



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SHEBOYGAN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Sheboygan, Wisconsin  
SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES  
Tuesday, December 22, 2020**

A Special Session of the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Offices (Board Room), 830 Virginia Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081.

Please note that due to the precautions recommended during the current COVID-19 health emergency, some Board members may be participating in this Board meeting via teleconference or other remote access technology. Members of the public who attend the meeting will be able to hear any open session dialogue between such members and the Board members present in the Board Room. In addition, in the interest of social distancing recommended by health officials as well as the governmental limits on the size of gatherings, the District is offering audio access to the meeting via phone connection by calling 1-570-729-5062 with access code 261 865 499# at the scheduled meeting time.

- I. President Gallianetti called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- II. Board Members Present: Mr. David Gallianetti, Dr. Susan Hein, Mr. Ryan Burg, Ms. Marcia Reinthaler, Mr. Marcos Guevara, Ms. Kay Robbins, Mr. Larry Samet, Mr. Kyle Whelton, Mr. Mark Mancl
- III. Moved by Mr. Whelton, seconded by Dr. Hein to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gallianetti provided a review of how the agenda would be followed for this evening and noted that school board discussion would occur after receiving community input.

**IV. Update on District Instruction and Operations During COVID-19 Pandemic**

Mr. Harvatine discussed the goals of the presentation and walked through the order of items administration would discuss. Mr. Konrath reviewed the parent data which resulted in approximately 3,000 parents (41%) responding. He reported that our students respond better with asynchronous learning. Insofar as mental health, the data stands on its own because some parents did not realize they could access mental health supports. Mr. Harvatine reiterated that no single metric provides a universal fit as each district is unique. He noted that based on the States update on quarantine we would still need to utilize the 14-day. Mr. Harvatine thought it important to revisit where we are at compared to other schools and he described how each of them is entering back into school. He added that this has become a district by district decision and many times it is necessary to make modifications. Mr. Harvatine reviewed administration's recommendations of 1) Re-enter face-to-face instruction on January 11, 2021 using the 4K-12 Hybrid Model – with modifications at the middle and high school levels 2) Continue to provide a fully virtual option for all students, and 3) Maintain support services to elementary and secondary students through January 8, 2021. He then reviewed the hybrid modifications at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Continuation of additional supports for elementary and secondary students most in need will continue. At the January 12, 2021 Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting Ms. Hoppe will present a report on the social/emotional learning online surveys that were completed. Mr. Harvatine reviewed the decision points in the event the District would need to pivot from in-person back to virtual and discussed student and staff quarantine and what would need to be considered if we do not have enough staff or cannot provide services. Administration reviewed the parent survey data, decision criteria, updates on masks, as well as changes that have been made with the air exchange and air flow in the buildings. Mr. Harvatine commented that anytime administration comes forward with additional options for changing the mode of instruction he wants people to understand that anytime throughout the school year they are able to make changes. He wanted to clarify because there is a lot of misinformation out in the community. Mr. Konrath reviewed the communication plans and timeline for returning to the hybrid learning model and the surveys being prepared for parents to complete. Mr. Harvatine added that in order for us to do our best planning we will be asking parents to select their learning model.

## **V. Community Input**

Ms. Anjenette Pond, 1629 E. Golf View Drive, Sheboygan, WI – Spoke about the cost of students not being in the classroom face-to-face. Sometimes we have to be bold and be willing to make tough decisions. We need to understand the lack and loss of education and it is difficult to make all of these decisions without knowing that. She asked about the Wednesdays off in the hybrid model and has concerns about the lack of instructional time. She thinks the District can do five days of in-person instruction.

Mr. Adam Murray, 608 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Sheboygan, WI – Asked if there was any discussion about recreational programs starting back up for the elementary/middle school kids since high school sports are back up and running. There are other programs in the County but they are very expensive. His biggest concern is programs/recreation department offerings for kids.

Ms. Jennifer Odell, 1622 Golf View Drive, Sheboygan, WI – She is a parent and teacher and believes that both the virtual and hybrid models are failing students. The longer students are kept out of the classroom, the more harm we are doing to our students. She is concerned about reduced enrollment, which results in less revenue which could essentially become a financial burden for the District.

