



*USD 232 BOARD OF EDUCATION*  
*OFFICIAL MINUTES -- SPECIAL MEETING*

De Soto High School, 35000 W 91st Street, De Soto, KS

YouTube channel: <https://bitly.com/usd232youtube>

August 24, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the President, Mrs. Danielle Heikes. A quorum of the Board was present. Board members and administrators present were as follows:

**Board Members:** Rick Amos  
Bill Fletcher  
John Gagnat  
Danielle Heikes  
Stephanie Makalous  
Ashley Spaulding  
Rachele Zade

**Administrators:** Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Educational Services  
Wendy Denham, Board Clerk/Executive Assistant to the Superintendent  
Carrie Handy, Director of Human Resources/Elementary  
Lee Hanson, Director of Special Services  
Tara Harmon-Moore, Coordinator of Health Services  
Dr. Frank Harwood, Superintendent  
Michelle Hite, Director of School Improvement  
Dr. Joe Kelly, Director of Curriculum  
Brandon Riffel, Director of Technology

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Harwood introduced the following doctors:

**Dr. Lisa Gilmer** is a pediatrician in Johnson County, KS. She has consulted for the district on return to school plans and in her role as the immediate past president for the Kansas chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics has served as a resource and advocate for children locally and at the state level.

**Dr. Kari Harris** is a pediatrician in Wichita, KS and serves on the Kansas COVID Workgroup for Kids. In that role she worked alongside the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) to help develop the Kansas School Gating Criteria. She practices adolescent primary care and has an interest in pediatric mental health. She is also an active member of the Kansas chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**Dr. Gretchen Homan** is a pediatrician in Wichita, KS. She is also an active participant of the Kansas COVID Workgroup for Kids and president-elect for the Kansas chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Doctors Gilmer, Harris and Homan shared information on the Kansas COVID Workgroup for Kids noting that it is a collaborative effort between the Kansas State Department of Education, the Kansas Department of Health & Environment and local health departments to create school reopening guidelines, assist in the development of the gating criteria and partner with school districts to provide medical expertise for reopening plans. They shared statistics from a national perspective on COVID-19 as it pertains to children, reviewed the Kansas State Department of Education Gating Criteria and Johnson County recommendations for safe school reopening and offered considerations for USD 232 students and strategies to promote full time on-site learning for Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. After explaining how to use the Johnson County Gating Criteria, the doctors recommended the formation of a COVID-19 Advisory Committee that includes board members, district leadership, district nurses, teachers, community leaders, health officials, parent representation and physicians to meet on a regular basis to assist the superintendent and school board in determining the most appropriate risk zone for school decisions.

Board members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

Rachele Zade asked about transmission of COVID between elementary students and adult staff. Dr. Gilmer said those students stay in their own pod and will not leave it during the day which helps to reduce risk of transmission and makes it easier for contact tracing, versus in a high school setting where students have to move between rooms. Maintaining social distancing is also easier at the elementary level. She noted that young children are less likely to transmit COVID.

Dr. Harris added that school districts need to take staff absenteeism into account when considering what level in the Gating Criteria to be in.

Dr. Gilmer talked about COVID testing at the University of Kansas (KU) and how it has yielded results as low as 1% positive. Dr. Harris pointed out that KU and other colleges are using the saliva test which isn't as reliable as the nasal swab.

Rick Amos asked if there is other data to evaluate. Dr. Gilmer suggested hospital available capacity.

Ashley Spaulding said KU has a COVID work group that has done a lot of research and asked Dr. Gilmer if she can share what it will look like in a few weeks. Dr. Gilmer said she is uncertain about COVID statistics over the next several weeks, especially with heading into Flu and other upper respiratory illness season. She suggested the best things to do are to use masks, take precautions, and vaccinate.

Rachele Zade asked if the district could use COVID data pulled from specific zip codes within the district. Dr. Gilmer and Dr. Homan said that data is available; however, they pointed out that while a person's address might be in one zip code, people are mobile and move in and out of various zip codes

throughout the day with work and social activities. They suggested looking at Johnson County data might be better. Dr. Harris cautioned against using narrow data like specific zip codes.

