

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
The Board of Education of the Brentwood School District

Open Work Session	Google Meet	6:00 p.m.	July 29, 2020
Kind of Meeting	Location	Time	Date

*Due to health and safety concerns related to COVID19
the board meeting was conducted electronically via Google Meet
and live streamed on YouTube.*

Members

<u>Present via Google Meet</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Jamie Allen Melissa Nehrt Chris Perkins Keith Rabenberg Lindsay Spencer Kerry Trostel Mark Womer	

- Call to Order Board President, Ms. Lindsay Spencer, called the open work session meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Introduction Ms. Spencer announced a schedule update. She acknowledged the curriculum team, administrative team, and everyone who has been working on the re-entry plan. Ms. Spencer thanked all of the parents, community members, and BSD employees who have shared their thoughts and provided feedback.
- Roll Call Brentwood School District Board members were present or absent as stated above.
- Attendance Also in attendance was Superintendent, Dr. Brian Lane.
- ACTION 10
Approval of Consent
Agenda The motion was made by Mr. Jamie Allen and seconded by Ms. Melissa Nehrt to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.
- Re-Entry Work Session Dr. Brian Lane provided a COVID19 update. St. Louis County is a hot spot and the numbers are very concerning. Metrics include cases per day; St. Louis County and Brentwood; student health; and COVID19 testing turn-around times. Dr. Lane continues to collaborate with St. Louis area superintendents. He is concerned

about the quality of education if the schools open, then have to shut down while waiting for test results. St. Louis County Health Department said virtual classes are the best option. St. Louis County Executive said districts should start virtually if at all possible.

Mr. Womer likes having the metrics. He said the numbers are alarming. Timely test results are needed. He asked Dr. Lane to find out and include the number of intensive care beds available for children in St. Louis County. He asked for an outline of reasonable thresholds to help families decide what to do. Dr. Lane agreed that thresholds would be helpful. He said the superintendents' goal is to come up with county metrics, along the lines of a three-level plan.

There is concern for student, staff, and family safety; continuity of education; and a focus on delivering high quality virtual instruction, instead of multiple options that were previously in place.

Dr. Lane recommends closing K-12 campuses for the first quarter and going to full-time virtual learning for the traditional program and full-time distance learning.

BSD will be using the Canvas Learning Management System. It is easier to access - conducive to live video lessons and communication. Parents will have one access point for all of their children. BSD will offer training session for teachers, students, and parents. Training dates and times will be provided.

Dr. Lane presented the elementary schedule. There will be synchronous learning periods. Teacher assistants and specialists will help with small groups and interventions.

Mr. Allen asked who was involved with the Canvas platform and when teachers will see Canvas. Dr. Alex Tripamer, Director of Instruction and Student Support, said teachers are aware of the plan to use Canvas. Some have already used it at work or with graduate level coursework. They are ready for training. Canvas needs to set up the BSD record, then the program will be available.

Mr. Allen asked how long the training will last and what are the expectations. He is concerned about potential inconsistencies. Dr. Tripamer said Google Classroom will pull into the Canvas modules. It is easier to submit work through Canvas. Initial training will focus on content, assignments, and grade books. Training can then be expanded to other parts of the program. Training will be conducted prior to the start of the school year.

Dr. Lane will also talk about clear expectations to engage every student every day.

Ms. Trostel asked if there are deadlines for teachers to provide content and access. Dr. Tripamer and Ms. Sue Roy, IT, sent the data to Canvas. They are in contact with Canvas and have indicated BSD would like access to the program right away. Dr. Tripamer said it is possible to learn the three basic categories in an hour.

Ms. Trostel ask if tutorials are available. Dr. Tripamer said that Mr. Sam Rayburn, Director of Communications, sent some introductory samples. It is best to work through the training modules once they become available.

Ms. Trostel asked when parents will have access to Canvas. Dr. Tripamer said after classrooms are set up.

