

The Board of Education of the School District of Marshall met in special session on Monday, September 28, 2020 in the Central Office at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Vice President Bryon Jacques, and members Ellen Lance, Matt Smith, Christy Varner, and Carol Maher, Superintendent of Schools were present. Also representatives of Channel 41 News and several parents/community members.

Absent: Erin Meyer, Harry Carrell, Ed Harper

Bryan Jacques asked for an update regarding the decisions made today regarding distance learning.

Dr. Carol Maher reported that there are close to or above 200 persons quarantined across the district and 21 of those are adults. The central office administrative team determined it was appropriate to suspend the phases in the R2L plan, since consideration of a large number of quarantines had not been addressed in the plan. Substitute teachers are down from 50 last year to about 15 this year.

Ellen Lance asked why each school/level has their own plan for instruction but they all have a blanket decision made for them today; why the Return to Learn Plan was suspended and put aside when it is a living document; and asked for consideration for the high school because their numbers are low. Dr. Maher answered that the building principals had individual freedom to plan for instruction but decisions such as moving to distance learning for all is one made by the superintendent and the central office team. Mrs. Lance shared her concern that the athletes at the high school have been doing quite well not being positive but yet we are taking the season away. She mentioned that the new NCMC guidelines we are following only has us at 10.14 cases per day which keeps us in the orange and questioned why we closed every building. Dr. Maher stated that there is flexibility in the plans for instruction in the R2L plan but that there are district requirements for health and safety of students and staff across the district and are not individualized at the building level.

Dr. Maher stated she believed that if we were in the red that sports stopped but Mrs. Varner stated that was a plan for high Covid cases not a quarantine problem. Dr. Maher replied in the affirmative that the quarantine issue had not been addressed in the R2L plan or the NCMC grid. Dr. Maher will be posting for substitute teachers.

Mr. Jacques asked for the following to be done on Tuesday: the number of positives by building; dates of quarantined people be defined Tuesday; and asked the administration to take another look at this Tuesday and discuss if they believe school, athletics and activities should continue at the high school. Dr. Maher agreed to provide this information to the BOE by 2 p.m. Tuesday.

On a motion by Mrs. Varner, seconded by Mrs. Lance, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The motion carried on an unanimous vote.