

**Minutes
Special Meeting
Cumberland CUSD #77
August 27, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President Bob Blade. Members present included Wes Chambers, Pam Ross, Steve Layton, Ben Bland, Howard Markwell, and Anita Hayden. Administration present included Todd Butler, Superintendent, Kevin Maynard, High School Principal, Stacy Keyser, Middle School Principal, and Daniel Huffman, Elementary Principal. Visitors present were Lisa Jones, Jess McMechan, Jenny Finley, Todd Hall, Anita McGinnis, Olivia Ross, Michelle Repp, Julie Ozier, Blake Ozier, Kari Shoemaker, Dawn Grubb, Morgan Waller, Jenna Young, and Debbie Carlen.

President Blade asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Blade welcomed the visitors present asked if there were any questions or comments for the Board:

Kevin Maynard voiced his appreciation for Mr. Butler's going above and beyond with his concern for safety of our students and community.

Michelle Repp voiced her serious concerns about the reopening plan. She feels the school is doing an awesome job in keeping the school clean and distancing. She feels that returning in full session would be a horrible situation. The hybrid schedule may be difficult for some students and families, but this is the best situation, in my opinion, to continue. She wants her children to be able to go to school on this continued schedule. Michelle mentioned other districts that are in full session and are having major outbreaks of illness.

Jess McMechan voiced his concerns that he and his wife have both been essential workers. Jess expressed that he feels it's time for people to move forward. After five months of figuring out that we have this going on and this hybrid schedule is cheating his children out of their education if they continue to learn from him and his wife. He wishes that his children could benefit from the professional teachers.

Jenny Finley voiced that the support staff has the same concerns as Michelle. There is no way to socially distance in many situations in the educational setting.

Todd Hall voiced that from a teacher's point of view. This is a very hard decision. We got into this business to see kids and work with them everyday. It would be easier to go back to school full time with all of the kids, but at this time, with the rising cases, at least going a couple more weeks might be a good idea to maintain the hybrid model for two or more weeks so schools aren't shut down completely.

Dawn Grubb voiced that it's difficult to teach the elementary students in a remote setting as they are learning to read and write. She and the teachers just want their students all back in the classroom setting.

Jenny Finley wonders at whose expense we should continue down this path.

Michelle Repp expressed that everyone wants the students to be back in the classrooms, but we need to continue what we are doing for a few more weeks.

Jenna Young stated that this is a really hard decision. As a parent, it is hard to keep a schedule just for a couple of weeks. That is a lot of weight to put on parents' shoulders.

Morgan Waller stated that she made plans for daycare according to the previous schedule and it will be hard on parents to make those adjustments.

Steve Layton made the motion to approve consent agenda A, minutes from the August 20, 2020 regular meeting. It was seconded by Anita Hayden. All present voted "Aye".

Superintendent Butler discussed the ideas of weighing safety and education. Mr. Butler's recommendation was to delay the entry into stage 2 of Cumberland's CUSD #77 reopening school plan that was approved July 16, 2020 due to scientific health and safety data that is provided to communities.

His recommendation is as follows:

Elementary Students: The Blue/Gold hybrid attendance schedule will continue for grades K-4 through September 11, 2020.

Full attendance will begin September 14, 2020, Monday through Thursday. All students will learn remotely on Fridays, and daily dismissal times will remain at 2:00 p.m. during the first semester.

Middle School: The Blue/Gold hybrid attendance schedule will continue for grades 5-8 through September 25, 2020.

Full attendance will begin September 28, 2020, Monday through Thursday. All students will learn remotely on Fridays, and daily dismissal times will be 2:00 p.m. during the first semester.

High School: The Blue/Gold attendance schedule will continue for 9th-12th grades through October 9, 2020.

Full attendance will begin October 13, 2020, Monday through Thursday. All students will learn remotely on Fridays, and daily dismissal times will be 2:00 p.m. during the first semester.

Pam Ross voiced that she would rather be extra cautious for a little while longer rather than shut school down entirely.

Bob Blade expressed the need to continue the 2:00 p.m. schedule for the remainder of the semester so that teachers have the opportunity to accommodate remote learner students and other plans.

Todd Hall echoed that changing this now would result in a change of working conditions for the staff.

Ben Bland stated that long term planning could be up in smoke with one phone call. Child care is a big concern. Any of these plans could still change drastically when we have positive cases.

Jess McMechan asked about the clarification of the CDC guidelines statement for today.

Michelle Repp stated that she witnessed inconsistencies again on the six o'clock news. Others expressed that there have been a lot of inconsistencies in many different arenas as related to the pandemic and information surrounding it.

Pam Ross expressed that the group is doing the best we can to keep the continuation of educating our students.

Steve Layton expressed that he is very sympathetic to the parents and he is thankful that he doesn't have a grade school student. It has to be very tough. We all, as a community, need to follow the recommendations of avoiding large gatherings, protect ourselves, get these numbers down so we can get the kids back to school safely for the long term.

Wes Chambers made the Motion to approve the extension of the Blue Gold hybrid attendance model through September 11, 2020 for grades K-4, full attendance for K-4, Monday through Thursday, begins September 14, 2020. The Blue Gold hybrid attendance model continues through September 25, 2020 for grades 5-8, full attendance for grades 5-8, Monday through Thursday begins September 28, 2020. The Blue Gold hybrid attendance continues through October 9, 2020 for grades 9-12, full attendance for grades 9-12, Monday through Thursday begins Tuesday, October 13, 2020. All students will remain learning remotely on Fridays and daily dismissal times will be 2:00 p.m. through the first semester. Anita Hayden seconded the motion. All members present voted "Aye" except for Howard Markwell who voted "no".

Steve Layton made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Ben Bland. All members present voted "Aye." There were no "Nay" votes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this day, August 27, 2020

Robert Blade, President

Pam Ross, Secretary