

**Hesperia Community Schools
Board of Education
August 24, 2020
Special Meeting**

The Special Meeting was called to order by Mary Sturtevant, Board President at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center. Public participated through virtual forum

All present took the pledge.

Board Members Present: Kraus, Wenberg, Burrell, Allen, Good, Sturtevant, Daniels
Board Members Absent: None

District Update

Mr. Vaughn White presented the following information

- The state just released federal Cares act funding in the amount of \$65,000,000 dollars. The districts estimated amount for these funds is \$68,500. The used of the funds is broad but must be Covid-19 related. It can be used for such things as, Devices, and technology to improve remote learning, student health, learning loss, teacher training. The district is thankful for any additional aid we can get.
- The revenue estimating conference, went well and the state budget is projected to be better than expected.
- Panther Virtual enrollment has continued with the deadline of August 21st. We currently have 192 applicants, and 116 signed contracts. This is approximately 21 percent of our enrollment going virtual. We continue to help families with this tough decision and are accepting applications on a case by case basis.
- Recent legislation has been passed that guides district in the current year's expectations. The district must define educational goals, define measurable benchmarks, and approve amended return to learning plans every 30 days. We will assemble a team of faculty to help establish these goals, and benchmarks.

Board Discussion

The board discussed in-depth the consideration of amending the return to learning plan to a hybrid model.

Public Comment

Summer (Last name was not captured due to connectivity issues), district parent, commented that she had three students enrolled in elementary and did not feel that there was a lot of flexibility with the online learning option.

Juliett Davis addressed the board by first thanking them and the administration for their time and efforts responding to student's needs during the pandemic. She also wanted the board to know that she had concerns about social distancing in the classroom. She felt that a hybrid model would be better for social distancing at the elementary level and the model would also allow for more mask breaks for the students. She doesn't feel that safety has been a major concern during the planning process.

Also suggested that each teacher be given a thermometer, to scan students.

Krista Aslaskan, parent wanted to discuss offering band as an option for virtual learners.

Jen Stookey, teacher stated that she, has a lot of concerns about returning to the classroom. She feels her number one job is to keep her students safe. She is concerned that students will be exposing each other. She was instructed that she cannot mandate her students to wear masks in her classroom.

Bryan Mey responded to this comment stating that it would go against the approved language in the back to school policy. Also, all of the ISD has approved similar language, to ensure equitability between districts.

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Public Comment continued...

Mark Kraus asked if she would be okay teaching 5 days per week with masks. Jen stated that she feels a hybrid would be where she would feel most comfortable.

Al Daniels commented, on Jen's statement about not mandating students to wear masks, he believed we had come to the agreement that the criteria for when to wear masks would be more stringent at the elementary level.

Mark Kraus referenced prior meeting discussions, and said that the agreement had been if the students were in close proximity to one another such as during group work, or close to the teacher they will wear their masks. Also stating that whatever the decision is that it is consistent in every classroom in the elementary.

Melissa Hasty, district parent. Started by addressing the board, and pleading with them to respond to her about why they are not considering remote learning to start the school year. She stated as adults we cannot even come together legally for meeting, why should we require our students to on a daily basis. She also asked why the district was not using the additional \$68,000 received to provide remote learning.

Darcy Witte, parent brought personal experience. She stated she has 2 middle school students who are not self-motivated. She suggests resurveying the staff about how they feel about returning to school. She feels her students would better benefit from a hybrid model of learning. She is hoping for more input and communication from parents in the district.

Monica Grimard, teacher stated she feels the safest way to teach right now would be in a hybrid model. She could spend more one on one time with students and provide them with better quality education.

Al Daniels stated he would like administration to take into consideration all staff opinions.

Bryan Mey replied, that everyone had a chance to be heard during the return to learning, planning process.

Mary Sturtevant also replied to public commenters saying she feels that we need to consider a hybrid.

Ryan Good states that if we do things properly we can go back safely. He believes we owe it to our kids to try it.

Scott Wenberg states that he feels comfortable with the current model the board has approved, but will entertain a hybrid if we truly have a belief a better education will result from the change.

Julie Burrell also stated that she would feel more comfortable with a hybrid model, and has currently enrolled her students in remote learning.

The final concusses of the board as summarized by Scott Wenberg was that at this time the board does not feel we could put together a successful hybrid model in time for our current back to school date, and that the time line would be too short for parents to make the appropriate accommodations for their students. Also decided was that there would be no further meetings called to discuss changing the learning plan until after school had started.

Ryan and Julie volunteered to be a part of the back to school committee.

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Adjournment

Motion by Wenberg, supported by Allen to adjourn to closed session with not action anticipated.
Discussion none. Roll Call Vote: Good, Aye; Allen, Aye; Daniels, Aye; Wenberg, Aye; Sturtevant, Aye;
Burrell, Ayes; Kraus, Aye.
Meeting adjourned into closed session with not action anticipated at 8:53 p.m.

Michelle Allen, Secretary

Mary Sturtevant, Board President