

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

WADSWORTH CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Special Meeting

Date: November 27, 2020

The Wadsworth City Board of Education met in Special Session on Friday, November 27, 2020, at 9:00 A.M at Charles R. Parsons Administrative Building, 524 Broad Street, and via Google Meet.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Present	Batey, Gordon, Kramer, McComas, Stevens	
Absent		
Administrators	)	
Staff	)	Total 664
Visitors	)	
Student Liaison	Lauren Claxton (absent)	

20-11-101 APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

The motion was made by **Gordon**, seconded by **McComas**, to approve the following Board of Education Meeting Minutes:

Regular November 16, 2020

VOTE: Yea - Gordon, Kramer, McComas, Stevens, Batey
Nay - None Motion Carried,

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

20-11-102 Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Hill, the motion was made by **McComas**, seconded by **Kramer**, to adopt the Action Consent Items from the November 27, 2020, Special Meeting, as presented:

A. ACTION CONSENT ITEMS

1. Recommendation to approve the Wadsworth Township Cares Act and Other COVID-19 Related Grant Money Application and Sub-Recipient Agreement. **(ATTACHED)**
2. Recommendation to approve revised 2020-21 School Year Calendar. **(ATTACHED)**

VOTE: Yea - Kramer, McComas, Stevens, Batey, Gordon
Nay - None Motion Carried,

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ADMINISTRATIVE DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Discuss COVID-19 data relating to WHS and potential shift from 100% in-person learning to an alternative learning model (remote learning or hybrid model) at WHS for the period of December 1 to December 20, 2020, including discussion on proceeding with extra-curricular activities during the said period.

STEVENS: Opposed to permanent move to Remote but could support a 3-week shutdown (Reset) based on Mr. Steve Moore's comments. After additional discussion Mrs. Stevens clarified that she does not support the move to remote learning.

MCCOMAS: In support of In-School Instruction. Questioned - if WCS shuts down WHS, what is going to be different in 5 weeks? Said to push through this right now until Winter Break. Stated he never thought WCS would not pass the virus in school. Questioned – what does purple mean? Indicated different information than when decisions were made in July.

GORDON: Appreciative of all staff members hard work to get us this far. Agreed with McComas that WCS are not at the point where we need to shut down in person learning. Stated these few scenarios are not enough to get WCS to the point of a building shutdown at WHS.

KRAMER: Concerned about staff at WHS and the stress of students coming and going. Supports a 3-week Reset at WHS.

BATEY: Fully supports a Reset for next three weeks. Concerned about what will occur if WHS returns after Thanksgiving Break with climbing numbers of COVID cases and quarantines.

GOOGLE MEET CHAT TRANSCRIPT:

00:15:55.715,00:15:58.715

Monique Hurrle: I would have thought attendance was much lower. That is a good thing.

00:22:04.542,00:22:07.542

Monique Hurrle: Would love to know how many of the quarantined students and staff actually came down with the virus. Can we see that data?

00:28:47.894,00:28:50.894

Gabe Tudor: We have had very few quarantined students come down with the virus other than those that were quarantined because of someone within their own household having Covid. The state is doing an analysis of quarantined students coming down with the virus at 10 school districts to determine if the procedure should be revised.

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GOOGLE MEET CHAT TRANSCRIPT:

00:43:15.764,00:43:18.764

Monique Hurre: Do we feel the education the kids will receive online is the same or better than in person?

00:44:31.550,00:44:34.550

Sherri Dahlem: As the number starts to ramp up have we spoke or surveyed the teachers? The teachers are strained keeping up with in person and kids bouncing in and out of class. We can't afford to burn out our teachers mentally and physically.

00:44:40.404,00:44:43.404

Sheila Gambaccini: Instead of going remote in the high school, would hybrid be an option? It sounds like most kids are being quarantined because they are within 6 feet.

00:44:40.564,00:44:43.564

Monique Hurre: I agree and we should protect the online option as much as we can.

00:44:41.690,00:44:44.690

Tangee Whapham: I feel the education my son has received since being quarantined has been as good as in person. But it is challenging for the teachers to be efficient when juggling both in person and remote.

00:45:36.805,00:45:39.805

Kathleen Davis: What is the difference between a 10 day isolation compared to 14 day QT?