Superintendent Harwood introduced the following specialists:

**Dr. Farah Ahmed** has a Master of Public Health and a Doctorate in Epidemiology from the University of Texas Houston School of Public Health. She has been with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) for almost ten years. She is currently the State Epidemiologist and the Environmental Health Officer. She oversees a hardworking team of epidemiologists at KDHE including infectious disease, immunization, maternal and child health, BRFSS, cancer, diabetes and chronic disease, tobacco cessation, injury prevention, environmental health, childhood blood lead poisoning and trauma epidemiologists.

**Elizabeth Holzschuh** is the Director of Epidemiology at the Johnson County Department of Health & Environment (JCDHE), where she has worked since 2015. In addition to her role at JCDHE, Ms. Holzschuh is an adjunct professor at KUMC where she teaches Infectious Disease Epidemiology and she also facilitates workshops throughout the country for the Federal Bureau of Investigations and Centers for Disease Control teaching local law enforcement and public health officials how to conduct joint investigations in the event of bioterrorism and other suspicious outbreaks. Prior to her current role, she served as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the Kansas Department of Health & Environment. She obtained her Master's degree with a concentration in public health, microbiology and emerging infectious disease from George Washington University.

Dr. Ahmed and Ms. Holzschuh shared data that corresponds to metrics outlined in the Kansas School Gating Criteria. The first metric they showed was the Trend in Incidence Rate (number of new cases by symptom onset date per week/100,000 population) since February. The second metric they showed was the Two Week Cumulative Incidence Rate (weeks of August 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>). Dr. Ahmed pointed out that there were 198 new cases per 100,000 in that time period which would put the community in the Red category of the Kansas Gating Criteria. The third metric they showed was the Two Week Percent Positive Case Rate (KDHE formula for percent positivity: Total number of positive PCR test results, based on laboratory test date, for the week/total number of positive and negative PCR test results for the same week). All of the data was broken down by age group and county. In conclusion, Dr. Ahmed said an upcoming addition to the COVID-19 dashboard will be School Absenteeism by County.

Danielle Heikes asked if they are looking at all absenteeism or just COVID-19 absenteeism. Dr. Ahmed said it will be looking at absenteeism for all reasons. Dr. Harris pointed out that Health Departments have a threshold of when schools will be shut down due to illness.

Ashley Spaulding asked if the Kansas State Department of Education Gating Criteria coincides with the Johnson County Gating Criteria. Dr. Ahmed suggested looking at all the data together.

John Gaignat asked how to find the Kansas Gating Criteria. Dr. Ahmed said on the Kansas Department of Health & Environment web page.

Rachele Zade said last year Johnson County districts worked hard on the Zero Reasons Why campaign and she feels like this topic has taken a backburner to COVID. She asked if there is a way to measure the social/emotional impact. Dr. Harris said she only sees teenagers and has a strong interest in mental health. She said teens need some avenue of peer interaction if they can't play sports.

John Gaignat asked Dr. Harris if they have noticed an increase in suicide in children 18 and under since COVID-19. Dr. Harris said there has been an increase in mental health issues, not necessarily suicide, in her practice. Dr. Gilmer said that she has noticed an increase in anxiety for children she sees.

Danielle Heikes said the amount of expert advice being shared is astronomical, but isn't cohesive. She asked if the three doctors worked together on the presentation this evening. Dr. Gilmer said the Pediatricians do collaborate and were all in support of the gating criteria.

Dr. Ahmed said that no one criteria carries more weight.

Ashley Spaulding asked how determinations are made whether to go with a Hybrid or Remote model for elementary students. Dr. Gilmer said some districts don't offer Hybrid so would default to Remote.

Rachele Zade pointed out that student activities have been going on all summer and asked why they couldn't be done in a school setting. Dr. Gilmer said the percent of positivity among kids who participated in activities this summer is unknown. She said they do have data on how a single singer in a choir can spread COVID-19 if positive.

