

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

July 8th, 2020

6:00 P.M

SHS IMC/Board Room (Door 39)

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bruce Hassler at 6:03 PM in the High School IMC.

Members answering roll were: Bruce Hassler, Joseph Havey, Gary Feltz, Cherie Rhodes, Jody Strupp, and Roman Weninger (via phone). Excused: Ken Strupp. Also present were administrators and directors: Daren Sievers, Jim Curler, Patrick Armstrong, Jenny Boyd (via phone) and 20 in-person guests/58 call-in guests.

Sievers affirmed the public notice.

Public comments and questions: Hassler stated they would take questions from the in-person guests first and then questions from the call-in guests. He asked the public to state their first and last name clearly and then their question.

Julie Ayers: Has the district applied for the grants available for PP from the state. Curler replied that the grant had been applied for and that the supplies have been ordered.

Sievers and Curler began their reports regarding all critical matters related to the state mandated school closing due to COVID-19 and the preparations needed for the 2020-2021 school year.

Curler shared a PowerPoint of the Back to School Committee Plan for returning to school in the fall.

Main goals are Flexibility, Safety, and Instruction.

- Flexibility: Plans will be developed to allow for fast fluid responses to the situations, keeping in mind student and parent capacity and financial resources of the District.
- Safety: This is a top priority. Plans will reflect guidance from the CDC, State and Washington/Ozaukee County Health Departments.
- Instruction: Options will include in-person and virtual options for K-12 in the event that traditional classroom learning cannot occur. Plans will reflect a preference for traditional and virtual classroom learning creating conditions that are as safe as possible.

Educational Options:

- Operate with full capacity in the fall, using mitigating procedures to reduce potential spread of Covid-19 and other diseases.
- Parents will have two choices: go with online learning or in-person learning. Ace Digital will be used for grades 5K-5 for online learners, and Apex Learning will be used for grades 6-12. J.Strupp confirmed that online students will still remain our students, with certified teachers that we hire to lead/monitor student progress. In-person learners will attend school 5 days a week, and the school will have procedures in place to maximize safety of everyone.
- In-person learners who are ill or need to be quarantined will continue to receive instruction and support from their classroom teacher via electronic means.
- Parents must commit to one method, but may change that decision once. May not go back and forth between the two delivery methods. Survey will be sent out in August to get parent's choice so that the District can make plans based on those responses.

9+ Stages of a Student's Day:

1. Home: Parents will assess their child every morning, taking temperature and watching for symptoms (list not finalized yet from the Health Department). If child is symptom free, they send child to school.
2. Bus: Less capacity than normal (goal is 40 "ish" students).
 - a. Hand sanitizer available
 - b. Masks strongly recommended
 - c. Siblings sit together
 - d. Load from back to front
 - e. Students sit by window
 - f. Students sit facing forward
 - g. Bus Co. increases cleaning/sanitizing between routes
3. Entrances:
 - a. Students enter using multiple entrances
 - b. No visitors will be allowed
 - c. No sharing of lockers
 - d. Masks strongly recommended
 - e. Hygiene signage (Tech Ed. Department doing this)
4. Classrooms:
 - a. Hand sanitizer available if no hand washing station in the classroom
 - b. Class seating may need to be modified using existing furniture
 - c. Hygiene signage
 - d. Masks recommended when social distancing cannot be maintained
 - e. Cleaning supplies available to the teacher
5. Recess:
 - a. Restrict areas of play by grade level
 - b. Increased cleaning of equipment

Havey asked about Plexiglass shields for offices and other places. Sievers has Tech Ed. department making a proto type. They will either produce the shields for us or the District will order from a local vendor who is ready to go.

