



## College Station Independent School District

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*Success...each life...each day...each hour*

### **College Station Independent School District Special Board Meeting Minutes April 6, 2020 10:00 a.m. Zoom Meeting Videoconference**

Due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19, or Coronavirus, this meeting was conducted by videoconference or telephone call. At least a quorum of the board was in participation by videoconference or telephone call in accordance with the provisions of Sections 551.125 or 551.127 of the Texas Government Code that have not been suspended by order of the governor.

Members of the public may access this meeting through either video or audio conference:

Videoconference:

Zoom meeting at <https://csisd.zoom.us/j/944137227>

Meeting ID: 944 137 227

Audio Conference:

Audio Dial In: 1-346-248-7799

Access code: 944137227#

An electronic copy of the agenda packet was attached to this online notice. Public comments related to this meeting were handled as follows:

Citizens wishing to address the Board of Trustees on either an item on the agenda or a non-agenda topic, were required to send an email to [feedback@csisd.org](mailto:feedback@csisd.org) two hours prior to the beginning of the meeting. In your email, please state your name and the subject matter of your comment. When the Board reaches the Hearing of Citizens item on the agenda, the Board President will read all comments aloud for the board to hear. The content of your written comments cannot exceed 3 minutes when read aloud. To the extent practicable, all other public comment rules will be followed.

The following items are on the agenda:

<b>ITEM NOS.</b>	<b>CONSENT ITEMS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTIONS</b>
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<b>A.</b>		<p><b>CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME</b>  President Michael Schaefer called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.</p>
<b>B.</b>		<p><b>DECLARATION OF QUORUM</b>  President Schaefer declared a quorum of seven members present via videoconference or telephone call Zoom meeting. In attendance via videoconference or telephone call Zoom meeting were President Michael Schaefer, Vice President Geralyn Nolan, Secretary Mike Nugent, Trustee Joshua Benn, Trustee Amanda Green, Trustee Jeff Horak and Trustee Kimberly McAdams.</p>
<b>C.</b>		<p><b>BOARD</b></p>
<b>C-1.</b>		<p>Board Directions and Reports/Announcements/Superintendent Reports and Announcements</p> <p><b><u>Superintendent's Report</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>COVID 19 Update</b>  Interim Superintendent Mike Martindale gave an update on some items since the last meeting. We are entering Week 3 of at home learning. Penny Tramel, CAO is presenting our At-Home Learning website tomorrow as an example and resource for other Region VI school districts.  Meal distributions: 2,000 on Monday. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, each day was a little over 1,800 meals served. On Friday we served 1,769 meals. To date CSISD has served 22,993 meals. Good Friday is a holiday. Therefore, CSISD will not serve a meal that day, but will give kids an additional meal on Thursday.</li> </ul> <p>An update on unique student logins was given as a result of a question asked at the last meeting.</p> <p><u>Week 1:</u>  Grades 9-12: 95.27% of enrolled students logged in.  Grades 7-8: 91.45%</p>

Grades 5-6: 73.68%  
Grades K-4: 10.97%

Week 2:

Grades 9-12: 94.28%  
Grades 7-8: 84.3%  
Grades 5-6: 74.99%  
Grades K-4: 18.51%

I suspect through this week these percentages will creep up some more as assignments come due. As we get the numbers toward the end of the week, I will share them with the Board.

Vice President Nolan: In regard to the elementary numbers – are there less logging in because they are logging in with the parent's account?

Interim Superintendent Martindale: That is possible. The cumulative parent logins from Week 1 to Week 2 did drop, so more of the older kids are logging in themselves than kids at lower levels. Elementary kids were not as familiar with Schoology but are starting to get more so. Additionally, we still have paper packets available to pick up.

Cumulative student logins for Week 1 were 23,483 and 24,075 logins for Week 2.

Cumulative Parent logins did drop considerably from Week 1 to Week 2 from 7,300 to 6,200.

Teacher logins went from 3,092 to 3,355 as a result of transitioning to their individual teacher folders versus using a cumulative grade level folder in Schoology.

Student interactions for Week 1 were 120,617 and Week 2 were 126,871.

Parent interactions for Week 1 were 27,193 and Week 2 were 26,228.

Teacher interactions showing more transition to the online component for Week 1 were 15,820 and Week 2 were 19,417.

