

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

June 29, 2020

The video of the June 29, 2020 meeting can be found here:
[June 29, 2020, BOE Meeting](#)

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board members answered roll call: John Devereux, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Donna Smith, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr.

President Kerr requested a motion to move into closed session to discuss individual student disciplinary matters; pending, probable or imminent litigation; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public, or legal counsel for the public body; collective negotiating matters between the School Board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; review of closed session minutes; and individual student matters. The motion was made at 6:01 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Mr. Devereux. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Board member Porter joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

A motion was made at 6:51 p.m. by Ms. Owens, second by Ms. Thommes, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Present in-person for the business session was Superintendent Tony Sanders. The Board members listed above and Chief Legal Officer Miguel Rodriguez were present for the meeting virtually via Zoom. The following administrators were also present virtually via Zoom: Steve Burger, Dr. Josh Carpenter, Ann Chan, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Dr. Jeff King, Lela Majstorovic, Dr. Ushma Shah, Mary Fergus, John Heiderscheidt, and Bruce Phelps. Also present for the meeting via Zoom were student Board member Olivia Howell, other administrators, and members of the public.

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

1. Comments from the Audience - Ms. Kerr

A. Public Comments

Kathie Doran stated that she would like to ask about school safety while wearing a mask, especially in the high school setting. Ms. Doran stated she had concerns with how U-46 would prevent any school shootings and how they would address additional safety concerns.

Jim Koeller stated that he is a teacher at Larkin High School. Mr. Koeller asked if teachers would be provided PPE such as masks, hand sanitizer, paper towels, Lysol spray and Clorox wipes. Mr. Koeller asked if there would be temperature checks upon arrival for students, and if as a PE teacher, he would need to wear a mask outside.

Mr. Sanders noted that these questions would likely be answered during the reopening presentation.

Ms. Kerr noted that questions regarding SROs would be addressed at the July 20, 2020 Board meeting. Ms. Kerr also stated that the governor has extended the emergency act allowing the Board of Education to hold virtual meetings, and that she determined that it was not practical or prudent to hold an in-person meeting due to the current pandemic.

Mr. Sanders stated that he was in attendance at the central office, and there were no members of the public who were in attendance in-person.

2. Special Work Session

A. Plan for Reopening for School Year 2020-2021

Mr. Sanders, Superintendent, Dr. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. King, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, Ms. Majstorovic, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools, and Mr. Heiderscheidt, Director of School Safety and Culture, discussed the Plan for Reopening for School Year 2020-2021 with the Board of Education.

Mr. Sanders stated that at this point, the administration does not have all of the answers regarding reopening as ISBE just released guidance on Phase 4 within the past week. Mr. Sanders stated that this presentation would address how things will move forward for the opening of school on August 12th. Mr. Sanders noted that we are still in the beginning stages of this pandemic, and the District is doing its best to develop plans, but that some things cannot be foreseen at this time.

Mr. Sanders stated that in late May, the District established a team of 2 board members and members of the administration to address reopening. The following areas are the focus moving forward:

Commitments to Community:

1. Health, Safety, Wellness (team lead by John Heiderscheidt)
2. Operational Flexibility (team lead by Dr. Jeff King)
3. Rigorous Instruction (team lead by Dr. Suzanne Johnson)
4. Connected Communication (team lead by Mary Fergus)

Other members of the team include Brian Lindholm and Bruce Phelps, who have been assisting with project and process management.

Guidance from state and local authorities continues to be reviewed as it comes forward. Guidance includes information received from the following:

- State of Illinois and Governor's Plans

- ISBE
- CDC
- IDPH
- U-46 Governmental Partners
- County health departments
- Kane County Regional Office of Education

Mr. Sanders stated that he has met with other peer school districts, has been a member of the IASA SWAT team, and will continue to have discussions with other local districts, county health departments, and the Kane County Regional Office of Education.

The Phase 4 overview includes:

- Appropriate use of PPE
- No more than 50 individuals in a confined space
- Social distancing
- Symptom check, or self-certifying symptom check
- Increase in cleaning/disinfection

Mr. Sanders noted that this guidance is from the State of Illinois, not U-46, and that masks will be the norm.

Dr. Johnson discussed instructional models. Instruction Models for the 2020-2021 school year will include:

- Online
- Hybrid
- Classroom

Dr. Johnson stated the District will likely be embarking on a hybrid model until it can get back to 100% in-person instruction. There will be alternating days of instruction, with prioritized groups participating in more face to face instruction time. Dr. Johnson stated that the following would be considered in this process:

Considerations:

- Health & Wellbeing of Students & Staff
- PPE Availability/Viability
- Physical Restrictions for Social Distancing
- Extracurricular Programming
- School-Day Schedule
- Professional Development
- Social Emotional Needs/Supports
- Cleaning Procedures
- Food Service, Transportation, Arrival/Dismissal Procedures
- Instructional Model Planning
- Additional

Ms. Majstorovic discussed the instructional model planning for the 2020-2021 school year, and stated administration is aware that there are many families with differing needs, and that administration will work to support all students. The instructional model planning includes:

- Consistency
- Flexibility
- Adjustments and Expectations

Ms. Majstorovic stated that school days schedule planning will be included for every model of instruction, while maximizing in-person instruction as much as possible.

