

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Board of Education
Virtual
Tuesday, December 15, 2020
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Joe Haverly.

Present: President Joe Haverly, Vice President Tom Kinser, Secretary Mary Maxey, Brian Haselhorst, Lisa Leden, Ed Mulholland and Carl Rudy.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2020 TAX LEVY

(none)

PUBLIC HEARING ON DRIVER'S EDUCATION WAIVER

(none)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Haselhorst and seconded by Mrs. Maxey to approve the Agenda as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Ms. Angela Smith addressed the Board regarding return to school. She did not initially think remote learning would go on this long. She felt her children have wonderful, amazing teachers and are missing out on the in-person connection. She noted how critical this can be for students and for some, the only stable relationships in their lives. Ms. Smith has heard from other parents as well how their children are struggling academically and emotionally. She asked the Board to consider a hard start date of January 19, 2021.

Ms. Becky Self stated she continued to be concerned about our children not having the opportunity for in-person learning in our district and noted if the District had given families the choice to return to in-person instruction at the beginning of the year we would have had at least 2 months of in-person instruction. She shared her concern about student connection to their teachers, their classmates, and their mental health. Ms. Self closed by stating if we continue on the current schedule, the best case scenario is many of our kids will not be in school until March, which is not acceptable.

Ms. Stephanie Johnson addressed the Board concerning return to school plans. She stated it was hard to imagine that a district is so unwilling to hear the wants and needs of the vast majority of

the community it is intended to serve. She noted keeping the students home hasn't helped keep numbers down or slow the spread, as Boone County was at an all-time high a couple of weeks ago. She wondered why we continually refused to provide these students with much needed in-person instruction. Ms. Johnson felt we are going to have to learn to live with this virus, as it is not going anywhere. She had removed one of her students from the district, and is prepared to pull another one so he can get the education he deserves. Ms. Johnson felt all students should be allowed to return to in-person instruction at the beginning of second semester. She feels the District needs to look at the whole child, including academics, athletics and relationships. She stated if there is a will, there is a way, and we need to find that will and fight for the kids.

Ms. Lori Danner addresses the Board regarding her disappointment in the leadership of our schools, as it is mid-December with still no in-person learning. She noted many neighboring school districts have had in-person school at some point this year. Ms. Danner was concerned about comprehension via e-learning. She noted more and more parents want in-person learning, and felt the Board should start listening to those parents. She asked for a start date of semester, instead of later, as it is best for families who want their kids back to school.

Mr. Haverly read an email from Leila Linn, a parent of a 2021 North Boone senior. She asked that children be allowed to return to school in January for full in-person learning. She feels the benefits of in-person instruction far out-weigh the risks. She had seen children suffering from depression, weight gain, lack of motivation, lower test scores and many other issues, due to virtual learning, and feel children need to go back to school now before there are any additional physical social or psychological consequences.

Mr. Haverly read an email from Jason and Katie Wendelborn. They asked to allow all children to attend school once the new semester has started in January. They said schools have proven they are not the super spreaders this Board believes, and we have taken away so much from the children. They feel the Board made poor word choices including Mr. Haverly voting due to science, and Mrs. Maxey wanting to wait for a vaccine. They asked the Board to show the community that they care about education by reopening all schools for full days at semester, as they feel the community has had enough excuses for delaying proper education.

Mr. Haverly read an email from Ed Snowden to remind us that we may have failed to meet OMA requirements. Legal counsel said we had done nothing substantive to the agenda, and when people emailed in, they were provided a link to join the meeting and speak. Legal also said we went above and beyond allowing the public the opportunity to comment.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Geyman stated the Treasurer's report was as presented.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Greenlee said the Administration is working with the ROE and the CDC to strengthen their leadership team. He noted it has been beneficial to identify goals and roles, and mentioned they also have Board offerings. Dr. Greenlee invited those interested to contact him.

He said we have a possible boiler issue at PGE, and wanted to let the Board know there may need to be action prior to the next Board meeting.

Dr. Greenlee extended a happy holiday wish to the Board and staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee

Mrs. Maxey said the second reading and approvals of policies was on the agenda for tonight. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

Business Services Committee

Mr. Kinser said the Business Services meeting is to be determined.

