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LEARNING, GROWING, SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

SJE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 17, 2020

Public Meeting via Zoom

7:00 PM

Marvin Schmick called the Endicott meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Valerie Brewer called the St. John meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Valerie Brewer lead the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present from Endicott were Marvin Schmick, Greta White, Debbie Schlomer, Linda Greenhalgh and Nancy Anderson. Present from St. John were Val Brewer, John Hergert, Alan Blumenshein, Dallas Loomis and Kelli Melhus. Multiple guests phoned in to the meeting in listen mode only.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Schmick presented three options for reopening our schools. The first is full in person learning for grades P-12. This option is currently discouraged by the Whitman County Health Department. The second option is a hybrid model. All students P-5 (with the exception of St John Preschool) will be in person four days a week. MS and HS students will use an A/B grouping model to attend school two days a week with distance learning on the days not in the building. Wednesdays would be independent online student learning times for all students. It also provides time for teachers to check in with their students, provide some additional learning assistance to those in need and the time to check in with the students that choose to fully distance learn rather than be in the buildings. At this time, the Whitman County Health Department has approved this model for reopening St John and Endicott schools. The third option is all students (P-12) participate in distance learning. Superintendent Schmick pointed out that at some point during the 2020-21 school year, we may have to use all three options. She also stressed the importance of continuing to work with our special needs students through in person learning either one-on-one or in small groups.

Superintendent Schmick along with principals Porubek and Purvine discussed the many tools the districts have been purchasing to provide additional support to teachers. To help implement distance learning, both districts are partnering with Spokane Virtual Learning to provide guidance and support to some of our middle school and high school teachers. Trainings for MobyMax, Google Suite, Screencastify and others will be provided to staff in the next two weeks. Staff have already done some training with Jeff Utecht (ReImagine WA) to understand the current realities for online learning.

Both the St John and Endicott boards discussed at length the importance of returning students to school as safely and quickly as possible.

After discussion, Kelli Melhus moved and Dallas Loomis seconded the motion to move forward with the hybrid model for reopening the St John School. All members agreed with John Hergert opposing. Motion passed. Nancy Anderson moved and Greta White seconded the motion to move forward with the hybrid model for reopening the Endicott School. All members agreed.

Alan Blumenshein moved and Kelli Melhus seconded the motion to approve the accompanying St John Board Resolution #20-09 – District Reopening Plans. All board members agreed with John Hergert opposing. Motion passed. Greta White moved and Nancy Anderson seconded the motion to approve the accompanying Endicott Board Resolution #20-08 – District Reopening Plans. All board members agreed.

All board members also agreed to review the progress of the hybrid model at the September regular board meeting. If health conditions are improving and supported by the Whitman County Health Department, middle and high school students would move to in person learning four days a week with Wednesdays continuing to be distance learning. This would be a progression step toward full in person learning.

ADJOURNMENT

Kelli Melhus moved and John Hergert seconded the motion to adjourn the St. John meeting. Val Brewer adjourned the St. John meeting at 9:00 p.m. Nancy Anderson moved and Debbie Schlomer seconded the motion to adjourn the Endicott Board meeting. Marvin Schmick adjourned the Endicott meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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Suzanne Schmick, Superintendent

Valerie Brewer, St. John Board Chair

Marvin Schmick, Endicott Board Chair