

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SLINGER SCHOOL DISTRICT
SLINGER, WISCONSIN
September 28, 2020
High School IMC

Routine Business:

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Strupp at 7:00 PM in the High School IMC.

Members answering roll were: Ken Strupp, Bruce Hassler, Gary Feltz, Cherie Rhodes, Joe Havey, and Jody Strupp. (Call In) Roman Weninger. Also present were administrators and directors: Daren Sievers, Jim Curler, Jenny Boyd, Karen Hug, Patrick Armstrong and 19 in person guests and 61 guests on the phone.

Sievers affirmed the public notice.

Motion by Hassler, seconded by Rhodes, to approve the 4 sets of minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Feltz and Sievers reviewed the highlights of the financial report and asked if there were any questions on the financial report. After discussion, there was a motion by Havey, seconded by Jody Strupp, to dispense with the reading of the financial statement and approve as presented. Motion carried.

After discussion and clarifications of the voucher report, motion by Rhodes, seconded by Feltz, to approve check numbers 134371-134587, payroll check numbers 58646-58655, direct deposit numbers 901048738-901049491, A/P ACH numbers 202100092-202100204, the retirement ACH transfer of \$29,325.40, and tax deposit ACH transfers totaling \$225,924.75 wire transfers (BMO \$49,264.21), and voided checks: 134456 (Duplicate), 134371 (not issued), 58652 (printing error). Motion carried.

New Business:

Public Comments:

In Person:

Scott Stortz: Thanked Mr. Sievers, faculty, Board for everything they are doing to deal with the current situation. Wanted to confirm that the dashboard reflects current numbers only, how many students have been removed due to COVID, and then how many students were removed for contact tracing, out of those secondary students, how many of them ultimately tested positive for COVID? What is the school board's plan for the upcoming Flu season—wants to be sure that kids are not quarantined for regular flu or cold. He stated that there must be a way to record or stream live classes, especially at the high school.

Ann Ferenholtz: What type of communication is going to be shared with parents when a child is out for only one day due to non-COVID illnesses? They were asked to have a doctor's note or a negative COVID test to return to school.

On Phone:

Chris Lees: Burden rate concerns. 53086 has the highest burden rate in the county. He is looking at the county's recommendation to have 100 percent virtual with those burden numbers. Looking for thresholds for going virtual so that parents can make plans, and also have parents understand the true risk for their child coming to school in person.

Correspondence: Sievers read a letter from parent, Keri Johnson, regarding masks and quarantine concerns. She

recommends a hybrid approach that would cut the number of students in a classroom at a time.

Sievers presented an administrative recommendation to accept one letter of retirement from Food Service Director, Cindy Fassbender, who has been here for 23 years. The board shared their thankfulness for everything that she's done over the years, especially during these trying times. Fassbender thanked the board for trusting her and she will always be a Slinger Owl. Motion by Hassler, seconded by Havey to accept the resignation. Motion carried.

Watched a prepared video from the County Executive, Josh Schoemann regarding the importance of following the local health department recommendations so that districts in the county can remain open 5 days per week. Sievers has had several meetings with the Schoemann regarding quarantining. He has encouraged us to stay the course. <https://www.facebook.com/washcowisco/videos/2391001231194047/?extid=Ut38raJecyUyZsFD>

Board/Sievers invited district parents and medical professionals Dr. Jennifer S. George, DO and Dr. Eric J. Olafsson, MD, to answer some commonly asked questions regarding COVID and the district's decision to follow the Washington/Ozaukee County Health Department guidelines regarding COVID positive tests and contact tracing.

What do we know regarding COVID and why is it always changing?

GEORGE: She confirmed that this virus does change all of the time. It spreads from droplets person to person. Typically, the droplets don't go more than 6 feet but sometimes are aerosoled and can go further. It's a super-spreading disease, more so than influenza. It has to be treated as COVID 19 until proven otherwise, which is causing consternation. COVID takes longer to manifest—5-14 days after exposure. You are contagious up to 10 days after symptoms first appear. Elementary school kids tend not to get sick or are asymptomatic. However, they can get an inflammatory illness from it which can cause permanent damage. COVID recovery can take up to 6 weeks. She listed the symptoms they are seeing for adolescents with COVID. There is no treatment approved by the FDA. She went through treatments being used for symptoms. She reported the COVID deaths vs. regular Flu. Middle and high school kids definitely transmit the disease.

How sick are the kids who are testing positive?

GEORGE: Dr. George explained the mild symptoms, moderate symptoms, and severe symptoms.

