

**NORTH CENTRAL PARKE  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**

**Minutes of the Special Session Meeting  
Wednesday, July 29, 2020**

**Call to Order**

The North Central Parke Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in a special session board meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday July 29<sup>th</sup>, in the Parke Heritage High School Cafetorium. The following Board members were present: Scott Ramsay, Kim Cooper, Mike Neeley, Gina Sunderman, Rusty Akers, Jim Wrightsman and Brandi Vandivier . Others in attendance included Karen Barnes, Beth Faust, Penny Davies, Roy Wrightsman, Lisa Wrightsman, Debbie Hicks, Alexa Tyrrell, Vonessia Harmon, Tori Harmon, Rena Uplinger, Dallas Uplinger, Lori Brown, Rebecca Cory, Jana Crites, Kristin Robinson, Jenny Benjamin, Scott Schulz, Jeff McCoy, Jane McMullen, Kieran Clapp, Danika Craycraft, Ashley White, Chad Smith, April Smith, Meghan Bridge, Tracey Stone, Becky Loudermilk, Mark Spelbring, Steven Hartman, Carole Sturmer, Kori Thornton, Carmen Branson, John Rolison, Chadd Jenkins, Corey Newnum, Nakylie Mellon, Novalie Mellon, Shane Vandivier, Kara Burgess, and Alyssa Gideon.

President Scott Ramsay called the meeting to order and greeted everyone along with expressing the board's appreciation with everyone's concern about what is going on with the schools and the students in the upcoming school year. Mr. Ramsay asked everyone to sign in and note on the sign in sheet if they would like to speak. He explained that Superintendent Schimpf would be going over a few changes to the reopening plans along with some of the government mandated changes that Governor Holcomb has put into place.

Superintendent Schimpf recommended that the reopening plan be approved by the board with the following changes. A copy of the updated NCP Reopening Plan for 2020-2021 will be made a part of these minutes.

**Start Date**

School will begin on August 10, for all students participating in the traditional format, as previously approved by the NCP CSC Board of School Trustees. Classes will be conducted 5 days a week in line with the traditional school calendar. Students who choose the virtual program will begin classes on August 17. These students will follow a modified calendar that includes fewer days for vacation to comply with the 180- day state requirement. A parent meeting for those interested in the virtual program is to be held on July 30<sup>th</sup> at the PHHS Cafetorium at 6:30 p.m.

### Physical and Social Distancing

Efforts will be made to help students and staff maintain physical distance from one another while present at school facilities. When not possible to maintain a distance of six feet from one another, both students and staff will wear masks or face shields. The rule concerning masks is consistent with the Governor's most recent Executive Order, which provides specific guidelines for school facilities in Indiana. In this order, effective July 27, 2020, specifications were provided relevant to students ranging in grade from PK-2 and 3-12. Younger students in PK-2 will only be required to wear masks when being transported on school buses or when transitioning through the building. Students 3-12 will be required to wear masks or face shields when transported in school buses or at any point throughout the day when physical distancing of six feet is not possible, except when students are eating lunch or during approved breaks.

### Water Fountains

Water fountains will be shut-off for the foreseeable future. Personal water bottles may be utilized at the discretion of building principals and classroom teachers. It is recommended that students have identifiable bottles so that they are not confused with other student water containers. Watering stations are being installed at both the middle and high school and water coolers are being installed in both elementary buildings.

### Clinic Space

Students who do not display symptoms of COVID-19 can be seen and treated in the nurse's clinic. These would include students who are injured during the school day or students with special health care needs such as those with chronic health conditions or individual health plans. A separate space, monitored by school nurses, has been identified in each building for students who present symptoms of COVID-19.

### Confirmed Case of COVID-19 on School Property

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was on school property, NCPSC will immediately contact the local health department and the Indiana Department of Education. NCPSC will work with the Parke County Health Department to assess factors such as the likelihood of exposure to employees and students in the building, the number of cases in the community, and other factors that will determine building closure.