Ms. Trostel and Mr. Allen asked for clarification on who would be teaching in the traditional program and the full-time distance learning. Dr. Lane said Brentwood teachers will teach the traditional program open and closed classes. Brentwood teachers will teach K-5 full-time distance learning. Launch teachers will teach 6-12 full-time distance learning, with Brentwood teachers providing some support.

Ms. Trostel asked how long the traditional program closed classes would last. Dr. Lane is committed to the traditional program closed classes until the end of the first quarter, regardless of changes in COVID19 metrics. It will be a minimum of four weeks before the St. Louis area could see changes in metrics. A decision about second quarter will be made before the end of the first quarter.

Ms. Nehrt asked about synchronous vs. asynchronous elementary instruction. Dr. Cindy Neu, Principal, and Ms. Carolyn Eastabrook, Principal, said that 40% of instruction will be synchronous. BSD scheduled large periods of learning time instead of small periods. Dr. Tripamer said that students can stay logged in and work on assignments during asynchronous learning periods.

Dr. Lane presented the BMS and BHS schedules.

7:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. preparation, communication, IEP's and family advisory.

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. four 50-minute synchronous courses per day with a lunch break.

2:05 p.m.- 3:15 p.m. office hours and student check-in.

Mr. Allen asked about connectivity issues. Dr. Lane said the majority of students have WIFI. BSD will send a survey the week of 8/3/20 to get further details from families. BSD can work with Spectrum to provide WIFI if needed at a reduced rate. He will bring a proposal to the Board for internet access.

Mr. Allen asked if everyone has a device and strong bandwidth. He also asked if BSD has “souped up” tech support. Dr. Lane said the BSD technology department can take care of repairs and a helpline.

Ms. Trostel asked about flexible learning time for secondary students enrolled in the traditional program campus closed. Some students may be working and attending school. Dr. Lane said students need to be available from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. If work schedules or other obligations conflict with this time, then students may want to speak with counselors to determine if the Launch full-time distance learning program would be the better option.

Ms. Trostel asked how BMS and BHS teachers feel about BSD using the Launch program. Dr. Lane said teachers are supportive of the separate program. If traditional program campus open resumes, teachers could wind up teaching both on-campus classes and full-time distance learning classes.

Dr. Lane provided the following key dates:

7/31/20 – sending academic program choice forms

8/7/20 – commitments for fall semester are due

10/23/20 – end of first quarter

10/26/20 – traditional program campus open returns to schools, if determine to be safe

Mr. Allen asked for clarification on the metrics. Dr. Lane said BSD would use the four metrics discussed earlier plus information from St. Louis area superintendents and the St. Louis County Health Department. He will report regularly. He will be looking at St. Louis County and Brentwood. List of metrics may change.

Mr. Womer said BSD should manage expectations. There must be a shift in metrics in order to have in-person classes. Dr. Lane wants to see a positive trend to justify traditional program campus open.

Ms. Spencer asked about SSD instruction, services coordination, and addressing individualized needs. Ms. Tami Yates, SSD Coordinator, said SSD has basic guidelines and will work with general education staff to minimize transitions. Small group and one-on-one instruction and services will be provided as needed. SSD teachers will also collaborate with staff members providing related services.

Mr. Womer noted that the ECC was excluded from the recommendation. Dr. Lane recommends that the ECC be open. Ms. Kristin Clemons, ECC Director, has been in conversation with ECC staff, peers, and various public and private early childhood centers in St. Louis County. The ECC will open with reduced enrollment; with procedures in place, to meet needs of families.

Mr. Trostel asked about the ECC providing services for families and essential worker parents. Dr. Lane said the enrollment numbers are consistent with those from previous years. Ms. Clemons said they cannot reach out to the community since enrollment is at capacity. Dr. Lane said that changes to the K-12 programs for the first quarter may change families' decisions to send students to the ECC. BSD may open up enrollment if there is a decrease in the numbers.

Ms. Trostel said there would be questions on social media about why the ECC will be open but not K-12. Dr. Lane said several factors went into the decision. Many districts are keeping their ECC's open. Hospitalizations and transmission rates for younger children have been positive. In addition to the educational component, there is a need for childcare. Brentwood has a high rate of full-day enrollments. Ms. Clemons spoke with staff, who indicated they are interested in having in-person classes. Approximately 50% of the K-12 staff is concerned about having in-person classes.