00:45:46.176,00:45:49.176

Mike Hodge: Why was a hybrid type system ruled out originally and should it be reconsidered?

00:46:15.342,00:46:18.342

: I am concerned of spread during holiday season.

00:46:51.303,00:46:54.303

Lynn Decker: ten day isolation is the isolation period for a person that has become symptomatic. A fourteen day isolation is for a person that has not become sick. All in relation to the life cycle of the virus

00:47:35.636,00:47:38.636

Burk Hughes: It seems that in person has been the safest and most effective education model. How would the district wide remote/hybrid model improve the stop of spread? Have we also looked at the emotional and long term impact we are having on our children?

00:48:11.961,00:48:14.961

Joe Mendel: Is live streaming the class for the kids in quarantine an option? They could receive equal opportunity without extra burden on the teacher trying to post lessons and teach in both worlds.

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00:49:48.648,00:49:51.648

Kathleen Davis: I feel my daughters education was severely affected while she was in QT, she still has work to make up

00:49:49.648,00:49:52.648

Charles Berg: Congratulations to the WCS teachers and staffs for keeping us in school for the last 14 weeks. Would it be wise to resend a community survey in regards to remote learning?

00:53:05.134,00:53:08.134

Patty Hudak: How would a hybrid model effect the 4 cities compact, more specifically carpentry? Would the students still be allowed to work on the house or their barns?

00:53:27.087,00:53:30.087

donald berube: Thank you all for your dedication and hard work. I am in favor of continuing in person as long as possible. Has the board considered other options, such as eliminating the buses, delaying or cancelling winter sports, or staggering period end/start times. Online school may have unintended consequences such as depression, anxiety, etc.

00:53:43.585,00:53:46.585

Amy Tuck: For my student, being quarantined was very upsetting and stressful due to anxiety about getting sick or being the one to bring it home and make their family sick and falling behind on schoolwork especially because all quizzes and tests had to be done in person after they returned to school.

00:53:49.039,00:53:52.039

Mike Hodge: Posting to google classroom is highly ineffective. If the kids attend class remotely just as they would attend in person, it would be much more effective.

00:54:09.267,00:54:12.267

Dave Bartiromo: From what I am gathering there are four scenarios on which you may be basing the decision to either go remote or hybrid. At this time NONE of those scenarios has been confirmed. In addition, there is widespread reporting that when children are not experiencing all the benefits of in person learning (including socializing with friends), there is an increase in depression and suicidal thoughts. Further, students who are not given the opportunity to see their friends in school will be more likely t

00:55:31.176,00:55:34.176

Chris Grieshop: I realize this discussion is focused on period till Dec 20, but what discussions are taking place to prevent high incidence rate when school starts up in January.

00:58:50.419,00:58:53.419

Monique Hurre: I agree that the staff has done a fantastic job! Fantastic results! Hybrid is not an option to really help the situation - educationally or health-wise. It seems like it is either all in school or remote.

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GOOGLE MEET CHAT TRANSCRIPT:

00:58:54.052,00:58:57.052

Mike Hodge: I certainly appreciate the teachers and what they are dealing with but I don't understand the additional strain of livestreaming the classroom. A camera set up to show what the in school kids are seeing with a way for the remote kids to ask questions during the lesson just as the in school kids do. It would actually take away the need to post anything later.

00:59:15.743,00:59:18.743

Matthew R: A good question was asked about how many of the quarantined students were infected with covid-19? Shouldn't that be looked at before making a decision?

00:59:44.420,00:59:47.420

Dave Bartiromo: School going remote is NOT going to stop spread. Students and staff will continue to test positive as the virus moves throughout the community. It's widely accepted (and reported by everyone from the CDC to Mike DeWine) that in school education is the very best place for these students.

01:04:09.110,01:04:12.110

Henderson Family: Could you clarify please if the attendance numbers include Wired students that may call off school for doctor appt, colds, etc?

01:05:10.301,01:05:13.301

: As a health care provider, being proactive is smart. Waiting until our numbers surge and you are limited on staff even further and forced to switch to remote, doesn't seem reasonable.

