

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

Open Session	Google Meet	7:00 p.m.	May 5, 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> Jamie Allen Dan Brouillet Melissa Nehrt Keith Rabenberg Lindsay Spencer Kerry Trostel Mark Womer	<u>Absent</u>
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| Call to Order | Board President, Ms. Lindsay Spencer, called the open session meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. |
| Pledge of Allegiance | Ms. Spencer led the Pledge of Allegiance. |
| Communications | Members of the public were invited to submit to the BSD administrative office in advance a public comment to be read during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Ms. Spencer asked if there were any citizens' comments to be read. Dr. Lane reported that no comments had been received. |
| Roll Call | Brentwood School District Board members were present or absent as stated above. |
| Attendance | Also in attendance was Superintendent, Dr. Brian Lane. |
| ACTION 160
Approval of Consent
Agenda | The motion was made by Mr. Jamie Allen and seconded by Ms. Melissa Nehrt to approve the consent agenda which included: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 21, 2020. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote. |

Update
COVID19

Dr. Lane said that BSD received lots of donations that resulted in another successful week for the food bank. Meals were distributed on Monday, May 4. Dr. Lane thanked Dr. Alex Tripamer, Ms. Vicki Rees, and the BSD Counselors and Social Worker for their efforts.

Chartwells has been providing approximately 500 breakfasts and lunches per week to children 18 and younger in the Brentwood community. BSD has applied to participate in the Seamless Summer meal program. If approved by DESE, BSD will be able to provide meals and receive funding for the summer. Dr. Lane expects notification from DESE within the week.

BSD administrative staff and leadership team continue to prepare for the Fall semester. I-pads have been ordered for K-1. Ms. Nehrt asked if I-pads integrate with Google Meets and class programs. Dr. Lane will check on this. He wants the devices to be plug and play.

Ms. Nehrt would like parents added to the Google classroom. Currently, parents need to have access to log on. She said it would be helpful for parents to have access to check their students' work assignments and related documents. Dr. Lane would like for all materials for students to be available in one location.

Dr. Lane said Dr. Tripamer and the BSD nurses have been meeting. Personal Protective Equipment has been ordered.

Planning for re-entry is ongoing. Area superintendents are meeting again on May 6. As part of the planning process, team members are looking at flexibility with calendars, classes, and athletics programs. Superintendents are looking at St. Louis County Public Health recommendations regarding physical distancing during lunch breaks, dismissal times, and physical education classes.

Ms. Nehrt asked about information in MSBA's newly released guidelines. Dr. Lane said it was good information, however, it has been better working with St. Louis County Public Health and superintendents from neighboring districts. Mr. Allen asked how the MSBA report compared to work being done by St. Louis area team members. Dr. Lane said that urban and rural districts have different needs. Education Plus is facilitating the St. Louis area team.

Ms. Nehrt about the number of students allowed per classroom and if some districts would remain closed. Dr. Lane said the number of students per class may be based on room square footage. There are no state or county mandates at this time.

Mr. Allen asked if liability for decisions would be at the school board level or at an operational level. Dr. Lane said some decisions would be made at the board level.

Mr. Dan Brouillet said re-entry may be an issue since the virus is still around and there is no vaccine yet. Dr. Lane said he assumes there will be active cases. Mr. Brouillet asked about sharing communications with families starting now. Dr. Lane said he and Sam Rayburn will have a fluid communication strategy.

Mr. Mark Womer said the CDC indicated there could be a large bounce in cases during winter months. He would like to have a conversation about ways to adjust the FY2020-2021 academic calendar. Suggestions include starting the fall semester earlier; switching to virtual learning from November - January; and extending winter break or the spring semester. Dr. Lane said one of the superintendent study groups is looking at calendar options.

Ms. Nehrt asked if the state had waived the August 24 start date. Dr. Lane said DESE may be able to obtain a waiver.

Ms. Trostel asked about graduation plans. Dr. Lane said BSD conducted a survey. All would like a live graduation. A decision will be made at the beginning of July. Possible dates are Friday, July 31, 2020 with a rain date of Saturday, August 1, 2020. Other options may include a ceremony in the BHS gymnasium with students only or a virtual one-at-a-time ceremony with video stream.