OLAFFSON: For people that have significant illness, staying home is the best option with symptomatic coverage. If they are sick enough to be in the hospital it is because they are needing oxygen., They are using steroids, blood transfusions from people who have recovered from the illness, and an anti-viral medicine. Most of those people do recover. A smaller number of people do not recover.

What is a reasonable amount of time to get a result back?

GEORGE: There are different types of testing. Rapid test can be back in 15 minutes to 24 hours. Mostly used in the emergency room. The other test has a 24-72-hour turnaround time (Aurora) mostly used with mild or asymptomatic. Curler asked if we should be accepting the rapid test or not. George stated that test is so new that they aren't sure how accurate that is. The standard test is very, very reliable.

Does COVID 19 cause death or is it preexisting conditions?

OLAFFSON: It is mostly the older people in 60s and beyond who may have other issues. The case of the Green Bay teacher who died is very, very rare.

What is a reasonable amount of time to get a result back?

OLAFFSON: At Froedtert tests are back 8-12 hours. ER—super sick people can be back very quick. Tests are free to everyone. There is a cost to urgent care. There are community testing sites without a primary care provider: look at the community website. That turnaround time is about 72 hours.

How accurate is the home test kit using saliva?

Neither doctor has seen the numbers and couldn't comment on that.

What was their thoughts on face coverings, if they are helpful, why don't they eliminate the need for quarantine?

GEORGE: If you want the kids to stay in person, they have to wear a mask. That's the only way to cut the transmission, with social distancing, and washing your hands.

OLAFFSON: the masks are difficult to wear, no one likes to wear them, but it does reduce the risks in an indoor setting. He is hoping that this is a once-in-a-lifetime situation, but the masks help.

What is the comparison data on the parallel tests of rapid and standard?

Neither doctor has seen the numbers and couldn't comment.

How does the infections rate of COVID compare to influenza?

OLAFFSON: COVID is more contagious than the typical flu.

GEORGE: They can't predict who is going to have a mild case and who is going to have a severe case.

Are their cases where COVID positive cases have gotten re-infected?

GEORGE: One person in Hong Kong got it again. They are not positive how long the immunity is going to last.

Olaffson: There is no test for 90 days for someone who has tested positive. The re-infection rate "seems" to be low. He thinks the 90 days may be low.

School District Nurse, Annie Sommers

"How sick" are the students getting? She stated that schools are reporting sore throat and a fever, sick for a day or two. Smalls and high school complain of headaches. She's not sure that the kids are having a long enough mask break. Sievers stated that so far, we have not had any students who are gravely ill. Sievers said that Josh and the county experts are recommending staying the course. Sommers also recommends staying the course. She feels comfortable letting the parents decide if there needs to be a test or not. Sievers thanked all three health experts for their information. Ken Strupp asked Dr. George if they are having a rapid test and then a regular test, and both are positive, is that 2 positive cases? George said she doesn't think that is the case, but that would be a good idea to ask the County.

Sievers presented information regarding recent critical matters related to COVID-19 and a progress report on the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

1. Northshore Sports Update: Face covering guidelines set forth by the conference have been implemented successfully with indoor sports & "enclosed" stadium spaces. Use of clickers and passes to confirm we are staying within capacity.
2. Governor's Executive Order: Was extended until mid November.
3. County Dashboard: <http://www.washozwi.gov>
 - a. District burden (all ages)
 - Reviewed burden numbers by district zip codes. Today was 930 per 100,000 which means we have 93 positive cases in the 53086-zip code. This is the entire Slinger

community. On Friday the 53002-zip code had 2.9 people with positive cases in all of the Allenton community.

