

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

July 27, 2020

The video of the July 27, 2020 meeting can be found here:
[July 27, 2020, 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 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board members answered roll call: John Devereux, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Eva Porter Donna Smith, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr.

Present in-person for the business session were Superintendent Tony Sanders, Chief Legal Officer Miguel Rodriguez, and Board President Sue Kerr. The other Board members listed above 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, Dr. Teresa Lance, Lela Majstorovic, Dr. Ushma Shah, Mary Fergus, John Heiderscheidt, and Brian Lindholm. 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.

Ms. Kerr stated that Governor Pritzker issued Covid-19 Executive Order 45 (Executive Order 2020-48) which extends modifications to the Open Meetings Act through August 22, 2020 and permits public bodies to meet remotely through electronic means. Based on the current health concerns, Ms. Kerr determined that it was neither practical nor prudent to hold an in-person meeting of the Board of Education on July 27, 2020. Therefore, the Board meeting scheduled for July 27, 2020 was held remotely using a Zoom Webinar in compliance with the procedures set forth in Public Act 101-640 and Covid-19 Executive Order 45.

1. Update on 2020-2021 Re-Opening Plans

Mr. Sanders stated he would like to thank the Board and community for their patience, and that the District has received a lot of positive feedback on its re-opening plan, as well as some concerns. Mr. Sanders stated that the most frequently asked questions would be addressed in a short presentation.

Dr. Johnson stated that she would like to thank her colleagues for their ongoing work and the community for its engagement in this process. Dr. Johnson stated she will address the FAQ items and instructional models, and that administration is currently working on FAQs for departments, programs, and grade level specifics; site, grade level, and program differences; transition planning; metrics; and the timeline.

Dr. Johnson stated that safety remains the district's first priority. Questions on safety included the requirement of masks, abiding by social distancing guidelines, and considerations guiding the work for bringing students back for a hybrid model. Dr. Johnson stated that one main

question was why high school students would not be brought back for in-person instruction as soon as other grade levels. Dr. Johnson stated administration is working through the complexities of bringing back a large population - 2,800 students without counting staff, and that space varies greatly from building to building. Considerations that need to be included are: safe transitional periods, supervisory periods, and transition planning.

The District's current plan includes the following:

Distance learning for all students through the first quarter (October 22):

- All families/households should plan for Distance learning for the first 9 weeks of the academic year.
- If some groups of students are able to access and engage via in-person instruction or participate in site based events sooner, we will notify families/households with a minimum of two weeks notice.
- Potential groups of students to access in-person instruction or participate in site based events include: Early Learner students (PreK), English Learners and Dual Language students, Students with IEPs, Students identified via MTSS (All grade levels: Academic, social and emotional support), Freshmen, Program or Department based (Gifted, Academies, Visual and Performing Arts, Science, Career and Technical Education, and more)

Beginning in the second quarter (October 26):

- PreK - Move to a hybrid model of in-person and distance learning
- Elementary - Move to a hybrid model of in-person and distance learning (A/B Days)
- Middle School – Move to a hybrid model of in-person and distance learning (A/B/C Days)
- High School– Remain in distance learning (First Semester - will be re-evaluated during the semester)
 - Buildings accessible to small groups for CTE, labs, specialized courses of study, students needing interventions/supports

Distance Learning Academy

- Completely separate school with Administration and assigned Teachers
- Distance Learning Academy will operate as a completely virtual K-8 school with corresponding instructional and curriculum planning
- Attendance, Grading and Assessments will be required
- Distance Learning Academy for PreK is not currently an option - Developmentally appropriate, access to materials and resources, transferable instructional strategies are essential if providing this option.
- Families and staff will select and commit to this option for the First Semester. The Distance Learning Academy is still being planned but it is expected that their school day will align with school schedules as much as possible.

The Distance Learning Academy will be required to complete the same instructional hours each day as traditional schools (5 hours of instruction and 2 ½ hours of direct instruction). The staff teaching in the Distance Learning Academy will provide valuable opportunities and

information to assist in further developing traditional blended learning programming for the District.