Trustee McAdams: I appreciate looking at the data on unique logins. 95% for grades 9-12 is a pretty good number in my eyes. That they are being able to access through Schoology directly,

getting assignments and being able to interact with teachers, that is fantastic. And I am not surprised with the other numbers being lower since there is the other option for website access to material for K-8<sup>th</sup> grade which has also been very easy to access and use. Can we gauge how many kids are accessing their learning through the website?

Interim Superintendent Martindale: I don't think so. At our 5-8 level last week there was for instance, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade math folder where kids could access that week's lesson. This week we transitioned to individual teacher folders where kids could go to their specific teacher and access the lesson. This is more like what Schoology looks like at the High School level. They are getting specific interactions with their teacher beginning this week. I expect this will increase the number of interactions this week.

Vice President Nolan: I like the interaction numbers because at my house we just log in and leave the Schoology tab open. Do we have counts on the number of paper packets that have been distributed because we also tried that route in our house. We like that options so thank you for giving that option as well.

Interim Superintendent Martindale: I did not ask the principals for counts on paper packets last week, but I can in the future. Kudos to C&I, our principals and our teachers for planning and coordinating those things.

Trustee Benn: How does the packet pickup work for class specific courses?

Interim Superintendent Martindale: The lessons are built on common standards and guarantee a baseline lesson across the board that will stay consistent. Enrichment items beyond that will be available in their specific teacher folders. We have transitioned each week as we monitor interactions to increase the capability. Now when the student logs in for a specific teacher, the student can see their teacher's lesson. This will now allow for more direct feedback from the teacher. For devices, today and tomorrow the technology department has been working to distribute tech devices to 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students needing devices. Then they will transition to 5-6 campuses later this week. We are looking at expanding Wi-Fi capability so if folks are having issues

		<p>at home, they can go park at one of seven campuses to access the Wi-Fi once the upgrade is completed. Kudos to our nurses, they donated their extra gloves and masks to our local health care providers in the amount of 43 boxes of gloves and 14 boxes of masks. Again, kudos to those folks. We want to support our community any way we can.</p>
<b>D.</b>		<p><b>HEARING OF CITIZENS (Non-Agenda/Agenda Items)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments related to agenda items for this meeting will be heard during consideration of the item later in the meeting</li> <li>• All comments not related to an agenda item at this meeting will be heard at this time</li> </ul> <p>There were no public comments received online prior to 8:00 am via the link provided when the notice was posted - <a href="mailto:feedback@csisd.org">feedback@csisd.org</a></p>
<b>E.</b>		<b>BUSINESS</b>
<b>E-1.</b>		<p>Consideration, discussion and possible action related to a resolution of the Board regarding delegation of certain authority to the superintendent to act in place of the board of trustees as identified in the resolution during emergency school closure due to the COVID-19 emergency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Memo</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Resolution</a></li> </ul> <p>Interim Superintendent Martindale went point by point through the resolution to provide clarification on the information contained in the resolution. The main discussion centered around student grading. Prior to this meeting, numerous conversations took place with the principals to determine the most fair way to give credit and assign GPA that would be to the benefit of the student.</p> <p><u>Vice President Nolan</u>: I need more information on using the 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks for seniors. Is the 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks given a greater weight?</p> <p><u>Interim Superintendent Martindale</u>: No. It would be weighted as a 1/3 of a semester. So, the 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks is not getting more weight. It is getting the weight of a 1/3, which is what a six-weeks is. So, when we went through the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks it was 2/3 of a semester. But we didn't want to include the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks because of the transition to at</p>

home learning and everyone's circumstances are different. But we wanted to grab the 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks because the closer to the end for seniors it adds validity to the rank and GPA.

Trustee McAdams: On the senior question, just to clarify, just because their grades are going to stop at the 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks, I am assuming students would still need to get credit for their classes to graduate.

Interim Superintendent Martindale: Yes. Seniors and all other students still have to pass the class to get the credit. They still need to finish the work for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> six weeks in order to get credit for the course.

Secretary Nugent: So, those grades will still be on the transcript. So, for NCAA Clearinghouse purposes could this be a problem if they just "mail it in"?

Interim Superintendent Martindale: Absolutely. Students still need to get their classes taken care of. I anticipate that on the transcript for the second semester we would denote that even though here is this grade, it is not a part of the overall GPA calculation due to Covid-19 school closure. We do not want to punish kids, nor do we want to give others an unfair advantage because they have resources that others don't, but we need to finish and get our grades. Not putting it in GPA is the correct thing to do because of the disparity of all the circumstances that so many are experiencing the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> six weeks.

