

NORTH CENTRAL PARKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 07, 2020

1. Call to Order

The North Central Parke Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in a work session board meeting at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 07, 2020, in the PHHS cafetorium. The following board members were present: Scott Ramsay, Rusty Akers, Jim Wrightsman, Mike Neeley, Kim Cooper, Gina Sunderman, and Brandi Vandivier.

Those in attendance were: Kara Burgess, Tyler Burgess, Karen Barnes, Debbie Hicks, Jane McMullen, Kieran Clapp, Brienne Shields, Brittany Poole, Melissa Smith, Erica Crane, Amanda Martin, Tammy Breedlove, Jenny Benjamin, Amy Lishin, Lori Brown, Kerry Ferguson, Susan Seitz, Steven Hartman, Kristin Robinson, Molly Blystone, Terri Veach, Andrea Long, Rena' Uplinger, Cameron Martin, Ashley Overpeck, Jennifer Schlatter, Rich Schelsky, Tim Spicer, Ron Gross, Liddy Dowd-Wright and Meghan Bridge.

Scott Ramsay welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that there would be public comment throughout the meeting, but would need the discussion to stay as short as possible with the length of material to be discussed.

2. Superintendent's Report and Discussion on Planned School Reopening Procedures

Mr. Schimpf provided copies of the NCP Reopening Plan for 2020-2021 and Summary Sheet of the plan which was presented in "Draft" form. Those documents will be part of these minutes. After discussion on key topics at this meeting, a final version of the Reopening Plan is set to be approved at the July 15th board meeting. The following key topics were discussed:

Health and Safety Protocols: Audra Long, nurse at NCP CSC and Liddy Dowd-Wright, Parke County Health Department, went over information from the State of Indiana on –

- a. Quarantine
- b. Positive Cases
- c. Untested Cases
- d. Reporting

Tracking, documentation and communication was discussed along with what positions would be responsible for those details. PPE and Masks were also talked about and the pros and cons of students wearing them. Much discussion was dedicated to this along with random temperature checks and training of staff.

Transportation:

Terri Veach, Ron Gross and Tim Spicer were available for the discussion of transportation. There was much discussion of students wearing masks on the bus, assigned seats, cleaning of the buses after each trip and keeping students with a possible fever at a safe distance from other students if sent to school infected. It will be encouraged for parents to transport their students to and from school if possible to help prevent the overcrowding of students on the bus. This will be required for specific periods of time and not just on a day to day basis. Other options discussed were having someone available to take temperatures before a student enters the bus. Manpower to scan each student and unavailable childcare if the student was home alone after a parent has left for work were possible reasons to not be able to check each student boarding the buses in the morning. Many options were discussed and will be considered after the results of how many students will need transportation is obtained.

Health and Safety:

There was various discussion on health and safety, not only from a student standpoint but also from a staff member. It included wearing masks to cleaning of classrooms and various other areas of the schools. Audra Long went over the nurse's areas and setup for possible students being at school with a fever waiting for parent pick up from the school. Changes in passing periods in the hallways and use of lockers were discussed along with hand sanitizer stations being located throughout the school buildings. It was noted that there will be risks involved in everything that is done.

Classes and Classrooms:

Building Principals and staff have met to come up with ideas of how to keep students safe while practicing social distancing. Staff members discussed that the size of the classrooms is limited and the space available to do 6 feet apart social distancing is somewhat impossible. Style of furniture is also an issue. The spacing in most classrooms will be closer to 3 feet apart. It was encouraged to look for empty classrooms, if available, or to plan activities outside if weather permitting or in larger areas such as gym. There was also a discussion of training for staff to recognize symptoms of Covid-19 and proper procedures. This will be available to substitute teachers as well as other staff members. Superintendent Schimpf discussed additional training from the Safe Schools Program to cover these training sessions. The timeline of when a person or student can return to school after testing positive and protocol that has to be met was clarified by Audra Long and board members Brandi Vandivier and Kim Cooper.