Rick Amos asked what we are missing in the current gating criteria, what isn't being asked. Dr. Gilmer said fear is with the unknown. Dr. Homan said with the shut-down this past spring, vaccinations dropped for other diseases like whooping cough and pertussis which adds to the fear. Dr. Harris said teachers are going to be walking into the same environment that front line workers were in and could be experiencing the same social/emotional issues.

Danielle Heikes asked the doctors why another Johnson County pediatrician who spoke at a Blue Valley school board meeting takes a totally different stance. Dr. Gilmer said they don't all agree. Some might have different recommendations because of what they are seeing in their particular group of patients. They might interpret data differently. Dr. Harris said they all want kids back in schools as soon as it is reasonably safe.

Elizabeth Holzschuh spoke about developing the gating criteria used by Johnson County, noting that community transmission in Johnson County is high. She said the district will have positive cases in the schools, potentially within the first week. She added that because infected teenagers are more likely to transmit to others, a case at the secondary level will have a greater impact than a case in an elementary age child. She said they want to insure schools re-open as safe as possible.

Ashley Spaulding asked why there is a discrepancy between the state data and county data. Ms. Holzschuh explained that the state looks at every test (people tested multiple times). In Johnson County they look at a test of an individual.

John Gagnat asked if a person lives in Johnson County, but gets tested in another county, whose county would they be counted in. Ms. Holzschuh said individuals are counted in the county they live in.

Emily Valdez, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher at Starside Elementary and President of the De Soto Teacher's Association (DTA), spoke on behalf of teachers across the district. Joining her were Vice Presidents Dandra Arter and Jeff Wieland. To clear up misinformation, Mrs. Valdez said that at no time did the DTA ever communicate to any board member or district administrator that the DTA believed it would be unfair for teachers at different levels to teach in different learning models. In fact, she said the DTA has no objection to teachers at different levels teaching in different models. She said the DTA's advocacy has been limited to sharing teacher survey data on their preferences for reopening and encouraging teachers with specific health issues to share that information with the district so it could fully understand the effects of each learning model on staffing. In addition, Mrs. Valdez said the DTA has no part in the adoption or applying of gating criteria and the school reopening plan was negotiated with the DTA.

Mrs. Valdez shared results of a survey given to certified staff. She noted that certified staff of USD 232 are similar to the community as a whole in that there are different points of view on which learning model staff would prefer to open the school year with. The survey showed that 48.9% of staff would prefer to open in a Remote learning model while 31.4% of staff would prefer a Hybrid model and 19.4% prefer full in-person. The survey also revealed that nearly half (48.1%) of certified staff have underlying health conditions, or have close family members with underlying health conditions, that would increase their risk to COVID-19.

In closing, Mrs. Valdez noted that there is no clear consensus among teachers and neither teachers or patrons of USD 232 are qualified to determine which learning model is safe; that determination can only be made by qualified medical professionals. She closed with a request from the DTA that the Board adopt the Johnson County Health Department's Gating Criteria as a minimum standard by which students and staff can safely return to school.

Rick Amos asked if a majority of teachers would be in support if the Board approved a Hybrid learning model. Jeff Weiland said the DTA request is for the Board to listen to the health professionals and they take the same position with sports - follow the best advice of health professionals.

President Heikes declared a twelve-minute break at 8:08 p.m.

The Board returned to open session and President Heikes called the meeting back to order at 8:20 p.m.

Ashley Spaulding shared that every decision made by the Board is in the best interest of students and staff. She said that she believes the data provided by the county is very limiting, and the state data is not enough; noting that the district needs to be flexible and realize that more data is available.

Stephanie Makalous expressed concern with changing the learning plan because it would be hard on teachers. She added that the Board was pushed to make a decision in July.

Rick Amos said the biggest rivalry should be between high school teams. He noted the district is about as divided as it can be with regard to where patrons stand on returning to school. He said that the gating criteria from the state gives more flexibility to help manage the situation.

