

SURING PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

920-842-2178

411 E. Algoma Street, Suring, WI 54174

Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 19, 2020 - 5:30 P.M. – Board Room #300

The regular meeting of the Suring School Board was called to order by Board President Sleeter.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members present: Lally, Lundgren, Piepkorn, Regal, Seibert, Sleeter, Wozniak

Excused at 7:00PM – Dennis Piepkorn

Administration present: Mrs. Casper, Mrs. Berg, Mrs. Pendl.

Visitors present: Sarah School, Charles Breed, Terry Garrigan, Mitzer Harnois, Becky Dickson, Rhonda Stuart, Mitch Taylor, Mark Wichman, Phillip Tachick, Mitchell Woulf.

Visitor present were informed that questions and comments from the public would also be allowed after discussion items were address.

There was no public input at this time.

Board Goals for 2020-21 were reviewed. Changes will be made regarding removal of referendum items and adding improved communication during the pandemic. Mrs. Casper will make necessary adjustments and bring them back to the September board meeting for approval.

School COVID Matrix was shared with the board. Mrs. Casper, Mrs. Berg and Mrs. Pendl worked with Oconto County Health Department to create the first draft of the matrix guide that will be followed once students return to school. It was explained that movement on the matrix could go either way depending on where we are with positive COVID cases.

Back to School plan was discussed in great detail. During discussion Mrs. Casper stated the county is recommending we look at cohorts. The public health nurse is concerned with bringing everyone back so fast and felt it would be easier to fix if something was missed if only half the school was present versus the whole school. Mrs. Berg informed the board of safety measures that will be implemented to bring students and staff back into the building. Some of the changes include sanitizing stations & wipes at entrances, classroom disinfecting, minimizing lunch groups and recess rotation, closed campus, movement throughout the building, locker assignments and use, no sharing of objects or school supply items, use of outside classrooms for art/PE /Band/Choir, transportation and student drop off locations, and mask use and storage. She also explained that parents will be expected to self-check their students at home, making sure they are healthy to be in the building. Magnets have been ordered for families, providing them with a visual checklist they need to review each day prior to sending their children to school. Visitors will be limited to essential only and extra-curricular activities will follow WIAA guidelines. The board reviewed Plan A, Plan B and Plan C as presented.

Sarah School spoke during public comment. She thanked the board and administration for all the work they have put into this decision-making. Mrs. School requested the board to consider Plan B for the start of the school year. In support of her request, she stated that since kids have been out of school for months they now would have new rules and use of facemasks causing stress on children and staff. Having less children to work with would give time to make adjustments and distant learning would be put into practice from day one so it will become second nature and transition to a different plan would be smooth. Most importantly, she stated that going back to school is going to be a big adjustment for kids.

Rhonda Stuart spoke in support of Plan A. She stated that she feels children are ready to get back to normal. Mrs. Stuart stated her concern is that if we start with Plan B, we will never get to Plan A. Another concern that she stated is with curriculum and the prep and planning that teachers need to be prepared for. Stuart felt that Plan B feels like less of a learning experience because children only receive half of the learning and it was not the best learning experience for her daughter in the past. Mrs. Berg stated the matrix does allow movement from right to left or left to right and our hope is to get children back to normal as soon as possible.

Board Goals 2020-21 was tabled until the September meeting.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Wozniak to approve the 2020-21 School COVID matrix recommendations as presented. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Regal, seconded by Lundgren to approve 2020-21 Back to School Plan A for the start of the school year. Failed 3-3.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Seibert to approve 2020-21 Back to School Plan B for the start of the school year. Carried 4-2.

Motion by Seibert, seconded by Lally to adjourn the Open Meeting. Carried 6-0.

Joy Rohde, District Secretary

Time: 7:26P.M.