01:05:32.096,01:05:35.096

Kathleen Davis: If students in QT don't get sick I think the QT is much too strict and needs to be looked at

01:06:50.119,01:06:53.119

Tangee Whapham: Agree with the healthcare provider. Since it seems that there is transmission at the HS due to in-person, we need to make sure we slow the spread. Why do we need to wait until it's at a critical point?

01:06:52.526,01:06:55.526

Harry Grimm: If we switch to remote learning, what will happen with winter sports? Will the sports programs be allowed to proceed?

01:06:54.171,01:06:57.171

Jeffrey Kissinger: 1. Does it make sense to suspend extracurriculars and keep in person learning?
2. If the standard for Social Distancing is reduced to 3 ft that would address approx 90% of our current absences from contact tracing. If we look at current cases that would be eliminated if the standard was only 3 ft we would still be as concerned with the numbers or would we feel this is still a victory and would consider continuing with in person learning.

01:07:37.398,01:07:40.398

Joe Mendel: Does the hybrid model spread the students out enough in the classroom setting in order to meet the 6'+ mark to mitigate quarantine in the classroom.

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01:08:18.182,01:08:21.182

Sheila Gambaccini: Hybrid would check the most boxes: 1) Kids could be 6 feet apart so would avoid quarantine 2) Fewer kids on the bus 3) Kids still get in-person benefits.

01:09:09.050,01:09:12.050

Elizabeth Davis: Many teachers & students are using multiple sick days for minor illnesses in order to err on the side of caution. Students & teachers working from home would easily be able to continue with common cold type symptoms without worry. It could really help our attendance rates.

01:09:20.524,01:09:23.524

Stephanie Earnest: I believe that as we see community cases rise, we will see school cases rise. If we are only looking at December, wouldn't the best scenario be an online transition for the month- School have used calamity days for seasonal flu (my guess is at a certain percent of cases). Why living in a county, with a very high incident if spread, during a pandemic not reason to look at moving entire district to online?

01:12:56.639,01:12:59.639

Lexi Higbee: Have we considered FAPE? I think the free and public education has been addressed, but by looking at the difference between hybrid (which other districts are saying is difficult) and 100% online is the access. How are you ensuring students are actually accessing the education, not physically, but learning?

01:15:49.707,01:15:52.707

Nicole Poynter: if we have to go back on line how are we going to ensure our special education students get adequate services

01:16:27.383,01:16:30.383

Dave Bartiromo: Remember, the parents in the school district voted to go back in person. We gave the option to those that wanted remote to choose it. If we are questioning the want to go remote, shouldn't it be the choice of the parents to move to a remote model? if you change it now, you've essentially rendered the desires of the parents who voted to go back to class irrelevant. And this based on unconfirmed scenarios.

01:16:48.822,01:16:51.822

Jeffrey Kissinger: If we are concerned with student spacing within the classroom we should be equally concerned with person to person unmasked contact in certain extracurriculars. In one of the earlier examples one student is suspected of impacting 30 others. If we allow unmasked person to person contact outside of the classroom, even with small participatory numbers, the potential is still great. Masked exposure in the classroom seems less dangerous than unmasked contacted even in smaller numbers.

01:19:05.957,01:19:08.957

Charles Berg: I find it confusing that we can prove that we have not had any students contract COVID as a result of being quarantined, but we believe that the hybrid model would still produce high numbers. Can you discuss how it is better to quarantine 240 students instead of 52?

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01:22:57.221,01:23:00.221

Steve Moore: Our HS wired program is full. We have over 35 students currently on the waitlist that want to go into wired. Our next time to move students is Jan 14th. Everyday, I get requests for students to move now and it is for a variety of reasons. We simply can't move many students unless we make a drastic change in our staffing which is very difficult in the middle of the year.

01:26:01.416,01:26:04.416

Sheila Gambaccini: I think the request for wired is increasing because kids are worried that they will be quarantined because they were unlucky and sitting too close. I agree with Mr. Berg. Hybrid wouldn't solve all spacing issues but it would help in most cases.

01:26:04.185,01:26:07.185

Bill Rhoades: I would like my students to go in person too, BUT, if staffing is becoming a problem due to absences, and it is impacting in-person instruction, then this is not good for our students either. I can also tell you that kids bouncing between in-school and quarantine is not optimal either. A short period of remote might be the best scenario for everybody. We have to look at the whole picture.