Vice President Nolan: Has TEA come out with a recommendation?

Interim Superintendent Martindale: Yes. Their recommendation is that grading is a local policy. That is the direction that is provided. And, honestly, it should be. There has been lots of conversation with the Clearinghouse. They look at number grades. They have not communicated a change in their practice. Based on previous years, if you assign a letter grade, they base it on the lowest numerical value offered by the district for that letter grade.

Trustee Green: For clarification, the grades for freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be calculated through the end of the semester and not through the 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks like the seniors?

Interim Superintendent Martindale: Correct. We are capturing the 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks for the seniors because they are graduating. We typically do theirs the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks for graduation honors which is run as a separate calculation outside of the system. Since this is the end for them, we wanted to capture as many grades as possible in their calculations. So yes, seniors are little bit different. Lots of seniors really bear down the second semester to be eligible for graduation honors, GPA, etc. so adding in that 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks works to help those kids.

Trustee McAdams: So far, we discussed GPA and that every student needs credit to progress to next grade. Then grading guidelines – can you share more detail on what you expect for the grading guidelines and maybe clarify what has been said up to this point?

Interim Superintendent Martindale: The conversation we've had with grading guidelines is allowing through the course of the 4<sup>th</sup> 6wks certain number of grades were required. For the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> six weeks, with the resolution we would be able to get some flexibility with number of grades required. We are looking at required work from before the closure and requiring at least one grade per week so far. Additionally, teachers can consider some of the optional at home learning that was submitted prior to when we started assigning lessons if it provides support to the student's grade. We are looking at providing grace and flexibility in calculating grades to the advantage of the students. This is all based on getting a grade to assign credit and promote to next grade. We want to do good by our students. We need to allow teachers to look at their kiddos and have leeway to make decisions on supporting them with grades to earn credit and take into account individual students' needs. It would not be part of the GPA. It's all about getting credit.

Vice President Nolan: The 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks started on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> and ends on this Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Is there a consideration that this could end up being Pass/Fail?

Interim Superintendent Martindale: This was considered but we are looking at a number grade since that is what is more familiar. The Clearinghouse would assign their own value to pass/fail but it is better for kids to have a number assigned. There is merit in a number grade. Students take it more seriously.

Trustee McAdams: I think I need to push back on that a little bit from my viewpoint. Certainly, going forward, I can see benefit in a grade as we move forward for the last six weeks, but for those first two weeks of at home learning we told and parents we would not be taking grades for those two weeks. So, I just wonder if we will get pushback if we now say teachers will take that into consideration?

Interim Superintendent Martindale: It was optional work. I would think teachers would only take those assignments into consideration if it would help students, not hurt them. As far as the guidelines, we would not consider any of the optional work to hurt a student's grades. Absolutely not. We will be working to finalize the draft guidelines tomorrow with the principals so we can let folks know.

Trustee McAdams: What is the NCAA Clearinghouse and how does this affect us not using the pass/fail?

Interim Superintendent Martindale: For those looking for athletic eligibility at the collegiate level, in the past the NCAA takes the "Pass" grade and assigns the lowest passing numeric grade, which would be a 70. There are lots of districts and lots of ways to do this. Each district will do it differently. We are trying to be as fair across the board as possible.

Trustee McAdams: I recognize this is not an easy decision and I appreciate all the smart people at the district and the principals working to do the best thing for the students.

President Schaefer: I agree. There is not a magic solution to do this. I appreciate all the discussions and work that has been done to make the best decisions for our students.

**MOTION 4858**: I move we approve the resolution of the Board regarding delegation of certain authority to the superintendent to act in place of the board of trustees as identified in the resolution during emergency school closure due to the COVID-19 emergency. The motion was made by Trustee Kimberly McAdams and seconded by Secretary Mike Nugent. The motion carried with seven ayes and zero nos by a roll call vote.

F.

**ADJOURNMENT**



		Without objection, President Schaefer adjourned the meeting at 10:57 am.
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MICHAEL SCHAEFER  
BOARD PRESIDENT

If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, chapter 551, subchapters D and E or Texas Government Code section 418.183(f). Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in open meeting. [See TASB Policy BEC(LLEGAL)]

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on April 2, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

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*Summary Notes have been placed beneath each Consent Agenda item for clarification purposes. Individual Board Members review each Agenda Item at least 72 hours prior to the actual Board Meeting.*

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MICHAEL SCHAEFER – PRESIDENT

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MIKE NUGENT - SECRETARY