

Special Meeting
Howards Grove School District
Board of Education
November 2, 2020

Having been duly noticed, the special meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Dave Loomis. Board members present: Mrs. Bramstedt, Mr. Pahl, Mrs. Siemers, Mr. Stoeckigt (virtual); and Mr. Loomis. Administrators present: Tracy Bandt, Jason Cole, Scott Fritz, Chris Peterson; Josh Swanson, and Heather Zizis. Also present: Joelle Barrett, Sara Demmon, Lisa Gartman, Julie Johnson, Deanna Milz, Mary Rosenthal, Jeanette Schmidt, Lisa Schultz, Kay Sheahan, and Renae Wunsch. Approximately 31 staff and community members viewed the meeting by remote access technology.

1. Public Input: Sara Demmon, Julie Johnson, Deanna Milz, Mary Rosenthal, Kay Sheahan, and Renae Wunsch addressed the School Board with regard to COVID-19 and the current teaching model in place at Northview. These teachers asked the Board for additional planning and prep time. They expressed concern regarding the expectation of added hours to their workday and work week. Staff have been working longer hours in the day, as well as on the weekend. There are more demands and less time available. They feel they do not have enough time to prepare hands on materials, plan, prepare individual videos, and teach students in an in person and virtual setting. They are required to provide more email correspondence with parents. Classroom aides are helping out in other areas and are not always available. Parent helpers are not an option. Losing prep time is a big disadvantage. Staff are emotionally exhausted and the stress level among staff members is sky high. There are additional mental and physical challenges. All expressed concern for the inconvenience for families related to daycare issues and the inconveniences connected to virtual learning; however, they want to do what is best for the students and do what they need to do as professionals.

2. The Board and administration discussed COVID-19 updates and protocols and options. Following lengthy discussion and consideration related to COVID-19 and Northview Elementary School, a motion was made by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mrs. Bramstedt, to adjust the school schedule as presented below. Motion carried, 4-0.

The following schedule was discussed and proposed for Northview Elementary School:

Northview students in Grades K-4 will continue to attend school as normal, Monday through Friday. However, there will be no formal classes for students at Northview on the following Wednesdays: November 11, November 18, December 2, December 9, and December 16. These days will be used by staff for "catching up" students who may be struggling, and for teacher planning and virtual preparation. There will be in person learning and virtual learning on Wednesday, November 25 and Wednesday, December 23 due to the shortened week. This plan will be re-evaluated by the School Board at the December 21 Board Meeting.

Additionally the winter sport season is currently under review. The number of spectators will be limited, there will be a mask requirement, no multi-team tournaments will be held. Consideration to allow the gym facilities to be made available for Howards Grove team practices.

3. Following brief discussion, the Board agreed to meet virtually with a representative from School Perceptions in an effort to better understand the data from the recent Staff Engagement Survey. The virtual meeting will take place on either Tuesday, November 10 or Wednesday, November 11.

4. Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to approve the application for an alternative education program as presented. Motion carried, 4-0.

5. With the recently approved levy, the district has approximately \$722,915.60 additional to put toward current debt payments. The Board discussed several options that include paying off debt from 2011; the other is to apply it to 2017 auditorium bonds. The board requested more information so they can review this topic at the November 16 Board Meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to convene in closed session as set forth in Section 19.85 (1)(b),(c),(f) of the Wisconsin Statutes to consider the discipline, employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of employee(s); and to consider personal history as it relates to a specific person(s).
Vote by the Board: Bramstedt, aye; Pahl, aye; Siemers, aye; Loomis, aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.



Kari Bramstedt, Board Clerk