

SURING PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

920-842-2178

411 E. Algoma Street, Suring, WI 54174

Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 30, 2020 - 5:30 P.M. – Small Gym

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members present: Lally, Regal, Seibert, Sleeter, Wozniak.

Absent: Lundgren, Piepkorn

Administration present: Mrs. Casper, Mrs. Berg.

Visitors present: Heidi Gerndt, Becky Dickson, Amy Regal, Gina Wendt, Tabitha School, Karen Mahoney, Sarah School, Crystal Napier, Terry Garrigan.

There was no public input at this time.

Schoology and Internet access was discussed. The district has posted resources on the district webpage to assist parents and students with Schoology access and usage. In a recent survey sent to staff, it was noted that staff is becoming acclimated to Schoology and the staff feel children are also doing well. Internet access within the district was also discussed. Ten Mi-Fi have been allocated for internet use, unfortunately, people who have taken them are quickly using the data on personal use rather than school items. The district has five more hotspots coming.

Discussion on fall sports spectator stipulations was discussed. Principal Berg explained a proposal to consider changing the policy. Berg also informed the board that the M&O conference principals decided to not increase the number of fans for volleyball due to some schools using smaller gyms for Middle School and freshmen games.

School COVID Matrix was shared with the board. Mrs. Casper stated that with our three positive cases, we are in the medium range. In a recent conversation with Deb Konitzer of Oconto County Health Department, Mrs. Konitzer advised us to continue doing what we are doing. Mrs. Casper recommended that we wait until the next board meeting to make a decision. If things continue to do well with COCOVID cases, Casper recommends bringing the elementary back, if the elementary does well at 100%, then look at bringing the middle school back. In reference to the staff survey that was sent out, staff is hesitant about bringing all the students back at 100%. Furthermore, the district only has four substitute teachers willing to sub if we are in the cohort model, but not if we are back at 100%. Mr. Lally stated that hospitals are at crisis level. That not only the hospitals are full, but that staff are starting to get sick. He said that we all, as a community, need to do all we can to mitigate this. We need to look at the safety of our students and staff. Mr. Lally stated that we need to take the advice of Oconto County Health Department and the administrators who are living this every day. Mrs. Wozniak felt it would be irresponsible to make decisions to bring everyone back into the building. Mr. Regal agreed that health is the primary concern, but from comments in the survey, he feels we need to do better at educating off-site students, and do a better job of supporting our staff. Mr. Sleeter stated he thinks Mrs. Casper's recommendation follows the matrix.

Mrs. Casper informed the board that the district plans to follow the State Governor's extended mask mandate.

Discussion on support staff sub pay took place. Mrs. Casper stated that the district is struggling with getting substitute support staff people. She referenced a sheet the board had been given about what other places are

paying. Casper also said that districts are raising teacher substitute pay in order to compete. This will be added to the next board agenda.

Ms. Leslie Fisher spoke during public input. Fischer said she works at Bellin Hospital and said that they are not at capacity. She said that we are Suring, not Oconto Falls or Oconto or anywhere else, the community needs to have ownership. She said there was no hand sanitizer at the game. She said if there was sanitizer at a game maybe we could have more spectators there. She said that as a medical professional, hands are the enemy, not your mouth. She said that at her job, you need to have personal responsibility and ownership. She complimented everyone who has tried to keep normalcy and consistency for kids.

Mrs. Sarah School said she agreed with Mr. Regal that no matter what direction we go, we need to do better with it. She said her kids are struggling most with structure and having a schedule/consistency. She said Schoology is working for most of the kids but consistency is so important and some days they are online and other days they are not. She does not think this will be as short lived as we think it will and the kids are struggling.

Mrs. Tabitha School said that she spoke last time and her concerns are the same. She stated she does not know where the testing is, if kids are being tested. She cannot believe that the grades are what they should be. She does not think we need to severely limit the number of spectators. She said that if the masks are doing something why can't we have everyone here? She stated that her kids want normal. She reiterated what Sarah School said regarding missed logins, or not knowing if they should be logging in. She said that the kids are running out in the community, hanging out with friends, but not wearing masks.

Ms. Gina Wendt said that she has two little kids 5K and 1st grade. She said that virtual would not happen with little kids. She said they are in school the two days but she thinks they need five.

Mrs. Amanda Seibert said that she agrees that consistency is important. She is concerned that if we are worried about consistency, flipping to five days a week is not helpful. She feels that if we jump into five days we will have to flip back to Plan B quickly.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Seibert to approve the game attendance plan as presented by Principal Berg. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Seibert to approve staying with current cohort model on COVID Matrix until next board meeting on October 14, 2020. Carried 5-0.

No action was taken on mask mandate use or Internet/Schoology.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Regal to convene in Closed Session if approved by roll call vote of the Board. Roll Call Vote: Lally – yes, Regal - yes, Seibert-yes, Sleeter – yes, Wozniak-yes. Carried 5-0.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Seibert, seconded by Lally to adjourn the Open Meeting. Carried 5-0.

Joy Rohde, District Secretary

Time: 7:35 P.M.