

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200

Minutes of the Return to School Committee Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Monday, November 2, 2020

6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Brian Haselhorst at 6:00 p.m. The following Committee members were present: Joe Bennett, Alexis Booth, Julie Brosnan, Nicole Difford, Ashley Doetch, Sarah Fleming, Jason Geiger, Dr. Mike Greenlee, Wanda Grover, Amanda Hahn, Joe Haverly, Jake Hubert, Lisa Leden, Dave Lessard, Christi Morelock, Ed Mulholland, Jarrod Peterson, Kari Neri, Tracy Schabacker, Andrea Sowers, Marcy Wilson and Katie Windelborn. Absent: Tim Fleming and Jodi Rogers. Also Present: Tom Kinser and Mary Maxey.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Mr. Haselhorst shared two emails from concerned staff members. One PGE teacher is concerned about the current plan and the increasing metrics. She felt the health and safety outweigh an hour of in person instruction. Some staff members are reconsidering working at school if we ignore the metrics, and they find it unsettling that we are considering transitioning to in person learning.

Another PGE staff member stated she loves her job but will not be returning in person with the Covid numbers on the rise. She suggested continuing with the plan that is the safest.

TARGETED ASSISTANCE PLAN

Dr. Greenlee reviewed the plan with the Committee. With his Administrative team, they felt 10% of the student population could be brought back to in-person learning. The expectation would be to have staff begin to return to the buildings as well. Mrs. Difford provided a summary of the Pre-K – 4 plan. She said the plan mirrors what students would experience in Phase I. Targeted students would continue remote instruction on Mondays, and on Tuesdays through Fridays, they would be in person from 8-9 a.m., and have the opportunity to work in small groups. After 9 a.m., students would be paired up in supported remote learning groups. Some schedules may be tailored, and students could be grouped with paraprofessionals while still receiving teacher instruction, but in a more supported fashion.

Mr. Haselhorst ask for staff concerns. Mrs. Difford said teachers are very concerned about the students that could benefit from these changes. Other worries include health and safety protocols. The majority of elementary teachers felt they could work with a 10% student return. At risk students would be selected based on ability to engage, truancy, EL and special education, among other considerations.

Mr. Hubert provided an overview of the UE, MS and HS plans and presented detailed safety protocols. They discussed having two cohorts of 10% each, which among other benefits would

provide deep cleaning opportunities. The targeted program may include students with IEP's, 504's, considerations regarding academic performance first quarter, language proficiency status and documented attendance concerns.

Some of the high school concerns comprise of high Covid numbers, transitioning classrooms, synchronous teaching and upcoming travel numbers. UE concerns include health metrics, teaching synchronously and asynchronously, and teachers that may be working from home.

Dr. Greenlee provided a flow chart of returning students to in-person learning. He asked the Committee if we had good success with 10%, even if metrics were still not great, if they would be open to adding another 10%. As the next step, he would recommend looking at the targeted assistance plan and work cooperatively with Health Department on the future phases. There were some concerns with plans for substitutes and backup with multiple staff already quarantined. Dr. Greenlee said we now have about 25 at home on quarantine. He stated subs will be extremely hard to find. Dr. Greenlee said if a quarantined teacher was feeling well enough, they could continue to teach from home. Mrs. Schabacker asked if teachers do not come back in person, if the overload falls on those in house. Dr. Greenlee said for those teachers that choose to take a leave of absence or resign, we would need to post their positions. Dr. Greenlee said we would still honor class sizes for those teachers that returned to work. Pre-Phase I is expected to start November 30 and Pre-Phase II would start December 14. Dr. Greenlee said the Health Department recommends two week intervals. Our school attorney noted if we stray from recommendations, we could open ourselves up to liability. He asked if there was consensus from the Committee to bring the Targeted Assistance Plan to the Board. Mrs. Brosnan said nurses could support small number of returning students, but with rising numbers in the region, they are concerned about staff and coverage. Mr. Haselhorst suggested sending out a poll to the Committee to voice their position. Mr. Mulholland would like the opinion of the Health Department in writing, and felt we needed to find out where the teachers stand on the plans. Mr. Geiger ran a survey at the HS, and 80% of the teachers do not agree with the current plan. The K-4 teachers were concerned that this would disrupt 90% of students to serve 10% of the students. Mr. Haselhorst will poll the Committee and report on the outcomes. Dr. Greenlee will obtain advice from the Health Department.

CURRENT PLAN

The current plan and the K-4 remote and In-Person Full Day Plans were uploaded for the Committee to review.

METRICS

Metrics from the BCHS, CDC and IDPH were also included in this meeting packet.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(none)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Brian Haselhorst /S/
Brian Haselhorst, Chair