- c. Indoor recess will be in classroom with minimal cross mingling when weather is inclement.
- 6. Lunch:
 - a. New serving line formations have been developed
 - b. Expanding eating areas to allow for more social distancing and use of “family unit” seating. (Use of partial gym space and stage areas)
 - c. Hand sanitizer in lunch rooms
 - d. Scanners at point-of-sale instead of key pads
 - e. New arrival and dismissal procedures and time frames
- 7. Specials: (Art, Music, PhyEd.)
 - a. 33% teacher will help online for grades K-5 since Ace Digital does not have these electives.
 - b. Curriculum work - will ask each department to come up with a plan
- 8. Dismissal:
 - a. Utilize multiple exits
 - b. No visitors allowed
 - c. No sharing of lockers
 - d. Masks strongly recommended
 - e. Hygiene signage
- 9. Extra-curricular:
 - a. Mr. Daniels will be getting more information from the WIAA and will report back
 - b. Plans are yet to be determined
 - c. Rhodes reported that she has a WASB (WI Association of School Boards) Executive Director meeting on the 9th and will be able to inquire with the WASB Director who sits on the WIAA Board if there are any updates.
- 10. Kool Kids:
 - a. Will be following school recommendations
 - b. Masks strongly recommended
 - c. Social distancing if possible
 - d. Work with maintenance on extra cleaning procedures
 - e. Keeping ratio of student/teacher as low as possible

Items already accomplished:

- Increased school nursing to full-time. New nurse has 25 years of ER experience and has a Doctorate. She will be available to any building that needs her support.
- Building & Grounds staff has been trained and has received their Infectious Disease Control Certification
- Selected the Learning Platforms that will be used (Ace and Apex). Training has been set up.
- Platforms have been chosen for in-person students if the school has to close and learning once again becomes virtual. Training has been set up so that a quick response time can be achieved.
- PPE items have been ordered including hand sanitizer dispensers for classrooms without hand washing capabilities.
- Upgrading of facilities to meet new sanitary expectations:
 - 50 self-metering, hygienic faucets have been ordered and will be installed this summer

- Purchase and installation of more of the “bottle fill” drinking stations.
Ordered one time use cups for those who forget water bottles.
- Ordered more technology to met increased demand including new Chromebook and some WIFI Hotspots.
- Purchased protective shields for reception desks
- Purchased additional tables for expanded lunch seating
- Health Room Supplies: Upgraded masks, gowns, no touch thermometers, isolation room

Big Questions yet to be answered:

- Protocol for re-admittance of students/staff who are quarantined
- Business office response to staff absences
- Health Department will be rolling out more information soon and will lead efforts regarding:
 - Contact tracing
 - Who else needs to be quarantined and when tested positive or shown symptoms
 - When or if the classroom and the teacher need to be quarantined
 - When or if the entire school or district needs to change to home schooled virtual learning
- Birthday food and Staff events—no food allowed? Curler said it is on the committee’s list.
- If the child shows symptoms, we will need them to have an adult ready to come and get the child quickly.
- Readmitting – not developed yet
- Havey asked for clear guidance regarding HIPA laws—what we can share with whom and when. Curler said we are waiting on that information from the Health Department.
- Weninger thanked the administration and the Committee members for being proactive and accomplishing so much already.
- Sievers will continue to report on the information he is gathering from the Health Department, CESA, superintendents, other schools, etc.

Public Comments and Questions:

David Leider: Given the “No Visitor” approach, what will be the District’s position on sports and parents coming to view their children’s events. Sievers responded that they will still encourage masks if social distancing is not possible, and follow the rest of the District guidelines. More work yet to be done on this topic. Sievers has seen a demonstration of devices that will take temps and scan faces in order to help at events. There are other devices and supplies available now to help with large groups. They will be researching their options and may purchase a few devices if possible.

Julie Ayers: If a family is signed up for on-line learning, do they have to commit to a minimum amount of time like a trimester before they can change their mind and want their students to come back to in-person learning? Curler said parents would have to commit, but they would be allowed to change their learning mode once.

Julie Ayers: What about groups that use our facilities like Scouts, Rec. Department, etc. A lot of community groups use our facilities. Curler said that we will need to address this on a case-by-case basis.

Rhodes suggested developing staff guidelines for school clubs and athletics coaches and students to follow during their monthly meetings and practices. Mr. Daniels will be investigating those procedures.

Tracy Friedemann: Stated that it will be hard to social distance with the “flower” shaped tables they have in the elementary classrooms. Curler said we will have the classroom be the “family unit” and do the best we can with social distancing where possible.

Jessica Steenbekkers: If there are no visitors, will there still be substitute teachers? She is a substitute teacher and she wants to know how all of this will affect the subs. Curler and Sievers both stated that procedures will be in place to protect all staff and that the substitute teachers are greatly valued by the District and that we really need and want them to continue subbing in the District.

