

Special Meeting  
School District of Howards Grove  
Board of Education  
November 30, 2020

Having been duly noticed, the special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Dave Loomis at 5:30 p.m. President Loomis noted that the meeting had been posted as prescribed by law. Board members present included Kari Bramstedt, Mike Stoeckigt, Janina Siemers, Ed Pahl, and Dave Loomis. Also present was Chris Peterson and Lisa Schultz. Administrators present by remote access: Tracy Bandt, Jason Cole, Scott Fritz, Josh Swanson, and Heather Zizis. Approximately 102 staff and community members viewed the meeting by remote access technology.

Superintendent Peterson began the discussion by reporting that the numbers have improved and attendance today was back to a more normal state. Currently there are five staff members and 50 students out (previous numbers were 24 and 123 respectively). In-person teaching reconvened today at Northview and the hybrid format resumed at the high school and middle school. Also high school basketball practice began tonight. Going forward we will keep an eye on the metrics regarding students and staff attendance this week. This week will be critical as someone could be a carrier for 10 days if they were exposed over the Thanksgiving break.

Other comments and discussion during the meeting included the following:

- We want students to be in school as much as possible and spend less time in front of a screen.
- Continually consider the mental health of the students and realize how important the extra curricular activities are.
- Consider safety of staff. Set parameters before we reach critical masses.
- It is difficult to close down one grade; considerations related to daycare issues for families with younger students.
- Administration and Board are making educated decisions, not just making decisions. Hard to find one solution that works for everyone.
- We can't tell people what to do; we can suggest and hope people take the right precautions.
- We are in line with what surrounding districts are doing. Some are doing more thorough temperature checks upon students' arrival at school. Parents need to continue to do the pre-screen checks of students before sending them to school.

To recap, the Board and administration is in agreement to continue in person learning and will continue with instruction methods currently in place. Wednesday will be a day to help students who need additional assistance and for teacher planning.

Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Stoeckigt, to convene in closed session as set forth in Section 19.85 (1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes to deliberate the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of employees. Vote by the Board: Bramstedt, aye; Stoeckigt; aye; Siemers, aye; Pahl, aye; Loomis, aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Bramstedt, second by Mrs. Siemers, to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.



Kari Bramstedt, Board Clerk