

Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District
Special Board Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2020
Administration Center at 6:00 PM - Board Room
Grimes, Iowa 50111

Present: Directors Doug Rants, Ryan Carpenter, Ronnie Wiedman, Kathie Hicok, Sarah Wilson, and Marco Bejarno, Mark Wills, Business Manager Michelle Wearmouth, Associate Superintendent Jill Van Woerkom, and Superintendent Scott Grimes were present at the meeting site. It is noted that COVID-19 social distancing recommendations were in place for this meeting thus electronic format was required for some attendees.

Absent: None.

Receive Visitors and Read Miscellaneous Communications

President Rants called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken by the secretary and a quorum was acknowledged.

Approval of Agenda

Director Wills motioned, seconded by Director Bejarno to approve the agenda as published.

Vote:	Doug Rants	yes
	Ronnie Wiedman	yes
	Kathie Hicok	yes
	Marco Bejarno	yes
	Sarah Wilson	yes
	Ryan Carpenter	yes
	Mark Wills	yes

Hybrid learning model continued through November 24, 2020.

Superintendent Grimes reviewed current positivity 14 day rates for both Polk (16.7%) and Dallas (18.5%) counties. He also reviewed student and staff confirmed positive COVID-19 rates and quarantine rates. He reviewed increases in the last four days. He reviewed absentee rates over the last two days. Director Hicok asked if absentee rate includes quarantined students, and Mr. Grimes stated that quarantined individuals cannot be counted as absent. Superintendent Grimes recommended that we remain in hybrid model through November 24, 2020. He reviewed the difficulty in returning to the hybrid model if we move to on site model and that is part of the reason for the recommendation.

Director Hicok discussed parents commenting on the amount of rigor on virtual days, and Superintendent Grimes discussed that according to our survey that there is a split between those that found the virtual days rigor to be adequate, too much, or too little. Director Hicok asked if the Board made a change, would we reevaluate at the meeting on the 23rd and Superintendent Grimes confirmed that this was accurate. Director Wiedman discussed that current statistics are not at a level that the board stated would require them to meet and consider a change, and would like to set a level so that parents can easily determine when the model may change. Director Rants stated that he feels if we don't change to full on site this week, it seems likely that we will not change to full on site prior to semester simply due to the timing of school breaks and holiday gatherings expected. He asked if we could determine where exposure is occurring and if there would be less exposure if students were masked and in school. Superintendent Grimes stated that indicators are that many exposures are within the family unit.

Director Hicok discussed whether elementary and secondary should have the same learning model and Superintendent Grimes indicated that we cannot assume the probability of success with full on site at different levels. Director Bejarno stated that perhaps if the trend was improving then perhaps we could have K-5 students attend full on site after November 30. Superintendent Grimes reviewed class sizes at elementary in each learning model example.

Director Wilson asked for feedback received from teachers and administrators, and Superintendent Grimes stated that staff have acknowledged that at 15% county positivity rate that the Board would review and discuss. He stated that staff have also acknowledged that the hybrid model provides a better opportunity for social distancing to occur.

Director Wiedman stated that he is not comfortable returning to full on site model at this time as his fear is that will result in everyone in an online learning model and thus he feels hybrid is the best choice at this time. Director Rants indicated that if we do not change models now then it will not make sense to change to on site with a very small amount of semester remaining. Director Carpenter stated the hybrid model has served well until most recently and agrees that social distancing can be achieved in the hybrid model. Director Wilson indicated that she wishes to have consistency for staff and for students.

Director Bejarno reminded board members that local hospitals have indicated that they are currently at capacity or are being overwhelmed with patients, and that testing facilities schedules are currently full and cases are expected to rise for the next four to five weeks. Director Wiedman stated that it seems like all board member's opinions are in agreement. Director Wilson asked if the Board would further discuss on November 23, 2020, and Superintendent Grimes indicated that it will be a discussion topic at every meeting. Director Hicok stated that it is important for all to understand that each board member wants children back in school as much as possible as soon as possible. Director Wilson stated that the board needs to do a better job getting out in front of communication. Discussion was held regarding the model beyond Thanksgiving break and when that determination will be made.

Superintendent Grimes reminded board members that there will likely be scenarios where a classroom or a building will have to close suddenly due to increasing cases, and there will be very little notice when that occurs. He thanked staff for the flexibility during this time, and their dedication. He stated that the best intentions set by the board may not be achieved and that the pandemic has been an inconvenience and burden to nearly everyone in 2020.

Director Wiedman asked about the stress of secondary staff making the plans to change to full on site and then remaining in hybrid model. Superintendent Grimes stated that the planning time allowed staff to be ready to change models at any time and was productive time spent.

Director Wilson motioned, seconded by Director Wills to remain in hybrid model through November 24, 2020. Discussion was held about adjusting the A/B calendar and that was not included in this motion.

Vote:	Doug Rants	no
	Ronnie Wiedman	no
	Kathie Hicok	no
	Marco Bejarno	no
	Sarah Wilson	no
	Ryan Carpenter	no
	Mark Wills	no

Director Wilson motioned, seconded by Director Wills to remain in hybrid model through November 24, 2020, and to adjust the A / B group calendar and allow group A to attend on site each Wednesday through November 24, 2020.

Vote:	Doug Rants	yes
	Ronnie Wiedman	yes
	Kathie Hicok	yes
	Marco Bejarno	yes
	Sarah Wilson	yes
	Ryan Carpenter	yes
	Mark Wills	yes

Director Bejarno asked at what juncture we will discuss 100% online and that was discussed. Director Wilson stated that the board would communicate further at the next board meeting November 23, 2020 regarding learning models beyond November 24, 2020.

Written and oral communication: Next regular board meeting, Monday, Nov. 23, 2020 (4th Monday),

ADJOURNMENT

Director Hicok motioned, seconded by Director Bejarno to adjourn. Time: 7:34 p.m.

Vote:	Doug Rants	yes
	Ronnie Wiedman	yes
	Kathie Hicok	yes
	Marco Bejarno	yes
	Sarah Wilson	yes
	Mark Wills	yes
	Ryan Carpenter	yes

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle R. Wearmouth
Secretary to the Board

Approved in the meeting of:
November 23, 2020

Doug Rants, Board President