

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

September 10th, 2020

6:30 P.M

SHS IMC/Board Room (Door 39)

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Strupp at 6:30 PM in the High School IMC.

Members answering roll were: Ken Strupp, Bruce Hassler, Gary Feltz, Cherie Rhodes, Roman Weninger, Joe Havey and Jody Strupp. Also present were administrators and directors: Daren Sievers, Jim Curler, Patrick Armstrong, Jenny Boyd, Karen Hug and 13 in-person guests and 21 call-in guests.

Sievers affirmed public notice.

Public Comments and Questions: (In Person)

Jessie Steenbekkers: thanks to each and every one of the board members. She is very grateful that her son has the ability to decide to be here or not. She thanked them for all of their efforts throughout this journey.

Mike Haderer: asked what the threshold is going to be for closing and then re-opening. Sievers said we would be addressing that later in the agenda.

Public Comments and Questions: (On Line) – None at this time.

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

1. **Northshore Sports Update:** Sievers introduced Mike Daniels who has met with athletic directors from other districts in the conference no less than 6 times. Daniels thanked the board and the admin team. He reported on the summer season. The WIAA said that we needed to declare a season by Sept. 1st. CC, tennis, swim, and golf were declared. Daniels thanked the coaches for providing the safest possible situations while preparing our athletes. Soccer, volleyball, and football are rolling out. Indoor sports, swimming—no spectators. Host schools can determine who will be allowed in. Volleyball, Daniels pushed for 25% capacity, but was outvoted by the other conference schools. The compromise is 2 passes for family members only. Golf—immediately family members only. Soccer, football, and volleyball also gets 2 passes for family members. Record number of students enrolled in fall sports. Cheerleaders will be allowed at the football games as it is their competitive season. No student sections at this time, and perhaps over time we can allow more in. Daniels is working with Mr. Kieckhafer regarding some sort of band presence. Daniels also stated that all sports are free to

attend with your passes. Max for football family members is 2 for home and 2 for away. Some events are not allowing any visitors like swimming. Concessions will be open, but everything needs to be pre-packaged. Daniels thanked Patrick Armstrong for assisting in getting live streaming up and running. Some events will be live streamed, some will need to be recorded and uploaded to Huddle later.

2. **Concerts, Special Events Discussion:** Sievers recommendation is to have the concerts recorded and then they'll be streamed to the families. Dates will be announced as well as the process.
3. **Riteway Bussing Update:** Sievers reported that things are going well. Now they are getting assigned seats in place. Let the record reflect that the Board wants to let Riteway know how much we appreciate the efforts they have gone to in order to be ready at the start of school.
4. **Food Service Update:** The day before school the Feds announced that the free food is extended through December. Sievers explained that Fassbender, Day, and their team prepared that within 48 hours and is now available to all families. Sievers explained the process for pickup for the virtual learning families.
5. **Cleaning and Maintenance Update:** This is going very well thanks to the Maintenance Team. Sievers reviewed some of the changes and processes, and is very proud of what's being accomplished by the teams.
6. **Teaching and Learning Update (in-person):** SHS Block: It's been a success with positive feedback.
7. **Teaching and Learning Update (virtual and hybrid):** Curler reported how fast things were able to get up and running, special thanks to Susan Henkel, who has worked many hours to help get things up and running. Also, thanks to the tech team of Jenny Boyd, Patrick Armstrong, Sarah Belk and Terry Strupp for their countless efforts, and finally the virtual teachers who have been working as best they can to get things going and support students and families. Some families have been very pleased, some others found it wasn't a good fit for them, need more support, and have returned to in-person learning. Parts are going well, and they will keep working through the areas in which they need to improve. Possible extra staff at the middle school level because the numbers are higher. Sievers stated that the screen time at the elementary level has been more than anticipated, so they have enabled parents to cut back on some of their specials. Sievers stated that we are in good shape for the COVID budget dollars. Curler reported that the coming/going of the hybrid students has been going well. Sievers reported the open campus at the high school as well. No attendance or tardy issues with the open campus.
8. **Positive Cases and Contact Tracing Update:**
 - Allenton: 1 positive case which impacted 14 students in one classroom.
 - SES: 1 positive case which impacted 9 students.
 - SHS: 1 positive case which impacted 7 students.
 - St. Paul's Little Learners: 2 positive cases...still sorting this out...

There were some mis-communications with that but they are now resolved. Sievers explained the quarantine process and parameters. Curler explained what the situation was with St. Paul's Little Learners and the staff member that tested positive. Sievers told the Board that none of these cases were led by the health department. Our staff has been responsible for all the communications and contact tracing so far.

Sievers asked the health department if a student could return if asymptomatic and tested negative. The Health Dept said that we will be contributing to our schools shutting down if we don't follow these quarantine guidelines. Sievers said he has requested more meetings to discuss this 14-day quarantine issue.

