

ON BOARD

AUGUST 20, 2020

Hybrid instruction continues at CHS, other campuses go face-to-face August 24

Members of the CISD Board of Trustees voted to continue hybrid instruction at Commerce High School and allow face-to-face instruction for all students at Commerce Elementary School, A.C. Williams Elementary School and Commerce Middle School on August 24. Parents will still have the option to have their children stay home for instruction online.

The decision was made after the Board heard the results of a survey conducted earlier which showed parents supported returning to school full-time. Staff favored the hybrid model of instruction overwhelmingly.

Several teachers and parents spoke at the meeting on how the instructional arrangements were affecting their lives.

CHS teacher Glenda Henderson said that parents were trusting CISD to keep their children safe and because the hybrid model offered small numbers at the school, she favored it.

Karri Anderson, CHS theater teacher, favored smaller class sizes as the exposure to the COVID-19 virus continued to threaten larger gatherings. CHS teacher and CES parent Joyce Sample asked the Board to base their decision to return to school full time on each campus.

Parent Jennifer Knight asked the Board to reconsider allowing athletes to practice five days a week when school was only required two days. Cami Busby, also a parent, encouraged the Board to return to full-time, in-person instruction because special education students need the five days with a qualified instructor. She also said she didn't want her daughter, who is a member of the cheer team, to fall behind as she prepares to compete in cheer competitions.

All Board members expressed their opinions about hybrid and in-person instruction. Board President Kathleen Hooten said that it made complete sense to return to school at the lower grade levels because the hybrid model causes a strain on parents.

Trustee Gabe Wittkopf said that remaining hybrid at CHS would allow students to be better prepared for the college with a two-day schedule.

Board member Dr. Ray Green said, "we don't have a perfect solution, but we can't just hunker down at home and wait for this to be over."

The Board approved the measure, with Dr. LaVelle Hendricks voting no. Wittkopf asked that the Board look at the matter again at the next regular Board meeting, which is September 21.

"We can't just hunker down at home and wait for this to be over."

CISD Board Member
Dr. Ray Green

In other action...

The Board approved:

- designating the super-intendent authority to approve, submit asynchronous instructional plan to TEA,
- tax resale deed on property at 806 Plum St., and
- changing the superintendent's health insurance plan to reduce the cost to the district.

The Board dismissed the option to stream board meeting due to the excessive cost for a quality production--between \$16,000 and \$20,000.