Facility/Long Range Planning Committee

Mr. Mulholland stated the Facilities Committee met on December 2, 2020 at 5:00. They discussed new Capron property, summer 2021 plans, large scale and long term plans. Dr. Greenlee suggested holding a meeting in January to confirm summer projects.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee

Mr. Rudy said the next CIA Committee will be held January 20, 2021 at 3:45 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mr. Haselhorst to approve the consent agenda as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting November 10, 2020
- B. Personnel

Site	Person	Position	Salary	Effective/ End Date
1. Certified – FMLA (change request)				
PGE	Lauren Boyce	4 th Grade Teacher	N/A	1/4/21 – 3/2/21
2. Non-Certified – Hire				
PGE	Bridgette Shook	Teacher Assistant (5.75 hours/day)	TA30, Step 3	11/10/20
3. Non-Certified – Leave of Absence (change request)				
PGE	Evelyn Rivera	Assistant Cook	N/A	12/7/20 - TBD
4. Non-Certified – Retirement				
District	Wendy Munro	Bus Driver	N/A	End of 2020-2021 School Year

- C. Flex Spending Account Signature Change
- D. Special Education 2020-2021 Workload Plan

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Levy

Details of the levy were provided, along with four options. At the November 10, 2020 Board meeting, the majority of the Board felt Option 4 was a good opportunity for tax relief. Option 4 is to Levy CPI (2.3%), levy additional money for increase in final EAV and new construction, abate bonds in the amount of \$1,400,000, abate additional amount up to \$1,000,000 for an estimated levy rate of 6.0997%. Ms. Geyman noted this is a 5.44% decrease from levy last year.

A motion was made by Mr. Mulholland and seconded by Mr. Haselhorst to approve Option 4 of the Levy as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

B. Second Reading and Approval of Policies

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mr. Mulholland to accept the Second Reading and Approval of Policies as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

C. Return to School Update

Dr. Greenlee said they have been making adjustments to schedules and plans for in-person and remote learning. Since the Covid positivity rates have declined, he feels like this is a good window to try to bring back students with as smooth of a transition as possible. All staff is asked to return to work at the buildings beginning January 4th, 2021. There is an advantage to getting students back via a hard start on January 19, 2021, with the timing of schedule changes and the number of students wishing to stay remote. The district will continue to monitor metrics, trends, and will continue to follow the guidelines from ISBE and IDPH to minimize the risk for all staff and students Mrs. Neri provided an overview of what it would look for all grade levels, noting plans revolve around maximizing direct instruction and also equity for each platform of learning. They were also able to create extra sections to keep class sizes low. The BCHD said they are supportive of these plans. Mr. Haselhorst asked if the staff had been informed and if they were receptive to the hard start. Dr. Greenlee said he had floated the idea out informally but not directly to the staff. He had worked with Administrators on the plan, but had not officially announced the hard start. He said at the last meeting, he was under the impression he had Board permission to be above the metrics for targeted assistance, but with the phased-in plan, we would need to meet the metrics. Other districts are also looking at hard starts, even though they haven't met the metrics. He felt the sooner we could give direction, the better for the Administrators to plan. Mr. Haverly asked when Dr. Greenlee had planned to present this to the staff. Dr. Greenlee said he would present it tomorrow if the Board was ready to explore this route. Mr. Haselhorst was on board as long as the Health Department approved. Mrs. Leden wanted to ensure we could maintain social distancing and the wearing of masks, if we were to stray from the metrics. Dr. Greenlee said class sizes will range from 10-15 students per class, and busing would be about 25 per bus with families sitting by each other.

Dr. Greenlee said for us to do a hard start, the Board would have to waive a past motion of meeting certain metrics.

