

## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, JULY 21, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Education, School District 123, Cook County, Illinois, convened at 6:02 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Members Present: Peter DeRousse, Jackie Lichter, Julie Misner, Jay Lurquin, Theresa Roche and Brian Nichols.

Members Absent: Jennifer Fortier

Administrators Present: Dr. Enderle, Dr. Gavin, Dr. Loftin, Dr. Macchia, Mrs. Riha, Mrs. Goetz and Mr. Cassidy

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Ms. Roche read the Mission Statement.

### Public Comment

President Nichols stated that citizen comments were allowed to address the Board. Public comment would be limited to 30 minutes with each person being limited to five minutes. Due to the format of the meeting, comments could be submitted online.

- Heather McMacken, Hometown parent, expressed concerns regarding the proposed split school plan.
- Elaine Barlos, Kolmar community member, expressed relief at not starting the school year with full classrooms but staggering students.
- Andy Webber and Elaine Bernal, co-presidents of the Teachers' Union, thanked everyone for their feedback and hard work. They stated the union is working with the administration to ensure safety is in the forefront of the return to school plan. They are confident the plan will work with transparency and communication.

### Discussion I:

#### District 123 Return to School Plan

Dr. Enderle stated that the Return to School plan is a comprehensive plan based on feedback and input from all stakeholders. Dr. Enderle reviewed the ISBE guidance and the results of the family survey as well as the results of the staff survey.

The Return to School Plan has five main considerations:

1. Health and Safety Protocols
2. Enhanced Sanitation
3. Instructional Recommendations
4. Illness and Diagnosis Monitoring
5. Social and Emotional Health

Health and Safety Protocols include hand hygiene, face coverings, social distancing procedures and intensified cleaning and disinfections. Hand washing times will be scheduled into the school day. Face coverings will be required indoors for anyone inside the school. Class sizes are reduced to approximately 15. All students and staff will have to self-certify. Parents will sign off on the student certification. Parents will accompany

## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, JULY 21, 2020

student to the bus stop. Temperature checks will be done at the doors of the school. There will be a strict limit on non-essential visitors in the schools. Every visitor will complete a verification log. There will be no borrowing or sharing of items. Lockers will not be used this year and all shared equipment will be disinfected regularly. All staff will be required to complete Covid 19 Pandemic Preparedness trainings.

Enhanced Sanitation plans were reviewed by Leo Cassidy. The custodial staff were reviewed and it was determined more staff is needed during the day. Current staff will be shifted and work responsibilities will be redesigned for each shift. Buildings and classrooms will be sanitized and shut down for twelve hours each night. A meeting has been scheduled with the HVAC partners to see how to increase the outdoor airflow within the buildings. Air filters will be changed more frequently and the district will be moving to a higher level of filter. Social distance signage has been ordered and PPE bulk orders have been placed. It was confirmed that new staff will not be hired but current staff will be redistributed. It was noted that the district will work with the HVAC partners to ensure the appropriate outdoor airflow during cold weather so equipment is not damaged. It was confirmed that at the elementary level, student will remain in their own classroom the majority of the day. Desks will be disinfected throughout the day on a schedule given by the principal. At the middle school, students will also help with disinfecting their desks before they leave a classroom. Sanitation trainings have been prepared by the chemical vendors.

Instructional recommendations were presented by Dr. Kathy Gavin, Dr. Joseph Macchia, Cynthia Riha and Angela Goetz. The district has decided that the safest option is to offer 100% remote learning or an alternate hybrid option. The plan is for the first twelve weeks. A review will be done at approximately week 7 to determine the plan for the rest of the year. Expectations for both options will be the same. The hybrid model will be an A/B rotation based on last names. A-L are in the school buildings on Tuesdays/Thursday. M-Z are in the school buildings on Wednesdays/Fridays. Mondays will be alternating. Work days at home will be self-paced. Children will be kept in cohort groups to minimize movement. The full remote option will not be the same as the spring. Grade level "hybrid learning" activities will be remotely delivered live and/or on recorded sessions. There will be expanded daily teacher presence through Google Meet. Teachers will provide a schedule for synchronous video instruction and student conferencing. There will be live class meetings, live and recorded district instruction, small group discussions, individual and group projects. Mrs. Riha stated that special education students will have the option to participate in remote learning or hybrid learning. Self-contained special education students also have the option to attend school five days per week with existing classes due to small class sizes. Nurses will contact families of students who are medically fragile to ensure medications are up to date and see if there are any changes or special considerations. There will be more training this year and creative solutions. Early Childhood will have five days per week classes or remote options. There will be no remote learning for the Tuition

## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, JULY 21, 2020

Preschool program. The 2 year 9-month program will be cancelled for this year in order to cut class sizes for the tuition preschool. Guidance for blended classrooms was just released and is currently being reviewed. The EL program is still in the process of what the plan will look like. They are looking at transparent face masks, smaller groupings and developing videos for students. A list of medically fragile staff is being compiled with doctor's notes to determine the best plan. Some staff may need to be reassigned contingent on final numbers. Training opportunities will be made available. It was confirmed that middle school teachers will be exposed to a greater number of students even with smaller class sizes. It was confirmed that there will be expectations of set teacher involvement and daily live sessions. It was suggested that transparent face masks be offered to all lower grade teachers. Attendance will be tracked through check in/check out system accompanied by a product based strategy. The district is going to be firm with the A-L/M-Z system but will take into consideration households with different last names and special circumstances. It was confirmed that open house will not be in-person this year.

Illness and Diagnosis Monitoring was discussed. Contract tracing will include the IDHP. Nurses will collect symptom reports regarding student absences. Students must be fever free for 72 hours prior to returning to school. If a student is suspected of being exposed to covid, 10 days must pass after symptoms appear before they can return to school. School closure is not recommended due to a positive covid patient. Staff who have been exposed will be required to quarantine and can work from home if physically able.

Social and Emotional Health was reviewed by Dr. Enderle. Considerations will be given regarding the impact that covid has had on student and staff. There is a new social emotional learning curriculum this year.

Dr. Enderle reviewed the next steps. Parents will have until August 3<sup>rd</sup> to decide between remote learning and hybrid learning. Staff will be refined at that point. It was confirmed that this will be a year like we've never had.

Board Comments:

Theresa Roche thanked everyone for their commitment, dedication and hard work.

Brian Nichols commented on the incredible amount of effort from everyone involved. It has been very heartening to see this plan come together. Mr. Nichols thanked everyone involved.

Peter DeRousse stated that this has been quite an impressive project. It is flexible but with health at the focus.

Julie Misner stated she was overwhelmed with all the information. She is grateful to everyone for their part in the planning.

Adjourned – 9:12 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on August 24, 2020 at the Oak Lawn

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, JULY 21, 2020

Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

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Secretary

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President

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