01:26:35.284,01:26:38.284

Steve Moore: We have a natural break right now between Thanksgiving and Christmas. There are 14 days of school. IF we go to remote learning we would probably have 10 days of instruction (a couple of prep days) This allows us to reset at the HS and get back to in-person in January. In-person works and we have shown that it works. However, right now it is not working for a lot of students because of students in/out and the fear that students have right now of being sick/quarantined.

01:26:44.730,01:26:47.730

Jim Moy: I want my two high schoolers in school but the quarantine policy and community spread is mathematically almost impossible. These kids are still working and meeting up outside of school. Our local businesses who employ High school students are struggling with staffing. Does moving to Hybrid model would give us the best chance to reduce the High School incidence rate ?

01:26:57.409,01:27:00.409

Lexi Higbee: If the shift to 100% were to be decided upon, will every student get the same types of learning as those in wired. By your description, it seems as though wired is fairly successful reaching all students. However, would the requirements be the same for now the whole high school given that you now know what works and doesn't from wired?

01:31:07.051,01:31:10.051

Mike Hodge: 2 of the 4 situations you outlined earlier, of direct school transfer, occurred due to extracurricular activities. It is true that those activities are unmasked. The priority has to be academics, not sports.

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01:32:42.942,01:32:45.942

Rusty Kuse: Possibly moving to a remote setting now will allow the district to assess if a more robust Wired program should be offered in January. If the answer is yes, then shift more resources to online learning to allow those on the wait list and possible new students to transition to Wired. Then return the remainder of students to the building. Just a thought...

01:33:41.624,01:33:44.624

Benjamin Maag: What impact, if any, on Wired students would come from either full remote students in December or the Hybrid model?

01:35:05.070,01:35:08.070

Bill Rhoades: In your opinion, would going hybrid alleviate the staffing issues that you are currently experiencing being fully in-person?

01:39:09.731,01:39:12.731

Nicole Owensby: I agree 100% with Mr Moore for as it regards to all the schools

01:39:23.013,01:39:26.013

Charles Berg: Great points, Mr .Moore

01:39:48.720,01:39:51.720

Henderson Family: Thanks for your input Mr Moore.

01:40:33.816,01:40:36.816

Dave Bartiromo: A "reset" would likely not achieve the results you want it to. We are in a situation where community spread is greater than it was when school started. Sending kids home will not reduce cases. Why not use the two week holiday break as a reset? And if kids are experiencing depression IN school now, won't it likely compound if we send them home? The priority should be to provide the very best education possible. Learning from home is generally not it.

01:40:45.912,01:40:48.912

Adam Motter: What is the Board and the Administration's vision of what Remote looks like for the high school students? Is it posting to Google Classroom and having students do assignments and turn it in, or does it look more like live Google Meets (students following their schedule) with actual instruction and the use of Google Classroom? Or is it something else?

01:41:04.469,01:41:07.469

Burk Hughes: If we are currently seeing the anxiety and depression increase, what is being done to address this hidden pandemic? I appreciate the planning for physical and visible signs of covid-19, which has a low mortality rate, but what is being done to address mental health, which Mr. Moore has noted in his comments?

01:42:02.681,01:42:05.681

Kathleen Davis: Good points for going online; however, we all have a bad taste of what that looks like based on last spring. How do we know our students will get the educational instruction they need to succeed?

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01:43:05.223,01:43:08.223

Steve Moore: Remote learning would be to have students following their schedules. Teachers would have live interaction every day following the continuity plan schedule. They would conduct class via google meet. Classes would be a little shorter and have more time for breaks.

01:43:34.823,01:43:37.823

Steve Moore: We have several programs to work on mental health of our students in and out of school.

01:44:02.836,01:44:05.836

Chris Grieshop: Can you compare online now vs last spring. Can you use more "google classroom" live presentation type model

01:44:40.530,01:44:43.530

Sherri Dahlem: Speaking from a Wired parent it has been night and day from Spring. Wired is very organized, the teachers are available, there is a blend to being live with the teachers teaching while some subjects are pre-record. Teachers are also doing a wonderful job of making sure there are social times available so these kids are still getting interaction with their peers. Rest assured it is nothing like spring at all.

