WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 30, 2020

Members Present
Charles Gage
Janine Lynch
Shauna Michael
Peter Kemler
Carson Marko
Jessica Bartlett

Others Present
D.J. Shepardson, Superintendent
Kelley Crossett, Business Manager
Karen Sheets, District Clerk
Correne Holmes, Elementary Principal
Glenn Broadbent, MS/HS Principal
Felix Ray, Transportation Supervisor
Melissa Maine

Member Absent
Shawn Schultz

The meeting was live streamed with public access via the West Canada Valley School website

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 6:03 PM. Mr. Shepardson asked for a motion from the board to approve the sole agenda item for the meeting: School Reopening Plan. Motion was made by Ms. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Gage.
All voted in favor; motion carried 6:0

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited by all present.

Mr. Shepardson with the help of a PowerPoint presentation, was able to outline the plan for West Canada Valley Central School to reopen in September, this presentation included Reopening background and the following topics: Guiding Principles, Communication/Feedback, Communication Platforms, Health and Safety, Facility, Child Nutrition, Transportation, Social Emotional Well Being, Elementary Education Options, Elementary Instructional Day, Elementary Important Information, MS/HS Educational Options, MS/HS Instructional Day, MS/HS Important Information, Technology and Connectivity, Career and Technical Education (CTE and VPTECH), Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities, Special Education and ELL, Staffing, What is Next?, & Summary.

The meeting was then opened up with any questions from the members of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Bartlett: If Children are home alone how are temperatures being taken? Answer: We would hope that if parents were not going to be home in the morning that the temperature and evaluation would be done prior to them leaving. The temperature will be taken every day upon arrival to school as well.

Mr. Kemler: Will there be proof that parents are checking temperature and evaluating at home? Answer: Yes, the parents will be doing a parent survey and we will be putting trust in parents to help with keeping the students, faculty and staff safe by keeping children home if they are experiencing any symptoms. The temperature will be taken for all students on arrival to school as well.

Mr. Gage: Have teachers been made aware of this process? Answer: Yes, teachers have been notified through meetings with the building principals, and faculty meetings.

Mrs. Michael: Are other schools providing options for students to choose? Answer: Differs between districts, some schools have not declared remote learning option at this time. Will the current cleaning staff be able to keep up with the extra demands for cleaning during the day or will we need to increase staff and are teachers going to have to clean and disinfect during the day? Answer: At this time we feel that we will be able to keep the school clean and disinfected without adding any additional staff, teachers will have opportunities for cleaning supplies that can be used during the school day, but some cleaning materials cannot be used during the day and will need to be done after the building is empty.

Mr. Marko: How often will we be cleaning the buses? Answer: We will be trying to clean the buses in between morning and afternoon run if possible, more if needed.

Mrs. Bartlett: If parents choose remote option for HS student will they still be allowed to play sports since the remote option would not end until November and sports are scheduled to start in September 21? Answer: We do not have an answer at this time but would not want to discriminate if student was to choose the remote option.

Mr. Marko: What will the hours be for teachers in the MS/HS? Answer: 7-2:30 PM Monday-Friday.

Mrs. Michael: Will Transportation have enough time during the day to handle all the extra runs? Answer: We don't have a definite answer until we start school and see how long runs will take. This plan will be modified as school opens and we see the need for changes. What was the feedback from the parent survey? Answer: Almost all parents from the Elementary participated and maybe 20-30 non-participants in the HS. The turnout overall for the survey was very good.

Mrs. Bartlett: Will school provide PPE? Answer: the school will have masks for all students, faculty and staff but we are encouraging parents to find masks for students that they may be more comfortable in as they will be needing to wear all day. Are face shields permitted? Answer: Face shields are permitted only with a mask, cannot be worn alone.

Mrs. Michael: When is this plan being submitted and what is the turnaround time? Answer: Plan needs to be in by 7/31/20, Governor will make an announcement regarding the opening of all schools in NYS by August 7th. Not sure of turnaround time on plans at this time.

Mrs. Bartlett: Are students allowed to bring their own water bottles and water? Answer: Yes, students can bring own water bottles and water, the school will be providing filling stations and water as none of the water fountains will be used.

Mrs. Michael: Mrs. Michael thanked Mr. Shepardson and the other administration for all the time they have spent to complete this plan.

Mr. Shepardson moved on to public comments and questions: Mr. Shepardson had some questions that had been submitted prior to the meeting and then would answer questions that had been submitted during the meeting.

Public Questions:

Emily Tyson: What about the VP Tech kids we haven't heard anything about a plan for them? Answer: VP Tech and CTE students will attend in-person to BOCES every day.

Ann Bauder: Will WCV offer a choice of in-school or online learning? Answer: Yes, the elementary will have three options: 1. Full day in-person 9-3030 2. Hybrid half day 9-12 in-person AM/remote PM 3. Full day Remote Learning: 9-3:30 and for the MS/HS 1. Hybrid Option-Every other day in-person/remote learning, 2. Full remote learning scheduled instruction time for both options is 7:30-2:30 Monday-Friday. Should WCV return to in-school only classes when will that be decided? Answer: The Governor will be making an announcement sometime before August 7th. If I choose to homeschool my children the state requires I register with them 2 weeks prior to classes beginning. Answer: Homeschool can be decided at any time and is always an option. Once school does reopen, what will happen if there is a COVID-19 exposure at school? What is protocol? Answer: If there is a COVID case at school it would be reported to the Department of Health and tracing and guidance would come from them.