Field Trip, Guests and Special Occasions:

These will be canceled for the foreseeable future. This includes activities such as Grandparent's day and Veteran's day along with any other school programs until otherwise noted.

Daily Activities:

a. Lunch-

Food Service Director, Tammy Breedlove was available for questions on how the students will be served for breakfast and lunch. It was discussed on where the students would eat to keep the classes contained to their group and still have some social distancing. Several options were mentioned from having kids eat in their classrooms to different lunch schedules. Each building has different capabilities and the building principals along with Maintenance Supervisor and Food Service Director will be going over the options. There were also some questions on deliveries and safety precautions that will need to be taken for those. It was advised that some delivery people may have to go to the front office of the buildings to have temperatures checked before being able to unload deliveries in the buildings. All delivery personnel will be required to wear amask when entering the buildings.

b. Recess, Electives/Specials-

Plans are still being looked at for providing the students in the lower grades, recess, electives/specials. If weather permitting, most recesses will take place outside. It has been discussed to have different areas of the playground to be limited to certain grades to keep groups of students together and prevent the spread of the virus should it be present.

Electives/Specials will take part in the student's classroom so that the students will be involved in less moving and interaction where other students have been. This will also help with custodial cleaning/sanitation throughout the day in these areas, so that cleaning can take place more frequently in unavoidable high traffic areas.

c. Student Attendance-

Incentives for perfect attendance will be discontinued at this time. Doctor's notes for students that are absent will be needed to determine whether the illness was COVID related and when the student is allowed to safely return to school.

d. Water Fountains/ Building Cleaning-

Maintenance Supervisor, Ashley Overpeck, discussed maintenance and cleaning of the school buildings. All water fountains have been turned off to avoid having students use them at this time. It was discussed that they be converted over to water bottle filling stations. Due to the age of the fountains, they would have to be completely replaced to have that capability. Mr. Overpeck also discussed the cleaning products the custodians will be using. At current, the disinfecting products have a 10-minute "wet time" that is needed to disinfect the surface that the product is sprayed on. There are new products on the market that have a 1- minute "wet time" available. He is looking into that to be used in areas where there may not be a 10-minute window to wait. Members of the board also discussed that custodians wear protective gloves and mask along with the possibility of eye wear when disinfecting student areas for the safety of the custodians and students. It was also discussed if the buildings have adequate number of custodians to be able to provide the amount of cleaning that will be necessary.

e. Athletics-

Athletic Director, Rich Schelsky, talked about the rules and regulations of the IHSAA and when sporting events will begin. There are still restrictions on use of locker rooms and student capacity in them. Things are constantly evolving in this area and he is hopeful they will be opening them up closer to school start date. The IHSAA has deemed that fans at sporting events are still under consideration. Social distancing and hand sanitizer along with other safe practices are in place and currently being used.

f. Virtual School-

Technology Director, Jana Crites, discussed adding the Virtual School option for North Central Parke Schools this year. Edmentum will be the provider for the K-12 virtual schooling. Students will be allowed to transition back to traditional option or transition to virtual from traditional at the end of each 9-weeks. More details will be available once student enrollment has taken place to determine the plans of the program.

As stated several times during the Work Session Meeting, there will be changes in procedures and revisions as necessary in accordance with input or directives from State and Local government along with the Parke County Health Department. A final Draft will be submitted to the board at the July 15th board meeting for approval. Superintendent Mike Schimpf expressed appreciation to all who were in attendance and for all the input that was given. President Scott Ramsay closed in stating this is a difficult situation and the more positive we can be, the more our staff members can buy into it and be positive about it while making it the best we can. The board members expressed gratitude for all the hard work that has been put into planning.

3. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

North Central Parke Community School Corporation

Scott Ramsay, President

Jim Wrightsman, Member

Rusty Akers, Vice-President

Brandi Vandivier, Member

Kimberly Cooper, Member

Mike Neeley, Member

ATTEST:

Gina Sunderman, Secretary