



USD 232 BOARD OF EDUCATION
OFFICIAL MINUTES --SPECIAL MEETING

Administrative Office (35200 West 91st Street, De Soto, KS)

July 27, 2020

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

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 (*Attended via Zoom*)
Bill Fletcher (*Attended via Zoom*)
John Gagnat (*Attended via Zoom*)
Danielle Heikes
Stephanie Makalous (*Attended via Zoom*)
Ashley Spaulding (*Attended via Zoom*)
Rachele Zade (*Attended via Zoom*)

Administrators: Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Educational Services
Wendy Denham, Board Clerk/Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Frank Harwood, Superintendent
Brandon Riffel, Director of Technology

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Heikes stated that the Board received almost 300 comments regarding the meeting this evening and noted that all comments have been read and will be taken into consideration.

Modification to the 2020-21 School Year Calendar. Superintendent Harwood recommended that the Board move the first day of school to September 8th. He said this was due to two reasons: 1. The rising number of COVID cases in Johnson County; and, 2. To allow extra time for re-arranging schedules, planning for students who choose remote learning, and delivery of necessary supplies. He said after a review of parent survey results the district expects between 1,500 and 2,500 students to choose the remote learning option. He explained that re-scheduling these students will be a huge undertaking which will require counselors to complete what they typically do in a six-month long process in the span of weeks. In addition to re-scheduling of students for remote learning, staff will have to re-schedule every grade and every class at every school.

Stephanie Makalous said in the past few weeks the Governor made an executive order to delay the start of school until after Labor Day which was then overridden by the State Board of Education. She said this action put the decision on when to start school into the hands of local school boards and is in the best interest of our district and students. She expressed support of moving the start date to September 8th.

Ashley Spaulding echoed Mrs. Makalous' comment. She asked that the district make sure teachers have adequate professional development and classroom preparation days. She also urged community members to take necessary health and safety precautions to increase the chances for an in-person re-opening.

Following a board member question, Superintendent Harwood said more details on remote learning and logistics of the re-opening plan will be discussed at the next board meeting, August 3rd. He also added that the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) will decide the start date for activities.

Mrs. Danielle Heikes moved to change the student start date for the 2020-21 school year from August 13th to September 8th and direct the administration to develop a 2020-21 school year calendar that meets all statutory requirements and contractual obligations to be considered at the August 3rd board meeting.

Mr. John Gagnat seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Rick Amos – Yes

Bill Fletcher – Yes

John Gagnat – Yes

Danielle Heikes – Yes

Stephanie Makalous – Yes

Ashley Spaulding – Yes

Rachelle Zade – Yes

Carried 7/0.

Superintendent Harwood pointed out that this action only changes the start date for school. It does not say what the school day will look like. He said there are two drafts of the 2020-21 school calendar done which will be presented to the Calendar Committee for review before being brought to the Board for consideration on August 3rd. He said the two calendars pretty much have to do with how much Spring Break will be affected. He also said it is the desire of the district to keep the number of student contact days the same without adding time to the school day. In conclusion, Superintendent Harwood said enrollment dates will be August 10th and 11th.

President Heikes adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

August 3, 2020
Date Approved

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