Mr. Allen said BSD may want to let the community know about the CDC and St. Louis County Health guidelines and that the superintendents are working collectively.

Discussion
Proposition E

Ms. Spencer summarized where Proposition E stands. Facility needs have not changed and must be addressed. Due to current health and safety concerns the April 7 election was moved to June 2, 2020. A question was raised as to whether or not Proposition E should be kept on the ballot. Research indicated that BSD would be unable to pull the proposition due to timing.

At the April 21, 2020 board meeting, community members presented a Prop E Flexibility report, proposing the idea of incorporating the Early Childhood Center into one of the two elementary facilities. This would reduce the number of district facilities and keep neighborhood schools.

Mr. Brouillet said he struggled with the idea of Proposition E being on the ballot at this time. He supports rolling the ECC into an elementary school but is concerned about the timing.

Mr. Allen said BSD needs to communicate to the community. The proposition had to be kept on the ballot due to timing. He said this will be part of a broader request. BSD will come to voters later to ask for funding for operations. BSD needs to be very intentional about needs and avoid further capital asks for facilities. Incorporating the ECC into an elementary facility would free up the current ECC property, which would benefit taxpayers. Mr. Allen cited the educational value of including an ECC at the elementary level. He would like to rally the community and push forward.

Ms. Nehrt said the community will ask what is being sacrificed to roll the ECC into the elementary facility.

Mr. Womer would like to see proposed costs from the architectural design team.

Mr. Rabenberg would like to see what the architectural design team presents. He would like to see what is being cut. He said moving from three buildings to two buildings is good.

Mr. Womer said the benefits outlined in the Proposition E Flexibility report are both educational and operational.

Ms. Trostel said she is concerned about having Proposition E on the ballot at this time. She is supportive of incorporating the ECC into an elementary facility.

Ms. Spencer read the Proposition E resolution.

Ms. Julie Villa and Mr. Todd Powers from Ittner Associates presented proposed revisions to the two elementary facilities. After conversations with Dr. Lane, they refreshed the building programs to keep the same total budget and incorporate the ECC into the new McGrath Elementary. Proposition E asks for \$29 million. \$17 million would be for constructing a new 56,943 SF McGrath Elementary. \$12 million would be for renovations and additions to Mark Twain Elementary.

The revised building programs would change the budgets and project scopes for each facility. \$20,995,000 would be for constructing a new 69,000 SF McGrath Elementary with an ECC. \$8 million would be for renovations and additions to Mark Twain

Elementary. The budget for Mark Twain would include \$3 million for a storm shelter and entry additions and \$5 million for renovations.

Ms. Spencer asked how the reduced budget for Mark Twain Elementary would address maintenance and updates. Ms. Villa and Mr. Powers said it would address new systems, ceilings, walls, and floors, however there would not be many structural changes.

Dr. Lane said Ittner was charged with a review of the big picture for this meeting. Actual facility designs would come after passage of Proposition E.

Mr. Womer asked what a better construction budget would be. Mr. Powers said stretching the revised budget for Mark Twain from \$8 million to \$10 million would be helpful. Mr. Womer likes the idea that the resolution is open and that the projects are doable. Mr. Powers said the programming at each school will be the same, with the exception of the ECC. There is curriculum and program equity at each school, but not equitable facilities.

Mr. Allen asked what will be given up with regard to longevity. Mr. Powers said that the Mark Twain Elementary building "envelope" (windows, doors, roofs, etc.) will require ongoing maintenance. There will be no grace period as there would be with maintenance at a new facility.

Ms. Nehrt asked what the cost savings would be of moving the ECC to an elementary school. Dr. Lane said 1201 Hanley Industrial Court is valued at \$2.6 - \$3 million. BSD would have the flexibility to sell or lease to generate revenue. Selling would reduce the district's footprint and facility maintenance costs. Ms. Nehrt asked if the move would justify the sacrifice. Dr. Lane said it would take a while to get a return on the investment. It would be more cost effective to do it now.