Ms. Tiffany Diven, W1940 W. Main Avenue, Sheboygan, WI – She commented that we have great schools and amazing teachers and are fortunate to have a school board and administration that work together. She is pleased to see that we have a great group of parent advocates and devoted teachers that have stayed together quite well considering how they could have become more divided.

## **VI. District Instruction and Operations During COVID-19 Pandemic**

Ms. Reinthaler asked about whether we had an approximate number of students we have lost as a result of being virtual and Mr. Konrath replied that the numbers were slightly higher. He noted that it is hard to get a good gauge of why; however, they will be running the Second Friday Report to review. Mr. Guevara talked about his personal position because he does not believe we framed the problem we are trying to fix broadly enough. He talked about the Principles of Equity and thinks we are navigating the consequence of three disasters – pandemic, financial inequity (economic impact), and what is true or being able to agree on facts. He talked about the group of parents who have been speaking loudly about the plan that has been in place. The effort to work with this group of parents means we skipped the meet and confer and the policy we had in place in July/August. The speed by which we responded to these parents and that all school board members were not invited into the meeting. The health and wellness of the well to do families should not be prioritized over any of our other students. We threw our Principles of Equity out the window by doing so. He wants to know what the administration is going to do that our Principles of Equity are centered in the work we do. He would like to have a future conversation about how this all came about. Ms. Robbins asked about a staggered start as primarily the concern on the academic component is K-5. She is concerned about the start date – maybe the K-5 students can start but have the middle/high school students at semester. She is also concerned that we do not have a line that we will not cross. She does not want to open too soon and then see a yoyo effect. Mr. Harvatine responded to her staggered start idea and he noted that some districts have not had any in-person school yet so a staggered option might work. As far as hard metric – what would be the metric and at what point would the Board say there is a line in the sand. If the Board feels there should be a number, then administration can certainly look at that. Mr. Samet talked about the phased allocation of the vaccine and what groupings fall into the staggered start. He added that the school board's goal is to try and find a solution that works for and benefits everyone in the community. Mr. Gallianeteti asked if there was a timeframe on vaccinations for staff and Mr. Harvatine responded that he has not heard anything. He added that there have been discussions about the fact that teachers are essential but no start date. Mr. Burg asked about more medical grade items for teachers and staff and Mr. Harvatine responded that we have much of that, but due to the shortage, we have not been able to secure some items. Mr. Mancl reported that one of the concerns he has heard from staff was the amount of time it would take to switch back to the hybrid in-person and asked how much time that would require. Mr. Harvatine responded that they looked at a day or two of transition time and noted that we have always had the ability to transition back and/or forth. Mr. Mancl stated that he was in support of the recommendation as presented by administration. Dr. Hein also asked about the vaccination and Mr. Harvatine responded that he did not have any information to speak to that, but would share any information as he receives it. He added that the ability to maintain social distancing is going to be key. Ms. Reinthaler noted that the District needs to provide an education to its students as we only get one chance. She believes in-person learning is the best option provided if it is safe. She sees the importance of constantly surveying our parents, staff, etc. We need to remember there are many facets coming and that administration is doing a good job of listening ad that she supports administration's recommendation. Mr. Whelton also supports the plan put forth by the administration. He added that the District is

in a lose all the way around with this pandemic and it is a horrible prospect to try to figure out the least amount of loss. He added that COVID-19 will pass, but there is hope with a vaccine so hopefully we can get through the first round of vaccinations faster. He noted that all parent concerns are legitimate and that perhaps we need to do some reflection on how we react to every single group of people/parents. Mr. Samet supports the recommendation as well. Ms. Robbins supports the recommendation but noted that if we hit a huge spike after Christmas she does not want to open. Mr. Gallianetti commented to Ms. Robbins to refer to slide 27 of the presentation which lays out the metrics to move from in-person to virtual.

- VII. Moved by Ms. Reinthaler, seconded by Mr. Mancl to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.



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Seth A. Harvatine  
Superintendent & Secretary of the Board

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