- b. School age cases: Sievers showed our Slinger School District dashboard.
4. Slinger School District Dashboard: <https://sss.slinger.k12.wi.us/district/covid19.cfm>
 - a. Loaded out of Skyward daily in late morning.
 - b. Numbers are not cumulative. The dashboard shows only current numbers for that day.
 - c. Other illness – represents students who are out sick that day with non COVID related illnesses.
 - d. Suggestion for a legend.
 - e. Suggestion for another chart with cumulative totals.
 - f. No way to understand what percentage of students identified to quarantine because of contact tracing ultimately test positive for the virus.
 - g. Typical illness rate for this time of year is 2-3% which is similar to what we are seeing this year.
 - h. Sievers will confirm the reason why our numbers don't match the county numbers. Likely it is because the county includes 0-3 yrs old and 18 yr olds who are graduated. Also, their data reflects only 2 weeks of information. Ours is real time.
5. Teaching and Learning Update (virtual and hybrid) Sievers provided an update on feedback administration is receiving on virtual learning platforms. Approx 300 students are using. The administration will be visiting a district to benchmark their approach to their virtual offering and will report back to the board.
 - Some families have expressed concern that they would prefer the district to provide a direct connection via ZOOM to the district classroom.
 - Some families would prefer to have their student interact with other students
6. Quarantining Challenges: Sievers provided an update on feedback administration is receiving about the experience for quarantined students.
 - Some of the parents for quarantined students have been upset that quarantine is affecting participation in sports/clubs. Families are wondering if they can switch learning modality during critical times in a student's athletic/club season so their children don't miss key events.
7. Health Department Update
 - a. 90-day Rule: COVID-19 positive student exempt from contact tracing for 90 days.
 - b. Contact Tracing stance by the County was reiterated by County Executive Schoemann urging the community to support and follow all county guidelines.
8. Froedtert Rapid Test Site Opportunity
 - a. 7-hour turnaround
 - b. Staffing needed
 - c. Location needed
 - d. \$100 per test
 - e. Available for students
 - f. Sievers will continue to investigate.

Curler and Havey presented a report on a recent policy review, review safety resolutions, and conduct the first reading of policies impacted by Title IX compliance. Havey also presented the second reading of policies:

- Policy 113 Nondiscrimination in District Programs, Activities, and Operations
- Policy 113 Rule 1: District Response to Alleged Sexual Harassment Under Title IX
- Policy 113 Rule 2: Expectations for Employees to Report Discrimination and Harassment
- Policy 113 Rule 3: Initial District Screening of Reports or Complaints of Sexual Harassment
- Policy 113 Exhibit 1: Title IX Notice
- Policy 411.1 Rule: Student Harassment & Bullying Reporting Procedures
- Policy 512 Rule: Employment Harassment & Bullying Reporting Procedures
- Policy 511 Rule: Employment Discrimination Reporting Procedures

- Policy 512 Exhibit: Employee Harassment & Bullying Form
- Policy 411.1 Exhibit: Student Harassment & Bullying Reporting Form

Motion by Rhodes, seconded by Hassler, to approve the policies as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comments and Questions:

In Person:

Scott Stortz: Still concerned about the cold and flu season. Wants the board to create a FIRM plan to determine between a cold and COVID. He doesn't want full classrooms shut down because of cold season.

Penny Zagel: She wants to know why kids who are quarantined can't just zoom in. She fails to see where the streaming would create additional work for the teachers.

Matt Tennes: Of the deaths in this state, no one under 20 has died. He feels that the danger to kids and healthy kids that it can't supersede kids being in person at school. Especially for the elementary kids. He is worried about the hole we are getting into. Can we avoid the liability and still reduce the number of days quarantined? It's difficult for families to find people to supervise and help their kids at home when the parents are at work.

Julie Ayers: They are getting more mask breaks, they have recess, but as a concerned parent, it's hard for the parents when the kids say they haven't been able to take a break and get chastised for it.

Scott Stortz: Middle school child said they have to keep their masks on during lunch and just pull their masks down in order to eat. Is that really happening? Sievers has visited every lunch and has not seen that. Fassbender said the masks are on in the line, off at the table, back on when leaving.

On Phone Questions:

Chris Lees: Legal opinion, if we follow the guidelines and we are protected. Health department said the highest level of critical. He believes we are not operating within the guidelines and what will the thresholds be in the future.

April Brodzeller: Full virtual option. Some confusion about what our teachers are doing. They are not teaching, they are grading, unlocking lessons, no band or choir lessons for the middle school as of yet. Quarantined kids going to their youth organizations and other activities. She wants that clarified for parents that quarantined means from all events the child is involved in—not just school.

Carrie Johnson: Is the health department relying on the schools only, and are they working with the families to determine what other activities the students are in? They should.

Lisa Kitzke: She knows that there are resignations at the health department, but they did get some people who are now trained and ready to go tomorrow.

Rebecca MacCudden: She said that her son decided to go virtual after a week, and it's been going wonderfully. The teacher has been communicating with the student. She, as a parent, understood when going virtual, that it is self-paced and self-taught. Also, if the mask mandate is overturned, what will be the Board's decision be regarding masks. Please make sure that you are keeping staff safety in mind as well when making that decision.

Future Dates to Remember:

October 14 th	Tentative Special Board Meeting	6:00 PM
October 15 th	WASB Region 15 Meeting	6:30 PM

October 26 th	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM
November 23 rd	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM

Motion by Hassler, seconded by Rhodes, to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherie Rhodes, Clerk