

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

**July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

**6:00 P.M**

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

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 (via phone), Cherie Rhodes (via phone), Roman Weninger, Joe Havey and Jody Strupp. Also present were administrators and directors: Daren Sievers, Jim Curler, Patrick Armstrong, Jenny Boyd, Karen Hug, Ben Frazer and 39 (IMC) + 24 (SHS Café) in-person guests/100 call-in guests. Washington County Insider streamed the meeting to Facebook with 270 attendees.

Sievers affirmed the public notice

K.Strupp gave a formal statement regarding the Board's goals:

- Ensure the best education leveraging all resources, support admin, within budget
- Student and staff safety
- Positive relationships

Public Comments & Questions – Will address at the end of the meeting.

Hear and consider an administrative recommendation regarding the International Club's trip to Costa Rica. Trip was scheduled for spring break of 2020. Rescheduled to November 2020. Asking for guidance on cancelling prior to July 31<sup>st</sup> because families would lose \$280 deposit. Sievers is recommending to cancel the trip. Students would have to be quarantined for 14 days. Sue Henkel, Advisor of International Club, described the options families have for a future trip. They could transfer to a different trip being offered by SHS. Possible rebook to Spring of 2022 to Thailand. That way they wouldn't lose any money at all. There were five seniors booked on the trip. Sievers recommended where students can't transfer their money to a future trip, that we pay their lost deposit out of district funds. Feltz & Rhodes asked for the decision to be postponed until the Monday meeting. Henkel will be accessible on Monday in order to answer any additional questions.

Hear a discussion regarding all critical matters related to COVID-19 and the preparations needed for the 2020-2021 school year.

1. Sievers presented the information regarding COVID-19 Board Topics for 7/22/2020. These documents and items are on the District website below the agenda.
2. Sievers reviewed the School District Mission
3. Statement on staying united, equity, kindness, and respect to all
4. Graduation was a great ceremony and safe
5. We are not behind in our planning. Sievers stated that perhaps we were too early because a lot has changed in the last several weeks.
6. Reviewed all sources of information and guidance the district has in regards to planning for returning to school.
7. Survey data: 5 days per week return, parental supervision of instruction, homebound support capabilities, student feelings, homebound learning products, and teaching duties.