Mr. Allen said there was an educational benefit to keeping the ECC close to elementary facilities. This resolution would maintain the neighborhood schools and offer fiscal flexibility. He said BSD may have to go back to voters to ask for funding for facility maintenance.

Ms. Nehrt said there are educational benefits to having larger sized classrooms at the elementary level. These benefits will be lost with reduced room square footages at Mark Twain Elementary.

Dr. Lane said construction costs might be lower. BSD also has \$4 million in capital reserves so the district would not need to go to voters for a tax increase.

Mr. Womer asked about operational advantages. Dr. Lane said that counselors, music and art teachers, and other resources are not on site at the current ECC location but they would be at McGrath.

Ms. Spencer asked what Nancy Stoverink, ECC Director, thinks about the spaces in the proposed plan. Dr. Lane said Ms. Stoverink prefers locating the ECC at one site over splitting it between two sites. She likes the green spaces.

Mr. Allen thanked Ittner for the presentation.

Ms. Spencer asked Board members for additional thoughts after Ittner's presentation.

Mr. Womer asked what the next steps would be.

Ms. Spencer said the Board could vote on the resolution.

Mr. Allen said Proposition E will remain on the June 2 ballot in its current form. He would like to recognize the effort of the community group that came together to provide additional data for the Proposition E Flexibility report. If Proposition E passes, it will require a team to build out the plan. He would like to find an approach that makes the most sense.

Mr. Womer is concerned about the timeline. He asked what the Advocacy Group will need to communicate with the community.

Dr. Lane said the resolution should be voted on tonight. If it passes, it can be an additional talking point for the Advocacy Group.

Ms. Spencer would like to hold a vote.

Ms. Nehrt said the process feels rushed. She would like to have additional time to consider the resolution. Dr. Lane asked if the process would still feel rushed if COVID19 was taken out of the conversation.

Mr. Allen said that the election delay allowed time to have conversations about opposing ideas and how to proceed.

ACTION 161
Approval of
Proposition E
Resolution

Ms. Spencer said there was give and take on a number of items. The needs have not changed, but the ask is a bigger item now.

The motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Womer to approve the resolution:

In March, 2020, the St. Louis County Board of Elections requested and was approved to move the April 7th election to June 2nd, 2020. Therefore, Brentwood School District's Proposition E, a \$29 million bond issue, was moved to the June 2nd ballot. This delay has allowed the Board additional time to evaluate the current climate and further work with the community to determine long term strategic financial goals.

In light of the global pandemic and the current and anticipated economic impact, the Brentwood School Board believes it is even more important now to focus on how to achieve the optimum benefit to the District when funds are spent on facilities improvements. To that end, the Board is resolving to incorporate Brentwood Early Childhood Center into one of the elementary schools as part of Proposition E. This will reduce the district's footprint and operating expenses. The board further resolves that this will be accomplished with Proposition E funds and district resources without asking for additional funding from the community in the future for this endeavor.

While the bond language cannot be adjusted, the Board of Education makes this resolution to affirm our commitment to incorporating the Early Childhood Center into one building upon the successful passage of Proposition E. This investment will allow the district to continue providing quality education for students in neighborhood schools while reducing its footprint and overhead costs in the long term.

Mr. Allen said the project is feasible for \$29 million and BSD will need a strategic committee to work out the plan.

Ms. Nehrt asked if anyone contacted the Advocacy Committee and invited members to watch this meeting. Dr. Lane said members were invited. He said the Advocacy Committee would like more talking points and that members are looking for Board direction.


Mr. Rabenberg said lots of work would need to be done to work the ECC into the neighborhood school. He said the plan would reduce the district's footprint and costs.

Ms. Spencer called for a roll call vote. The motion passed with Ms. Spencer, Mr. Allen, Mr. Brouillet, Mr. Rabenberg, Ms. Trostel, and Mr. Womer voting in favor. Ms. Nehrt abstained.

Ms. Spencer said the next steps would be to provide clear talking points to the Advocacy Committee. Dr. Lane will contact members to share the resolution, immediate needs, and find out what information the committee would like to have. Information will be provided via The Brentwood Pulse, a virtual town hall meeting, and other means.

ACTION 162
Adjournment 8:50 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.



President



Secretary