



Independent School District No. 834 – Stillwater Area Public Schools
Video Conference
August 3, 2020 – 5:00 p.m. Special Meeting Minutes

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Sarah Stivland, chair; Mike Ptacek, clerk; Tina Riehle, treasurer; Jennifer Pelletier, director; Liz Weisberg, director
- III. **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda by Member Ptacek; Seconded by: Member Riehle; Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

IV. **Review of the Smart ReStart Plan**

Interim Superintendent Lansfeldt presented the Smart ReStart Plan for fall return to school. Six commitments in order of importance are safety, equity, relationships, student support, quality academics and family engagement. The community was surveyed and the results helped make improvements for the fall. Another survey will be sent in the fall to find out how the 2020-21 school year is going which will help us make adjustments and improvements.

Many communications will be provided to families via email and on the website this week.

The Governor came out with the safe learning plan involving a five step decision making process. 1. Consider county-level data to determine MDE's recommended Based Learning Model. 2. We are assigned to Washington County to consult with to examine local data and consider impact on schools. 3. We will evaluate our district's ability to implement required and recommended protocols (staffing, transportation, supplies, protocols, physical distancing). 4. Determine the learning model to begin the school year. 5. Monitor community and school-level impact of COVID on a regular basis and adjust if needed. The recommended base learning model was reviewed which uses the number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residents to determine your learning model. We are currently trending at the hybrid model.

Dr. Cherry shared the three models that are being planned. As we anticipate moving between learning models the COVID pandemic is changing so our goal is to safely restart and reconnect with our students. This will depend on the prevalence of COVID 19 and our operational capacity. All instruction is being developed in an online format so we are able to respond to changing circumstances and move quickly between models. Families and staff will need to be flexible and have alternative plans should we move learning models. The hybrid model has a blended learning model of two days at school and three days online with an alternative schedule with an A/B/A/B/C day. In a distance learning model all students would learn from home and have support from the teachers. Families may choose to enroll 100% online learning. An Intent to Return will be sent by email to all families on August 4. All responses must be returned by August 9. Choosing 100% online learning option must commit for one term. The in-person learning model is where students will attend school full time. Schools will follow all safety protocols and guidelines for face coverings, cleaning and sanitizing. There will also be no large events or assemblies held and modifications may be made to the school day to limit the number of students in one area at a time, such as lunch, recess, and dismissal times.

Hybrid learning is where students are split into groups. In group A students would attend Mon/Wed, Group B would learn at home on those days and then Group B would attend school on Tues/Thurs, C day (5th day) all students would distance all day. The C day gives time for building cleaning and for teachers to make connections with students.

Physical distancing in this format would be operational as schools would operate at about 50% of capacity. Priority will be to schedule families together on the same days.

Distance learning format this is where 100% will be learning from home. We have recorded mini-lessons to introduce learning. Teacher interaction will be with students one-on-one and in small groups. We will have a mix of scheduled learning times as a class, along with independent online learning. There will be peer-to-peer activities to provide more social/emotional support. There will also be streamlined communication and more consistent use of apps and platforms. There are two types of distance learning: Synchronous – students learn at the same time and Asynchronous – learn the same material but may be at different times and locations.

Special education plans have been put together for the in-person/hybrid/distance learning models. Students will follow their assigned schedule. Families and staff will meet to discuss and agree to a set of services to be delivered in person, when possible. Other services will continue remotely as specified in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Families Service Plan (IFSP). Services for students with complex health or support needs will be addressed in collaboration with families on an individual basis. 100% online learning is also available for special education.

4-Year-Old Preschool will follow the same schedule as our elementary schools for both in-person and hybrid learning. There will not be an online learning option for preschool families. Depending on space availability, preschool play days may be available for families when school is not in session. ThreeSchool preschool programming will remain the same during in-person and hybrid learning.

Adventure Club will follow Executive Order 20-82 which indicates the district must provide care for children of Tier 1-essential workers at no cost during the school day for kindergarten to age 12 at times when the district is operating in a hybrid or distance learning model. We will do our best to provide a fee-based childcare program for families not classified a Tier 1 depending on availability space in our schools and available staff.

Human Resources are working with all schools to ensure we have adequate custodial and healthcare staff to meet all safety protocols.

Families, students and staff are expected to self-screen at home before coming to school. Anyone experiencing any of the COVID symptoms should not attend school. Call the health office in the morning before school with questions.

Bus capacity will be at 50% as defined by MDE/MDH. Students, drivers and bus aides are required to wear face masks. Students will be one to a seat and those from the same household may sit together. Seats will be assigned. Bus pickup areas at each school will be marked for physical distancing. Cleaning and disinfecting will take place following each route. Specific instructions will come from your child's school.

School Meals for in-person/hybrid schedules will have breakfast and lunch available to students. Meals will be available to students for days they are learning from home. Weekly meal distribution will be provided for those families choosing 100% online learning or when in the distance learning model. Meals served at school to students will be in small group settings outside of the cafeteria, including classroom spaces, as determined by the school sites.

A clerical staff member with a health background will be put in place to take all calls from families if a student has been exposed. If there is a COVID case in a school, we will communicate to all families in a school, conduct extra cleaning, continue to provide important health information to families, contact all students and/or staff who were in close contact with the person, monitor symptoms of students and staff and send students and staff home if they become ill. We will not provide personally identifiable information of an infected person. We will not immediately close schools for one positive case and look at each case individually.

Athletics and extracurricular activities will follow all MDH, MSHSL and NFHS standards for return to play protocol. A decision on the status of fall sports is expected to be announced in mid-August.

Community education classes will be held online and in-person if number of participants can be physically distanced and no other state or local restrictions are in place. Face masks are required inside and participants/instructors must follow all self-screening expectations.

The Pony Activity Center will allow members to work out based on local data from public health. Members must follow all self-screening expectations. Masks may be removed while the level of exertion makes it difficult to wear a mask provided that social distancing can be maintained.

Next steps are for families and staff to complete the Intent to Return survey by August 9. Adventure Club registration will come out mid-August. Schools will be sending out details regarding hybrid schedules. Administration will bring its recommendation for which model that will be used to begin the school year to the August 6 board meeting.

V. Authorize Legal Counsel to Resolve Election Notification Issue

Chair Stivland explained the issue regarding the posting of the resolution for the two open seats at our meeting on 7.23.20. The public notification for the filing dates for the special election was scheduled to appear on July 24 in the Gazette. An error was found in the resolution at the July 23 meeting. The resolution was amended and emailed to the Gazette. However, because of reasons not quite clear, the public notification was not replaced, but was cancelled at the Gazette, so it did not appear in the July 24 issue of the paper. It is in the Gazette now and will appear through August 11. The notifications for filing an affidavit have been on our website for a few weeks, posted at Central Services, and also published in the Pioneer Press. Law requires we use the official newspaper of note which is the Gazette. This was complicated by the tight time frame of the special election and that the Gazette is a weekly paper. In talking with legal counsel we did everything we could to provide sufficient notice but the law requires it be in the newspaper for two weeks before the filing period begins. Legal counsel will file a petition with the Washington County judge issuing an order that his error has been corrected and ask that the special election can proceed as normal.

Motion by Member Weisberg to authorize legal counsel to resolve the election notification issue; second by Member Riehle; Vote: 5 ayes; 0 nays. Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

A. The meeting adjourned formally at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Ptacek, Clerk