

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

May 24, 2021

The video of the May 24, 2021 meeting can be found here:
[May 24, 2021, BOE Meeting](#)

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Ave, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board Members answered roll call: John Devereux, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Eva Porter, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr.

Present for the business session were Superintendent Tony Sanders, Board members John Devereux, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Eva Porter, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr, Chief Legal Officer Miguel Rodriguez, Assistant Attorney Luis Rodriguez, and student Board member Jessica Pearce. The following administrators were also present at the District's central office: Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Lela Majstorovic, Mary Fergus, and Brian Lindholm. Present for the meeting via Zoom were other administrators and members of the public.

Ms. Kerr noted that Covid-19 Executive Order 68, which extends modifications to the Open Meetings Act and permits public bodies to meet remotely through electronic means, is still in effect.

Ms. Kerr led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Strategic Plan Report - Mr. Sanders (Board Policy 2.020 - School Board Powers and Duties)

A. Distance Learning for the 2021-2022 School Year

Mr. Sanders, Superintendent, Dr. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Lela Majstorovic, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools, and Luis Rodriguez, Assistant Attorney provided the Board of Education with a presentation on Distance Learning for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Concluding the 2020-2021 Year: The CDC guidance states that schools should continue to use the current COVID-19 prevention strategies for the 2020-2021 year.

Safe Return to All In-Person Instruction Mitigation Strategies: 1. Universal mask wearing. 2. Social distancing observed as much as possible and per guidance. 3. Contact tracing. 4. Increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection. 5. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette. 6. Self-certification per guidance. 7. Occupancy restrictions per guidance.

In-Person Instructional Model Updates: ● Students return for full-day instruction beginning August 16, 2021. ● A/B day designations are eliminated. ● Approximately 36,000 Pre-K - Transition students are expected to return for in-person instruction. ●

Professional Development Sessions - Focused on Standards-Based Learning and Assessment, Core Instruction, and Instructional Leadership. ● Implement in-person lunch across 57 sites. ● Arrange, rearrange, measure and measure again almost all facilities and learning spaces. ● Update technology in all classrooms.

May 19 ISBE Declaration: The State Board of Education passed the declaration put forward by the State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Carmen Ayala, “Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that ... remote instruction be made available for students who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and are under a quarantine order by a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.”

Response to Lifting Governor’s Emergency Order: Current emergency order allows for distance learning throughout the state of Illinois. When the order is lifted, school districts resume pre-pandemic practices. School districts are required to have Board of Education policy 6.185 in place to allow for a Distance Learning option for students. Policy 6.185 is in alignment with 105 ILCS 5/10-29. 105 ILCS 5/10-29 is restrictive in nature and the Distance Learning Academy application process and structures must align to this guidance.

Board of Education Policy 6.185: The proposed policy was discussed with the Board of Education (The full text of Board Policy 6.185 is attached).

Distance Learning Academy 2021-22: ● A Distance Learning model will be available for Pre-K-12th grade students who complete the Distance Learning Request Form by 4 p.m. June 2, 2021 and who demonstrate they meet specific criteria as follows: ● Student is unvaccinated with a medical condition(s) that significantly increases risk or harm of serious complications related to COVID-19 as supported by a signed document from a licensed physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant. Such documentation may already be on file within our system or a new and/or updated document may be needed. ● In addition to the signed medical statement, a parent or legal guardian must provide a statement detailing the medical condition(s) that place the unvaccinated student at higher risk for serious complications related to COVID-19. Approved requests will be effective for the entirety of the 2021-22 school year.

● Certain courses will not be available online next school year. At the high school level, there may also be instances when remote students will need to be placed in an alternate elective class due to staffing and scheduling limitations. High school students will need to speak with a school counselor to ensure an appropriate schedule to support on-time graduation. ● State law prohibits the school district from allowing a student to participate remotely for more than 12 months without evaluating the student's participation and success during the past year. If a student participated in distance learning for the entire 2020-21 school year, the district will review his/her academic performance as well as attendance before providing a decision.

Students approved for the Distance Learning Academy, by law, must have a written remote educational plan which must include: • Specific achievement goals for the student aligned to Illinois learning standards. • A description of all assessments that will be used to measure a student's progress. Assessments also must be administered at a U-46 school (to be determined in the plan). • A description of how progress reports will be provided to both the school district and the parent/guardian. • The expectations, processes, and schedules for interaction between a student and their teacher. • A description of the specific responsibilities of a student's family and the school district with respect to equipment, materials, phone and internet service, and any other necessities for remote learning.

If applicable, a description of how a student's individualized education plan will be met while learning remotely. • The identification of a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult who will provide direct supervision of the program; and an acknowledgement that the plan shall designate the parent, guardian, or other responsible adult as non-teaching personnel or volunteer personnel. • The identification of a school district administrator who will oversee the Distance Learning Academy. • The specific location where the student will be receiving remote instruction. If the location is different than the student's home, the district will be unable to accommodate the Distance Learning Academy request as it would require a chaperone vetted by U-46.

Important Dates 5/25/2021: Family communication concerning Distance Learning Academy. 6/2/2021: Applications for Distance Learning Academy are due by the end of the day. June: Staffing, scheduling, and professional development finalized.

2. Discussion/Action – Mr. Sanders

A. Draft Policy 6.185

Mr. Sanders, Superintendent, Mr. Rodriguez, Chief Legal Officer, and Mr. Rodriguez, Assistant Attorney were available for questions regarding draft Policy 6.185. District Administration requested approval of draft Policy 6.185.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Owens, to approve Draft Policy 6.185, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to adjourn the Special Board Meeting of May 24, 2021 at 8:30 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 7th day of June, 2021.

Susan E. Kern
President

Myrae A. Rodger
Secretary