In response to a board member question, Superintendent Harwood pointed out that the Governor's order does not apply to students in a classroom and would not prevent the district from having in-person classes. He said the Board could choose any gating criteria and not follow county or state executive orders.

President Heikes noted that right now the district is operating under the Johnson County Gating Criteria with a few modifications.

Superintendent Harwood said the current position of the Board is adoption of the Johnson County Gating Criteria with keeping elementary and secondary in the same learning model.

Ashley Spaulding asked who determines what metrics are looked at in the gating criteria chosen and how overall trends are taken into consideration. President Heikes said she was in support of the creation of an Advisory Committee to do this.

Bill Fletcher said the district needed to look at data broken down by zip code. He noted that the Eudora School District, which is right next door, is fully open. Ashley Spaulding said most of the zip codes in our district are on the higher end of the spectrum. Rachele Zade said we do have patrons that looked at the zip codes and saw we were at about 1.4%. Rick Amos said the Board needs to take into account that people don't just stay in their own zip code. Superintendent Harwood said all of the professionals are looking at it from a metro prospective.

Rachele Zade asked if the Advisory Committee would be able to give input on the social/emotional aspect.

Danielle Heikes expressed a desire to let medical professionals dissect the data.

Bill Fletcher said elementary students need to be back in the school as they can't sit on a computer six hours a day.

Ashley Spaulding said the Board has the responsibility to have some sort of gating criteria to follow.

Danielle Heikes asked about the possibility of modifying the Hybrid learning model – in person half day/five days a week versus the AA-off-BB plan in place. Superintendent Harwood said the idea of the remote day in the middle of the week was to allow more time for cleaning, keeping co-horts separate, and to help with contact tracing if needed. He said that having students half a day every day would increase transportation costs and the HVAC system may not have a chance to clear the air between sessions.

President Heikes opened the floor for patron input.

The following patrons spoke to the board in support of bringing students back on-site for school:

Brent Smith, Shawnee, Senior at De Soto High School, Student Council President.

Mary Caroline Friday, Shawnee, parent and teacher at De Soto High School

Jason Stenberg, Shawnee, parent

Melanie Morrison, Olathe, Mize Elementary student

Sally Morrison, Olathe, parent

Jenni Adcox, Shawnee, parent

Scott Ainley, Shawnee, parent

Tori Blake, Shawnee, parent

Nicole Van Denabeele, Shawnee, parent

Kristi Cooper, Shawnee, parent

Mallory Fitzgerald, Shawnee, Prairie Ridge Elementary student

Therese Finan, Shawnee, parent

Lindsay Flint, Shawnee, parent

Ashley Heath, Shawnee, parent

Shari Scott, Shawnee, parent

Laura Dossett, Shawnee, parent

Tracy Gervais, Shawnee, parent

The following patrons spoke to the board in support of starting school in the remote learning model:

Alan Clement, Shawnee, parent

Emma Clement, Shawnee, Freshman at Mill Valley High School

Kelley Emmons, Shawnee, parent, encouraged the Board to listen to public health experts and medical professionals to help guide the district through this challenging time and use data provided by them.

After reading a statement expressing the desire of the Board to make a decision that is in the best interest of students and the entire community, President Heikes asked the board if they can come to consensus or make a decision regarding gating criteria in general and if that is the best direction for the district at this moment.

Stephanie Makalous said considering there is no perfect solution, she felt that the district needs to have some kind of measurement to go by and to follow versus emotions and then made the following motion:

*Mrs. Stephanie Makalous moved to follow the Kansas State Department of Education Gating Criteria.*

*Mr. Rick Amos seconded.*

Bill Fletcher asked if athletics will be left out if the district follows the Kansas criteria. Superintendent Harwood said if it is followed without exception it will include activities.

Rachele Zade said she is not okay in following this criteria with data being skewed and ever changing. She said there is risk in everything we do, like driving on K-10. She shared concern with not accounting for the social/emotional aspect of kids being out of school.

