



Dr. Lindsey Hall, Superintendent  
Mahomet-Seymour Schools

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October 16, 2020

Dear Bulldog Families,

The purpose of this email is to provide additional clarity to information contained in the packet for our Board of Education meeting on Monday evening, October 19, 2020.

The packet can be found at this link:

<https://5il.co/m3su>

- On September 21, 2020, our Board of Education voted to return to school four full days per week, in person, starting the second semester. Remote learning would still be offered in its current form per this vote.
- On October 5, 2020, Board Member Jeremy Henrichs requested that another vote take place on October 19, 2020, to return to school for five full days per week, in person, starting the second semester. This is why this item is appearing on the agenda for this coming Monday evening.

If you did not view or listen to the Board of Education meeting on October 5, 2020, it is understandable that this vote/agenda item seems surprising. His request was made in the open, public meeting.

Given the time sensitivity in preparing for a different schedule second semester, by October 5, 2020, we had already sent out a survey to parents regarding the return to school for four days per week and were actively gathering data at that time.

In considering a return to school for five days per week, it is the administration's recommendation that in doing so, that remote learning be outsourced to a private vendor for grades 6-12 only. We realize that this is a major change. However, this is necessary because in a five day per week model, our teachers will lose Mondays as a time to meet/plan/collaborate and prepare for remote learning. It is not possible to return to school five days per week and offer remote learning opportunities from Mahomet-Seymour teachers.

Should the board uphold their vote from September 21, 2020, and go with a four day per week model, then we will keep Mondays as a designated planning day and 6-12 grade teachers will remain responsible for remote learning.

**A few FAQ's:**

**Who is the potential vendor for remote learning:**

“Committed to Excellence”

**Edmentum. This same vendor contracts for many of the Illinois Virtual High School classes.**

**Why can't some teachers at the JH and HS be dedicated to remote learning only, similar to what we are doing at grades K-5?**

- The variety of classes offered at the HS in particular doesn't allow for this.
- There are not enough students for remote sections--teachers would still be planning for remote and for in-person learning.

**If the Board of Education votes to go with the five day per week model, and remote learning is outsourced, will parents get another chance to switch options?**

**Yes. Parents will get one final chance to choose. Please know that if remote learning is outsourced, we will lose all flexibility to change students between remote learning and in person learning throughout the semester. What you choose will be what you need to stay with for the entirety of second semester if remote learning is outsourced.**

## **REMOTE LEARNING PLANNING DAYS**

**Please mark your calendars--there will be no school or instruction on November 23 and 24, 2020 and January 5, 2020. These will be remote learning planning days, regardless of how the Board of Education votes on Monday.**

**After the Board of Education meeting Monday evening, there will be additional communication about how we plan to move ahead.**

**Thank you for your ongoing patience, flexibility and support.**

**Very sincerely,**

**Dr. Lindsey A. Hall**

**Superintendent of Schools**