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Minutes of Emergency Meeting Meeting

A Emergency Meeting Meeting of the Board of Education of Wayzata Public Schools was held Tuesday, January 26, 2021, beginning at 9:00 AM in the Zoom Teleconference.

1. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

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Board of Education
Emergency Meeting – January 26, 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. Superintendent's Reports & Recommendations

A. Learning Model Update



Board of Education

Emergency Meeting – January 26, 2021
(9:00 am)

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, January 21, 2021 to discuss our current learning model status and COVID numbers for Hennepin County and the surrounding communities. In addition, several members of the ICT met with two members of the Metro ECSU Regional Support Team (RST) on Friday, January 22, 2021 (a representative from Metro ECSU and one from 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 offered some suggestions and considerations but were supportive of our plan and affirmed that it was consistent with the guidance provided by state agencies and similar to what many school districts in our area were moving toward. The RST members encouraged us to monitor the Hennepin County numbers and recommended a target number of 30 or slightly above as we move toward implementing a less restrictive learning model. On January 24, 2021, the Wolfson website (see link below) indicated a Hennepin County number of 28 and the Wayzata Public Schools attendance area with a number of 32.1. The Hennepin

County numbers and other indicators have been trending downward over the past several weeks and is projected to do so in the coming weeks. Given the data and our ability to implement effective safety protocols, moving to this recommended model is considered to be an appropriate response to our current conditions and what is projected into the coming weeks.

https://jwolfson.shinyapps.io/school_openings/

Given the update shared at the January 25, 2021 school board work session and the information about current conditions in our school district outlined within this document, the following is recommended:

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, specifically:

Remain in the following previously approved learning models until further notice:

- Wayzata Early Learning School – In-person learning;
- Wayzata Elementary Schools – In-person learning for Grades K-2;
- Wayzata Elementary Schools – In-person learning for Grades 3-5 (effective 2-1-21);
- Wayzata High School - Modified Hybrid learning for Grades 9-12.

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

Wayzata Middle Schools – Hybrid learning for Grades 6-8.

It is further recommended that Friday, January 29 be used for middle school professional planning in preparation for this learning model change. This recommendation is in alignment with MDH/MDE guidance.

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
Emergency Meeting – January 26, 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: _____