Ashley Spaulding agreed with Mrs. Zade in regards to the social/emotional piece and mental health of students. She shared concern with how the district can move forward without having good criteria to go off of. She also said after voting in the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to allow sports, she struggles with the fact that this goes back to sports now. She shared concern with getting rid of sports and extracurricular activities since kids are already missing out on the school piece of socialization in the school setting.

Rick Amos said he wished Mr. Fletcher would have asked that question before he seconded because he does not support moving to this criteria if it does take athletics and activities out of play. He noted that while his second may stand he is not sure how he will vote.

President Heikes noted that we do have to vote on this motion since there is a second. She also noted that the Board does not have to change the gating criteria as adopted on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. She asked if the Board accepted that the community is in Red based on the numbers.

John Gaignat asked the Board President if she could explain what will happen if the board votes yes or no on this motion. President Heikes explained that the motion on the table is to accept the Kansas State Department of Education Gating Criteria as presented with no alternations made to it. She said the Board will still have to discuss the category the community is in.

Bill Fletcher said he would like to know what category the community is in currently. Superintendent Harwood said that based on the KDHE data, when looking at different gating criteria, on the first one there is no absenteeism data yet because students aren't in school, for the second one (the two-week county percent positivity rate) the district would be in Yellow, for the two-week cumulative county incident rate the district would be in Red, the trend is increasing so that would also be in Red and the local referring hospital capacity would be in Green. Superintendent Harwood reminded the board that the people that made this criteria suggested a committee could look at the data and make the determination. He noted that there isn't time to form a committee tonight, and the Board also needs to determine how the school year will start. He said if the Board were to adopt this criteria they would have to determine how the school year will start, then form a committee to advise the board as the school year goes on.

John Gaignat asked if school will start all virtual with no activities if this criteria is adopted. Superintendent Harwood said in reading the criteria he would say the district will start in Orange with grades



6-12 starting in remote and K-5 either on-site or Hybrid (with class sizes of 15 or less or have co-horts which the district doesn't have set up yet, so he suggested elementary in Hybrid), school activities would be remote only, spectators and audience would be remote only, visitor access would be extremely limited and playground access would be open with a lot of mitigating factors.

Rachele Zade asked what Gardner and Spring Hill districts were doing. Superintendent Harwood said as of this morning all Johnson County districts were holding grades 6-12 remote, Gardner and Spring Hill are on-site for elementary, Olathe and Blue Valley are Hybrid for elementary, and Shawnee Mission and De Soto are remote for elementary. He also noted that Spring Hill is currently meeting to discuss their plan.

President Heikes reiterated the motion.

*Motion failed 1/6. Danielle Heikes, Rachele Zade, Ashley Spaulding, John Gagnat and Bill Fletcher dissented. Rick Amos Abstained.*

*Mr. John Gagnat moved to return to what was approved in the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, with K-12 in the Hybrid model, with the realization that if the numbers climb we will have to go all virtual, and allow all extra-curricular activities to continue as they are.*

*Mr. Bill Fletcher seconded.*

Stephanie Makalous asked if the vote is to stick with the Johnson County Health Department Gating Criteria, except for following the elementary criteria which the board had opted out of in the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and allowing extra-curricular activities. Mr. Gagnat said that is correct. Superintendent Harwood noted that Mr. Gagnat said it would apply to K-12. He also asked Mr. Gagnat how this follows the Johnson County Gating Criteria and what numbers are being followed – if approved, he asked if the community was in Red if the district would offer Hybrid K-12; and then if the community was in Black if the district would be full Remote? Mr. Gagnat confirmed. President Heikes suggested that in order to separate the gating criteria from the start of the school year perhaps the motion should be broken out.

*Mr. John Gagnat rescinded his motion and Mr. Bill Fletcher withdrew his second.*

*Mr. John Gagnat moved to start school K-12 Hybrid.*

*Mr. Bill Fletcher seconded.*

*Mr. Bill Fletcher asked to amend the motion to have K-5 go full on-site.*

*Mr. John Gagnat did not accept the amendment to the motion; therefore, the amendment fails and the original motion stands.*

Superintendent Harwood noted that the 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade portion does not fall within any of the guidelines from either of the medical professional groups that have made recommendations so the Board would

be less restrictive than the medical guidance they have been given from the Kansas State Board of Education and the Johnson County Department of Health & Environment.