Sievers said that the County Exec. wants to meet to debrief about how the first two weeks have gone with all Superintendents. The Board encouraged administration to inquire with the Health Department to seek to understand if there is an opportunity to revisit the current quarantine guidelines for students.

9. **Health Department Update Data Update Dashboard Demo:**

<http://www.washozwi.gov/> Sievers demonstrated the dashboard.

10. **Future Decisions:**

- Face Coverings: Governor's Order expires on 9/28. Sievers asked for guidance from the Board on how to proceed after the deadline. The Board directed administration to continue wearing the masks through the end of the business day on Monday, September 28th and to add the decision to the September 28th board meeting agenda. Sievers said that participation is high and doing well. Also, desk shields allow for the younger students to take a mask break. Attitude of the staff and kids have been very positive.

Public Comments and Questions: (In Person)

Julie Ayers: Is the board going to have different rules for kids vs. staff for masks? Also, please give the soccer kids a place to keep their stuff safe and dry. High school traffic has been terrible and has there been police contact on that? Sievers said that the police department has been a part of this but there are limited options with so great a number of cars. Are the 2 passes per family adults or minors. Daniels—2 people max no matter the age.

Amy Campbell—she thinks it's great that the activities are free now, but what happens if we already bought a pass? Daniels said they are looking into that.

Mike Haderer: He is pleased that the board wants kids to physically be here. Where is the threshold for keeping kids in school or not? Sievers explained depending on age, but it will probably be room by room or situationally. If we wouldn't have enough staff, we'd have to shut down.

He wants to know if we shut down, what will that be based on. Sievers says there is not a magic number or percent. Curler confirmed that we would not be shut down longer than the health dept. recommends. He thanked the board for taking the lead and not waiting for the health department.

Jill McLaughlin: Is it possible that someone will have to quarantine more than once, and Sievers and Curler said yes, it's possible.

Brenda Lighthizer would like to challenge the board to make more logical decisions than what the CDC is proposing. Can we make our own rules and not follow the recommendations that are being given? For example, if kids are not showing symptoms, and they test negative, we want the kids to be able to come back to school. Why can't they do the same thing with this virus as they do when the regular flu season is in place? Sievers wants to know what the liability is not just from an insurance carrier perspective but also an attorney and therefore has engaged district legal counsel regarding potential liability. Brenda wants to know how the liability is any different with COVID vs. the regular flu? She says it should be the parent's choice to have the kids come or not, as they know the risks.

Randy Strupp: He asked how we are going to police the visitors at the football field? The guidelines say that people can go places as a family. He knows that it's not Daniel's decision, but wants us to push back on the conference on these outdoor sports.

Brenda Lighthizer: Can't Slinger have their own rules? Daniels replied that WIAA prohibits this.

Julie Ayers: How will this be communicated to the parents as things change? Daniels said it will come from him and be sports specific through Skyward messages.

Public Comments and Questions: (On Line)

Angie Spaeth: Regarding elementary school quarantined students. If they are distancing, wearing masks, and have desk protectors, if they are asymptomatic, why do they still have to quarantine? Curler explained that the quarantine is for the kids who are not able to stay 6 ft. apart. Sievers explained that we hoped those measures would help, but the health department said they don't exclude them from the quarantine.

Kate Tennis: Her 7-year old did not understand why they had to go home and was scared. She said there are certain things that are not making sense to her. She called the health department and they said the 14-day quarantine is just

guidance. She asked them if they don't follow the guide, what is the penalty for the school, and they said none. She agrees with Lighthizer that she wants kids back in school and Slinger should go their own way. Technology didn't work for two days and therefore two days of learning have been lost. Sievers said that they will be working towards getting better at the entire process including the technology. She wants to know why her middle schooler doesn't have to quarantine. Curler explained how the positive person and those around them are affected. She explained her middle schooler is home with the quarantined son and then the middle schooler goes back to school.

Eric Spaeth: He said we've never been here before, and we need to keep evaluating. He is asking if time and time again, kids don't get the virus, will the board move towards cutting down on the quarantine days. He said we need to take the county information, and then go back to our community and adapt what needs to happen within our own community and not take what the county says as gold.

Bill Bingen: He agrees with everyone. He says that our school board should make our own rules. He says the parents all know the risks, and the parents filled out the survey, and they want to be in school.

Brenda Lighthizer: No medical reason to be tested. She says that testing keeps feeding into the data misunderstanding. If the kids are sick, stay home. If they are not sick, be in school. She wants people to stop being tested.

Angie Spaeth: She is a nurse and she doesn't understand why there isn't a nursing person as a part of this discussion. Where is our nursing in the schools? Why aren't they helping interpret this information or communicating information to the families. Sievers replied that we do have a district nurse with 30+ years of experience and she has been part of the process. Spaeth said that even on day 5 someone who has the virus may not test positive. Sievers replied that our nurse is following the same guidelines that we have been under.

Motion by Feltz, seconded by Weninger to adjourn at 8:52 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cherie Rhodes, Clerk