Curriculum, instruction & assessments planning considerations for 2020-2021 include:

- Curriculum adjustments, modifications, & alignment due to gaps in learning from the 2019-20 school year
- Vertical Articulation
- Assessment
- Learning Management System (Canvas)

Dr. Johnson discussed professional development. Professional development will include:

- Different Instructional Models
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Equity and Social Justice
- Ongoing improvements of U-46

Dr. Johnson stated that an “Instructional Model Survey” for staff and households will be provided after tonight’s meeting.

Mr. Heiderscheidt discussed health, safety, and wellness. Health, safety and wellness considerations include:

- Overall Health and Safety
- Mental Health and Intellectual Well-being
- Vulnerable Populations - medical/health/age restrictions
- Special Education Needs and Services
- Grade Level Limitations and Structures
- Interruptions and Ongoing Adjustments
- Flexibility

Symptom checks will include:

- All self-certify they are not sick - employees, families, visitors
- Buying thermometers
- Signs for all doors
- Wearing masks
- Staying home if you are sick
- Shields for front offices and other locations

Social-emotional needs and supports considerations will include:

- Social-Emotional Curriculum, Instruction and Adjustments
- Targeted Emotional Supports
- Transition Supports for Return to School
- School Culture, Climate and Connections
- Equity and Social Justice
- Professional Development

Masks and social distancing practices will include:

- Wearing masks (From home, self-made, or supplied by U-46)
- Social Distancing
- Washing hands
- Managing resistance to these requirements
 - MTSS/PBIS, Tier I, II, III

Dr. King discussed cleaning procedures and considerations. These include:

- Modified Cleaning Processes
- Washrooms, Common Areas and Large Group Spaces
- Handwashing Stations being added where needed
- Each classroom will receive masks, gloves, sanitizer and wipes.
- Air Quality, Circulation and Climate Control
- Non-student/Non-staff Access to Buildings
- Costs, Responsiveness and Sustainability
- Process if positive case at site

Food service, transportation, arrival/dismissal considerations include:

- Food service - classroom or cafeteria or both
- Recess
- Student arrival/dismissal - restrict access and exit points
- Supervision
- Student pick up/drop off procedures - potential staggered start times by grade
- Number of students per bus

Dr. Johnson discussed extracurricular programming. Considerations include:

- Athletics – IHSA guidance
- Activities – online or hybrid model
- Before/After Care Programs and Clubs

Next Steps for reopening planning will include:

- Cross-Functional Committee Work: Administration, ETA, DUEA, DUSA, and Parent Representatives
- Operational Components of the school day
- Instructional Components of the school day
- Programming

Mr. Sanders stated that the survey will go out after tonight's meeting, and that updates on the results of the survey will be discussed at the July 20, 2020 Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Sanders stated that it is the goal of the entire state to get students back to 100% in-person instruction, but that we must practice patience in this process. Mr. Sanders stated that he was continuing to receive comments from the public via Zoom, and that those comments would be captured, but that the meeting is past the public comment portion. Mr. Sanders stated that “Let’s Talk” can be used as a tool for further questions.

Ms. Thommes asked if it would be the intention that all kids would be expected to do the same thing, or if there would be differentiation, even within individual families. Mr. Sanders stated that depending on grade level, and on what phase we are in at the time, administration will prioritize groups of students depending on their needs.

Ms. Noland asked if decisions will be communicated all at once, or by individual schools. Dr. Johnson stated administration will return with recommendations at the next Board meeting for the overall process, including site specific strategies that may be needed.

Ms. Owens asked if Illinois were to return to Stage 3, would the District depend on the state to issue guidance or the local health departments. Mr. Sanders stated that he is trying to arrange a meeting with the 3 different health departments to coordinate processes.

Ms. Owens asked if there would be a free form portion of the survey or should people relay comments through “Let’s Talk.” Dr. Johnson stated that there is a free form portion of the survey, and that administration would continue to monitor “Let’s Talk” as well.

Ms. Owens asked if the District has had any discussions with surrounding childcare facilities. Dr. King stated that the Boys and Girls Club has reached out and has offered their assistance.

Ms. Kerr asked if anything has come up regarding liability protections. Mr. Sanders stated that he has not seen any legislation advance that would provide additional liability protections for school districts at this time.

Ms. Owens asked if the decision to self-certify would be common in other school districts. Mr. Sanders stated that districts with far fewer students may purchase the technology to temperature check, but that is not a perfect solution. Mr. Sanders stated that stopping every student would be overly time consuming, and that most districts were leaning toward self-certifying at this time.

Mr. Sanders stated this presentation would be made available to the public on the District’s COVID website. Ms. Fergus stated a link to the presentation would also be sent to families along with the survey.

3. Discussion/Action

A. Resolution Authorizing the Emergency Suspension of Policies Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic - Re-Authorization of Resolution #2038

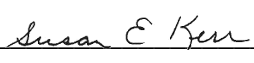
Administration recommended the adoption of this resolution.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Mr. Devereux, to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Emergency Suspension of Policies Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic – Re-Authorization of Resolution #2038 as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

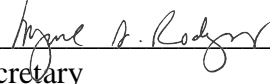
4. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Mr. Devereux, to adjourn the Special Board Meeting of June 29, 2020 at 8:07 p.m. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 20th day of July, 2020.



President



Secretary