

Special Meeting
Howards Grove School District
Board of Education
February 1, 2021

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. Loomis, Mr. Pahl, Mrs. Siemers, and Mr. Stoeckigt. Administrators present: Tracy Bandt, Jason Cole, Scott Fritz, Chris Peterson; Josh Swanson, and Heather Zizis. Also present: Lisa Gartman, Jennifer Henschel, and Lisa Schultz; also Jody Andres, Kim Eparvier, Robert Koehler, Annika Schuller, and Sam Statz from Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction. Approximately 28 staff and community members viewed the meeting by remote access technology.

1. Public Input:

Lisa Gartman addressed the School Board with regard to a recent email and staff survey regarding a request for input on how to keep high quality education and accommodate the demands of dual platform teaching. Ms. Gartman indicated that all of the staff wants all of the students to be back in school full time.

2. The Board and administration discussed at length COVID-19 updates, protocols and options. The administrators reported that the number of student and staff absences is down and is comparable to a typical cold/flu season. Dual platform teaching options were discussed, as well as a return date for in person learning for all students.

Motion by Mike Stoeckigt to offer the virtual instruction only for medical and Covid related issues in the immediate household, and everyone else is back in school at the elementary and middle schools. The high school will continue in the hybrid format. Motion failed.

Motion by Kari Bramstedt, second by Janina Siemers to table the discussion until the February 15th School Board Meeting. Motion carried, 4-1-0.

3. Jen Henschel presented the Library Media Plan for the district. The plan is designed to increase the amount of information available to students, promote access, improve library collections, and increase community partnerships. As per state statute, the plan must be updated and approved by the Board every three years.

4. A presentation by the representatives from Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction showed a budget reduction for the construction of a new middle school. A schedule of communication was provided. A plan for the relocation of the high school and guidance office areas was discussed.

5. It was the consensus of the Board to hold a working session on May 3rd at which time the Board will meet with a WASB consultant for a training session.

Motion by Mr. Pahl, second by Mrs. Siemers, to convene in closed session as set forth in Section 19.85 (1)(c),(e),(f) of the Wisconsin Statutes to consider the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of employee(s); for conducting other specified business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; and to consider personal history as it relates to a specific person(s). Vote by the Board: Bramstedt, aye; Stoeckigt, aye; Siemers, aye; Pahl, aye; Loomis, aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Siemers, second by Mr. Pahl, to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.



Kari Bramstedt, Board Clerk