

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLATTE-GEDDES SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #11-5 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

President Jess Sondgeroth called a special meeting of the board of education of the Platte-Geddes School District #11-5 to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 in the Library at the Platte-Geddes High School. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Jess Sondgeroth, Heather VanDerWerff, Roxi Summerville, Duke Starr, Ross Van Zee, Dennis DeBoer, Ross Varilek

Members absent: None

Others present: Supt. Joel Bailey, Business Manager Kathy Holter, Secondary Principal Patrick Frederick, Elementary Principal Jennifer Knecht, Sadie Hanson, Callie & Adam Houdeshell, Darren DeNeui, Mark Burket, Dr. Jerome Bentz, and Jason Huizenga. Participating via Zoom: Phyllis Daum, Brooke Meyerink, Sandy DuFrain, Kim Fite, Alisa Nachtigal, Stacey Larson, Nicole DeVries, Denise Mushitz, Mike Neugebauer, Kristen Konechne, Lisa Millar, Lacey Mills, Lynn Walstad, Vickie Jensen, Farrah Dyk, Josh Veurink, Shawna Strand, Stacy Erickson, Sara Stekly, Kristen Maxon, Jeff Konstanz, Frank Cutler, Jared Veurink, Erin Sibbel, Emily VandenHoek, Julie Bultsma, Aaron VandenHoek, Alisha Nachtigal, Teresa Neuman, Andy Van Essen, Ashley Frederick, Bruce Hanson, Trisha Frandsen, Dane Jensen, Emersyn Ringling, Julie DaShay, Jill DeWet

**Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

The following item was added to the printed agenda: Public Participation – Dr. Callie & Adam Houdeshell

**Approve Agenda**

Motion D. Starr, seconded R. Van Zee approving the agenda as amended. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**Public Participation**

Dr. Callie & Adam Houdeshell expressed their concerns regarding the usage of masks for young students.

**Return to Learn Plan Amendments and Mask Requirement**

Based on the number of COVID-19 cases in surrounding communities, the risk of community spread taking place in Platte and Geddes, and advice from the medical professionals on the Return to Learn Plan Committee, the administration feels it is necessary to move to Level 2 within the Return to Learn Plan, with the addition of a mask requirement.

Supt. Bailey presented models that have been adopted from the states of Nebraska, Iowa, and Wyoming for guidance. The board of education also asked the opinions of Mrs. Jennifer Knecht, Mr. Mark Burket, Dr. Jerome Bentz and Mr. Patrick Frederick. After considerable discussion motion R. Varilek, seconded D. Starr to table the agenda item until after a decision was made regarding close contact identification. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**Close Contact Identification**

The South Dakota Department of Health and Department of Education informed school districts that they are responsible for determining which individuals are considered a close contact when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. Supt. Bailey presented the following procedure for implementation:

1. When staff, parents and/or the DOH notify the school of a positive COVID case, designated personnel will conduct contact tracing.
2. The district will use social distancing, use of masks, table and/or desk dividers as well as the length of the close contact in determining whether an individual is considered a potential close contact.
3. Students and/or staff members will not be deemed in close contact if they were able to social distance (6 feet away and/or less than 15 minutes) and/or wore a mask during the time of close contact. These students and staff will be contacted by school personnel and recommended to quarantine. School personnel will continue to track these individuals through the recommended quarantine date.

Students and staff members recommended to quarantine who remain in school must show no COVID-19 symptoms, wear a mask at all times when they are not able to socially distance, and

will be required to have their temperature checked during the school day through the recommended quarantine date.

4. Students who were not able to social distance and did not wear a mask during a time of close contact, will be required to stay home from school for the duration of the designated quarantine time.
5. After investigative measures for contact tracing, a list of staff or students identified as close contacts, will be submitted to the Department of Health. Close contacts will be contacted by designated school personnel and asked to quarantine.
6. The DOH determines who is considered a close contact and conducts out of school close contact investigations and recommends who should be quarantined. Out of school close contacts determined by the DOH are required to quarantine.

Motion R. Van Zee, seconded R. Varilek to recommend following South Dakota Department of Health's "Recommendations for Temporary Exclusion from a School Setting" and to authorize the Superintendent to implement rules, plans and procedures for the application and execution of such recommendations as listed above. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **Return to Learn Plan Amendments and Mask Requirement**

With having defined close contacts, the board of education revisited the topic of a mask mandate. Views were once again shared from various board members, administrators, and others in attendance. Motion R. Van Zee to enforce a mandatory mask requirement for students in grades 6-12 and to highly recommend students to wear masks in grades K-5. The topic will be reviewed at the October 12<sup>th</sup> School Board Meeting. President Jess Sondgeroth also asked Mr. Mark Burket to present the status of the virus in the Platte and Geddes communities at that board meeting to help them evaluate the situation and make changes or modifications, if necessary. The student mask mandate will go into effect on Monday, October 5. Motion to amend the motion by D. DeBoer to include a mask mandate for all staff effective Thursday, October 1, 2020. Seconded by R. Van Zee. All members present voted aye. Motion carried. R. Summerville seconded the original motion, with amendment. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

The board of education next discussed moving to Level 2 in the Return to Learn Plan with the following amendments/additions:

- Students will not be allowed to learn remotely only to avoid the newly implemented mask mandate.
- Parents and building principals must jointly approve a student moving to remote learning (student must be in good academic standing currently and during the school closing last spring).
- Parents must complete the necessary online learning forms.
- Removing holding music and PE in elementary classrooms and continue with the current practice.
- Alter salad bar procedures.
- Removed the following "Activities/Athletics: Students that opt for remote learning will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities (we will revisit this if we are required to move entirely to remote learning).

Motion R. Varilek, seconded R. Van Zee approving the amendments and additions to the Return to Learn Plan and moving to Level 2. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **Activity/Athletic Procedures**

Supt. Bailey presented the board of education with the recommendations from the South Dakota High School Activities Association Return to Play Task Force for determining capacity at athletics/activities. In addition to posting guidance on social distancing, encouraging good hygiene, and supporting the use of face masks the recommendations also include implementing some restrictions to crowd size. After discussing potential options, motion R. Summerville, seconded D. DeBoer to continue at Tier 1 in regards to Activity/Athletic Procedures with the addition of mandating masks for all spectators. This includes both indoor and outdoor activities. Student athletes and coaches are required to wear masks while on the bench or sidelines. The only time masks will not be worn is when student athletes are engaged in active play. Masks will not be required during practice. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion R. Van Zee, seconded D. DeBoer to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 p.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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**President**

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**Business Manager**