Teira Davis: If students will have virtual school or even partial, will they be following a schedule, will teachers be virtually teaching live like in the classroom, will student attendance be mandatory and participation as well. Answer: Yes, there will be active instruction every day and attendance will be taken as well.

Kelly Keller: If WCV goes to a hybrid schedule, we have two children and no option for day care. Answer: The school will be offering a full-day option for elementary students that parents can choose.

Margaret Passage: If in-person class resumes will each student's temperature be taken every day. If yes, will this be done at school or prior to them getting on the bus. Answer: Temperature and evaluation will be done by parents prior to sending students and then temperature check will be done prior to students entering the school building each day. Will every student be provided a chrome book this year? Answer: Yes, each student will be assigned a chromebook for the year.

Kelly Grippe: I have children with asthma who cough frequently during the winter. Is coughing a symptom of COVID that would require the isolation? Answer: No, coughing would not mean isolation, especially if children have known underlying health issues.

Ann Bauder: Should school open and a student tests positive for COVID, how does the amount of absences a student can have in a school year come into play? Answer: If a student tests positive for COVID and needs to quarantine at home, if they are still able they can do remote learning which would not count as an absence and if student is out for health reasons the absence is considered an excused absence.

Courtney Valasek: Are Teachers and students required to wear mask when they are 6ft apart during instruction: Answer: yes, but mask breaks will be taken regularly throughout the day.

Cheryl Gorinshek: Does minimal movement in middle school mean that grade 7 and 8 cohorst will be in one room all day with teachers coming into those rooms? Answer: Yes as much as possible we will be limiting traffic in the hallways and trying to keep cohorts together, this will probably include teachers traveling to different classrooms.

Mr. Kemler: Do we have middle school teachers in the HS wing? Answer: Yes, teachers in this situation may have classroom moved.

Emily Tyson: What if your child has a compromised immune system and they go to VP Tech program? Answer: There would need to be further discussion with parents and administration, at this time there is no remote learning for VP Tech students.

Melissa Lowell: Will there be professional learning provided for instructional staff: If so, how often and when? Answer: There has been many opportunities throughout the summer for professional development, through the RIC, teacher center, CASDA.

Courtney Valasek: What about the heat index on the elementary upstairs side and masks? Answer: There will have to be more opportunities for mask breaks throughout the day.

Mrs. Bartlett: Depending on the option that parents pick, could this change the plan and could it allow more in-person learning? Answer: Yes, if large group of parents choose remote learning, we could have more students able to do in-person learning every day.
Mrs. Michael: Will the school be open after school? Answer: At this time there will be no after school activities, which will allow for more time to clean and disinfect.

Mr. Kemler: What are we sanitizing with? Answer: Diluted bleach and electrostatic sprayer

Tanya Macrina: If a student has a fever while in school does the school give them a COVID test? Answer: No, there is no testing done at school. Do the bus drivers screen students for fevers: Answer: No, parents will do the initial temperature and evaluating before student is sent to school. Masks will be worn entire time on bus and student temperatures will be taken

upon arrival to school. Medical situation…for example; asthma. How does that affect them and wearing a mask—do they get to be put somewhere so they can remove their mask? Answer: Students with health issues may need enhanced accommodations.

Mrs. Bartlett: Connectivity? Answer: We are going to create as many opportunities for connectivity, adjustments may need to be made, if students have bad connectivity they may not be able to choose the remote learning option.

Jenna DeSantis: What about the Regional Program for Excellence? Are the internships still going to be available or no? Answer: We have no guidance regarding this program at this time.

Cheryl Gorinshek: Can MS/HS students be dropped off any time between 7:30 and 8:15? Answer: Yes
Jenna DeSantis: How will band and chorus be arranged since there is a big group of kids in each? Answer: There will band and chorus individual lessons, but no large group band and chorus at this time.

Mr. Kemler: Who will supervise this time 7:30-8:15 for student arrival? Answer: Teachers with first period class.

Mrs. Michael: How will breakfast be served? Answer: Students will have temperature check and then can get a grab and go breakfast from the cafeteria.

Mr. Kemler: Who will cover the isolation room? Answer: We have to have someone assigned to that room so the nurse can be available in her office.

Tany Macrina: Could you utilize the "giant voice" where you call families if that first class teacher is not available and either is a substitute? Can eliminate exposure, and if so will the student become absent. Answer: We will have a teacher available for class there will need to be adjustments made to cover, blackboard will be in use more than previous years as a tool for communication to get information out to parents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting—August 10, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Michael and seconded by Ms. Lynch to adjourn the meeting.
All voted in favor; motion carried 7:0

Meeting adjourned: 8:16 PM

_____ _____
President, Board of Education Clerk, Board of Education