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Minutes of Special Meeting Meeting

A Special Meeting Meeting of the Board of Education of Wayzata Public Schools was held Tuesday, January 5, 2021, beginning at 4:00 PM in the Zoom Teleconference.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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Board of Education
Special Meeting – January 5, 2021

AGENDA SECTION: Roll Call

ITEM: Roll Call

COMMENTS BY: Andrea Cuene, Board Chair

	PRESENT	ABSENT
Linda Cohen	_____	_____
Seanne Falconer	_____	_____
Sarah Johansen	_____	_____
Chris McCullough	_____	_____
Cheryl Polzin	_____	_____
Bonita Lucky	_____	_____
Andrea Cuene	_____	_____
Chace Anderson, ex-officio	_____	_____

2. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. COVID-19 Update and Learning Model Changes



Board of Education
Special Meeting – January 5, 2021

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.

During a press conference held on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 Governor Walz and representatives from the Departments of Health and Education gave an update on the evolving conditions with the COVID-19 numbers in the State. During this press conference, new guidance for determining school learning models was announced with relaxed parameters for elementary schools and an emphasis on getting elementary students back to school. The parameters for middle school and high school students remained unchanged.

The WPS Incident Command Team (ICT) met on Thursday, December 17, 2020 to discuss the previous day’s press conference, what it meant for us, our current learning models, safety protocols and the status of COVID-19 in the school district, Hennepin County and the State. In addition, several members of the ICT met with the Metro ECSU Regional Support Team (RST) on Friday, December 18, 2020 which includes 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 shared a few thoughts about what the other school districts they serve are considering for moving forward.

In hearing our preliminary plan to move forward with a change in our learning models, the RST members were supportive of our plan and affirmed that it was consistent with the guidance provided at the Governor's press conference earlier in the week and felt that, given the data and our ability to implement safety protocols, it would be an appropriate response to our current conditions and what is projected into the coming weeks.

Given the information shared at the December 23, 2020 school board work session and that outlined within this document, the following is recommended:

Remaining in current learning model until further notice:

Wayzata High School - Remain in its current Modified Hybrid Learning Plan.

Wayzata Middle Schools - Remain in their current Distance Learning Plan.

January 19, 2021:

Wayzata Early Learning School - Move from Distance to Full In-Person Learning.

Wayzata Elementary Schools (Grades K-2) - Move from Distance to Full In-Person Learning.

And, it is further recommended that the following learning models be implemented effective Monday, February 1, 2021:

Wayzata Elementary Schools (Grades 3-5) - Move from Distance to Full In-Person 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 Thursday, January 14 and Friday, January 15, be used for elementary professional planning in preparation for these learning model changes. This recommendation is in alignment with new MDH/MDE guidance that states:

“School districts that have not yet implemented full in-person during the 2020-2021 school year must use at least two previously scheduled instructional days for planning as permitted by Executive Order 20-82 for staff to come back into the building and prepare for students transitioning into in-person or hybrid learning with the additional mitigation measures. Staff must use the designated planning days to plan for the change in instructional delivery including but not limited to curriculum prep, to follow the updated mitigation strategies of pods, classroom meals, for staff orientation, family/teacher conferences, etc.”

It should be noted also that on-going review of middle school and high school learning models will be occurring. Given that the current Hennepin County COVID numbers are trending downward, it is possible that middle schools will be moving toward a return to hybrid learning in the coming weeks with the high school increasing the number of students attending in person similar to last fall.

Recommended Action: Approve the following learning models effective on the dates noted:

It is recommended that the following learning models remain in place or be modified as noted effective on the dates indicated below with the understanding that staff members in the special services department will work directly with the families of children receiving special education and English Learner (EL) services to communicate how educational services will be delivered to students:

Remaining in current learning model until further notice:

Wayzata High School Remain in its current Modified Hybrid Learning Plan.

Wayzata Middle Schools Remain in their current Distance Learning Plan.

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Wayzata Early Learning School Move from Distance to Full In-Person Learning.

Wayzata Elementary Schools (Grades K-2) Move from Distance to Full In-Person Learning.

And, it is further recommended that the following learning models be implemented effective

Monday, February 1, 2021

Wayzata Elementary Schools (Grades 3-5) Move from Distance to Full In-Person Learning

It is further recommended that Thursday, January 14 and Friday, January 15, be used for elementary and professional planning in preparation for these learning model changes. This recommendation is in alignment with new MDH/MDE guidance stated above.

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: _____



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting – January 5, 2021

AGENDA SECTION: Administrative Reports and Recommendations

ITEM: Semester 2 School Days Calendar

COMMENTS BY: Jill Johnson, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning

Second Semester Calendar 2020-2021

The School Board approve the Semester 2 (school year 2020, 2021) school days calendar in the December Regular Meeting. The following revision is recommended:

- January 13: changed from A Cohort Day to a combined cohort day (distance day). The purpose is to bring closure to classroom communities that will switch on January 19 and to help prepare students for the transition to In-Person Learning.

Recommended Action: Approve the second semester calendar for school year 2020-2021 as presented in the attachment.

Motion by: _____ **ROLL CALL** **Passed:** _____

Second by: _____ **Failed:** _____

Abstentions: _____ **9** _____



Board of Education
Special Meeting – January 5, 2021

AGENDA SECTION: Adjourn

ITEM: Adjourn

COMMENTS BY: Andrea Cuene, Board Chair

Recommended Action: Call the meeting to a close.

Motion by: _____

ROLL CALL

Passed: _____

Second by: _____

Failed: _____

Abstentions: _____