

MINUTES
NORTH STAR
GOVERNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Madam Chair Balch called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Directors Balch, Broadbent, Dumas, Elledge, Forman, Silver and Young were in attendance. Note: Director Elledge had mic issues at the start of the meeting. Changes to the Agenda included the removal of item B in Board Business, due to it being covered in the Special Meeting 11-4-2020. Item C in School Report removed due to the absence of Joanna O'Donnell at this meeting.

Motion to approve the Agenda by director Forman. Second by Director Dumas. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passes.

BOARD BUSINESS

COVID Impact and Operating Plan

Madam Chair Balch gave a quick update to the status around Idaho and for North Star. Idaho has moved back to stage 2, which means limiting social gatherings to 10 people or less. The Boise District and other various schools in the area are going full remote for the time being. West Ada is mandating mask. Currently for the state of Idaho 66.5 per 100,000 people have tested positive for COVID.

North Star

Elementary- 2 positive/probable cases and 23 in quarantine

Secondary- 1 positive/probable case and 14 in quarantine.

Not recommending that North Star make any changes.

Recent Parent/Teacher Survey were sent and the Administration and the Board have reviewed the feedback. Overall, most people feel NS is doing a good job communicating. The Administration is looking into changes that could be implemented in response to the Survey feedback. A few families would like to see NS move to full traditional.

Proposed Secondary Schedule Change

Melissa Andersen reported that the Secondary teachers are struggling with the current Hybrid plan; there is not enough time for them to keep up. The following modification is proposed: Monday would be a full remote day for all students. The intent is to allow the teachers a planning day with collaboration with other teachers, consistent office time for parent and students to communicate with their teachers, and formations of small student groups to help those needing extra help.

Feedback from teachers and parents regarding this possible modification included:

1. Parents happy with the consistency with the schedule.
2. Parents voiced trust in NS and will support NS in this decision.
3. Overwhelmed parent feel this should help reduce stress put on families at this time.

Administration is waiting on the approval in order to proceed with a definitive plan, understanding that if the plan does not work for the teachers the current Hybrid schedule would not change.

Motion to approve the proposed change of the Secondary schedule as discussed by Director Dumas. Second by Director Forman. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passes.

High School Sports Update

Recent move to Stage 2 by the state of Idaho restricts Athletic Events to the coaches, players, scorekeepers and referees. No spectators allowed. This change has made the need to stream the games a top priority. The assistant Athletic Director has purchased equipment to provide streaming.

The Athletic Guidelines will need adjustment regarding the number of spectators allowed. The Board feels that modifications to the guidelines should be made so that the Athletic Directors and Administration can make adjustments as the need arises rather than seeking Board approval of changes as they fluctuate during these uncertain times.

Motion to modify the Athletic Policy Guidelines to add a provision to limit the number of spectators at games in accordance with the Idaho State order of November 14, 2020 and to allow the Athletic Directors and Administration to make modifications based on the emerging information and guidance from governmental authorities related to COVID. In addition the provision referring to individual students who have had someone in their household out of country be required to quarantine be removed from the Athletic Policy Guidelines by Director Young. Second by Director Dumas. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passes.

CONTINUING SCHOOL BUSINESS

School Report

Secondary:

Melissa Andersen reported that Secondary Parent/Teacher conferences held on zoom. Teachers like this method better, were able to have multiple teachers be on the same call with the parent. Held SCOIR event for the juniors which gives them the opportunity to understand their options for colleges, a good experience. Will Bogdanoff reported the happy faces of students that are playing basketball.

Survey responses-communication and watching students that might be falling in the cracks. Melissa and Will have taken an active role in conferences for students that are struggling.

The administration is trying to solve technology needs in order to better support the teachers.

Elementary:

Shay Davis reported that the Elementary Parent/Teacher conferences were better than previous years. Feels that the longer time-frame gave the parents opportunities to discuss where they and their students are struggling. Both Laiena and Shay are spending more time observing in the classrooms and seeing that behavior issues are down because the students are busy during their three hours of instruction time. The survey revealed that parents see the benefits of having their students attending every day for the shortened day. In addition, Elementary has hired additional paras to support the needs of the teachers.

Laiena Leatherman also reports that she and Danica Holladay conducted the Remote Learning Parent/Teacher Conferences. Parents grateful that IDLA has stepped up and provided improvements in their program. Jensa Anderson has made great connections with the remote students. Casey Hawkins and Cherilyn Clemente are helping to tutor remote students.

The Board compliments the administration team on their positive tone and positive attitudes, which they are expressing to parents, teachers and the students. Grateful for their work and willingness to keep going.

Principals acknowledge their great teams and the chance to work with them and with the students.

Finance Update- *Finance package is included in the agenda packet.*

Eric reviewed the Finance packet.

- The athletic and Kinder revenue funds are down, to be expected due to lower numbers at games and Kinder enrollment. (page 10)
- Expenses higher in salary COVID payments and the additional staff hired.
- Continuing to track enrollments.
- Expense in line with the budget.
- Funding-gained more funding in November, more funding expected to come in.
- Grants (page 14)-everything needs to be under contract by December 31, 2020.
- Filed for PPP loan forgiveness.
- Cash continues to be strong
- The HVAC units sustained hail damage in 2013, working diligently with insurances has resulted in a check for the repair of the units awarded to North Star Charter School.

Substitute Pay

Eric recommends to the Board that the pay rate for Substitutes be raised from \$80 per day to \$90 per day. This raise will allow North Star to be more competitive with other school districts.


Motion to approve the pay rate as stated by Director Elledge. Second by Director Forman. Vote take, all in favor. Motion passes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Director Forman. Second by Director Young. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passes.

Motion to adjourn by Director Young. Second by Director Dumas. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passes.

The Board adjourned at 7:32 pm.



Jenna Balch (Jan 22, 2021 08:58 MST)
Madam Chair of the Board



Sheri Craig
Clerk of the Board






11-19-2020_unsigned Minutes

Final Audit Report

2021-01-22

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