

Minutes
Clark County School District
Special Meeting of the Board of School Trustees

TELECONFERENCE ONLY

Monday, July 6, 2020

4:07 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Lola Brooks, President
Linda P. Cavazos, Vice President
Danielle Ford, Clerk
Irene Cepeda, Member
Chris Garvey, Member
Deanna L. Wright, Member
Linda E. Young, Member

Jesus F. Jara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Mary-Anne Miller, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Eleissa Lavelle, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Dr. Brenda Larsen-Mitchell, Deputy Superintendent, Office of the Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Mike Barton, Chief College, Career, Equity and School Choice Officer, College, Career, Equity and School Choice Unit; Nadine Jones, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Division; Dr. Karla Loria, Chief Academic Officer, Academic Unit; Jeff Wagner, Chief of Facilities, Facilities Services Unit; Mike Casey, Chief Operating Officer, Operational Services Unit; Dr. Dustin Mancl, Region Superintendent, Region 1; Yvette Wintermute, Director/Chief Nurse, Health Services, Academic Unit; Ignacio Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent, English Language Learner Division, Academic Unit; Deanna Jaskolski, Associate Superintendent, Student Services Division, Academic Unit; and Cindy Krohn, Director, Board Office.

Adoption of the Agenda

Adopt agenda, except note additional reference material provided for Item 3.01.

Motion: Wright Second: Young Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Mrs. Krohn provided a summary of the written comments submitted as follows:

Over 300 written public comments were received on Item 3.01, Proposed Reopening Schools Plan.

Public Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items (continued)

Many comments supported returning to a five-day school week; several expressed interest in total online learning but want to know more details; and several expressed concerns with child care on days when children are not in school, employee safety, wearing masks, special education services and the plan for students, remote learning for English Language Learner (ELL) students, all students having access to technology for distance learning, additional sick leave for employees if they are sent home, and academics including Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses.

Several writers included suggestions such as not opening schools until the end of the year or until a vaccine is developed, employ double sessions or half days, go distance learning only, create back-to-school videos with Covid-19 in mind for students and parents to watch prior to the start of school, and attend school only two days per week.

Several emails were received from staff with the following questions:

Who will clean classrooms after student meals and in between classes?

What will a teacher's day look like?

Who will assist students with technical issues?

Will school staff have to take the Covid-19 test before they are allowed on school grounds?

What will prekindergarten look like?

What happens if a staff member or student tests positive for Coronavirus?

What happens if there are not enough substitute teachers available if several teachers are out sick at one single school?

Some expressed concerns that custodians will not have enough time to do all of the required cleaning, and some also had concerns with the mental health and well-being of students and staff.

All written comments received have been placed on BoardDocs® and can be viewed in their entirety.

Proposed Reopening Schools Plan

Discussion on the Clark County School District's Proposed Reopening Schools Plan.

Dr. Larsen-Mitchell, Mr. Ruiz, Ms. Jaskolski, Dr. Barton, Ms. Jones, Dr. Loria, Ms. Wintermute, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Casey presented the proposed reopening schools plan as shown in Reference 3.01.

There was discussion regarding potential consequences for not approving a plan within the timeline and what the plan must include; whether reopening options for special education students specifically were considered, as well as other options that were not presented; autonomy for schools to make decisions about their schedule or cohort model; teacher schedules and workload; technology access for students without home Wi-Fi; protocol for positive Covid-19 test result on campus.

Proposed Reopening Schools Plan (continued)

Discussion continued around the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and how that relates to a teacher's choice to teach in the classroom or online; options for band, choir, and sports; childcare options for teachers; safety protocols for students and staff and interactions between students; cleaning processes; access to meals for students when they are not on campus; school counselors', social workers', and psychologists' interactions with students and their safety; the need to clearly define Cohort C and to express that families will have the support they need; the difference between Cohort C and pivoting to a complete distance education plan; the possibility of temperature checks; professional development for staff on Wednesday; procedures for drop-offs and pickups and staggered dismissals; consequences if safety guidelines are not followed by students; how the reopening plan would affect prekindergarten students; concerns regarding the workload for AP and dual credit courses; ensuring only the correct students are on campus on the correct days for their chosen cohort; supports and opportunities for the high-needs, most vulnerable, medically fragile students; addressing the need for substitute teachers; plans for students with medical conditions that prevent them from wearing a face mask; the possibility of teachers working remotely on Wednesday; following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines as it relates to the health and safety of students and employees, including screening for Covid-19 symptoms and/or exposure; the possibility of students keeping the teacher they had previously for stability and continuity; breaks for teachers and snack time for students; small group instruction; standardized testing and staff evaluations; involvement of principals in the reopening plan; funding needed for this learning model; who would determine which employees would be given the option of working remotely or working with accommodations because of health concerns or because they are caring for someone with health issues; plans for rural schools.

Trustee Garvey asked that information related to sports and extracurricular activities be placed on the CCSD website where families can view it.

Trustee Cepeda requested that sample schedules for teachers and staff be provided at the next meeting.

Trustee Garvey asked that the Board be kept informed of the discussions with families and healthcare providers to provide supports and opportunities for medically fragile students. She suggested that information related to how the budget deficit forecast released by the governor would impact the District should be provided at the July 9, 2020, Board meeting.

Trustee Ford said much of the details of the reopening plan are missing and have not been figured out, and she would not feel comfortable approving a plan without those answers. She said she would need to see a simulation of an actual school day, taking real numbers into account.

Proposed Reopening Schools Plan (continued)

Trustee Garvey suggested that the survey asking which cohort families would choose should also include a question of whether a family would be choosing to homeschool their child. She asked that the financial impact of that possibility also be provided to the Board.

Trustee Brooks suggested that the survey also include the question of whether the family has Wi-Fi access. She said families that choose Cohort C should be prioritized to ensure they have the access to technology before school starts.

Adjourn: 8:28 p.m.

Motion: Ford Second: Cavazos Vote: Unanimous