

# Citizen Advisory Committee

Calvert County Board of Education

September 28, 2020 Minutes

1. Introduction of CAC members.

2. Election of Officers.

a. The following individuals submitted their names for CAC officer positions:

i. Chair: Wanda Hassler

ii. Sarah Schlieckert

b. Vice Chair: Melissa Griffin

c. Secretary: Betsy Kohl

Wanda and Sarah gave brief speeches specifying their qualifications/interest in the position of chair.

Sarah discussed the role of chair as coordinating the work of the CAC, and Wanda discussed the importance of getting information out to the community.

Vice Chair and Secretary had only one volunteer per position.

Vote for the Chair position will be taken by email after the meeting.

3. On Line Learning Update

The history of CCPS online learning since the beginning of the covid-19 pandemic was discussed.

- All virtual learning began last March.
- Once the State entered Phase 2 of reopening, CCPS could submit a plan to begin bringing students back into the building, and CCPS developed a hybrid plan.
- The Calvert County Board of Education (Board) voted in July to begin the school year all virtual.
- The current hybrid plan has now been presented to the Board. The plan would cover pre-K through 2nd grade and there would be no more than 15 individuals, including teachers and aides, in a classroom per county Health Department guidance. There would be an A week and a B week, and the Wednesday asynchronous day would be switched to Friday. Group A would begin Oct. 26, and Group B would begin Nov. 2.
- After the plan was presented to the Board, the Board requested that additional details be provided with regard to the plan.

4. Question and Answer Session

CAC members asked a number of questions with regard to the hybrid plan and its implementation, including questions with regard to:

- The availability of PPE and testing
  - CCPS did not plan to provide a new face mask each day for staff and students, as most people have them by this point, but masks would be available when needed.
  - Testing at this time requires a doctor's order. There is currently a testing shortage and a bigger shortage of rapid tests.
- Any limitations on uses of state grant money by schools
  - No limitations. Plan to use for technology upgrades.
- Whether other options besides the hybrid plan were considered
  - Limited by the 12 on a bus and 15 in a classroom restrictions. Until that increases, the hybrid is the only option to all virtual learning.
- Whether the schedule would remain AM/PM under the hybrid
  - In-school would be shortened by 1 hour, and kids at home would have a longer day but with a number of breaks built in.
- The 4 day on/10 day off schedule
  - Dr. Polski of the county Health Department supported this schedule.

- Whether CCPS was following county v. state guidance
  - State guidance is followed but then left up to the school districts. CCPS is working with the county Health Department.
- Reporting of covi-19 in school buildings
  - Additional information would be needed from Dr. Polski on this issue.
- Availability of recess/how lunch would be conducted
  - Yes, there would be recess, outdoors as much as possible; lunch would be held in classrooms rather than the cafeteria.
- Transportation/bus schedule
  - There would be buses for transportation. CCPS is giving the transportation staff as much time as possible to get the routes settled once it is known which students would use the hybrid option.
- Sports activities
  - Until high school is at least on a hybrid schedule, it did not make sense to provide for full sports participation by students. Approval to condition has been given.
- Building air quality
  - CCPS uses filters with the max MERV that the unit will accommodate, and the filters are changed regularly. Air quality is monitored.
- Behavior of students/family outside of school and any potential policy providing directions on that with regard to school attendance
  - CCPS serves the community, and there are different viewpoints on what is safe.
- Safety protocols in the schools (e.g., temperature checks)
  - Impractical to give temperature checks before student gets on the bus, and Dr. Polski also did not think that temperature checks in school would be particularly useful.

#### 5. Future Presentation Suggestions

There was discussion earlier in the meeting about CAC studies, and the potential for short-term and longer-term studies. It was requested that the CAC review the hybrid plan and offer any feedback. CAC members were also asked to review the list of potential topics for study and advise which topics were of interest to them.

Meeting concluded at approximately 7:30 pm.