8. Sievers explained the Slinger Data compared to CESA 6 data. (Slides were posted to the website).
9. Key dates: Aug. 3 by noon district will launch the opening of school plan and a parent survey about which choice they will make. Learning, lunches, and bussing choices will need to be made by parents. Survey closes August 7<sup>th</sup>. On August 10<sup>th</sup>, district will make plans around parent responses.
10. Fall sports: WIAA met with Superintendents where they asked for more leadership from the WIAA Board. Survey went out, answers coming in, and the superintendents and athletic directors are gathering information. If the WIAA doesn't make the key decisions, the Conference will decide. More information coming next week...stay tuned. Rhodes will be sharing the District's perspectives with the WASB Director Liaison to the WIAA at the meeting tomorrow.
11. PPE update is in Curler's presentation (posted on the website).
12. State shipped masks and touchless thermometers to us and they have arrived.
13. Owls masks order went out and students and families ordered 1600 so far.
14. Sievers thanked Business Manager Karen Hug for all of her efforts on the budget and grants. She will report the final numbers at the board meeting on Monday night. Sievers reported on CARES Act money, and the Feds are discussing reallocated money on a per-pupil basis instead of family economic status.
15. Buildings & Grounds Manager, Ben Frazer, will be presenting as part of the plan to keep the property clean and staff and students safe.
16. TASC Cleaning—fully staffed and trained.
17. Health Department: They will report positive cases to us and will help with out-of-the-country travel situations. They said that the District will have to do the contact tracing and notifying families. They want districts to make the decision on wearing masks.
18. Curler's Reopening Schools Presentation (posted on the website).
  - Education Options have been expanded from two to three. The online platforms may not be exactly Apex and Ace Digital, but something like that. Curler explained the hybrid options. The important thing to know is that there is no transportation for the hybrid plan.
  - Additional infection control measures reviewed on page 5 for staff and for students. Masks are required for staff if social distancing is not possible. Shields and plexiglass have also been ordered. Strongly encouraging that students wear masks where social distancing is not possible. See additional items on page 5.
  - Ben Frazer, Buildings & Grounds Mgr. explained the other infection control measures that have already taken place and those that will be followed in the future.
  - Enhanced mechanical purchases—64 new self-metered faucets installed, flush valves installed, installing 12 new bottle fillers, for a total of 34 in the district (no bubbler faucet). Fresh air flow increased and filters that go in the duct work.
  - Enhanced chemicals being used—Viricide will be used on a daily basis, and will take care of the CORONA virus.
  - Enhanced cleaning regimen—all anti-viral, all surfaces will be treated daily at a minimum, sometimes more than that. 4K and 5K after AM classes and PM classes. Playgrounds disinfected daily. Teachers will have that product spray in their room if they need a quick immediate cleanup. Dries within a minute.
  - Hand Sanitizer dispensers will be installed in all classrooms with priority given to those classrooms that don't have a sink or soap. There is a national shortage on these. Signage will be posted throughout the district with the 3 W's (wash hands, wear mask, watch your social distancing).
  - Lunches: Eating in the classrooms causes odors, insect and rodents, mold and mildew potential, and not feasible. Students will be eating in the lunch rooms, spread out, with additional seating in other areas of the buildings. Minimizing transitions as much as possible.
  - Weninger asked what kind of air flow we have because we have gym classes, etc. Frazer said the airflow system is very good, but where can't distance, he suggests we wear masks.
  - Frazer praised Matt Seiser, Jeff Walter, and the TASC crew for their phenomenal efforts. Sievers also praised Frazer for his behind the scenes work on behalf of all the staff and students.

- Page 15 regarding extra-curricular. We are assuming that clubs can continue if school is resuming. We will have procedures in place and advisors will share that with the parents and they can decide if their child will participate.
- When possible, certain events will be virtual, and will be re-evaluated quarterly. (PBO meetings, Open houses, parent/teacher conferences, etc.)
- Safety drills will continue as normal using distancing as possible.
- Curler said that work and planning continues and is ever-changing, but always working towards being as safe as possible.
- Staff quarantine and questions and procedures still being worked on.

School Perceptions future survey, won't be anonymous. Getting advice from lawyers regarding requiring masks and consequences, as well as exceptions to the mask policy. We are not ready yet to take a position yet without further guidance. Sievers shared other local school's announcements regarding masks.

Weninger is concerned about people wearing masks properly and how clean they keep them. Feltz stated that he is absolutely not for requiring masks and is very concerned that people who don't wear masks will be bullied into feeling bad. Havey asked about Band and Choir—how are the departments coming along on what they will do. Curler stated that they are working on their plans now and will work with Curler as well. They are using their national organization for guidance. K.Strupp asked what number can be socially distanced in a classroom. Curler responded 12 in a normal classroom if 6 ft. If spaced 3 feet it would be a normal number. K.Strupp stated that he feels it would be OK if students don't wear masks in the classroom if they can be spaced apart, and then masks when traveling in the hallways. Curler said it depends on the classroom because some classes like some elementary rooms have tables (flower shaped) and in those cases, they would be a "family unit". Feltz stated that he is not for trying to enforce masks in the hallway because it would be very difficult to enforce. Weninger was asking if choir could practice somewhere they could space out given the risk. Curler is working with staff to help with other locations for those classes where they could spread out. Sievers stated that there is a two-way benefit to wearing the masks. J.Strupp recommended that we include proper care and cleaning of masks in the education for parents. For elementary classrooms and giving them as much space as possible, she recommends removing anything that is not necessary for the learning to give more free space. Sievers and the committee are discussing furniture arrangements and to do that clutter removal, etc. Havey wanted to point out and clarify that we previously did require masks of the staff if distancing was not possible and Curler reminded that it was only until June 30. Weninger wanted to know if we were going to go back to regular grading in the fall and Sievers confirmed.