Mr. Kinser said he would support a hard start and would like to see more responsibility go from Board to the Administration team. He would like to empower the Administration with concepts to implement the plans and supports this direction. He said his thinking has evolved, as we know more today about the virus than we did in June and July. Mr. Kinser said metrics are a piece of what we should look at but not the only part that should determine if we have school. Mrs. Maxey was in favor of giving the Administrative team leeway to bring back students as they see fit. She felt other districts have had success, and thought with our current numbers we could go back to in-person. Mr. Mulholland was open to accelerating the return to school plan, but struggled with stepping outside the metrics. He is worried about how staff feels and their comfort levels. Mr. Rudy was not opposed to conversations about accelerations, as we have the ability to support. He said the Administrators seem confident in the plan and he feels strongly about empowering the Administration. However, he noted we aren't set up to pivot plans so quickly, as the Board has set a precedent that all stakeholders should be consulted and communicated with clearly. Mr. Haselhorst agreed with Mr. Kinser that we have learned a lot, felt other districts have had success in returning students, and would like students back as soon as possible.

Mr. Haverly didn't feel it was fair to be voting on this tonight as he felt it didn't follow process. He was surprised that this monumental decision was expected tonight. He suggested it be rolled out to the entire staff, gather their input, and possibly run it by the RTS Committee prior to bringing it to the Board. Dr. Greenlee said he had run plans by all staff, other than the UE, which will be tomorrow. Mrs. Leden said the hard start sounded reasonable, feels vulnerable about the metrics, but is ok if we can socially distance. Mrs. Brosnan and Ms. Sager said they support the plan with the current downward trends, the potential for rapid testing and evidence of other districts teaching in-person successfully. Mr. Kinser suggested the Board gather their questions and hold a Special Board meeting. Mrs. Neri felt it was best to have as much lead time as possible for curriculum and instruction. She stated it was not intentional to bring new plans all the time, and that the hard start was the only new piece. She felt students are struggling without in-person learning. Mrs. Difford echoed those sentiments, and felt giving parents, students and staff as much lead time as possible would be best. Mrs. Louis said they are in favor of the hard start for multiple reasons, including communication, one calendar and sending one schedule home. At the middle school, they will have to change 200-240 individual student schedules. She is confident we can do this and the Board can trust the Administrators. They have come up with really solid plans and will be easier for families and staff with a hard start. Mr. Hubert felt it would be helpful to communicate a plan prior to break, and noted the union representatives have already heard the plan from Dr. Greenlee.

A Special Board meeting will be held Monday, December 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

D. Bus Purchases

Ms. Geyman is currently working on getting quotes for the bus and truck purchases. Final quotes will be brought to the Board in January. The plan is to trade in Bus 64, 66, 67, 68, 69 and 70, along with 1 GMC 3500 van, and then purchase three buses.

E. New Course Proposal

The details on the Anatomy and Physiology course proposal were provided. The course would be for sophomores, juniors and seniors, have biology as a prerequisite, and would be a full science credit, year-long class, with an implementation date of fall 2021.

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mr. Haselhorst to approve the New Course Proposal as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

F. High School Course Guide

The Anatomy and Physiology course was the only change in the course guide.

A motion was made by Mr. Rudy and seconded by Mrs. Maxey to approve the High School Course Guide as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

G. Technology Plan

Mrs. Neri said they were working with ECRA to correlate data for Go Math, Into Math, Google Classroom and Schoology to figure out how to best pull student data from programs. They contracted with Learning Technology Center (LTC) for tech coaching, and to date the coach has had 74 meetings. They are also working on a process for software approval with the Technology Department and with Ms. Geyman for budgeting. The software approval process can be used by buildings when requesting a purchase. This will help align building and technology goals, all while meeting student privacy requirements. They are planning on presenting an overall technology implementation plan to each building in January and February. This will show teachers what will be focused on for the next five years with technology implementation. Mr. Haverly asked for a general outline of the Technology and SEL Plans at the next meeting. He asked Dr. Greenlee to officially find out what the Board wants in the Tech Plan, and suggested the Tech Plan team may be selling the Board on what they want in the Plan.

H. Social Emotional Learning Plan

Dr. Greenlee said we have some Administrators have attended a seminar, and will begin to form the SEL Curriculum Committee to develop needs and investigate curriculums for us to adopt.

