

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Special Meeting
Worthington Education Center

September 1, 2020
7:30 p.m.

The Worthington Board of Education met for a Special Meeting on the 1st day of September, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., at the Worthington Education Center.

Mrs. Hudson called the meeting to order with introductions:

Mrs. Best	present
Mrs. Hudson	present
Mrs. Lloyd	present
Mr. Shim	present (via Zoom)
Mr. Wilson	present (via Zoom)

20-151 Mrs. Lloyd moved the adoption of a resolution to appoint Jennifer Best as treasurer pro tempore for the purpose of recording the proceedings of this meeting in the absence of the district treasurer.

Mr. Shim seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mrs. Best, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Lloyd, Mr. Shim, Mr. Wilson

Nays

None

Motion passed.

20-152 Mrs. Best moved the adoption of a resolution whereby the agenda be approved for the regular Board of Education meeting with the following change:

B-1-a visitor comments will be changed from 5 minutes to 3 minutes due to the number of commenters.

Mrs. Lloyd seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mrs. Best, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Lloyd, Mr. Shim, Mr. Wilson

Nays

None

Motion passed.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

B-1-a Visitor Comments

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Ms. Shelley Langhirt of 6770 McVey Blvd expressed her appreciation to the Board, the teachers, and the administration for their hard work. She praised the current remote learning model as an improvement from last spring. She also noted the increase in Covid-19 case numbers released by the Ohio Governor earlier in the day and thinks that is good reason to stay with the remote plan.

Ms. Erin Sogal of 1027 Circle on the Green pointed out how hard it must be for everyone to make such hard decisions. She also praised the teachers' hard work and thinks consistency is the best thing for kids, therefore the District should stay remote.

Mr. Steve Orenchuk of 259 River Glen Drive wants kids back in school immediately. He thinks that parents that want their kids to remain remote should choose the online school platform option.

Mr. Daniel Lee of 5617 Indianola Avenue is a healthcare worker and feels that people are starved for normalcy. He worries about the cardiac risks of Covid-19 and noted that the virus has spread worldwide.

Ms. Wendy Hill of 1337 Boswell Drive thinks kids should be in school. She feels confused as to the lack of decisions given health officials think it is safe for schools to return to hybrid models. She thinks the District should follow the plan set forth on July 30.

Mr. Corey Schaal of 1526 Bluffpoint Lane thinks the District is flip-flopping on its decision and he thought they would honor their word to be consistent. He thinks the District has the benefit of time to come up with a safe plan to return kids to schools.

Ms. Monica Kinderknecht of 7982 Severhill Court has two kids in the District and appreciated that the District gave families a choice between in-person school and online classes. She noted that numbers have improved and thinks that students should be in school while it is safe to do so.

Mr. Justin Root of 6829 Ravine Circle said that many parents relied on the statements about remote learning and the timeline helped them plan. He also worries that people will lose their Care After Schools spots if they go online. He is also afraid the virus numbers will go up.

Ms. Katie Weyrauch of 308 Loveman Ave said a member of her family has a pre-existing condition. Her kids are enrolled in OOLP but is concerned with the platform as there is limited interaction. She misses live teachers and would like a District-run alternative to OOLP.

Mr. Aaron Daniels of 1292 Worthington Heights Blvd mentioned that school sports are open but schools are closed and he thinks kids are being left behind. He said that if there is a financial worry about buying PPE for teachers and staff, he is certain that parents would chip in but he thinks kids should return to school.

Ms. Jennifer Finnerty of 1360 Boswell Drive is a Covid-19 survivor. She also noted that virus cases have increased. She thinks that kids need routines, structure, and consistency. She would like the District to honor its commitment to October 30 as a return to school date.

Ms. Shannon Navin of 1638 Dolliver Drive presented the Board with a petition signed by over 500 people asking school not to return too early. She pointed out that nothing is more important than keeping teachers and students alive.

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Mr. Andrew White of 1301 Clubview Blvd has been very active in Worthington Schools and he understands the risk the virus poses. He is afraid of the long-term risk the Covid-19 virus poses. He did not like the OOLP learning platform.

Ms. Amanda Adams of 1655 Twin Oaks Dr. has a special needs student and struggled watching her 6 year old on the first day of remote learning. She thinks if Columbus Public Health and Dr. Bowers think it is safe to return, then the schools should go hybrid.

Ms. Linh Rhea of 985 Bluffpoint Dr. appreciates the Board and the community. She saw that non-minority parents have been speaking on behalf of the minority community. She worries about the effect of Covid-19 on the minority community. She is also does not like the OOLP platform.

Ms. Tricia Jones of 5785 Foster Avenue pointed out that white people struggle to understand persons of color. She would like the Board to continue the anti-racist policy.

Mr. Chris Roedig of 395 Riley Ave. expressed appreciation to the District for the great education afforded to the students. He thinks everyone should stick to the science and be guided by data and thinks the situation is worse now than in March. He supports sticking to a safe plan.

Ms. Christa Duffy of 6719 Leafall St. wants the Board to vote to go hybrid by September 14th. She cited announcements from the District about listening to health professionals.

Ms. Dana Randal of 1532 Oakbourne Dr. said she was at the meeting 3 weeks prior and heard the Columbus Public Health representative speak. She is disappointed by the lack of leadership by the Board and wants the Board to send kids back to school.

Ms. Colleen Merrill of 778 Ashler Court has a son that recovered from a severe infectious disease but he regressed after the shutdown in March. His doctors think he should be in school 100% of the time.

Mr. Steve Weaver of 405 Longfellow Ave. owns the Candlelab and has kids in Worthington Schools. He liked the measured approach plan presented over the summer and thinks that a rushed plan would have negative consequences.

Mr. Nathan Wasson of 101 Orchard Dr. thinks it is insulting to suggest that kids are losing education through remote learning. He advocates consistency and stability and fears that schools would have to close again if they reopen. He thinks the volume of comments does not equal merit.

Ms. Marcia Edwards of 8003 Storrow Dr. came with a 4 page document of questions and concerns from the community to the Board. She wonders what steps will be taken to keep kids safe and wonders if parents will share positive test results.

Mrs. Hudson thanked the community for its engagement and taking the time to come in and speak and share with the Board its concerns.

B-1-b Framework for Moving from Remote to Hybrid Learning

Mrs. Hudson led the Board in a discussion about creating a framework to move the District from a remote learning model to a hybrid learning model.

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ACTIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

20-153 Mrs. Lloyd moved the adoption of a motion to approve a transition from the remote learning model to the hybrid learning model on September 29, 2020 assuming Public Health recommendations do not change and going forward to provide at least two weeks advance notice to families when transitioning from a remote learning model to a hybrid model.

Mr. Shim seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mrs. Best, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Lloyd, Mr. Shim, Mr. Wilson

Nays

None

Motion passed.

20-154 Mr. Shim moved for adjournment, there being no further business to come before the Board.

Mrs. Best seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mrs. Best, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Lloyd, Mr. Shim, Mr. Wilson

Nays

None

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Portions of the meeting described in these minutes are recorded on a digital device, posted to the district's website, and available for inspection in the office of the Treasurer of the school district during regular business hours.

Approved: _____ President

Approved: _____ Treasurer