01:46:04.442,01:46:07.442

Lexi Higbee: Grades are essential for high school students. My students' grades plummeted last year with online learning because it just does not work for him. We are in the final weeks of the first semester... what is the potential impact of students who do not manage or learn online well? Science and math are hard online

01:46:34.101,01:46:37.101

Phil Luthman: Compare online now vs last spring: We have infused with far more live teaching. We have conducted a great deal of professional development on the use of these digital tools (Classroom, Google Meet, Screencastify). Google has greatly upgraded the functionality of Google Meet and deployed those changes to our district (breakout rooms, hand raise, polling, G&A, host moderation controls, etc.). Our collective staff has never been more poised to leverage our technology and tools for success.

01:47:47.739,01:47:50.739

Phil Luthman: Google Classroom is an Online Learning Management Tool. It is where assignments, announcements, discussions, and homework is assigned. Google Meet is what is used with Live Teaching.

01:48:59.848,01:49:02.848

Lisa Langos: I found Wired this first trimester for elementary not very organized. It is different than the Spring, but I found my son struggling when he has always excelled in school. Teachers need to be held more responsible for touching base with students and parents since we don't have that one on one like we do in the classroom.

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GOOGLE MEET CHAT TRANSCRIPT:

02:38:29.834,02:38:32.834

Mike Hodge: It's a 3 week reset. Waiting just makes the whole thing a moot point.

02:38:33.738,02:38:36.738

Sonia Zrelak: The anxiety in the kids not knowing if they are going back is weighing on them heavily

02:38:33.937,02:38:36.937

Jennifer Frantz: Please make a decision today, parents need to possibly make arrangements

02:38:39.260,02:38:42.260

Rusty Kuse: The facts are there to make an informed decision.

02:38:59.807,02:39:02.807

Patty Barrett: Vote now on high school

02:39:11.494,02:39:14.494

Tangee Whapham: Look at the comments now. People want you to decide now. Sending them back for 2-4 days to then go remote is moot. Make a decision to people can plan accordingly

02:39:12.804,02:39:15.804

Elizabeth Davis: Teachers and students are asked to err on the side of caution daily. Why are we not following the same advice?

02:39:45.210,02:39:48.210

danielle sintoni: Parents need time to plan. Putting it off it causing more stress and anxiety. A decision should be made before high school goes back on Tuesday.

02:39:52.473,02:39:55.473

Claire Walker: I'm not involved but it makes more sense to keep them home now until after Christmas break, they shouldn't go back for 2 weeks

02:39:54.423,02:39:57.423

: Agreed. Vote today.

02:40:22.769,02:40:25.769

Henderson Family: Does surveying regarding a decision on the High School effectively help the Board and district make a decision? Will it change anything? Sending kids into the building on Tuesday then sending them home as of Thursday is moot. Transmission will have occurred. Hybrid or remote for the HS seems it needs to be decided sooner rather than later.

02:40:42.873,02:40:45.873

Kathleen Davis: You don't need a survey. Teacher and parents have been voicing their opinion. VOTE

02:40:52.469,02:40:55.469

Tangee Whapham: Please just vote today

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02:40:55.615,02:40:58.615

Rusty Kuse: Vote

02:41:45.641,02:41:48.641

Lexi Higbee: Parents were previously surveyed about spring, they had opportunities to be part of the committees this summer and have had the opportunity to voice opinions here. Survey isn't needed

02:41:52.548,02:41:55.548

Tangee Whapham: Thank you for your vote!

02:45:23.115,02:45:26.115

Kathleen Davis: Thank you for your vote

02:46:48.951,02:46:51.951

Henderson Family: What happens if I choose not to send my HS student this week in light of today's meeting? I am no longer comfortable with in person with the numbers?

02:46:50.815,02:46:53.815

Rusty Kuse: Review the data and the numbers. The yes votes are putting the kids that are in the high school at risk.

ADJOURNMENT

20-11-103 The motion was made by **Gordon**, seconded by **Stevens**, to adjourn at **11:50** a.m.

VOTE: Yea – McComas, Stevens, Batey, Gordon, Kramer
Nay – None

Motion Carried,

(Signed) _____
Julie Batey, President

(Attested) _____
Douglas D. Beeman, Treasurer