



USD 232 BOARD OF EDUCATION
OFFICIAL MINUTES -- SPECIAL MEETING

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

July 13, 2020

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 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 (*Attended via Zoom*)
John Gaignat
Danielle Heikes
Stephanie Makalous
Ashley Spaulding
Rachele Zade

Administrators: Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Educational Services
Steve Deghand, Director of Facilities
Carrie Handy, Director of Human Resources/Elementary
Frank Harwood, Superintendent
Michelle Hite, Director of School Improvement
Joe Kelly, Director of Teaching & Learning
Ken Larsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations
Jolyn Mortenson, Director of Student Nutrition
Brandon Riffel, Director of Technology
Brian Schwanz, Director of Human Resources/Secondary

Coming Back Together: USD 232 Learning Guidelines for 2020-21. Superintendent Harwood reviewed a working draft of the Coming Back Together, USD 232 Learning Environment Guidelines with board members. He talked about school closure in the Spring and explained how many individuals throughout the USD 232 community (district Leadership Team, members of the De Soto Teachers' Association, focus groups of parents and students, and Johnson County officials) have been involved in the planning for Coming Back Together. He said that the school board is not deciding whether students will learn on site or remotely, but will be asked to take action in the regular meeting that will serve as their acknowledgement that the situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic is fluid and will allow the administration, in consultation with the Board President, to modify learning guidelines as needed. He added that this review is intended to allow board members a chance to familiarize themselves with the guidelines and provide feedback. Superintendent Harwood said the Kansas State Board of Education is expected to take action on guidelines and regulations on July 15th after which a final version of Coming Back Together will be distributed to all USD 232 families on or about July 16th.

The Coming Back Together document is divided into two sections: On-Site Learning and Remote Learning. The On-Site Learning section contains guidelines for the following: Public Health and Safety, Classrooms,

Common Spaces, Transitions, Extra and Co-Curricular Activities, Health Offices, Facilities, Food Service and Transportation. The Public Health and Safety section contains information that is important for every aspect of school operations; whereas the other topics provide specific guidance for certain areas of school operations. The Remote Learning section contains general guidelines for all grade levels, as well as specific learning guidelines for elementary, middle school and high school in the event our schools need to cease or modify on-site instruction. The plan concludes with a proposal to offer Optional Remote Learning to students. Superintendent Harwood explained that the specifics for Optional Remote Learning still need to be developed. He noted that the availability of an Optional Remote Learning Program and the robustness of its offerings are dependent upon the number of students/families that request this option and available staffing.

Board member discussions centered around the following aspects of the On-Site Learning guidelines: Mandatory mask use (specifically, the importance of communicating to families that the mandate requiring everyone age 5 and older wear masks comes from state and Johnson County authorities), social distancing of at least 6' wherever possible, allowing time for teachers and students to wash hands regularly, encouraging personal hygiene, identifying and displaying information on current known symptoms of COVID-19, daily health screenings of staff and students, and training staff to complete visual inspections of students for signs of illness.

City of Lenexa Excise Tax. Superintendent Harwood informed the Board that he and Steve Deghand, Director of Facilities, have met with representatives from the City of Lenexa to discuss the fees and taxes due on the district's property at 83rd and Mize Road where the Cedar Trails Exploration Center is currently under construction. He said Lenexa city staff were very easy to work with and they were able to reach a plan that is very generous on the city's part. He shared a table showing a breakdown of taxes and fees in three scenarios (paid to Lenexa in a 2005 agreement, quoted by Lenexa in June and agreed upon taxes and fees for the new project). After discussions, the total fees and taxes that will be due have dropped from \$589,379.76 to \$198,456.79.

President Heikes adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

August 3, 2020
Date Approved

Wendy S. Benham
Clerk, Board of Education

Charles Heikes
President, Board of Education