It is the responsibility of the local health department to contact the person confirmed with COVID-19, inform direct contacts of their possible exposure, and provide instructions to those involved with the confirmed case, including siblings and other household members regarding

self-quarantine and exclusions. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in the communications to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contract tracing by local health department.

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) has released guidelines concerning the appropriate process of quarantine for those infected or possibly infected. The entire document from the Indiana Department of Health is included as an attachment to this reopening plan.

In the event of a documented positive case, school may be closed for a period of time so the local health department or the Indiana State Department of Health can engage with our team to recommend further testing, cleaning etc. In the event school is closed there will be no use of facilities by any group and all activities will be cancelled. If this occurs, academic programming will be supported by remote learning practices.

### Virtual School Options

North Central Parke CSC believes that the best opportunity for student success is through the participation in learning environments maintained by fully licensed teachers. The traditional format of school allows for teachers and students to interact in person while on a school campus. The creation and implementation of eLearning has made it possible to provide educational experiences with licensed instructors via the internet.

NCPCSC recognizes that some students and /or parents may not be comfortable with the return to the traditional in-class approach. In addition, the school recognizes that the eLearning practices developed for short time frames, such as snow days, parent teacher conferences, etc. requires further development to be highly effective toward student success.

Subsequently, the NCPCSC is contracting with Edmentum to provide a viable virtual option for all students K-12. Calvert, an Edmentum company, will provide assistance of instruction for students in grades K-7. PLATO, another Edmentum company, will provide curriculum for students in grades 8-12. At least one teacher will be assigned at each building to provide point of contact support to students and families. If a large number of students register for the virtual program, then additional teachers will be provided for assistance.

### Homeschool

Any parent who considers homeschooling their children is encouraged to seek out input from building principals and grade level teachers. Parents may find that NCPCSC's virtual option provides the curricular assistance that they would require to provide effective instruction to their students.

It is the intent of NCPSC to provide this virtual option in order to best address the needs of all students. Consistency has been difficult to achieve during the pandemic; however, consistent practices create effective learning environments. In consideration of consistency, it is the recommendation of NCPSC that parents and students plan to avoid shifting from online to traditional or vice versa, any more frequently than once per semester, unless significant health concerns arise. Paper packets will not be utilized for the virtual school option, and such students will be required to have internet access, if this option is chosen. Paper packets will only be utilized if an entire school building is closed for remote instruction.

Superintendent Schimpf stated that returning to normalcy for the students without neglecting our duties of safety for them has been the main focus for this reopening plan. A School Reach Message was sent out to encourage parents to get their students registered for the upcoming school year. As of 7-29-20 at 5:00 pm, we currently have just over 700 students registered for school with 101 students planning on doing virtual school and 12 students planning on homeschooling. Last year the highest enrollment recorded was 1124 students.

Mr. Schimpf added that he does not see this plan changing much in August and at some point, there may be a need for a Hybrid option depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic plays out.

It was noted that students that are doing the virtual option will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.

Superintendent Schimpf recommended the board accept the NCPSC Reopening Plan as presented.

Board Member, Rusty Akers, clarified that you must be a student in NCPSC virtual school program to take part in the extracurricular activities. There were no questions from the board members on the proposed reopening plan. Scott Ramsay opened up questions or comments from the public, which there were none presented.

On a motion from Rusty Akers and a second from Mike Neeley, the board voted 7-0 to accept the plan as presented.

Scott Ramsay again thanked those in attendance for their concern and support. He also stated that NCPSC as a whole, is doing everything possible to keep kids safe and in school, but there is risk involved in everything and there will be changes. He asked the community to help be part of the solution so that we can get kids in our community back to school where they need to be.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm.

# North Central Parke Community School Corporation

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Scott Ramsay, President

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Jim Wrightsman , Member

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Rusty Akers, Vice-President

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Brandi Vandivier, Member

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Kimberly Cooper, Member

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Mike Neeley, Member

ATTEST:

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Gina Sunderman, Secretary