

**Newton Community School Board of Education**  
Special Board Meeting  
E.J.H. Beard Administration Center  
ZOOM 820 2719 6511  
**July 6, 2020 – 6:30 PM**

## MINUTES

**Call to Order** – Board President Robyn Friedman convened the board to order at 6:30 PM

**Roll Call** – Robyn Friedman, President

**Present:** Josh Cantu (via Zoom), Donna Cook (via Zoom), Robyn Friedman (via Zoom), Cody Muhs (via Zoom), Travis Padget (via Zoom), Graham Sullivan (via Zoom), Mark Thayer, Superintendent Tom Messinger, Tim Bloom, and Christine Dawson **Others Present:** Jessica Ferguson, Sandy Scotton, Randy Van (KCOB) **Via Zoom** (65 participants, including): Chris Braunschweig (Newton Daily News)

**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 July 6, 2020 special board meeting was held electronically via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic, and the need to limit audience numbers (to <10) and to maintain 6' social distancing recommendations.*

**Consent Agenda** – Robyn Friedman, President – **ACTION #11034**

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

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

**Consider Return to Learn – Hybrid Model Calendar Details** – **ACTION #11035**

- **4 days/week** (onsite) and **1 day/week** (remote)
- **5 days/week** (onsite)

Superintendent Tom Messinger shared that subcommittees continue to work on the district's Return to Learn plan for the 2020 – 2021 school year. Messinger sought board input on a Hybrid Model Calendar – for 4 days/week (onsite) and 1 day/week (remote) OR 5 days/week (onsite). He shared how the district is working to meet the needs of our students in the Newton Community School District, under guidance from the Department of Education (DE), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and Jasper County Public Health. Messinger anticipates increased student engagement in the Fall 2020 with encouragement from the DE that students return to school onsite and with a change from the Spring 2020 that any remote learning offered is now required. He shared local survey results that tell at this time, 90% of our families would like their children to return to school onsite. The district is incorporating in its Return to Learn plan how to serve both onsite and fully remote learners. Messinger explained the rationale and proposed a 4 day/week (onsite) and 1 day/week (remote) Hybrid Model option for onsite learners. This will allow the Infrastructure subcommittee to proceed with an amended calendar proposal for the 2020 – 2021 school year at the July 13, 2020 board meeting. Messinger noted that the district needs to continue to support our teachers as instruction will be modified to engage students in both an onsite and remote setting. Messinger fielded a time of questions and answers from board members. He noted that if a 5 day/week (onsite) option was recommended, the only changes to the 2020 – 2021 school year calendar would be two professional development days (Nov and Jan) modified to become student instruction days. The district plans to evaluate the proposed hybrid model quarterly, aside from any other potential instructional model changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sullivan moved, Cantu seconded to recommend a Hybrid Model Calendar for the 2020 – 2021 school year, with 4 days/week (onsite) and 1 day/week (remote). Ayes: Cantu, Cook, Friedman, Muhs, Padget, Sullivan Nays: Thayer

### Timeline for Return to Learn Plan

Superintendent Tom Messinger shared the district's Timeline for Return to Learn Plan for the 2020 – 2021 school year. The timeline includes meeting schedules for **CO5 Meetings** (Central Office Administration); **Cabinet Meetings** (Central Office Administration & Principals); **Return to Learn Subcommittees** (Academic Standards, Equity, Health & Safety, Infrastructure, and Social Emotional Behavioral Health), **Board Meetings**, preliminary **Back to School** events, and planned **communications**.

Messinger encouraged board members to submit any concerns to him in advance of the July 13, 2020 board meeting so any issues could be addressed.

**Adjourn** – **ACTION #11036**

Sullivan moved, Cook seconded to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 7:59 PM.

Minutes Mailed  
Approved by Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

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President  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2020

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Secretary