

Jason M. Chevrier
Superintendent
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Michael Tuttle
President
Board of Education

**Thursday, November 5, 2020
Board of Education - Workshop Minutes**

Minutes are final and were approved at the November 19, 2020 meeting.

Meeting time: 6:00 PM

Meeting Location: Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School for Board Members

**Members of the public can join by copying and pasting the following link in their web browser:
<https://schodackk12.webex.com/schodackk12/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed582dafa601158574d4d9e812e073cf8>**

Also by phone:

1-408-418-9388

Event number: 173 933 0860

Event password: scsd

Present in person: Michael Tuttle, Mary Yurista, Kyle Hurysz, Daniel Grandinetti, Shelley Palmer, Michael Charsky and Charles Peter.

Present virtually: Michael Hiser and Sherri Gibson

Also present in person: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey and Michele Reickert

Also present virtually: Michael Bennett, Jacqueline Hill, and Keri Rosher

1. MEETING OPENING

- A. President Michael Tuttle called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm.
- B. President Michael Tuttle asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- C. Mary Yurista moved for approval of the Present Agenda, Daniel Grandinetti seconded, (Sherri Gibson did not have video, she did not vote) all others present in favor.

2. REPORTS

A. Reopening Challenges - Jason Chevrier

Mr. Chevrier talked about the potential difficulties with the upcoming holidays and travel, responses to a survey that went out to the public, employees and students were shared, mental health was discussed, parents and students were asked to share about school work, assignments, in person and remote day workloads.

Various challenges were shared: staffing challenges, instruction challenges, how is the loss of contact time affecting students learning? Remote day instruction and time at the secondary level on Wednesdays, curriculum pacing, electives are being done remotely, special area courses like Art and Phys. Ed. are being delivered much different, how can we provide these things safely? Cohorting is the safest way to deliver instruction, but also provides challenges. Technology issues and implementing new programs, consistency in training, licensing and Ed. Law 2d. can slow things up. Transportation options are limited, the fall season in athletics was successful, there is still no guidance on the winter sports, space in the buildings is limited for practices, gymnasiums are used for instruction. Special events for seniors need to be thought out, the pep rally and bonfire on fall sports weekend, did not

take place. The Halloween parade at CES was not held. The Department of Health dashboard reporting continues, COVID leave tracking, doctor's notes and testing, contract tracing.

There was discussion about looking at increased opportunities and what is realistic for bringing kids back in the buildings. Looking at consistency for teachers in scheduling and expectations, restructuring instruction on Wednesdays for grades 4-6. Five different options for grades 4-6 and some pros and cons of each one were shared and discussion ensued.

Michael Hiser talked about evaluating after the first semester, the national number for new cases, the upcoming cold weather and suggested seeing how things are at a semester break.

Michael Charsky expressed appreciation for the efforts to bring kids back and talked about the planning that took place and the success of the reopening of the schools. He expressed concern over added stress to administration to bring the 4th-6th grades back too quickly, asked that administration take into consideration the holidays coming up, the travel restrictions and increasing COVID cases coming up from the south. He suggested waiting until after the holiday break.

Dan Grandinetti expressed that kids need be back in school yesterday, the increase in cases should not interfere with getting kids back in school.

Mary Yurista agreed that option D is the most risky. She also suggested waiting until the next semester as families are going to be intermixing for the holidays and introducing extra risk. She also added that she understands the importance of kids getting back in school. She asked that the district be cautious.

Sherri Gibson stated that the district put really good safety procedures in place and a lot has been done to ensure a safe environment. She asked that the district trust the safety procedures in place. She also commented that the same kids that will be in 5 days a week are currently in two days a week so there is no increase in the number of kids the faculty are exposed to.

Shelley Palmer expressed that the cost of the options are important to know. It is important to have kids back, some of the households already have a child in school 5 days a week so the exposure is already there. Everyone needs to follow guidelines, if you are going to travel, quarantine, if your child is sick, call your doctor and keep them home.

Charles Peter asked about a realistic timeframe once a model is decided on and will grades 4, 5 and 6 start at the same time or will it be done in phases? Mr. Chevrier stated that the process has not been decided upon but that it would seem a phase in was the probably the most sound way to implement.

3. BOARD DISCUSSION:

Nothing additional.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nicole Henderson thanked everyone in the district for doing their best in these extraordinary times. She expressed that the survey data does not reflect grades 4-6 accurately. She is worried kids are falling behind; she has expressed this but has not seen much change. Cases are going up, hospitalizations are going up, school districts have had cases, and she is concerned. Students having to stay out multiple days will impact make up work and teachers ability to work with students that have missed multiple days.

Kendra Severance a parent of a 4th grade hybrid model, she is not worries about the safety with the protocols in place, more concerned with hybrid kids, every day they fall further behind academically, mentally and emotionally. She encouraged the district to get 4th and 5th grades back in the school as soon as possible.

Daniel Grandinetti asked about the process that was in place if a student has to stay home and quarantine to get that student up to speed? Mr. Chevrier shared that the teacher would be responsible, it is different if a student has surgery and is out, then tutors are involved.

Shelley Palmer shared some of the concerns but stated that she has faith in the teachers.

Mary Yurista pointed out that if a student is on quarantine a number of days and is on the hybrid model, they should still be able to participate on the remote days.

5. ADJOURNMENT

A. Michael Charsky moved to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the personnel history of particular person, Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.

B. Michael Charsky moved to reconvene to regular session and adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm., Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Reickert

District Clerk