Public Comments and Questions - Curler stated the process: IMC, SHS Cafeteria then Call Ins. 90 sec time limit per individual. Any question unable to be answered will be addressed at July 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

#### **In Person:**

1. Curtis Baumann: paper masks can't be washed and have a limited life span. If going to use more than a day or two, need sterilizer or new mask. If using cloth mask needs to be washed with a viricidal or bleach.
2. Wendy Moser: Thanks to the school board and district because all of the precautions are more than other places, so thank you. Mask wearing...kids might try to share their masks if we require them. She thinks mandating it will cause more problems than good. Confused about learning options if a child just doesn't feel like coming to first hour for example. Curler explained that you can change ONE time and there will be constraints on that.
3. Monica Lohry: Her child is allergic to alcohol-based hand sanitizer. She just wanted the district to know that she can't use the hand sanitizers throughout the school. Just wanted the district to look at options for those that have allergies. Sievers asked that the parents communicate that clearly to the teachers to avoid any issues. Key is teaming with parents and communicating.
4. Laura Elfe: Mechanical door questions. Curler responded that they are looking at options, it is on our radar, no perfect plan yet. Frazer suggests that the exterior door handles will be disinfected routinely throughout the day. We can't prop the exterior doors open for safety reasons. She also asked if we have considered open campus for lunches for the high school. Sievers stated that Ourada has been researching and considering having an open-

campus in general. Sievers reminded them it's only 25 minutes and it's hard to get somewhere for lunch and back in time. Elfe concerned about "Littles"—are we going to put a volunteer in those classrooms to have another adult in the classroom that can help maintain the distancing rules. Curler said there is a consideration of using an aide, but we are limiting classroom volunteers with the "no visitor" procedures. Sievers said that staff will help train the students.

5. Luke Tennes: Against the masks for the students and the teachers. Concerned with when is this going to end. Will it ever go back to normal or will we change our plans based on peaks and valleys of the virus. Curler said that they will re-evaluate every quarter and was hoping the Health Department would be more help in that regard, and we are still waiting for information from them. Sievers said our priority is the learning, and we will do everything we can to avoid a shut down. Our goal is to stay open.
6. Cheri Meyer: At what point will we decide a child will need to be quarantined...what symptoms will spark that? Kids have allergies and other health issues that are not related to COVID. Sievers replied that we are relying on the Health Dept. to give us guidance on this. They are meeting with the Health Dept. tomorrow.
7. Vanessa Weismann: Concerned that kids are at the age where they are learning to enunciate, etc., are staff going to be wearing masks—will their kids be able to see their mouth? Sievers reported that we have ordered shields with the masks. Have ordered clear masks, clear shields, and plexiglass to help with those issues. She fears that the little kids will not get the best learning experiences if the staff is wearing a mask. Asked for confirmation that the 4K and 5K classes will be treated daily. Frazer confirmed, and situationally will be using the Vitaloxide. Staff be educated on the use of these products.
8. Tom Lange: Other district will be using block schedules with the last five minutes students will be cleaning. Just wanted to let us know. Block scheduling mitigates traveling.
9. Penny Johnson: Her opinion is that the CORONA virus is here to stay. Grandchild won't wear a mask because he can't stand the smell of his breath. What will library time look like across the district. Curler said it will still be in existence, but protocols will still be in place. Bussing and hot lunch on the survey—what if it changes, or is the parent answer final? Curler said we will have some changeable items, but the learning method would only be able to be changed once.
10. Stacy Scroggins: She thanks the board members for their support of the trips, and she hopes that they will allow using \$ on a future trip, or refunding based on family circumstances. She stated that the Author's Camp has been an amazing experience. She asked about gym class and locker rooms: Curler stated they have protocols in place. Locker rooms will be available for changing. Would we allow anti-body testing instead of quarantining for 2 weeks. Admin replied not sure of exact procedures, but probably not.
11. Jody King: Thanked the board and the district. Whatever ends up happening, we should be very proud of that. Her concern is her 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. If they are with that group all day, will they have to social distance all day? Curler said he is sure that the teachers will handle it with respect and a positive manner. Encouragement vs. scolding.
12. David Leider: Contract trace: Is it possible someone would have to quarantine more than once? Sievers hopes to find that out tomorrow at the meeting with the health department.
13. Laura Kusko: She is confirming that the class "family" bubble will be the same kids all day? Curler said they will stay in their classroom, they will be at lunch with their class "family", but recess distancing will be attempted. Kusko said some students will be scared to death if their masks fall down. Asking that we all be sensitive about the mental state of the kids and not scare them. Curler said that they are aware of the importance of the social-emotional learning piece including the anxiety potential, and he is working with our guidance staff.
14. Ryan Kuhn: If wearing masks in the hall, where are they going to put the masks when they are in the classroom. Curler—no decision yet. Kuhn: parents need to teach the kids to wash regularly and distance. Sievers said working together is absolutely necessary.
15. Candi Martin: Hybrid—will they still be able to play sports if they do the hybrid or the virtual...Curler said yes.
16. Amy Conigliano: She recommends no masks due to children with asthma or other health conditions.
17. Julie Ayers: She is so happy to have people here and give support. She hopes we will all work together and compromise to make this the best situation possible. She just wants to work together to help everyone, get our kids to school and keep them safe. She chose to teach students, not sit in her living room. Sievers reminded the audience that the "required" can't be 100% due to special circumstances and certain classes.