- Focus on Core Academic Instructional Courses (ES should have access to Specials, Middle School will have fewer elective options and schedules will likely be revised).
- Students from across the district will be assigned to teachers from across the district (may not be assigned to a teacher from their home school).
- Additional information about the Virtual Academy / School will be finalized in early August.
- Parents/households have been asked to complete the survey by July 31
 - Complete the survey now to allow for appropriate planning and least amount of disruption
 - Asking for parent/household information to complete the planning and provide the details families/households are seeking

Instructional Model under Hybrid Learning

Middle School Instruction:

- Creates an opportunity for in-person instruction while balancing social distancing guidelines
- Creates opportunities to use hybrid learning for additional classroom instruction
- Facilitates the ability to quickly move to full remote learning if conditions require
- Target 15 or fewer students per class
- All plans allow teachers an opportunity to plan lessons, collaborate and connect with students and families

High School Distance Learning Considerations

- 8 Period Day
- Day A: synchronous instructional periods 1, 2, 5, 6
- Day B: synchronous instructional periods 3, 4, 7, 8
- 2 hours 40 minutes of direct instruction per day
- Office hours and support provided before, after and during the school day (asynchronous periods)
- SEL focus to begin the year

Changes to Calendar:

- Teachers Return - August 17, 2020
- Professional Development 8/17 to 8/21
- Students Remote Instruction Begins - August 24, 2020 Pre-school to start August 31
- Middle, High School Quarters adjusted to reflect new start date Q1: 8/24 - 10/22 Q2: 10/26 - 1/15 Q3: 1/19 - 3/26 Q4: 4/6 - 6/2
- Elementary Trimesters adjusted to reflect new start date T1: 8/24 - 11/13 T2: 11/16 - 2/26 T3: 3/1 - 6/2
- Professional Development, Remote Learning Planning days assigned throughout the year

- November 3 election day assigned as a holiday (no student attendance)

Extra-Curricular Activities and Events in Distance Learning

Practices/Connections:

- Instructional Videos, Online Activities, Flexible methods of delivery
- Individualized Student Growth Plan
 - Guide students through progress monitoring (setting goals, setting a timeline, assist in evaluation, student reflection-video or written)
 - Develop/identify activities to help students achieve their goals
- Cross-District Collaboration (students and planning) • Service/Advocacy Activities (as applicable/appropriate)
- Performances/Contests (as applicable/appropriate/available)
- Zoom meetings and practice sessions
- Synchronous learning activities for the activity or sport including group instruction, instructional videos, game or activity videos, etc.
- Assigning writing or recorded segments for publications, public speaking, or individual performances
- Having students log independent practice sessions/rehearsals
- Design individual learning/practice plans for all students - differentiated instruction to meet their goals
- Virtual community based projects

IHSA Athletics and Activities

- Continue participation in IHSA athletics and activities
- Prioritize safety and wellness of all students and staff
- Follow current guidance from ISBE, IHSA, IDPH and county health departments
- Flexible and responsive approaches

2. Comments from the Audience - Ms. Kerr

A. Public Comments

Charlotte Ward stated that in-person learning should be a choice for students.

Cheyenne Ward stated that students should have the option to attend school in-person.

Additional public comments were also submitted to board@u-46.org, and those comments can be found under “Enclosures” Agenda Item 9a on the July 27, 2020 Board Agenda.

3. Discussion/Action

A. COVID-19 Re-Opening Plan Approval Resolution

Administration recommended the Board of Education adopt the COVID-19 Re-Opening Plan Approval Resolution.

Ms. Owens, Ms. Thommes, Mrs. Porter, Mr. Devereux, and Ms. Kerr issued statements supporting the re-opening plan.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the COVID-19 Re-Opening Plan Approval Resolution 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.

B. Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar

Superintendent Sanders provided the Board of Education with an update on the proposed revised calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Mrs. Porter, to approve the Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar 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. Move to Closed Session

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 8:41 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Mrs. Porter. 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.

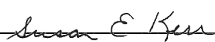
5. Move to Open Session

A motion was made at 9:00 p.m. by Ms. Noland, 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.

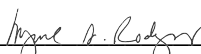
6. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland, to adjourn the Special Board Meeting of July 27, 2020 at 9:01 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 17th day of August, 2020.



President



Secretary