s hoping he’ll have that early next week.

Prom Plan—They have decided to cancel it this year, and make next year a Junior/Senior prom. There will be a court for the Juniors and another court for the Seniors.

Graduation ideas—Rhodes recused herself from the discussion. Ourada went through 4 options in no particular order:

- Option #1 Ceremony on the football field July 12 or August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students seated 6 ft. apart, families limited to 4 attendees, following social distancing in the bleachers. They can also bring

lawn chairs and sit on the track. It would be streamed live via W7 Productions. Speeches by graduation speakers, Teacher of the Year, Mr. Sievers and Mr. Ourada. Network Photography will take pictures of each student.

- Option #2 Having a ceremony at Miller Park on August 2<sup>nd</sup> in the afternoon. Students and families will be social distancing, and the park staff will manage that. Video board and stadium audio. No limit to family members. Not sure if it can be live streamed. Speeches by graduation speakers, Teacher of the Year, Mr. Sievers and Mr. Ourada. Network Photography will take pictures of each student.
- Option #3 Individual ceremony in the PAC July 12<sup>th</sup> or August 2<sup>nd</sup>. 5-minute time slots that families will choose. There would be no limit to families for their attendees. Speeches by graduation speakers, Teacher of the Year, Mr. Sievers and Mr. Ourada will be recorded prior to the event for a culminating video that will be distributed to the seniors. Mr. Ourada will hand diplomas to them and will be videotaped. Network Photography will take pictures of each student.
- Option #4 Traditional Graduation in the High School Gymnasium. July 12<sup>th</sup> or August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students 6 ft. apart, limited to parents only. Live streamed via W7 Productions. Pictures taken. Speeches in person.

The Board appreciated the efforts that Mr. Ourada has done in preparing these options and supported the survey of the senior class with the presented options except for the following changes; remove option #2, make the graduation date July 11<sup>th</sup> and offer a rain date of July 12<sup>th</sup> for option #1. The survey will be completed by Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Ourada wants to ensure all families have an option they are comfortable with and will be willing to do more than one option to accommodate families.

- Re-opening of School: The board will address back to school decisions at future board meetings. Sievers would like to announce a plan to families by August 1<sup>st</sup> so that families can make plans.

2. Hear public comments and questions:

Phone:

Jen Novotny: Parent - Asked if the masks would be worn by staff if not socially distanced from other staff members or just with students. The Board indicated the intent was to encourage to wear masks when social distancing is not feasible with either staff or students.

3. Rhodes moved, Feltz seconded to adjourn at 8:12 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cherie Rhodes, Clerk