18. Jennifer George: Family physician. Two boys in the school. If we have to go virtual again, what are we going to do about virtual learning like a more structured approach and live streaming. 3 ft. is with masking, without masks it needs to be 6 ft. for social distancing. Curler said that yes, every family has a situation we have to consider and support. Every department has worked over the summer and will continue to work in-service to make it a better experience than what happened last time. We are going to try to stay in session as long as we possibly can.
19. Angela Novotny: Comment relates to the hybrid option. Students who are ill or need to be quarantined will receive instruction. Has the district considered live streaming all classes? Admin replied that it is not an option for us at this time. She fully supports block scheduling as well. Curler responded that a student who is quarantined would not go to the virtual model...their teacher from school would provide material for the students who are quarantined or ill or on vacation.
20. Lee Ann Lau: Let each student come in and clean the desk they are about to use. They will do a better job if they are cleaning it for themselves. Curler stated that each classroom will have the spray bottle and paper towels available, but we would not require students to do the cleaning. Frazer also commented that he can supply bottles for disinfecting, but not enough for every student to clean their desk every hour.
21. Kelli Darin: Advocate for students with special needs. Be consistent, have a routine. Masks for special population: She is not against masks, but special needs kids with medical needs will not be able to tolerate them for the entire day and she is worried about the social impact of not wearing a mask. In areas where kids can be safely seated, let them take them off. Thank you to all of the administration for EVERYTHING that they are doing. Sievers said they are going to consider all of those situations.
22. Deb Yogerst: Can we have ALL PROCEDURES evaluated quarterly as things change. When we re-evaluate, don't just consider the numbers, look at all of the information, not just testing. Look at Washington County specifically and not other areas. Kids will spread germs from their masks. Unsanitary to take masks on and off. Making masks does point a huge finger at those who can't wear them. Same for staff... Sievers said we have a standing meeting every 2 weeks with health department and other local administration and we have met with school board every 2 weeks. We will try to stay ahead but also react appropriately.
23. Student Longdin: If your kids go to school next year, put a mask on them. Sievers said we appreciate hearing from students and we will do our best to implement policies and procedures that are best for everyone. Normal as possible, yet safe as possible.
24. Nan Lipp: Wants to thank the school board. The survey results from CESA 6 can you tell us what schools had what numbers. Not sure about the timing or deadlines of when she has to decide on back to school, lunches, etc. Curler—survey out Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, parents need to respond by Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>. Sievers said we can call School Perceptions to get other schools and report back at the Monday board meeting.
25. Frazer: Addressed the desk washing question that was asked earlier. We have decided in the district, we don't want kids using the chemicals because they have to wash their hands. Audience said that if we have someone just wiping door knobs and the important stuff that will reduce the risk. Frazer also clarified they want to clean first and then disinfect.
26. Trista Bringa: If we know as a society if we can't control the virus???? what if a family is immune to it and are likely on the antibody side of things. If masks are mandated are we ready to open the likelihood that other health issues will result from that.

