PLUMMER-WORLEY JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The regular August 24, 2020, meeting of the Plummer-Worley Joint School District No. 44 Board of Trustees was called to order by Vice-Chairman Marlow Thompson at 6:00 p.m. Board members present were Tami Gauthier, Ida Gustin, Jan Mitchell, and Marlow Thompson. Absent was Sara Allen, Ryan Ortivez, and Paul Daman.

Also present was Superintendent Russ Mitchell, Karyn Stockdale, Marcia Hoffman, Jennifer Hall, Dani Boyd, Jerel Hight, and Jennifer Gates.

Personnel Report

Clerk Karyn Stockdale advised the addition of the resignation of Sarah McQueen to the personnel report. Jan Mitchell moved to approve the Personnel Report (Exhibit "A") with the additional resignation. Tami Gauthier seconded. All members voted yes.

COVID Response Plan

Russ Mitchell provided information to the board on what some of the other districts in the region are doing. West Bonner and Mullan are hoping to open in green. All others are in yellow or another stage. Some superintendents are receiving death threats, typically due to the issue of masks. Several the districts are not requiring, but highly recommending, masks. Many are looking at an alternate day schedules with some hybrid learning.

Janice Jordan and Maria Bighead from Marimn Health did a walk-through of the facility and met with Mr. Mitchell. The follow up letter from Marimn was provided for the board (Exhibit "B"). Discussion was held on the letter and recommendations. Each classroom will have hand sanitizer and hand sanitizer stands are mounted on each bus, as well as throughout the buildings.

Marimn has committed to be here during staff orientation next Monday and will be on site for the first two weeks of school to help screen and establish screening procedures. They have provided a COVID hotline number to be provided to staff for use to call if they aren't feeling well before work in the morning. They've also indicated the possibility of opening earlier for testing purposes to provide a rapid test to staff before school. Additionally, they are working on signage for the district.

Mr. Mitchell met with Chief Allan and Robert Matt and presented them with the district plan. They discussed several items and he advised he recognizes the 2:15 release time will be difficult for parents and tribal operations, but they are pleased we are meeting five days per week. They also donated another 500 student masks. We have accumulated a lot of masks and hand sanitizer but will continue to take masks. Marimn has also said they will help if we run short of supplies.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the latest **guidance on masks** (Exhibit "C"). He is somewhat uncomfortable with how the level is determined (staging). Panhandle Health District determines the level by county but Marimn monitors cases on the reservation which more accurately reflects our community. He intends to look to Marimn more and will keep the board up to date.

It is expected that we will be challenged on the issue of masks and some may want to opt out. Legal counsel stressed the importance of applying the rule uniformly and consistently to everyone. The ADA exemption applies, and the district is allowed to, and should, engage in the interactive process for ADA matters to determine what the condition is and what a reasonable accommodation might entail. Ida Gustin commented this was discussed at a health board meeting today and if a student can't wear a mask, Marimn can donate face shields. For anyone who wants to opt out due to a personal objection/medical reason, we should treat it as we do immunization and require a medical statement. If someone is objecting due to a religious/personal "Parental Rights in Education" reason, Mr. Mitchell recommends providing remote learning opportunities. We owe it to the safety and welfare of all students here to take a stand. He believes that while taking a stand may be difficult, we must be consistent. We are planning to provide multiple mask breaks each day. We may come to a point where masks may only be required when you can't maintain a six-foot distance, but we aren't at that point yet. The district has ordered neck gaiters for all students and staff and have a good supply of face masks. Discussion was held. The district will use a variety of face coverings and some students may bring them from home.

Mr. Mitchell provided a **Guiding Protocol** (Exhibit "D") for a confirmed case of COVID in the schools. The document will be going into the Emergency Procedures Manual. There is a concerted effort across the state trying to get certificated teachers classified as "essential", similar to medical personnel. This would likely mean asymptomatic persons would be sent back to work sooner rather than later. This may sound great to have staff returning sooner but may also create concern among staff, students, or community. This particular issue is a moving target. The COVID Hotline will be a great resource for staff.

Mr. Mitchell then presented procedures for **athletics** for the coming seasons. During COVID, home athletic events will be provided free to everyone through Pixellot. We will probably take losses in athletics because limited seating will be available. Mr. Mitchell provided the **Fall 2020 Event Procedures for Home Events** (Exhibit "E"). Visiting fans from other teams will not be allowed to attend Lakeside events. Home fans will be limited to a set number based on social distancing guidelines provided by the CDC, PHD, and the Governor. Families will receive preferential ticketing. Each player will be allowed four tickets for a home event to be purchased in advance. In order to maximize the gym, we can allow more people if we group families together for seating. All participants and spectators must a mask. Participants are not required to mask when competing. Movement of spectators during the event will be limited. Concessions will be closed but restrooms will still be open. All attendees will have their temperatures taken prior to entering a venue. If symptoms are discovered, the event will be cancelled. Prior to boarding a bus for a road game, all passengers will have their temperature taken. If an elevated temperature is detected, the game will be canceled, and parents notified. The secondary installed six new drinking fountains with a no-touch bottle filler which will be available. Senior night will be held at the first home event for each sport. The schedules are very fluid. IHSAA post season is highly unlikely. Middle school athletics start date is very uncertain.

Mr. Mitchell also provided the **PWSD 44 Athletic and Activities Guidelines and Procedures (Exhibit "F")**.

Mr. Mitchell requested board approval of the Event Procedure and the Mask Guidance. Tami Gauthier moved to approve both documents as recommended. Ida Gustin seconded. All members voted yes.

Staff Handbook
The board received the **2020-21 staff handbook** (Exhibit "G"). Tami Gauthier moved to approve the handbook as presented. Jan Mitchell seconded. All members voted yes.

Policy Review – The board received the **C-Series** (Exhibit "H"), policies adapted and recommended by ISBA to be utilized during the pandemic. Discussion was held on adopting the policies. Ida Gustin made motion to declare an emergency exists which requires adopting the policies with only one reading and further to adopt the policies as presented. Tami Gauthier seconded. Discussion was held on the FFCRA. All members voted yes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

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Paul Daman, Chairman Karyn Stockdale, District Clerk

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