

Campbell County School District Board of Trustees Special COVID-19 Meeting  
Thursday, April 23, 2020, at 5:30 PM  
Meeting held remotely Via Zoom.

Present: Anne Ochs, Toni Bell, Linda Bricker, Joseph Lawrence, David Foreman, Lisa Durgin, Ken Clouston, Alex Ayers, Kirby Eisenhauer, Dennis Holmes, Larry Reznicek, Brian Knox, Kip Farnum, and Meldene Goehring.

Also attending: Sixty-six additional community members and press.

Chairman Ochs called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

The board received information regarding the Governor's press conference as well as other updates on topics related to COVID-19.

Dr. Ayers reported information regarding the Governor's press conference including transition plans. New orders are expected next week and will be in effect until May 15, 2020. The Governor mentions the possibility of some business having eased restrictions; however, schools were not mentioned as an entity that could expect eased restrictions.

During the Governor's press conference, Wyoming State Superintendent Jillian Balow mentioned the possibility of opening schools in limited situations for some students on IEP's and special groups. Administration will investigate the definition of special groups. She advised that all superintendents should be talking with health officials, and working to develop a plan to open schools next school year. In order to open schools, a plan must be approved by local health officials and the Wyoming Department of Education.

Dr. Ayers shared some challenges of opening schools include maintaining social distancing, and who among student and staff would be willing to come to school and risk exposure to COVID-19. The district has between 800 and 900 students with serious health concerns. The transportation department transports approximately 4,000 students to school daily making appropriate social distancing on buses impossible. In addition the district wants to be respectful of health care organizations and not compete for personal protective equipment. The district does have the capability to take temperatures of everyone entering school building.

Dr. Ayers stated that establishing a hybrid method for attending school would be complicated. Public Health indicated support for a recommendation that we do not open schools back up this school year. Dr. Ayers recommended the district continue with the Adaptive Learning Plan (ALP) through the end of the school year, and investigate the definition of special groups. After board discussion and comment, a motion was made and seconded to continue with the ALP through the end of the school year with the flexibility to consider exceptions. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holmes reported the print shop is printing materials for students and transportation is delivering those materials to students. Nutrition Services continues to provide student meals at thirteen sites.

Dr. Reznicek reported the district has been able to keep staff working; some staff have been reassigned to areas needing extra help. Principals continue to hire certified staff. The district is getting a nice pool of applicants. Hiring is on a limited basis for Educational Support Personnel (ESP) right now. Most ESP hiring will take place at the end of summer.

Mr. Eisenhauer shared that he is meeting with principals multiple times per week to monitor the effectiveness of ALPs, and facilitators join those meetings once per week.

In addition, Mr. Eisenhauer reported a survey was sent regarding graduation, and overwhelmingly the preference was to delay graduation. Students will be considered graduated at the time of the originally scheduled graduation; however, the ceremony will be postponed. Mr. Eisenhauer proposed graduation dates of June 26 for Westwood High School, and June 27 for Campbell County High School, Thunder Basin High School, and Wright Junior/Senior High School. The district would work with Public Health and possibly have to limit attendance. The board will address the graduation dates at their regular meeting on April 28, 2020.

At this time it is not expected that prom will be able to take place due to social distancing restrictions.

Kindergarten screenings are scheduled for June 15 through June 19. If it is not possible to hold the screenings at that time, they will be rescheduled for July 13 through July 17. Schools will be contacting parents regarding the screenings.

Class registration for junior high and high school students is on schedule and should be rolled out by the first part of May.

Board Comments – The board commended the administration and teachers for their outstanding work. Dr. Clouston shared “We will be a better, stronger, school district and community when this is over”. Appreciation was expressed to the community for all of their support.

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM.

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Secretary, Meldene Goehring

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Chairman

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Clerk