

Newton Community School Board of Education
Board Work Session
E.J.H. Beard Administration Center
ZOOM 925 7753 4975
October 26, 2020 – 5:30 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order – Board President Robyn Friedman convened the board to order at 5:31 PM

Roll Call – Christine Dawson, Recording Secretary

Present: Josh Cantu (Zoom), Donna Cook (Zoom), Robyn Friedman, Cody Muhs (Zoom), Travis Padget, Mark Thayer, Tom Messinger, Tim Bloom, and Christine Dawson

Absent: Graham Sullivan

Others Present: Jim Beerends, Jolene Comer, Jessica Ferguson, Jim Gilbert, Dave Kalkhoff, Trisca Mick, Bret Miller, Bill Peters, Todd Schuster, Laura Selover, Amy Shannon and Lisa Sharp

Present via Zoom (26 including): Cristy Croson, Brenda Hodnett, Lois Holmes, Rachelle Hyde, Katelyn Konfrst, Steph Langstraat, Paula Lureman, Jen Norvell, Deborah Rose, Eric VanderVelden and Tara Zehr

Iowa Code – Chapter 21 (Open Meetings Law) – *Chapter 21 states electronic meetings can be held only if meeting in person is impossible or impractical. The October 26, 2020 board work session was held electronically via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic.*

Consent Agenda – Robyn Friedman, Board President – **ACTION #11115**

Thayer moved, Padget seconded to unanimously approve the consent agenda. Ayes: All Nays: None Absent: Sullivan

Learning, Leadership, and District Business – Tom Messinger, Superintendent

Topic: Return to Learn Plan – Criteria for Evaluation

Superintendent Tom Messinger facilitated discussion between district administrators and the board regarding the Newton Community School District's Return to Learn Plan and our Criteria for Evaluation. Data from the Return to Learn Monitoring Plan was reviewed, along with a chart illustrating Mastery of Grade Level Standards (%) for Literacy, Math and Science for all grade levels, all students and subgroups. Data was also provided for students On Track to Graduate (%) (NHS & WEST) and Engagement (%) for all grade levels, all students and subgroups.

There was discussion regarding our Return to Learn Plan and any modifications to current learning models, by grade levels. Four options were presented for addressing future needs of on-site and remote learners, as well as teaching staff. Pros and Cons were discussed.

1. All students except those with a medical exemption return on-site, Monday – Friday. One designated teacher per grade level would have remote students only.
2. All students return on-site, Monday – Friday. We would not ask for medical exemption. Any family who chooses for their student to continue remote learning could do so. One designated teacher per grade level would have remote students only.
3. All students except those with medical exemption return on-site, Tuesday – Friday. Mondays would be retained as teacher prep days.
4. Status Quo: keep doing what we are doing

Data from the district's COVID-19 Dashboard was shared. There was some discussion regarding criteria for closure, with student attendance rates below 90% and Jasper County 14-day positivity rate above 15%.

A Virtual Town Hall Meeting will be held on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM. Any action on modifications to our Return to Learn plan would take place at the November 9, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

There was a time for questions and answers.

Adjourn – **ACTION #11116**

Padget moved, Muhs seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 6:25 PM. Ayes: All Nays: None Absent: Sullivan

Minutes Mailed

Approved by Action No. _____

President

_____, 2020

Secretary