#### **Call Ins:**

27. Cindy Raimer: Likes the block scheduling. Reduces number of passing periods and the number of contacts a child has in the day. Hopes we will consider that.
28. (Name not stated): Why are we saying that we would quarantine instead of requiring them to get a test. Are these other schools we are comparing our numbers with in this county? Sievers confirmed yes, they are. Washington/Ozaukee counties. We are the southern most district in CESA 6 case. Her experience is that young kids who are wearing masks are constantly touching their face.
29. Angie Jackson: What is the difference between the virtual platform and the virtual we did last spring. Curler said that this would be a fully on-line program that we are going to pay for that students can take. Would they still be able to participate in extra-curricular? Curler confirmed. Sievers clarified who would be teaching each option.

30. Christina Mueller: Virtual learning vs. school...if she decided to change her mind, how would the student transition from online to school if they are being taught differently? Curler said that it's the same as children who move into our district during the school year and our teachers do the best to catch them up or enrich their learning.
31. Cindy Raimer: Chorus is high risk...at the middle school, can you choose to opt out of the music credit? Curler...great question. We will investigate. Sievers said we have to be open minded in regard to elective areas as well during these times.
32. Jen Novotny: Have you considered asking Slinger teachers who may not be comfortable returning to school, will they be considered for online learning? Sievers said yes, they will look at the survey results and will identify enrollment and staff accordingly. They will look inward first and then will post positions and potentially hire some of our best sub teachers to do the online learning. Curler explained the numbers will not support having our own teachers teach all of the online learning. We will staff based on the survey numbers.
33. Bill Brewer: Do we have information or evidence that spring sports caused a spike in the positive cases? Sievers does not have that data. He and Curler will ask the Health Dept. tomorrow in their meeting. Audience member said Menomonee Falls ended their summer sports now because they had positive cases reported. Agree with looking at all the data and allow the individuals to choose. Studies from cloth masks ineffective rates and other health issues caused by wearing a mask. Concerned about the staff's time in enforcing the wearing of masks.
34. Cindy Raimer: Will you consider allowing kids to opt out of gym class as well?
35. (Name not stated): The main concern is the air they are sharing. She commends the district on having high quality air. But kids are sharing air space. What if they are coming in contact with people who are not from our community. Is the board thinking about beyond Slinger...Sievers says all the factors have to take into account and we will let the Health Department take the lead. The only thing that is FULLY safe is staying home. There is no way we can control all the situations each family will encounter. Even the Health Dept. is having difficulty enforcing quarantines, etc. They know it will be a difficult task.
36. Ryan Kuhn: If a student is transferring to our school from somewhere else, will we require them to self-quarantine? Sievers: Leaning on the health department, but they have no guidelines on interstate travel. So, based on what they have told us, we would not require self-quarantine.
37. (Name not stated): Will Monday's meeting be open to the public? On the call-in information for Monday's agenda, can the District put in **BOLD type** that people calling in need to **mute their phones?** Otherwise, we are hearing all the activity in people's homes and it is difficult to hear the person asking the question. We are hearing children in the background and people talking. If you don't mute your phone at home, we will hear everything happening in your home during the Public Comments and Questions portion of the agenda.

K. Strupp thanked everyone for coming and asking questions, and hopefully we will have a recommendation on Monday.

Motion by Feltz, seconded by Weninger to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cherie Rhodes