Danielle Heikes said she still questions how the district addresses on-going numbers and external factors.

Rick Amos noted that this would not be following any criteria if this motion was approved. Superintendent Harwood confirmed that the way the motion is stated there would be no criteria, it just says how the district will start the school year. There would have to be another board meeting to make a change for whatever else happens.

Rachele Zade asked if the Board could discuss the gating criteria numbers so that there is still something that is being followed. Mr. Gagnat said the criteria could be reviewed every two weeks.

*Mr. John Gagnat amended his motion to have K-12 begin school in the Hybrid model to be reviewed in two weeks to make sure we are doing what's right safety wise for students and staff.*

*After confirming that activities will be voted on separately, Mr. Bill Fletcher seconded.*

Superintendent Harwood pointed out that at the last meeting he shared information about liability. He pointed out that as long as the Board is acting reasonably they are reasonably certain to prevail in a lawsuit if one were to happen. This is based on following recommendations the Board is getting from other places and doing similar to what other districts are doing.

*Motion failed 2/5. Danielle Heikes, Rachele Zade, Stephanie Makalous, Ashley Spaulding and Rick Amos dissented.*

Rick Amos asked if the Board stuck with the decision made on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and wanted some kind of Hybrid education model without a sweeping change would K-5 be in Hybrid and 6-12 in Remote. Superintendent Harwood said to have elementary come back in the Hybrid model the Board would have to make a motion to amend the August 3<sup>rd</sup> decision to follow the Johnson County Gating Criteria with elementary going Hybrid when in the Red category. He said they could also adopt the state criteria and do the same thing.

*Mr. Rick Amos moved to amend the August 3<sup>rd</sup> action in which the Board chose to put K-5 in the same category as 6-12 and begin the year with K-5 in the Hybrid model, Remote model for 6-12, and activities to remain as-is.*

*Mrs. Stephanie Makalous seconded.*

Mr. Amos asked if every student could go to the Hybrid model if the community moves to the Yellow category by September 8<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Harwood said with September 8<sup>th</sup> being two weeks from tomorrow, tonight the Board is deciding how to start school on that date and then re-evaluate at the September 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting. He added that the plan with any gating criteria is to look at it in two to four week increments and then make a decision that will be implemented over a week or two.

President Heikes asked Mr. Amos if he meant to say in the motion that we will move elementary school to the Hybrid model if the community is in the Red category, or did he also mean to say and begin the year in Hybrid for K-5. Mr. Amos said his motion was to remove K-5 from the same criteria as 6-12 so that would mean that even in the Red category K-5 would begin the school year in the Hybrid model. Superintendent Harwood noted that when the motion language says “begin the school year” it is changing how the criteria is used to determine how the school year is started based on the decision that was made.

John Gagnat asked what the Board action was at the last meeting. Superintendent Harwood said it was to accept the Johnson County Gating Criteria treating elementary and secondary the same and not applying it to activities. He said that the motion could be worded to accept the Johnson County Gating Criteria with elementary being in the Hybrid model in the Yellow and Red categories and not accepting the criteria for athletics.

Bill Fletcher asked if the district had to follow any criteria. President Heikes said the Board does not have to.

Ashley Spaulding said she will vote no on this motion as she feels the Johnson County Gating Criteria is too restrictive in terms of not having enough metrics to look at.

Bill Fletcher said if kids can participate in activities they should be able to be in school.

Rick Amos said his goal was to get some kids back in school.

Superintendent Harwood noted that based on Mrs. Spaulding’s comment, the Board can get to the same place as Mr. Amos’ motion by adopting the Kansas State Department of Education Gating Criteria and not applying it to school activities.