Kelli Buhr: Will the District be requiring masks for the students? Sievers responded that they are still working to address this important issue.

Kerry Quade: How will the district ensure that the students will be able to arrive each day with a clean mask? Sievers/Curler indicated that this is an issue that still would need to be addressed.

Candi Martin: If the District is asking parents to make sure the kids are healthy before getting on the bus, will the administration support the teachers who send kids showing symptoms to the health room? The teachers will need support from the administration when kids get sick and need to be sent home. Sievers said we will, by all means, support the teachers and other staff who send symptomatic students to the health rooms.

Amy Helminiak: Will parents receive a list of specific symptoms to look for Sievers said, yes, parents will receive a list once it is available from the health department and the District nurse.

Shann Olton: If kids have symptoms do the siblings all have to stay home as well even if they are not symptomatic? Will the whole family be quarantined? Curler and Sievers said they would take guidance from the Health Department procedures that are being developed.

Jill McLaughlin: Is there a plan to help families with no access to insurance or testing? Sievers stated that the Health Department is also aware of this and will share information for us and our families in the future.

Scott Stortz: Very impressed with the quick transition to home learning in March. Seamless and effectively done. He hopes that staff will be trained before this happens

again to ensure a successful transition again. Sievers thanked Scott for the positive feedback and Curler assured him that we are already preparing for staff training.

Julie Ayers: The technology she had at home to do online learning was out of date and not very workable. Is there a plan to buy all instructors laptops? Sievers stated that the District is purchasing newer Chromebook that will be able to support the online learning.

Carrie Quade: Would the Owl Cards still be handled the same way this year? Sievers indicated that they would.

Jen Novotny: If the on-line home learners are being taught by teachers that are not experts in all of the classes, how will students get support when they need it? Curler stated that the certified teacher of the student will be their first source of help. If the teacher can't help, they will connect with someone who can help the student.

Jen Novotny: Has the District considered side by side learning so that the students at home can learn simultaneously with those being taught virtually by the same teacher at the same time? Curler said they have investigated this option but it is not possible.

Jen Novotny: If school shuts down, how would learning continue? Curler stated that the on-line learners would continue their method, and the in-person learners who are now home would be taught virtually by their classroom teachers as we did this past spring.

April Brodzeller: Concerned about on-line learners having advanced coursework options available both online and in future coursework in the District. For example, math track—will kids be able to take the online course and then continue the advanced path when they return to school? Curler stated that there are electives including advanced placement and higher-level courses available online. May not have ALL options, but there will be choices. Curler said that the goal will be to keep all kids on track.

Bridget Hill: Will substitutes be dedicated to just the Slinger District so that they are not going from district to district and exposing the Slinger students. Curler stated that this was a wonderful question and he will add it to the committee's list. They will be working with TOC to develop guidelines like this. Sievers said it is a balancing act with how many subs. Our District increased sub wages significantly last year, so we are hoping subs will commit to Slinger.

Nan Lipp: What is the current bus ratio now? Sievers said he's not sure of exact numbers, but approximately 55ish per bus depending on the route. The bus company's future goal is 45 riders max.

Nan Lipp: Is the goal of "family unit" to keep students in a class together during lunch? Yes, that is the goal to help distance groups of students.

Nan Lipp: How would parents know if a positive case happens in a classroom? Sievers does not have that information yet of these procedures. More information will be needed from the Health Dept.

Nan Lipp: What is student symptoms are the same as a different illness? How will we know if they need to be sent home or quarantined? Sievers again stated that we would take guidance from the Health Department and District Nurse in these instances.

Nan Lipp: Will the school be offering testing on site? Sievers said he believes the CDC and Health Departments are working on these issues. He believes it would be difficult to have testers on premises for all 180 days of instruction.

Kate Schmidt: She is very dissatisfied with the call-in option of these meetings. It is hard to hear people (from the audience and online due to external noises during the public questions portion). There was an error with the phone number to call and caused confusion. The public can't see the visuals that are being presented during the meeting, and she can't see facial expressions during the meeting. She would like some type of video ZOOM meeting or a visual option of some type. Rhodes thanked her for her comments.

Motion by Havey, seconded by Rhodes to adjourn at 7:42 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cherie Rhodes, Clerk