

MINUTES
NORTH STAR
GOVERNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2021

Madam Chair Balch called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm with Roll Call taken. Directors Balch, Broadbent, Dumas, Elledge, Forman and Young in attendance. Director Silver was not present for this Zoom call.

Having no information or discussion for an Executive Session, Executive Session removed from the Agenda.

Motion to approve the Agenda by Director Forman. Second by Director Elledge. Vote take, all in favor. Motion passes.

BOARD BUSINESS

Operating Plans

The Board will consider the option to allow K-5 to return to the Modify Traditional Plan. Modify traditional brings all the students back to the school for the full day with no mid-day drop off. North Star needs to consider our needs differently than the other larger school in that our situation is different from other schools. Our classroom size ranges from 25-30 students, larger than other schools' classrooms. Having the six feet distancing will not be possible.

Current numbers of staff and students in quarantine:

Elementary: 1 positive case, 14 in quarantine

Secondary: 2 positive and 2 probable, 12 quarantine

Parent/Teacher survey sent regarding moving from Hybrid to Modify Traditional.

Results: 337 Elementary parents responded with 75% feeling good about coming back to all day Elementary, smaller number of parents were not ready to return. Full remote was not a consideration for the majority of responders.

Teacher survey showed hesitation to move to full day. Teachers concerns include how to run Enrichment Groups, Lunchtime in the classroom, since we do not have a cafeteria for Elementary. Teachers like the current consistency of keeping the school open due to the precautions and smaller class sizes.

Discussion:

Davis spoke to the recommendation of placing students in a pod in the classroom and not having classes mix during recess time. Student pods will stay together for all specials and activities. This helps to reduce the number of those in quarantined should the need arise.

How soon could we move to this new plan? Feb 22, 2021 is the goal. The teachers would like to have 2 days without students to prep the classrooms. Many items are in storage and the classrooms will need to adjust to allow for more desks.

The two-day adjustment would not take from the teaching time; would be considered In-Service for teachers. Families would have an extended Winter Break.

What else needs to happen to make this change? Modification to the schedules, ask parents to shift to full remote, give teachers time to prepare their rooms, change para schedules, getting things out of storage.

K-1 IDLA is accepting enrollment until January 26, 2021. IDLA is the only option for 1st grade.

Is the Brown Bus ready to move to all day? No changes needed because they already are running in the normal morning and afternoon pick up/drop off. Parents need to know that social distancing can not be held on the busses. Students must wear masks on the bus, recommend that siblings sit together on busses, when possible. Bus riding also considered when doing a quarantine trace.

When will the students be allowed to take off their masks? Eating lunch, PE, when outside, mask breaks at the teachers discretion.

Parents' main concern is kids wearing masks all day. West Ada School District has a mask mandate no shields allowed. North Star would also follow the mandate from Ada County and requests all students to wear a mask, those who have an exemption would be asked to wear a shield.

Motion to resume K-5 Full-day Modify Traditional to start either February 22 or 24, 2021 by Director Elledge. Second by Director Broadbent. Vote taken; all in favor. Motion passes.

The Board will need to modify the wording from six feet to pod set-ups and masks are required. Ask that parents keep sick children home and encourage children to wear a mask in class.

Recommendations will be approved/ratified at the next Board meeting.

School Boundary

The Administration is looking to adjust the current school boundaries to accommodate the growth that is occurring west of the school. In order to make the changes North Star will need to request a change in North Star's Charter with the Charter Commission. The Board approved moving forward with this discussion and planning. No vote taken.

Technology Proposal

Proposal Power Point included in the Agenda Packet

The Technology Committee (TC) was asked, at the last meeting, to further investigate and answer questions from the Board. The Committee returns with answers for the Board.

The Board reviewed the proposal by the Technology Committee to change the IT Management Service provider from West Valley Technical Services to Pacific Office Automation. Concerns regarding the extra cost by switching to POA and future burden on the school budget.

The Technology Committee (TC) showed that the extra cost for this service would be managed through Grants, the Contingency Fund and by reducing costs in other areas of the budget.

Motion that the Board authorize the Technology Committee to manage the IT Management Contract with Pacific Office Automation by Director Young. Second by Director Forman. Note: Director Dumas left the call before motion was presented. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passes.

Election Timeline

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

Lottery Commissioner

Each year the Board approves the Lottery Commissioner. Victor Villegas has acted as the Lottery Commissioner in the past years.

Motion to approve Victor Villegas as the Lottery Commissioner by Director Broadbent. Second by Director Forman. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passes.

2021-2022 School Calendars

Calendars for all three schools were sent and reviewed by the Board. NSAT opted not to stagger the start date; everyone will start on Aug 26, 2021. High School and Middle School aligned some collaboration days.

Motion to approve the proposed Calendars with the correction of the High School dates typo by Director Forman. Second by Director Elledge. Vote take, all in favor. Motion passes.

CONTINUING SCHOOL BUSINESS

School Report

Melissa Andersen report that High School students are finishing their finals. Basketball going on and the boys are doing well. The girls are having fun.

Will Bogdanoff reported that the Middle School boy basketball had their first game today. Finishing finals, mid-year progress reports being reviewed.

Shay Davis reported that 20 remote students returned to their classrooms this week. Doing benchmark testing.

IB Presentation by Melissa Andersen

Information included in the Agenda packet

More kids are earning their IB Diploma largely due to the excellent teachers and the hard-working students. When North Star students, that have completed the IB program, enter college, they are able to enter as a sophomore. Support for the IB program continues to be very strong among families and staff.

The Venture Capstone to be presented at the next Board meeting.

HR/Communication Update

Information included in the Agenda packet

Open Enrollment for new insurance broker with Paychex. Great rate for North Star. A slight decrease in Dental with added orthodontic program. Everything done online with Paychex.

Working with CDH with vaccination for K-12 teachers and staff, that information sent to teachers and staff.

Communications has issued the new protocols for quarantine passed by the Board.

Finance Update

Finance Power Point included in the Agenda packet

Eric Dickelman reviewed the power point with the Board. North Star is doing well; the PPP Loan was forgiven- January 2021. Cash is in great shape and bolstered by the generous parent donations. Enrollment is down from budgeted amount, mostly due to the lower numbers in the Kindergarten classes.


Lottery season is showing a healthy number of applications.

Consent Agenda

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

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

The Board adjourned at 8:12 pm.



Jenna Balch (Mar 9, 2021 11:17 MST)

Jenna Balch
Madam Chair of the Board



Sheri Craig
Clerk of the Board






1-21-2021_Unsigned Minutes

Final Audit Report

2021-03-09

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