



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT:
Tom Oliver, Chair Mike Martin, Vice Chair Richard Borden Tammy Schilling Todd Gestrin	Bo Yates, Superintendent Jennifer Meckley, Assistant Superintendent William Lewis, Business Director Kim Grousbeck, Human Resources Director Tami Volz, Director of School Improvement Rachel Cannon, Director of Alternative Education

The meeting minutes were recorded by Executive Secretary Ruth Hopkins.

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Tom Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

There were no audience comments.

3. ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Superintendent Yates provided the enrollment update for the district. He shared that the enrollment is down about 10% across the district, with the majority of younger students being homeschooled and the students that are grade 4 and up are using other platforms. He feels that those students will return once we are able to resume in-person learning at the schools. He added that we are trying to be very conservative in our hiring and expenditures.

Chair Oliver asked what the numbers were and Superintendent Yates indicated that our total enrollment was down to 3450, which is down about 400 students from what is the typical enrollment total. He added that the high school has had little impact, and the schools with the largest impact have been Riverview and Seven Oak, which are both down about 20%. He mentioned the district will be working to recoup students and provide a superior quality of education compared to what other online platforms are able to provide.

Vice Chair Mike Martin asked what the metrics were looking like currently, as far as being able to get back in to school. Superintendent Yates said we are on week three and that we are able to look at having K-3 return and implementing that plan, but he is concerned about what the numbers will look like after the Labor Day weekend. So after we get the numbers from that, then

we can look at moving forward in October or November. If the numbers stay where they are at, we can looking at moving forward with other grades as well.

4. CIA UPDATE

Tami Volz provided the CIA update and reviewed the information that was provided to the Board and is available online. She shared that the assessment team has implemented a new platform, ESGI, for kindergarten and first grade. She added that the feedback from teachers so far has been very positive and that the first round of assessments was last week and she is excited to get the numbers on that. She also shared information about the Canvas and the Sumer Curriculum Work Team that had about 56 teachers working this summer to convert their core curriculum to the online system. One of our district teachers, Evan Brammer, has been instrumental in leading that team and doing that work for the district.

She mentioned our technology department and thanked them for all of the hard work they have done to complete the online learning system and navigate all of the demands of Canvas and the other programs to make the process successful.

Tami Volz added that there have been three parent forums this week, two that were in English and one that was in Spanish. There were at least 150 parents and students that participated and the Canvas team did a great job in supporting them.

She added that there were 31 students that participated in the summer school program and 35 credits earned by high school students, which is an improvement from the last summer school data that was presented.

5. SCHOOL START UP

Assistant Superintendent Meckley shared regarding the school start up. She thanked the Board for the extra week for professional development, much of which was on Canvas, as well as some extra prep time for developing their lesson plans on Canvas. She added that they have been working with the associations to negotiate working conditions in a distance learning environment and those have now been changed, based on the agreement.

Students returned on September 8th. The district had expected to have Canvas ready, but because of things beyond our control with getting data uploaded, that was pushed back. Today was the first day of live synchronous teaching and the feedback that she has heard is that it went really well.

Superintendent Yates added how important it was for our staff to have the extra time to work on getting Canvas set up and implemented.

6. CANVAS IMPLEMENTATION

Evan Brammer is a middle school science teacher at Hamilton Creek School and has instrumental in the implementation of the Canvas online learning platform for the district. He has been using Canvas for the past 10 years. Evan shared what the courses look like for the student and the teacher. He also shared what three different teachers in our district had set up for their courses and then how it looked for the student.

Member Todd Gestrin asked if we were ready for special education or if there were additional resources to utilize. Superintendent Yates answered that we are working with Jan Sansom and the special education teachers to look at individual student IEP plans and student needs, so the special education department is currently working through that.

Member Richard Borden asked what the biggest challenge was with the transition and if we are giving the same resources to English language learners. Assistant Superintendent Meckley answered that the biggest challenge was developing it as we are doing it, and the timelines involved.

Superintendent Yates added that Canvas has been around for a long time, but there has been a huge implementation of it across the country with the COVID situation. The district has had a team working on it nonstop to get the implementation done.

Evan Brammer added that he believes the biggest challenge has been the mental shift and having teachers learn to teach better from home. In terms of English support, the parent forum was helpful to them to walk through the platform. He said that links to text guidebooks were also provided in Spanish, as well as other translation tools for them to use.

7. STAFF SUPPORTS

HR Director Kim Grousbeck shared an update on staff supports. She mentioned the large amount of changes that have taken place over the last few months. She added that there is a lot of staff supporting students and parents in ways that they have not done before, and that they are all doing it for the good of all students.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

A. August 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Upon motion made by Vice Chair Mike Martin, duly seconded by Member Todd Gestrin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the August 13, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

B. Hiring

Upon motion made by Vice Chair Mike Martin, and duly seconded by Member Richard Borden, the Board voted unanimously to approve the hiring of Emily Farnell and Quinn Sansom, and the leave of absence for Dan Hartman, as presented.

9. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Operations

Superintendent Yates shared that the technology department has been incredibly busy with all aspects of making sure that the online distance learning works as it should for staff and students, including help with internet connectivity issues and trying to take care of our students the best way we can.

For food services, the Child and Adult Care Food Program from the USDA has been extended for the third time, so that will allow us more flexibility in feeding families for a little longer.

The district has been utilizing bus drivers to transport students back and forth to the Boys and Girls Club, help with sped evaluations, and even as paint teams in our district. The district is trying to keep employees busy with work and employed.

The maintenance and custodial departments have been very busy. They are currently looking at the air filtration systems. Where we had been looking at bringing fresh air in, with all of the smoke from the fires, those systems now need to have the filtration systems looked at.

B. Human Resources

There was nothing to report from Human Resources.

C. Finance

Business Director William Lewis provided up an update for the finance department. He shared that our district is fully funded in the general fund. It is fully funded with Measure 98, the high school success program. The SIA will provide over \$1 million in services. We also have received numerous federal supports. With all of that, we are currently in a very solid financial position.

Chair Oliver added that it was dependent on our enrollment numbers coming back up, otherwise there would be a deficit. William Lewis said that the lower enrollment numbers would effect next year's budget, not this year's.

10. COMMUNICATION

A. Board

Vice Chair Mike Martin mentioned that he had had some calls from classified staff regarding worries over job description changes, and wondering if the Board was going to offer an early out for staff that are close to retirement. Chair Oliver added that he hoped that as the school year went on, that staff would be more comfortable with the changes and plan to stay with the district.

Member Tammy Schilling added that in regard to the students that have been lost to the district, she was wondering if there was a more formal process that we could go through to help gain back the students that were lost to other online programs. Superintendent Yates said that he has a list of students that have left the district to go to online programs and that the families were being called with information that the district could supply a superior program to what they are receiving on other platforms. They will also be reaching out to homeschooled parents. Member Schilling asked if we could keep a list of the reasons that parents are leaving so that we have that data to look at.

There was some discussion around the return to school and what that would entail.

B. Superintendent

Superintendent Yates shared that in addition to the anxiety staff have had with Canvas and starting the school year, there has also been a lot of anxiety with the fires and staff that have family that have lost their homes or have lost power. The district is trying to be as supportive as they possibly can for staff during this time. The land lab has been opened up for people to bring their animals that are being evacuated. He has been in contact with the county commissioner to volunteer the district for emergency housing and our district has looked into what the nutrition department is able to provide. The district is doing all that they can to help support people outside the district, as well as inside the district.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Whereupon, there being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM.



Tom Oliver, Chair



Bo Yates, Superintendent