Rick Amos repeated his motion, clarifying that it was intended to amend the decision on August 3<sup>rd</sup> to remove K-5 from the same criteria as 6-12 so that in the Red Category K-5 would be in the Hybrid model with no change to activities. President Heikes asked where that puts the district if the community is in the Yellow category. Mr. Amos said it would still be in the Hybrid model.

*Motion failed 2/5. Danielle Heikes, Rachele Zade, Ashley Spaulding, John Gagnat and Bill Fletcher dissented.*

President Heikes asked the Board if there was interest in creating a COVID-19 Advisory Committee to inform the Board going forward. The Board was in agreement with creating the committee and putting a timeline on it. Mrs. Spaulding said that part of having an advisory committee would be to adopt the Kansas Schools Gating Criteria.

*Mrs. Ashley Spaulding moved to adopt the Kansas State Department of Education Gating Criteria removing sports and activities from the parameters.*

*Mrs. Stephanie Makalous seconded.*

John Gaignat asked if by voting on this it would be for K-5 or K-12. President Heikes stated it shows the grade level affected on the Learning Model in the Navigating Change document.

*President Heikes moved to amend the motion to add in the establishment of a district COVID-19 Advisory Committee to provide guidance as the district moves forward with the school year and provide recommendations to the Board so that they can determine the learning model to be in.*

Bill Fletcher said the Board needed to throw the criteria out until an Advisory Committee is in place to let the Board know what should be used. He said right now the Board needs to figure out how to open school up. Rachele Zade agreed with Mr. Fletcher. She added that patrons have said if the Board changes the gating criteria they may want to change from on-site to remote learning for their children. Board members were in agreement with giving patrons an option to change from on-site to remote if the motion is approved.

*Carried 4/3. Rachele Zade, John Gaignat and Bill Fletcher dissented. The amendment was not approved with this action.*

Board members continued discussion on how to start the school year. Superintendent Harwood noted that at the August meeting the Board adopted the Johnson County Gating Criteria and chose to treat elementary and secondary the same. They had two separate motions - the first motion did not include activities and passed, the second motion included activities and failed.

Superintendent Harwood said the Board could just direct the administration to form an Advisory Committee. President Heikes said the Board does want the administration to form the committee.

President Heikes said that based on information available today she would like Superintendent Harwood to review where the community stands on the Kansas State Department of Education Gating Criteria. Superintendent Harwood said the district has no student absenteeism due to not being in session yet; for the 2-week County percent positive case rate, we would be in the Yellow category; for the 2-week cumulative County incidence rate, we would be in the Red category; for the Trend in County incidence rate, we would be in the Red category; and for the Local/referring hospital capacity rate, we would be in the Green category.

President Heikes proposed asking the Advisory Committee how they recommend the Board weighs each category and then asked the Board to discuss how to start the school year noting that it looks like the district should start in the Orange category. Superintendent Harwood said that based on the Gating Criteria that has been approved with it being Yellow, Red, Red, Green it does appear to be in the Orange category. Board members continued discussion on which category (Yellow or Orange) the community would be in.

Bill Fletcher said he still thinks the Board needs to eliminate the criteria right now and make a motion on how to start school.

Superintendent Harwood said the Board could make a decision now and then review the data at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, get input from the Committee, and change to another learning model a week

later. He pointed out that if the Board chooses to go with Hybrid for K-12 it would depend on how many parents request to move from on-site to remote as to how much impact it will have on scheduling.

Ashley Spaulding asked if the Board chose to start the school year in the Yellow category would the schools be prepared with all of the PPE in place. Superintendent Harwood said the district is ready as it was prepared to start school in the Hybrid model.

*Mrs. Ashley Spaulding moved to start the school year in the Yellow category based on the Kansas Statement Department of Education Gating Criteria.*

*Mr. John Gaignat seconded.*

*Carried 6/1. Stephanie Makalous dissented.*

*President Heikes adjourned the meeting at 11:41 p.m.*

Sept. 14, 2020  
Date Approved

Wendy S. Denham  
Clerk, Board of Education  
Charles Heikes  
President, Board of Education