

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200
Minutes of the Return to School Committee Meeting
North Boone High School
Commons / Cafeteria
17823 Poplar Grove Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065
Monday, October 19, 2020
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Brian Haselhorst at 6:03 p.m. The following Committee members were present: Joe Bennett, Alexis Booth, Julie Brosnan, Nicole Difford, Ashley Doetch, Tim Fleming, Jason Geiger, Melissa Geyman, Dr. Mike Greenlee, Wanda Grover, Amanda Hahn, Joe Haverly, Jake Hubert, Lisa Leden, Jarrod Peterson, Kari Neri, Jim Nolen, Jerry Rudolph, Andrea Sowers and Marcy Wilson. Absent: Dave Lessard and Christi Morelock. Also Present: Mary Maxey.

Mr. Haselhorst thanked the committee and audience members for attending. He noted we were here tonight to discuss how to best bring back students safely.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Mrs. Katie Windelborn said she was mourning the loss of the school year. She cited several Covid statistics and felt there was a numbers game in selecting illness metrics over the healthy metrics.

Mr. Haselhorst read a letter from a teacher who would like to have the choice to teach from home.

PROPOSED TIMELINE AND PLAN FOR COMMITTEE

Based on our most recent metrics, the current timeline for returning to school is Phase I – November 2, Phase II – November 16, Phase III – January 19.

PHASE II OF THE CURRENT PLAN

A-B. Concerns from parents, teachers and staff, and Comments, responses and considerations from the Administrative team

Mrs. Leden expressed her concern for in person learning between Thanksgiving and January. Dr. Greenlee noted the Winnebago County Health Department was discussing an adaptive pause, but most schools in that county are choosing to manage quarantines instead of shutting down their schools.

Mr. Haselhorst asked if the District was willing to deviate from the Boone County Health Department metrics, and asked if it was possible to break down the metrics between Belvidere and North Boone School Districts. Mrs. Brosnan said some of the data is readily available, including the ability to provide positive results by zip code. She will contact the BCHD for the information. Dr. Greenlee noted there are districts using metrics other than those provided by their local health department. The metrics are not weighted, but North Boone considers three

different sets of metrics provided by BCHD, ILDPH and the CDC. Mrs. Brosnan clarified a Covid outbreak, by CDC definition, includes two or more linked cases.

When asked what position teachers are taking on returning to school, Mr. Hubert replied the HS teachers first wanted to do synchronous and remote teaching. After more feedback was received, the HS teachers were concerned with not being able to do those simultaneously.

Dr. Greenlee will be providing a snapshot of side by side metrics to the Committee for review.

The discussion then moved to A/B days for elementary, as an option to attending half days in the current plan. Mrs. Neri said based on the information last received from parents, several families still wanted to remain in remote learning. She explained if we go to A/B days, not all K-4 students would be guaranteed their current teacher, not all students will be guaranteed their home school and there is a possibility teachers may have to move schools. For instance, 28 first graders wanted to remain remote and if those numbers stay stable, two full remote teachers would be needed and students in those classes would be switched. Students that choose to be remote would also be shifted to a remote teacher. There would be lots of movement and changes, but that scenario could be investigated if that was the directive of the Committee. Mrs. Neri offered to look at numbers and obtain parent commitments. Receiving 100% feedback on the request for commitment may be difficult, as some kindergarten parents currently being surveyed have yet to commit to in person or remote. It was noted if elementary students go half days, there could be up to 15 minutes of instruction time both at the beginning and end of the day that may end up being dedicated to taking temperatures and managing students. Mrs. Neri also wanted to clarify that A/B days can be a feasible option, but wanted the Committee to understand in their off days, students would not be receiving any instruction.

Mr. Haselhorst agreed it would be beneficial to review the whole plan at the next meeting.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(none)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be Monday, October 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at NBHS.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Submitted by:

Brian Haselhorst /S/
Brian Haselhorst, Chair