

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

September 28, 2020

Work Session Minutes

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a work session on Monday, September 28, 2020, beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Gladys Garland, Vice Chair Wayne Owen, Donna Hudson, Tracy Stanley, Mel Battle, Ross Gwynn, and Vennie Beggary. Others present include Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter, Assistant Superintendent Andy Tyrrell, Jennifer Eastwood, Kim Shelton, Medina Jones, Nicole McGhee, Kim Mims, Chuck Hudson, Amy Chandler (virtually), Nelson Showalter and Debra Ferrell with the Caswell Messenger. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gladys Garland at 3:30 p.m.

SCHOOL YOUR WAY

Dr. Carter gave an overview and presented a PowerPoint presentation on School Your Way which included:

- Where we are today
- Covid-19 Data
- Parent Data
- Staff Data
- How students are progressing
- Safety measures
- Health considerations
- Scenario Plan Considerations (Plan A / Plan B / Plan C)
- Surrounding districts
- Additional considerations

Dr. Carter shared that a State waiver for End of Grade (EOG) testing was requested; however, it was denied. As of now students will be required to have face to face EOCs in December regardless if they are virtual or using a flash drives.

Upon conclusion of the presentation the floor was open for questions and discussion.

Questions included:

- What is occurring regarding attendance if no one shows up for the first 10 days? Response included the students are dropped following same procedures if they were in school.
- Are the ADM (Average Daily Membership) funds being calculated on attendance this year? Response from Finance Director was that we are being held harmless this year due to Covid and no ADM reductions will be taken for this fiscal year.
- Are the counselors, social workers, nurses trying to track down the students that are unaccountable? Response included that there is a documented log of attempts to track down students. Mr. Tyrrell shared that initial contact begins with teachers, counselors, nurses, contact to health department regarding wellness checks and then social worker and/or School Resource

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Officer (SRO) will attempt to make a home visit(s). The sheriff's office is also assisting with verification of address. There is a paper trail to refer to for each student.

- Regarding weekly schedule (Plan B), will a teacher be recording presentations if students are in the classroom and are those at home listening to the same? Response included that this is the intent regardless of face-to-face, virtual or flash drive learning. Concerns included that we need to be careful and not add additional work to what our teachers already have to do.
- What occurs if a student forgets to bring the required form to enter the school bus? Response included that bus drivers will have extras and also be trained on the questions to ask the student. Mr. Tyrrell shared several scenarios that could occur and regardless of the situation, the best practice is to allow the student to get on the bus and not leave them at the bus stop alone.
- If we return back to school are we equipped to sanitize the buildings? Response included yes as we are currently doing it now with teachers and every bathroom will be added. Sprayers are also being used and staff has been requested to leave at 3:30 p.m. for cleaning purposes. If we move to Plan B staff will most likely be asked to leave at 2:30 p.m. to allow an additional hour of cleaning and teachers would use this hour of planning at home.

Jennifer Eastwood with the Health Department shared information regarding the current conditions in the county. She noted there have been two church clusters. A cluster involves five or more people. The bulk of those affected in the county are in the 40 to 60 year old category. We currently have an outbreak at the Dan River Work Farm, Caswell House and the Brian Center. Contingent living situations contribute to 28% of the cases. Currently those affected are not showing symptoms of a fever.

Question was asked to Mrs. Eastwood on what is the safest thing (in her opinion) for the students to do. Mrs. Eastwood shared that her child is in middle school and is going to school five days a week face-to face. She also shared her child is in a small private school where the classroom size is 16. Due to students remaining in their classrooms, the school has used the cafeteria spaces and other areas to spread students out and schools have been very creative to allow students to return to school safely. Mrs. Eastwood expressed the concern for students to return to school if not now, in the very near future.

Dr. Carter reviewed each scenario.

Scenario Plan Considerations included the following:

Scenario 1 = K-12 = Plan C

Continue under current Plan C (Remote Learning) for all K-12 students and continue until the end of the first semester.

Scenario 2 = K-12 = Plans A/B

All Pre K-5 students return to school under Plan A (4 days a week with 1 day for remote learning)

All 6-12 students return to school under Plan B Hybrid model (AABCC) for face-to-face instruction 2 days per week with 3 days of remote learning.

Continue with remote learning by student choice for the first semester.

Grade level staggered entries.

Scenario 3 = K-12 = Plan B

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All K-12 students return to school under Plan B Hybrid model (AABCC) for face-to-face instruction for 2 days per week with 3 days of remote learning.

Continue with remote learning by student choice for the first semester.

Grade level staggered entries.

Scenario 4 = K-12 = Plan B/C

All K-12 self-contained students return under Plan B Hybrid model 4 days for face-to-face instruction, continue with remote learning for self-contained by student choice for the first semester.

All other K-12 students remain on Plan C - remote learning until the end of the first semester.

Scenario 5 = K-12 = Plan B/C

Each grade span follows a specific model chosen for the grade span.

Choose ONE learning model for each grade span:

Elementary = Choose from elementary learning model choices

Middle = Choose from middle school learning model choices

High = Choose from high school learning model choices

It was also shared that substitutes need to be trained on the remote learning.

Dr. Carter shared information from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) regarding sports. If this is approved she will recommend no spectators at this time.

Proposed Athletic Plan:

- Cross Country & Volleyball: 1st practice = November 4, 2020 and 1st contest = Nov. 16, 2020
- Proposed dates for conditioning and skill development:
 - October 5: Cross Country/Volleyball
 - October 12: Basketball
 - November 1: Men's Soccer
 - November 15: Football
 - January 4: Golf/Women's Soccer/Softball
 - February 1: Baseball/Women's Tennis/Track/Wrestling
- Requesting Board approval to begin conditioning
- Consider no spectators at this time

Dr. Carter shared she meets (virtually) weekly with superintendents that are a part of the Piedmont Triad Educational Consortium (PTEC). Input includes it will be a challenge to return to school and most likely you will have an outbreak. Example included Rockingham returning last week for three days and three schools have been effected and had to close for quarantine.

Concerns shared included regardless of what plan is approved, it is the hope that principals will not be allowed to tweak anything and would like that specified when voting.

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Other concerns included all staff being trained.

Question was asked of Exceptional Children (EC) Director, Nelson Showalter, on his thoughts of EC students returning to school. Mr. Showalter shared that risks are always there with all students; however, smaller classes and unique needs are met and will continue to be done. These needs are managed well in the district and safety will be provided to staff. Individual Educational Plan (IEP) meetings will be held to decide what is best for individual students regarding what plan the board decides upon.

Dr. Carter shared that she will make a recommendation at the 6:30 board meeting but had wanted to hear board input and discussion prior to the regular meeting.

Input from board members included that no plan will work for all and some preferred Plan C and review again in November. Concerns of safety was shared and felt that although face-to-face is the best we need to look at districts that recently started back and then had to be closed and felt that currently we need to stay where we are. Other concerns included (regardless of what the state says) that it would be difficult to provide a safe environment to EC/Self Contained students.

No other discussion was had.

ADJOURN

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Tracy Stanley to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Gladys Garland
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent