

JOHNSON CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 20, 2020
6:00 p.m.
Weis Center

President Richard Wrench called the meeting to order.

Board Members Present: Duane Draeger, Heidi Hartz, Ken Johnson, June Kolaske, Janelle Kwarcianny, Mark Siewert, and Richard Wrench

Also present: Superintendent Michael Garvey, Principal Neil O'Connell, Principal Melissa Enger, Special Education Director Stacy Pustina, Dean of Students/Activities Director/Recreation Director Chad Hayes, Food Service Director Cassidy Wright, Raven Wilson, Erin Edington-Zabel, Kristen Chowanec, Megan Strobusch, Victoria Toebe, Nicholas Zbichorski, Nancy Doherty, Kyle Morris, Kayla Potts, Stacci Barganz, Scott Heth, Ray Lauersdorf, Lyssa Lauersdorf, Lyndsi Braunschweig, Dave Poltrock, Mike Saindon, John Swisher, Timmy Harrold, Mike Harrold, Jake Johnson, and Diane Schuh

Dr. Garvey verified that the meeting was properly posted pursuant to § 19.84(1) Wis. Statutes.

Motion by Draeger/Hartz to adopt the agenda as posted. Motion Carried.

Community Viewpoint

Mrs. Barganz requested that the District provide virtual learning with the opportunity to meet in person one day a week.

Mike Saindon shared Covid statistics and pleaded with the Board and Administrators to hold in person classes in the fall.

John Swisher thank the Board and Administrators for their hard work on the reopening plan and recognized the daunting task.

Communications

Administrative Report

Dr. Garvey thanked Mr. O'Connell and the rest of the team that put together a meaningful in-person graduation ceremony for the class of 2020. He also thanked Mrs. Pustina for getting staff contracted and scheduled to provide speech/OT/PT this summer to supplement what was provided virtually this spring, but needed in-person work. Those services started this week.

Kassidy Wright thanked the Board and Dr. Garvey for their support. Mrs. Wright shared her annual report about the food service program recognizing that the program is entering its third and final year of the grant from the Greater Watertown Area Hospital Foundation. She indicated that the spring was busy during the Covid shut down but that she and her staff are prepared to hit the ground running if there is another extended school closure.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Wrensch complimented and thanked Mrs. Wright for the fantastic work she and her team did and continues to do.

Mrs. Hartz was complementary of the graduation ceremony indicating that she had heard compliments from families.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mrs. Wright for her and her team’s work. He also complimented those involved in graduation.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports due to the fact that all of the action items are on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Draeger/Hartz to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of June 15, 2020. Motion Carried.

Business Affairs/Treasurer’s Report

Motion by Kolaske/Hartz to approve Accounts Payable checks 236856-237023 in the amount of \$1,275,383.75, no wire transfers, Payroll check 15439-15440 in the amount of \$2,174.83, and Payroll ETF transaction 900944360-900944838 in the amount of \$627,673.37.

Roll Call vote: Draeger (Y), Hartz (Y), Johnson (Y), Kolaske (Y), Kwarciany (Y), Siewert (Y), and Wrensch (Y).

Yes – 7 No – 0 Absent – 0 Motion Carried

Motion by Johnson Hartz to adjust the 2019-20 budget to reflect the revenue and expenditures and the Board's actions throughout the year.

Roll Call vote: Draeger (Y), Hartz (Y), Johnson (Y), Kolaske (Y), Kwarciany (Y), Siewert (Y), and Wrensch (Y).

Yes – 7 No – 0 Absent – 0 Motion Carried

Motion by Finance Committee/ Kwarciany to accept the 2020-21 bids for Bakery from Pan-O-Gold Baking Co., for Milk from Mapleton Dairy Haulers, Inc./Kemps Dairy, LLC, for Towel from ALSCO, and for Trash from Advanced Disposal Services Inc.

Roll Call vote: Draeger (Y), Hartz (Y), Johnson (Y), Kolaske (Y), Kwarciany (Y), Siewert (Y), and Wrensch (Y).

Yes – 7

No – 0

Absent – 0

Motion Carried

Fall Reopening Plans

Dr. Garvey presented the following reopening plan. The final version will be distributed to families at the end of July.

His comments:

“I wish to first thank our staff, students, and parents for the tremendous work they did during the spring school closure ordered by the state of Wisconsin.

While some of our colleagues stopped teaching all together or made attendance optional mainly because of lack of technology; while some taught virtually but did not present any new content; while most graded on a pass/fail basis and did not recognize the hard work students had done prior to the closure.... our staff, students and parents stepped it up and continued educating our students. Instead of doing just what was required, we did what was right....because we could.

Immediately following the March closure order was made, we as an administrative team began work on a reopening plan. Of course we thought the closure would allow reopening later in the spring but that did not happen. Our plans have changed every couple of weeks (and sometimes more often) as we have seen the science, the politics, and the economics ebb and flow.

We have worked with the other schools (public and private) in developing opening plans which are based on 8 guiding principles which I would like to share with you:

Jefferson County Schools: Guiding Principles for Reopening Fall 2020

- 1. We support the American Academy of Pediatrics Statement as one of the guiding principles of our School Reopening Plan. “Schools provide more than just academics to children and adolescents. In addition to reading, writing and math, children learn social and emotional skills, get exercise and access to mental health support and other things that cannot be provided with online learning. For many families, school is where kids get healthy meals, access to the internet, and other vital services.”*
- 2. Student, staff, and family safety are a very high priority. Plans will reflect guidance from the Department of Public Instruction, CDC, and American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as state and local health departments.*
- 3. Plans will reflect a preference for full-day, face-to-face classroom learning and focus on creating conditions to reopen schools as safely as possible. However, knowing the trajectory of COVID-19 outbreak is changing weekly, we are planning for multiple school opening scenarios.*
- 4. To allow the return of all students, face coverings will be required for all staff and students whenever benefits outweigh harm. Individual concerns will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, i.e., young learners, medically fragile students, students with Individual Education Programs (IEPs), or when recommended social distancing cannot be achieved, etc. Face Coverings allow us to provide more students bussing services, reduce constraints on class size, allow for face-to-face instruction 5 days per week, reduce the need to plan for daily entering and exiting the*

buildings plans, reduce the needs for staggered starts, and address other social/physical distancing challenges.

5. *We support the screening of all students and staff participating in the school setting. The procedures for this screening may be conducted at school or at home as determined by each district/private school.*
6. *Instructional models may include blended and virtual options for students in the event that we cannot safely provide full-day, face-to-face classroom learning for our students or if schools are forced to close for an extended period of time.*
7. *Individual athletic programs will be addressed in consultation with the WIAA and the local health departments following CDC, Wisconsin Health Department, local health departments, and other athletic organization guidelines.*
8. *Our district/school will confidentially assist the Health Department and encourages families to assist in contact tracing to allow schools to address any potential outbreaks to make informed decisions regarding our ability to safely keep schools open.*

Johnson Creek Reopening Plan

Follow the Jefferson County School Reopening Principles and the Goals of the DPI's Education Forward:

Method of delivery:

Johnson Creek will return to school as scheduled providing face-to-face instruction 5 days a week.

On a case by case basis, as we deal with cases during all school years, some students will need accommodations. Virtual instruction may be needed. Some homebound instruction may be needed in the case of health vulnerable students, per their IEP's. These are exceptions requiring administrative approval.

Safety and Sanitation:

- *Face coverings will be required by all staff and students. This will allow for regular passing periods, closer contact in the classrooms, group work, etc.*
- *Face shields will be provided to staff.*
- *Teachers will disinfect during passing periods. Including wiping down desks/tables between classes.*
- *Each evening, all rooms will be disinfected using special equipment.*
- *We will increase the amount of hand washing and use of hand sanitizer.*
- *Staff will monitor the number of restroom users at a time and encourage social distancing. Social distancing will be improved in the classrooms by rearranging the classroom set-up. Face coverings will also assist with this as will frequent disinfecting of the restrooms during the day.*
- *Staff were surveyed as to any additional instructional and equipment needs (more safety glasses in shops and labs, supply lists w/o communal items, etc.)*
- *Barriers for high traffic areas (mainly the offices desks) are being determined.*

Flexible Scheduling

- *During re-opening, there will be no all schools assemblies.*
- *With face coverings, other schedules should be allowed.*

Staffing

- *Staff will be expected to work under the terms of their contract and the employee manual. Accumulated leave may be used as described in the manual. Staff may also qualify for FMLA or FFCRA leave depending on their individual situation. We will review that with staff.*
- *Administrators are developing contingencies for staff that test positive or are required to quarantine. They are also developing contingencies for situations where staff refuse to report.*

Visitors—Very Simply...No visitors allowed

- *No community mentors until further notice.*
- *No parents or community members joining students at lunch.*
- *Limited class speakers.*
- *Parents who are dropping off items for students will be asked to leave them and a secretary will collect the items after the parent leaves. A bin will be provided outside the “inside doors”.*

Field Trips

- *No field trips will be approved until further notice.*

Transportation

- *Transportation will be available as usual.*
- *Face coverings will be required by drivers and riders.*
- *Students will have assigned seats on all buses*

Closures

(When we are closed either by our choice, the County, or the state)

- *We have been assured by Jefferson County that they will share with us the recommended percent of related absences at which we should close schools. This will be a soft number because as a District we may have other Covid-19 related absences (not positive cases, just families keeping students home) which may affect operations.*
- *Additional professional development in August will be provided to staff, so that ALL teachers and instructional staff are prepared for ANY closure.*
- *Devices will be assigned to each student (K-12) all year with the ability to take home if we close.*
 - *Elementary students will all be assigned devices - this will make checkout much easier in the event of a shutdown.*
 - *MS/HS students already are assigned devices.*

Athletics

- *Transportation will continue to be provided by Go-Riteway. Drivers and riders (coaches and athletes) will wear face coverings while on the bus.*

- *Summer contact (we reviewed the WIAA recommendations and chose the “moderate COVID level” from their recommendations—this contact will be done by August 8.).*
- *Fall Sports (we are reviewing the WIAA recommendations and will have things in place by August 1st—this apparently is still in flux. The WIAA Board of Control is meeting again this week to look at yet another option.).*
- *After school - Students will be expected to leave the school buildings at the end of the day unless they are participating in an extracurricular activity or have a scheduled appointment with a teacher.*

Food Service

- *Not a great deal changes in the kitchen.*
- *Lunch periods may need to spread out depending upon the cleaning/disinfection process.*
- *Face shields for food service staff on the lines and at register.*
- *Students will carry ID cards with them for MS/HS and elementary students will be given ID cards in the lunch line and collected after they are scanned. This replaces the students punching in their numbers.*

Other Helpful Items

- *Our District has contracted for a part time nurse to address student needs. However, the nurse will be extremely helpful in handling Covid issues and the reporting to the county as well.*
- *We have purchased special disinfecting equipment that can disinfect a classroom quite successfully in a matter of minutes.*

Recently, I have been asked what happens if a student or staff member shows symptoms of Covid or tests positive?

The process is simple....

1. *If the student or staff member are in the building they will be asked to leave immediately.*
2. *We are required by state law to report the person’s name to the County Health Department.*
3. *We also are asked to provide the names of all students and staff that may have come into contact with the student or staff member.*
4. *The County Health Department will begin the process of determining those students/staff members who may have been exposed. They will contact each person on our “possible contact list” and interview them or the parent.*

Let’s take closer look at that:

Exposure occurs, not by a chance meeting, not just being in the same room, on the same bus etc. Exposure occurs after 15 minutes of conversation less than 6 feet apart. Now, of course kissing someone with Covid, drinking from the same glass, etc could also be exposure.

5. *The County will help each person or family determine if exposure occurred and if quarantine is advised. They will not necessarily recommend testing. We will encourage parents to participate in the contact tracing.*

6. *A positive test result or a person showing symptoms does not mean schools will close. It does not mean that every bus rider or classmate must quarantine. The quarantine is saved for those determined to be exposed, those showing symptoms and those testing positive.*
7. *Three people can close schools.*
 - *Health and Human Services Secretary Appointee Palm*
 - *Jefferson County Health Department*
 - *The Local School Superintendent*
 - *Just as we did for norovirus last fall, we most likely will be put in a position to make the determination with the assistance of Jefferson County. There is a push from the state's teacher's union requesting that Governor Evers moves all schools to a virtual format. However, as I understand the law, the governor's power may be limited in this regard. He has some discretion but is limited without the legislature being on board.*

So let's recap.....

- *All people in the building will be required to wear face coverings. There will be "mask breaks" when social distancing can be attained.*
- *Parents will be responsible for screening their children at home (symptoms, temp checks etc.) This screening information will not be recorded by the school. We ask that you please do not send a sick child to school.*
- *We will increase our disinfecting and use of hand sanitizer.*
- *There will be no visitors to the buildings while school is in session—this includes parents.*
- *After school - Students will be expected to leave the school buildings at the end of the day unless they are participating in an extracurricular activity or have a scheduled appointment with a teacher.*
- *Students riding a bus must wear a face covering and seats will be assigned.*

Parents, staff and students will receive the re-opening plans by July 31st as promised earlier this summer. This version will contain the most updated plan we have at the time. I again wish to thank my entire administrative team for all of the work that they have put in to develop this plan.

Mrs. Kolaske asked Dr. Garvey why the school will not be taking temperatures of the staff and students.

He replied:

- that the legal advice is to only do so if it can be done with fidelity.
- that Fort Health and Jefferson County both recommend that the screening be done at home by parents.
- That the DPI health experts although they recommend it, admit that parents will catch on and dose their students with Tylenol before sending them to school, refuse to pick them up, etc.
- Only a percentage of positive Covid patients get a fever.
- Staffing and logistics.

Mrs. Kolaske asked him again to consider doing temperature checks stating that she is the one at her place of work that takes the temps. She also asked for him to present the plan to all parents at once on the football field and to give each 2 minutes to speak about the plan.

Mr. Siewert asked Dr. Garvey to make sure that the private school students are aware that masks will be required on the buses.

Several questions were asked about options that staff have concerning leaves available during the reopening. Dr. Garvey indicated that there have been no changes to the employee handbook. The Personnel Committee will look into any possible changes needed to be made.

Personnel

Resignation & Hiring

Motion by Hartz/ Kwarciany to accept resignations from Middle School Special Education Teacher Jessica Barczak and Guidance Counselor Meredith Zander and to hire Middle School Special Education Teacher Christopher Schick, Alternative School Paraprofessional Rachel Murphy, and Guidance Counselor Amy Sarnow. Motion Carried.

Extracurricular Contracts

Motion by Siewert/Draeger to approve the Extracurricular contracts as presented. Motion Carried.

Sites

Wuestenberg Fields

Dr. Garvey reported that the dugout walls are in and expects all of the concrete work to be done this week. The painter will begin soon. Wondra will be handling the waterlines and fine grading. A&A will do the landscaping.

Concessions and Team Meeting Building

Painting is just about complete as is the rough plumbing and wiring. The ceilings will go in very soon and then the roof.

Other Sites Projects

Mr. Fischer and Dr. Garvey will be meeting with WE Energies to run gas to the maintenance shed and greenhouse. This is a new plan which will be less expensive and safer than including the run from the school building.

The window treatment project has been completed. All entrances in the MS/HS have been treated to avoid shattering if hit or shot at.

Elementary Addition (referendum approved project)

The state plan review was on Friday. We now wait for the full permits. The current work is being done under a fast start permit and the project cannot come out of the ground until the full permit is approved.

Motion by Siewert/Malweg to conduct a closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. §19.85(1)(c) to review the District Administrator's Annual Evaluation and to review teacher promotion recommendations.

Roll Call vote: Draeger (Y), Hartz (Y), Johnson (Y), Kolaske (Y), Kwarciany (Y), Siewert (Y), and Wrench (Y).

Yes – 7

No – 0

Absent – 0

Motion Carried

The Board returned to open session. Mr. Wrench reported that in closed session the Board reviewed evaluation data with Dr. Garvey and discussed professional goals for the upcoming school year. They also considered and approved the advancement of five teachers on the salary schedule.

Motion by Kwarciany /Siewert to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Garvey, Ph.D.
District Administrator