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BOARD OF EDUCATION
Emergency Meeting - November 11, 2020 - 6:00 PM
Zoom Teleconference

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AGENDA

1. **ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER**
2. COVID-19 Update and Learning Model Changes 2



Board of Education

Special Meeting – November 11, 2020
(6:00 pm)

AGENDA SECTION: Administrative Recommendations

ITEM: Change in School Learning Models

COMMENTS BY: Chace B. Anderson, Superintendent

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) released guidance June 18, 2020 to help Minnesota’s public schools plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The guidance included direction to create contingency plans for instructional delivery and essential operations for possible use during the 2020-2021 school year. MDE defined three general learning models: 1) in-person learning, 2) hybrid learning, and 3) distance learning. The intent of the development of these flexible learning models was to help prepare school communities to be flexible so that students could receive continuous education in the event that the COVID-19 pandemic may require schools to shift to a different educational delivery model during the school year. The Departments outlined a five step process for determining a starting learning model for the 2020-2021 school year and a process for making changes to those learning plans during the year as conditions warrant. Determination of learning models is guided by the following parameters established by MDH:

**Minnesota Department of Health Model Parameters
Number of Cases/10,000 Residents over 14 Days, By County of Residence**

# of Cases	Learning Model based on MDH Parameters
0-9	In-person learning for all students
10-19	In-person learning for elementary students Hybrid learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid learning for elementary students Distance learning for secondary students
50+	Distance learning for all students

At the August 10, 2020 school board meeting, the Board unanimously approved the recommended action to approve the Resolution outlining flexible guidelines for Wayzata Public Schools and to authorize the Superintendent and designees to adapt these scenarios as needed to meet the requirements and to best meet the needs of students, families, and staff in an ever-changing pandemic climate.

The resolution authorized the following:

Section 1: Based on the Minnesota Department of Health Model Parameters data for Hennepin County as of the date of this Resolution, the Superintendent is hereby directed to implement the following base Learning Model to open the 2020-2021 school year: Hybrid learning for all students as generally outlined in the “Wayzata Learns” document (see attachment) presented at the Thursday, August 6, 2020 School Board work session.

Further, the school board authorized the superintendent to make necessary changes to learning models during the school year according to the following Section:

Section 2: The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement a different Learning Model for the School District or any specific school buildings without formal School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of a different Learning Model is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation. The Learning Model selected and implemented by the Superintendent shall continue in effect unless and until the School Board, in consultation with the Superintendent and appropriate school district staff and public health officials, deems it in the best interest of the School District and its students to implement a different Learning Model.

The WPS Incident Command Team (ICT) met on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 to discuss our current learning models, safety protocols and the status of COVID-19 in the school district, Hennepin County and the State. The team was joined by four members of the Metro ECSU Regional Support Team (RST) which included members from the Metro ECSU, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). At this meeting, information was shared with the members of the RST about our current learning models, conditions within the school district and our thoughts about moving forward with a change to our learning models. In turn, members of the Regional Support Team shared what they are seeing in Hennepin County and across the state. They also indicated that the rising number of cases in Hennepin County are reflective of those of the cities of the school district and several others adjacent to the WPS community. In hearing our preliminary plan to move forward with a change in learning model, the RST members were supportive of this plan and felt that, given the data, it would be an appropriate response to our current conditions and what is projected into the coming weeks.

The MDH parameters used for Hennepin County are also used to assess the status of viral spread in local communities. In recent weeks, the number of cases in Hennepin County and the cities within the footprint of the school district and several surrounding communities, has been increasing rapidly. The graphic below shows the data for cities comprising the Wayzata Public Schools over the past six weeks. The Hennepin County number calculated and communicated on November 10, for the time period of October 20 through November 2, is 57.6. It can also be seen in the yellow highlighted column that the individual cities and surrounding communities have experienced an alarming increase during this one week period. Health care professionals and those using projection instruments are suggesting that this number is likely to increase significantly again in the coming weeks.

County and City Data	9/15-9/28	9/22-10/5	9/29-10/12	10/6-10/19	10/13-10/26	10/20-11/2
Hennepin County	22.4	23.7	25.8	29.3	37.9	57.6
Maple Grove	26.0	28.0	28.7	31.3	41.8	68.4
Minnetonka	14.8	18.8	22.3	21.7	23.2	37.9
Plymouth	15.7	17.6	21.4	26.4	35.2	51.8
*Other NW Suburban HC	24.0	24.3	19.8	24.0	33.0	52.2
**Other W/S Suburban HC	16.9	19.8	23.8	24.9	29.6	49.4

*Other NW Suburban Hennepin County includes: Corcoran, Dayton, Greenfield, Hanover, Medicine Lake, Osseo, Rockford, Saint Anthony

**Other W/S Suburban Hennepin County includes: Chanhassen, Deephaven, Excelsior, Fort Snelling, Greenwood, Independence, Long Lake, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, Minnetonka Beach, Minnetrista, Mound, Orono, Saint Bonifacius, Shorewood, Spring Park, Tonka Bay, Wayzata, Woodland

On October 14, the district began reporting the weekly district-wide new student/staff positive cases, the weekly number of students and staff in quarantine and a running total of cases since 9-14-20. The data chart below summarizes this information.

	Starting: Ending:	10/11/2020 10/17/2020	10/18/2020 10/24/2020	10/25/2020 10/31/2020	11/1/2020 11/7/2020	
Date Posted to Website:		10/14/2020	10/21/2020	10/28/2020	11/11/2020	Trend Line
Weekly District-wide New Student/Staff Positive Cases		7	15	25	37	
Weekly Number of Students and Staff in Quarantine		108	167	214	256	
Total Number of + Cases Since September 14, 2020		33	48	73	110	

Given the information shared at the November 9, 2020 school board meeting and that shared within this document, it is recommended that the following learning models be implemented in the school district effective Monday, November 30, 2020:

Wayzata High School	Remain in its current Modified Hybrid Learning Plan
Wayzata Middle Schools	Move from Hybrid Learning to Distance Learning
Wayzata Elementary Schools	Move from Hybrid Learning to Distance Learning
Wayzata Early Learning School	Move from Hybrid Learning to Distance Learning

The special services department will work directly with the families of children being served by the special education department and those receiving English Learner (EL) services to communicate how educational services will be delivered to students.

It is further recommended that Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24, be used for elementary and middle school professional planning in preparation for these learning model changes. This recommendation is in alignment with Governor Walz’s Executive Order 20-82 (29) that states:

“If a district chooses to dial back instruction to a distance learning model or returns to in-person instruction from a distance learning model for one or more schools, the district may use up to five instruction days at the impacted school or schools to plan for the change in instructional delivery. These planning days may be counted as instructional days even if students may not be receiving instruction.”

Recommended Action: Approve the following learning models for implementation effective on Monday, November 30, 2020:

Wayzata High School	Remain in its current Modified Hybrid Learning Plan
Wayzata Middle Schools	Move from Hybrid Learning to Distance Learning
Wayzata Elementary Schools	Move from Hybrid Learning to Distance Learning
Wayzata Early Learning School	Move from Hybrid Learning to Distance Learning

It is further recommended that the Board approve two professional development dates: Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24 which will be used for elementary and middle school professional planning in preparation for these learning model changes at the elementary school and middle school levels.

Additionally, The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement a different Learning Model for the School District or any specific school buildings without formal School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of a different Learning Model is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation.

Motion by: _____

ROLL CALL

Passed: _____

Second by: _____

Failed: _____

Abstentions: _____

4. **ADJOURN**