NEW BUSINESS

A. December 2020 Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Haselhorst and seconded by Mr. Rudy to approve the December bills as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

B. Driver's Education Waiver

The Board conducted a public hearing tonight at which time the public was invited to make comments concerning a Resolution on Driver Education Contracting and Fees, in accordance with PA 97-145 and to apply for a waiver of *The School Code* 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2 regarding driver education fees. There were no comments received from the public. A motion was made by Mr. Mulholland and seconded by Mrs. Maxey to approve the Driver's Education Waiver as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

C. BinaxNow Rapid COVID Antigen Testing

An overview on the COVID testing process was presented. Rapid Point-Of-Care testing for COVID-19 in the school setting can be administered onsite by trained healthcare workers under the standing orders by a health care provider. The BinaxNow Rapid COVID test can diagnose current COVID-19 infections quickly when staff or students are showing symptoms. Since the BinaxNOW Rapid COVID-19 test can give results within 15 to 30 minutes, the District can use it to help diagnosis and inform those impacted quickly to help slow the spread, and was recommended that North Boone CUSD 200 become a Point-Of-Care testing site. Ms. Geyman stated we may also partner with the U of I and the Belvidere School District on getting saliva tests.

A motion was made by Mr. Haselhorst and seconded by Mrs. Maxey to approve the BinaxNow Rapid COVID Antigen Testing as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

D. Title I Parental Involvement Agreements

Title I Parental Involvement Agreements were provided per compliance with the federal Title I regulations.

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mr. Haselhorst to approve the Title I Parental Involvement Agreements as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

E. Property Quotes

On 12/2/20, the Facilities Committee recommended the Board approve getting quotes for removal of structures on the newly purchased Capron property instead of proceeding with a formal bid process. Obtaining quotes without the bid process will expedite the process and save costs.

A motion was made by Mr. Mulholland and seconded by Mrs. Maxey to approve getting quotes for removal of structures on the newly purchased Capron property.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

F. Acceptance of 2019-2020 Audit Report

Ms. Geyman gave an overview of the audit report, compiled by Gorenz and Associates. There were no audit findings this fiscal year and audit findings from the 2018-2019 school year have been resolved. The District has maintained the 3.8 out of 4.0 rating which is Financial Recognition, our expenditures have been less than our revenue for at least 2 years, and our activity accounts have less inconsequential items to be corrected. Ms. Geyman thanked her Business Office team for their work. It was recommended that the

Board accept the audit report for 2019-2020. Next month, Ms. Geyman will be bringing information on moving money from the Education Fund to the O&M Fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Mulholland and seconded by Mr. Haselhorst to accept the 2019-2020 Audit Report as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

G. Resolution abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2020 to pay debt service on General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016, of the District.

Mrs. Maxey read the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Mulholland and seconded by Mr. Haselhorst to approve the Resolution for abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2020 to pay debt service on General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016, of the District as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

H Resolution abating a portion of the tax heretofore levied for the year 2020 to pay debt service on \$9,292,272.20 Capital Appreciation School Bonds, Series 2003, of the District.

Mrs. Maxey read the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Mulholland and seconded by Mr. Haselhorst to approve the Resolution for abating a portion of the tax heretofore levied for the year 2020 to pay debt service on \$9,292,272.20 Capital Appreciation School Bonds, Series 2003, of the District as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made at 9:00 p.m. by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mr. Haselhorst to recess to Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2(c) of the Open Meetings Act.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

The following members were present: Brian Haselhorst, Joe Haverly, Tom Kinser, Lisa Leden, Mary Maxey, Ed Mulholland and Carl Rudy.

The Open Session of the Board of Education was called to order at 9:47 p.m. by President Joe Haverly.

Present: Brian Haselhorst, Joe Haverly, Tom Kinser, Lisa Leden, Mary Maxey, Ed Mulholland and Carl Rudy.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

(none)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

- A. Enrollment
- B. Student Activity Reports
- C. FOIA Log

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Maxey and seconded by Mr. Haselhorst to adjourn at 9:48 p.m.
The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

PRESIDENT *Joe Haverly / S /*

SECRETARY *Mary Maxey / S /*

APPROVED: 1/19/21