

Carroll County Board of Education Special Meeting

January 12, 2021 6:00 PM

Carroll County Middle School Auditorium

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Attendance Taken at 6:00 PM:

Present Board Members:

Ms. Gwen Chapman

Mr. Corey Groseclose

Ms. Carolyn Jones

Ms. D'Anne Smith

Mr. Rob Spenneberg

Danny Osborne, Superintendent; Jonica Ray, Assistant Superintendent/CAO; Jon Conrad, CFO; and Tracie Crawford, Board Secretary were also present.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Order #61946 - Motion Passed: I need a motion to approve agenda items 1-4 as presented. passed with a motion by Mr. Corey Groseclose and a second by Mr. Rob Spenneberg.

Ms. Gwen Chapman Yes

Mr. Corey Groseclose Yes

Ms. Carolyn Jones Yes

Ms. D'Anne Smith Yes

Mr. Rob Spenneberg Yes

3. Discussion

3.A. Discussion on returning to In-Person Learning Mr. Osborne-I would like nothing more than to have the students in person, in the building, as long as we can transport them, feed them, and educate them properly and do it safely for everyone. At this time our positive rate has dropped from 168 to 166.6 as of today. The rate is still high and at this time we have 41 staff members that have stated that they would require accommodations based on the governor's mandates. At this time, we can not realistically go back full time and everyone in the buildings. We could potentially go to a hybrid model. At the principal meeting none of the principals were in favor of a hybrid model. However we could revisit looking at a hybrid model. Now at this time we are being told that we may have access to the vaccine by early February. There is a wait time of 28 days at this time and then you have a second dose. Once the vaccine is available then the mandates in the governor's executive order is no longer valid. We have 201 staff members out of 352 that signed up to receive the vaccine. We do have students coming in for small groups daily. We aren't limited to only 15% of students coming into the school, we just need to social distance the students. The last guidelines that was given to us on December 7th, that we can have students wearing mask and facing the same direction. We would want to social distance as much as possible, we need to make sure that the students are wearing mask, and facing the same direction. D'Anne Smith-board member feels that perhaps the hybrid model would be the best at this time. Teaching the students

would be a barrier, transportation would be a barrier. The reason you would do a hybrid model is to limit the amount of students in the building. The feeding program, you have drivers and staff delivering food, however we need those drivers transporting students. We would also need students fed while in the building. You also have the barrier of the CCHS A/B rotation. We do want to return 100%. The hybrid model could be an option. What are the barriers and how to overcome the barrier. The current status of how the students are learning. What can we do to help the students, parents, and teachers be more successful.

3.B. Discussion on Distance Learning The conversation has moved into distance learning. Distance learning is not easy and it is a difficult situation. Is the distance learning working for our students? No, not all of them. There are some students that no matter what we do, those students are going to strive and succeed. At this same time, you have students struggling. We know that we have students that are not logging in, we have had discussions at the central office about what do we need to do with those students. There will be some students that haven't received any of the content. There is a difference between students that never log on and students that log on and are just struggling. It's not just those students, there are students that are doing extremely well and we want to enrich those students. We will have additional ERSA funds that we will be receiving and we have discussed what we can do over the summer. All the principals across the district have discussed with the teachers about what our vision is on how students are learning and how they are receiving content. We have working families that can't find childcare, we have students that don't have internet access, we have students that their parents can't assist them. The expectation at this time is if you have five students on google meets, you spend the remainder of the time contacting the other 25 students that didn't log in and what they are doing. We have teachers doing home visits, we have staff calling. We know that we have students struggling. We have interventions as long as the students will participate, however we can't help them if they will not show up. There are two options, we either continue as we are going and improve how the students are receiving the information or we can work on a hybrid model and if we can make it work. We can talk with our principals about a hybrid model. At this time my recommendation at this time would be to send the buses out to get the students and make them come to the building. We need to make sure that we get those students into the building. Ms. Chapman-What causes truancy? How do we monitor and mark a student truant. School does a home visit, then we send out an SRO, then administrator, then Mr. Willhoite will do a home visit. At that time, we would take that information to Mr. Marsh. We have started to get some additional referrals for home visits. Mr. Marsh will support us, however how are we going to identify what is truancy? Is it that they aren't on google meets? Are they not participating? We will be revisiting these steps as well. The goal is to get the students in school. There is a period of time in between visits from the teacher, SRO, administrator from the building, up to Mr. Willhoite. There are some students that can't get on until a certain time so they may not be present on the live google meet, however students will log on later and participate. There has to be criteria that we follow with the students: you haven't been on google meet, you haven't participated, you haven't turned in work, you haven't logged on, etc....Yes, we need to revisit this criteria and make sure that all schools are following the same criteria. We need to revisit the hybrid model at this time. We need to try and get the students in the building so that we aren't losing students. If we have students that have not logged on and have not participated, then yes we need to discuss retention of some of our students. Some of the information that has been provided to you

are students that have logged in, how they are following up with students that are struggling, looking at students that are failing, and how those students are being monitored. Each student should have 320 times that they have logged in daily. Engagement is defined as one log in per hour. The ability to return in person would be staff not being quarantined, the incident rate, however it's not completely the incident rate. It depends on where the incident rate is occurring. We have staff that at this time need accommodations. At this time we can't provide the accommodations. Some counties areas are doing lower elementary full time and upper grades are doing hybrid. We could look at the possibility, however we face barriers with transportation and feeding students. With the executive order and staff you have these issues. The plan in other districts is hybrid models. High School and Middle School is hit the hardest with accommodations needed among our staff. At this time we don't have enough to cover the staff that is quarantined. I want to be able to provide for our students and our staff members a safe working environment. So, going forward you would like us to work on creating a hybrid model in the building. We will bring in transportation, food service, and how soon can we begin. In the mean time, we will still have to provide those 41 staff members with accommodations. Hopefully we can have somewhat of a plan by next Thursday. Until the restrictions are lifted we are in a difficult situation. We are currently providing a hybrid model for those students that need to come in and we have those students coming in while the teachers are still providing great instruction during google meets.

4. Adjournment

Order #61947 - Motion Passed: I need a motion to adjourn the January 12, 2021 Special Board Meeting at 7:00pm. passed with a motion by Mr. Rob Spenneberg and a second by Mr. Corey Groseclose.

Ms. Gwen Chapman	Yes
Mr. Corey Groseclose	Yes
Ms. Carolyn Jones	Yes
Ms. D'Anne Smith	Yes
Mr. Rob Spenneberg	Yes

Chairperson

Superintendent