

**SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
NEWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT #9-2  
November 16, 2020**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Tyrel Bonnet called the regular meeting of the Newell Board of Education to order at 1600 with members Chad Lawson, Todd Youngberg, Miles Burtzlaff, Brianne Bonnet, LeeAnn Gaer and Lisa Wendt present. Administration present were Superintendent Andrew Fergen and Principal/Activities Director Steve Schoenfish. Special Education Director Tonya Mullaney attended via Zoom. Recording minutes was Business Manager, Sophie Burditt who entered meeting at 1615. Staff and Visitors at the meeting were Betsy Burtzlaff, Cara Muckridge, Vikki Morell, Scott Wince, Jennifer Stomprud, Laurie Parker, Carla Wolfer, Luaine Shaykett, Karen Wallace, Jackie Clements, Peggy Reichert, Sabrina Harmon, Paula Reedy, Becky Johnson, Mara Carrier, LuAnn Youngberg, Noreen and Maynard Yule, Anna Erk, Donnie Decker, Jill McTaggart, Nellie Duprel, Kyle Sanderson, Courtney Rans, Shannon Dirk, Courtney Barrera, Rhonda Waterland, Jean Ahart, Stacy Morell and Colleen Brunner. Hannah Decker, Amanda Neisner, Sarah Brown attended via Zoom.

- A. Bonnet T led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Bonnet T asked for a moment of silence.

**Unless otherwise noted, all Board action was by unanimous decision.**

**II. Agenda**

- A. Motion Gaer, second Youngberg to approve agenda. Motion carried.

**III. Statements of Conflict of Interest**

**None**

**IV. Consent Agenda**

Motion Gaer, second Wendt to approve the November 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

**V. Open Forum**

Staff, Parents, School Therapists and Board Members discussed safety concerns of staff and students and the importance of in-person-learning for students. Board expressed concern of the high failing rate of April 2020 quarter because of virtual learning. Teachers stated currently both staff and students are much better prepared and comfortable for virtual learning practices. Everyone agrees that in-person-learning is the best learning method. The Board commented on the permissible actions allowed concerning Covid-19 social distancing practices. Therapists are going to use zoom, agreeing in-person is best, but feel the lack of safety precautions encourage the risk of exposing other patients outside of Newell School. The discussion about back to school plans continued for over an hour. Questions surfaced about parent-teachers conferences where teachers are uncomfortable doing face-to-face parent-teacher meetings and entertained other options. A short discussion took place concerning elementary vocal/band students and parental concerns hosting a concert. All music students will be class-involved but the teacher will contact families, gather allowed students and create a practice schedule to ensure a concert.

## VI. New Business

A. Motion Burtzlaff, second Youngberg to approve Back-to-School policy changes to – “have close contacts (set by Mr Fergen’s contact tracing) wear a mask for three days or stay home for three days and no virtual learning”. Discussions:

- A close contact wears a mask.  
Who is a close contact? K-12 classes have assigned seating helping with contact tracing determination.  
How is wearing the mask enforced?
- Setting the number of days.
- Extra Work for Teachers doing virtual and in-person learning?
- What about sports?

Amend motion to add “mask is not required if 6ft social distancing”. Roll call Bonnet B, yes; Wendt, no; Gaer, no; Lawson, no; Bonnet T, no; Burtzlaff, yes and Youngberg, yes.

Amend motion to “eliminate no virtual learning from original motion”. Roll call Bonnet B, yes; Wendt, yes; Gaer, no; Lawson, no; Bonnet T, yes; Burtzlaff, yes and Youngberg, yes.

Roll call vote on “**close contact will be required to wear a mask for three days or refrain from coming to school for three days**”, Bonnet B, yes; Wendt, no; Gaer, no; Lawson, No; Bonnet T, yes; Burtzlaff, yes and Youngberg, yes.. Motion carried.

B. Motion Youngberg, second Gaer to keep parent-teacher conferences the same as scheduled, exception of certified staff not comfortable with face-to-face can make telephone conference in their rooms during that same schedule times. Roll call vote Bonnet B, yes; Wendt, yes; Gaer, yes; Lawson, yes; Bonnet T, yes; Burtzlaff, yes and Youngberg, yes. Motion carried.

C. Motion Youngberg, second Burtzlaff to proceed with the Christmas concerts as presented. Discussion about the elementary and high school vocal and band concerts format with students divided by grades, visitors separated from students, sound connected so steaming is available for those families/visitors that wishing to view concert. The teacher will survey students/families to determine attendees. Roll call vote Bonnet B, yes; Wendt, yes; Gaer, yes; Lawson, yes; Bonnet T, yes; Burtzlaff, yes and Youngberg, yes. Motion carried.

## VII. Executive Session SDCL 1-25-2 (1)

Motion Gaer, second Lawson to enter into executive session SDCL 1-25-2 (1) at 1913. Motion carried.

Exit Executive Session at 1926

## VIII. Adjournment

Motion Gaer, second Lawson to adjourn at 1926. Motion carried.

Unapproved Minutes

(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Tyrel Bonnet, Chairman Attest

(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Sophie Burditt, Business Manager

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