Mr. Allen asked about having traditional program campus open for grades K-2 or K-5. Dr. Lane said the biggest concerns are the benefits and negatives to virtual learning vs. in-person classes and the realities of instruction. Want to minimize the possibility of COVID19 repeatedly shutting down traditional program open classes. Such disruptions would not benefit K-2 students. Data indicates transmission and exposure rates are different. Dr. Neu said she is receiving calls from Kindergarten parents concerned for safety and protocols. Looking for ways to address mask wearing and social and emotional learning. Ms. Eastabrook said it is important to meet social and emotional needs first. ECC and K-2 or K-3 benefit greatly from in-person classes.

Ms. Trostel asked if the ECC would be open only to BSD families or to others as well. Dr. Lane said the ECC will be open only to BSD families.

Ms. Nehrt said there is a disconnect between the ECC and elementary programs. Dr. Lane said the decisions were difficult. ECC students will work on social distancing but will not wear masks. Elementary grades will work on social distancing and wearing masks. Ms. Nehrt would like for BSD to figure out how to get K-2 students into traditional program campus open to help address educational and childcare needs. BSD should also educate the community about the decisions.

Mr. Allen said pre-K and K-2 students are at critical developmental and childcare stages. Dr. Lane said he is not recommending in-person learning for K-2 at this time. The Board can recommend another option.

Ms. Trostel said that the district's mission, vision, and values are to educate children, not provide childcare and babysitting.

Mr. Perkins asked if the ECC enrollment spots will be saved if parents want to wait to return students to in-person classes. Dr. Lane said not necessarily, but there can be further conversation about the matter. Regarding staffing needs, BSD will see if enrollment drops. He said enrollment numbers have remained steady.

Ms. Spencer asked Dr. Neu and Ms. Eastabrook about K-2 students. Dr. Neu said students can be taught to wear masks, etc. It may take a while to do, along with all of the other adjustments to new procedures. Ms. Eastabrook said mask wearing and other techniques can be taught virtually so that students are ready to try when they return to in-person classes.

Ms. Nehrt asked if there will be Canvas training for parents before school starts. She asked that helpline schedules and office hours be published. Dr. Tripamer said Canvas top level tech support (by email or helpline) will be available with a 30-45-minute turnaround time. Dr. Tripamer said Ms. Libby Wilson, BHS Librarian, is interested in helping and may work with grades 6-12. Dr. Tripamer will probably be the contact for grades K-5.

Ms. Trostel asked if Dr. Tripamer or Ms. Wilson would be available to attend PTO meetings to provide Canvas tutorials and answer questions.

Ms. Nehrt asked about EPED for a BSD Canvas helpline representative to provide support for teachers and parents. Dr. Lane said BSD will continue working on the support plan.

Ms. Nehrt asked if it would be possible for a delivery person to transport technology hardware and breakfast/lunch meals to students. Dr. Lane will consider this.

Ms. Nehrt asked how to help staff working remotely with their children's' needs. Dr. Lane said teachers would have the option to work in the buildings or from home.

Mr. Allen wanted to verify that teachers could choose to work in the buildings or from home. Dr. Lane said is correct.

Ms. Trostel asked if teachers could continue to work from home. Dr. Lane said the option will continue unless there is a loss of quality control, in which case teachers would be required to work in the buildings.

Ms. Nehrt asked if teachers could bring their children to the buildings if they are working on-site. Dr. Lane will check with peers and insurance companies.

Mr. Allen asked about MHSSA disqualifications that may be a result of the switch to traditional program closed classes for first quarter. Dr. Lane said there are issues with the MHSSA ruling. There is talk of having shortened seasons or having additional activities in the spring. Dr. Stephen Ayotte, Vice Principal and Athletic Director, said if there is no in-school option, district cannot have sports. He said if traditional program open classes are offered and students are in the virtual program, eligibility will be left to local control. No sports until can safely come back. Can start the day students come back. Participation will also depend on the size of the schools that are open.

