



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
<https://youtu.be/H1JiQRV26oQ>

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

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NEIL J. FREITAS
RICK LAMOS
SHAWN SAGE

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Irvine, Baker-Herring, Wilson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Mr. Estheimer read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2020/21-98 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Sage the board approve the January 19, 2021 Special Board Meeting Agenda.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage

NO:

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT

SHARON IRVINE

BUSINESS AND FINANCE
DIRECTOR

BARBARA WILSON, CFO

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

DR. MICHELLE BAKER-
HERRING

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Rob and Tara Secco: Hello members of the Southgate School Board, We wanted to start off by thanking Mrs. Irvine for hosting the two parent Q&A sessions last week. Both were very informative and we appreciate your transparency. One thing that stood out to us was that there are many elementary parents who were struggling to make the entire year commitment. We ourselves were having this struggle, as well as many friends we have within our district. During those two Q&A sessions, elementary parents were asking for an opportunity to make the commitment now, for Jan 25 through the end of the 2nd trimester and then the opportunity to make another commitment for the third trimester. If this was an option for us, we would have felt confident with the commitment we made yesterday. Instead, committing our two elementary children to either full time face to face or full time remote for the remainder of the school year felt very unsettling.

The COVID situation is ever changing, hence why our board must meet monthly. Our mode of instruction parent commitments are ever changing as well. What we feel comfortable with right now might be totally different next trimester. While we are thrilled our district now has the option for students to return to school for those that choose to do so, we also wish elementary students would have another opportunity to return face to face IF the COVID situation changed enough where parents feel safe to make that change.

Southgate School Board Members: PLEASE consider giving elementary parents the opportunity to make another mode of instruction commitment for the 3rd trimester. Thank you for your time, thank you for responding to all of our emails, and thank you for hearing us out. Sincerely, Rob and Tara Secco (Two very proud Fordline Titan Parents, of two pretty amazing Fordline Titans)

ACTION

Mr. Green called for this special meeting due to the uncertainty at the January 12, 2021 meeting regarding the metric to be used for determining the positivity rate. The question about using the Downriver metric and which cities to include needs to be clarified. Clarity was asked for with the percentage rate, the average, and the cities that are included in the 14-day average.

Ms. Irvine commented that we are confusing positivity rate and 14-day daily average of new cases. That needs to be clarified to prevent any confusion on our website as we reflect and talk about positivity rates. We did adjust the district tracking of the target-rate by using daily cases and taking out percentage. But we would like to clean that up. We did have a motion prior that accepted the presentation that said positivity rate.

Ms. Irvine stated the motion given to the board tonight would be to approve the Southgate Community School District's Metric Amendment to consider the 14-day daily average of new cases for the communities of Southgate, Allen Park, Taylor, Wyandotte, Lincoln Park, Riverview, Brownstown and Woodhaven. This motion will clean a lot of things up.

Discussion took place about a second motion that would take the 14-day daily average of new cases for all communities with students enrolling in Southgate Community Schools, weighted for the percentage of enrollment from each of those communities.

2020/21-99 Mr. Craig offered a motion that we pause any opening until we get all of the numbers together and come up with what we think is the right metric.

Motion failed due to lack of support

Board members continued discussing where the numbers will come from, to determine the percentage that will be used in the metric; the cities we receive students from, the number of students from each of those cities and how the numbers will be weighted. Extensive discussion took place about which cities to include in the metric and if it is even helpful to use other cities' numbers instead of Southgate using their own in the metric.

2020/21-100 Mr. Sage offered a motion to approve the Southgate Community School Metric Amendment to consider the 14-day daily average of new cases for the communities of Southgate, Allen Park, Taylor, Wyandotte, Lincoln Park, Riverview, Brownstown, and Woodhaven.

Motion failed due to lack of support

Board members continued to discuss which direction we want to head. Regardless of the metric we use, we are still looking at the target of 9%.

2020/21-101 Mr. Lamos offered a motion to approve the Southgate Community School Metric Amendment to consider the 14-day daily average of new cases for all communities with students enrolling in Southgate Community Schools, weighted for the percentage of enrollment. Motion supported by Mr. Green.

Discussion took place about the school of choice communities that will be added and removing those that are statistically not going to weigh in because of the percentages. The cities will be Allen Park, Detroit, Lincoln Park, River Rouge, Riverview, Taylor, Woodhaven, Brownstown, Wyandotte and Southgate. We will be under the average daily count of 8.8% which will get our elementary and middle school students returning on Jan. 25. The next board meeting a discussion will be had about keeping the average daily count of 5% at the high school and decide what is the risk level and is there a difference between 5% and 9%; and is it appropriate to differentiate under daily cases at that time.

Continued discussion about; the cities used for determining the daily average rate and why others are left off. There are cities that only send us a few students and that number would not weigh in with the formula.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage

NO:

Numbers will be shared with the board and placed on the website for transparency.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

2020/21-102 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Green the board adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage

NO:

Respectfully submitted by: Theresa Grzechowski

Dr. Darlene Pomponio-Secretary
Board of Education