Mr. Allen asked if MHSSA fall sports could move to spring. Dr. Ayotte said there would be no sports until BSD traditional program is open. MHSSA said that, with the possible exception of softball, there are no plans to move fall sports to spring.

Ms. Spencer asked if the district needs an additional short-term social worker when school reopens. Dr. Lane will keep it in mind. It is difficult to forecast. BSD social worker, SSD social worker, and building counselors would be in positions to know if additional help would be beneficial.

Mr. Allen appreciates the time and effort put into the planning process and thanks everyone who worked on it.

Ms. Spencer and Ms. Trostel agreed with Mr. Allen.

ACTION 11
Adjournment 7:44 p.m.

The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to adjourn and reconvene in closed session. The motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Call to Order and
Reconvene Open
Session

Brentwood School District Board members reconvened in open session at 8:40 p.m. Members were present or absent as stated above.

ACTION 12
Approval of
Re-Entry Plan

The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to approve the Re-Entry plan.

Mr. Allen expressed concern about having ECC students attend classes in person while K-2 students will be in the virtual program for the first quarter. Like the pre-K students, K-2 students are at impressionable ages and would also benefit from attending classes in person.

Ms. Nehrt agreed.

Mr. Womer said K-2 students are at a developmentally important stage. He would like to strongly suggest that the elementary principals consider in person classes for K-2 students in the second quarter. Mr. Womer stressed the importance of keeping students engaged. He would like to hear from parents of K-2 students about how they feel the virtual program is working.

Ms. Nehrt said BSD has a sound educational plan with no plans for furloughs. She is concerned that there is not enough support for parents. She is concerned about the safety of younger students who may be home alone. She said that teachers may be sacrificing the education of their own kids to teach others.

Ms. Trostel asked if there would be Chromebooks for K-2 students. Dr. Lane said K-2 students will have Chromebooks or I-pads.

Mr. Allen said a district of 800 students can quickly pivot. This plan is okay for the first quarter. He would like BSD to adjust Re-Entry plans quickly when the metrics improve.

Ms. Spencer said the Board expects BSD to do its best to reach every student.

Ms. Trostel would like students back in the buildings for second quarter.

Mr. Rabenberg said it is a good plan and he is in favor. BSD should keep trying to learn. Virtual learning could continue an entire year. He appreciates the work done by everyone to get the plan in place.

Ms. Trostel said communication is key. She asked that BSD keep communication going.

The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

Discussion
FY2020-2021
Academic Calendar

Dr. Lane asked Board members to consider moving back the first day of school for students. DESE requires a minimum of 1,044 hours. The current BSD schedule has 1,090 hours. The three days would still be teacher contract days, providing additional training time.

Ms. Spencer said the new start date would be Thursday, August 27, 2020.

Mr. Allen requested that the calendars be updated and posted.

Ms. Nehrt expressed concern about moving the date. Dr. Lane said that extending dates beyond what is listed would be above the teacher contracts and would be a considerable expense to the district.

Ms. Trostel asked if the three days would be added to the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Lane said no.

Ms. Nehrt expressed concern about moving the start date back three days, after the students missed so much with the changes during Spring 2020. Dr. Lane said that the extra preparation days and time will be helpful.

Ms. Nehrt asked what the start date is for the Launch program. Dr. Lane will check on the Launch schedule and the information will be published.

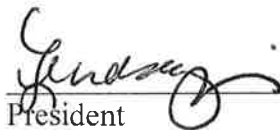
Ms. Spencer asked if Re-Entry updates will be added to the website. Dr. Lane will send a letter in the morning to parents and community. Updates will be published on the website and blog.

ACTION 13
Approval of Revisions
to the FY2020-2021
Academic Calendar

The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to approve moving the first day of school from Monday, August 24, 2020 to Thursday, August 27, 2020. The motion passed by a 7-0 voice vote.

ACTION 14
Adjournment 8:55 p.m.

The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Nehrt to adjourn. The motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.



President



Secretary