

MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
Sunday, April 26, 2020

The special meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair William T. C. Wood. Principal Rodney Stout and Board Members William Fabel, Charles Gilman, John Russ Hamilton, Kendra Horn, Therese Sutton, Klint Todd attended the meeting electronically. Superintendent Micheal Wetherbee was present

Visitors: Laurie Bartoletti, Aaron Davis, Anthony Johnson, Melissa Brummell, Sara Decker, Abbi Lee, Destiny Howser, Ridgely Elser (electronically)

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

DISTRICT RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR'S PHASED RE-OPENING PLAN:

Superintendent reported that the Governor's most recent order would allow schools to open on May 7; the District conducted a survey of parents, and 60% responded that they would not send their children back to school if it reopened; the Board would need to adopt Policy #1905 to for kids to come back; the work to meet the requirements to have students in the building would be extensive; students could potentially come back on May 11, and May 15 will be the last day of instruction; it is a lot of work for one week; if not all students return, teachers will still need to provide distance learning in addition to being in the classroom; Superintendent Wetherbee and Principal Stout are planning a checkout schedule so students can get their things and say goodbye to their teachers; the District would not be able to participate in the Summer Food Program for meals if school resumes; if there are students who are struggling who need some one-on-one instruction to finish out the year, there could be exceptions that would still meet the guidelines for reopening; the Trustees asked for a written plan for the special exceptions at the next special meeting (May 3).

Therese Sutton moved to continue with distance learning, and Kendra Horn seconded the motion. Further discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: most union members want to see their students and teach in person, but the general consensus is to stay the course; there are so many questions in terms of the health of the students and staff; there is work to do before students are back in the building. The motion carried.

POSSIBLE DECLARATION OF UNFORESEEN EMERGENCY

PURSUANT TO 20-9-801 THROUGH 20-9-806, MCA: Charles Gilman moved to extend the Board's March 22, 2020 declaration of unforeseen emergency through June 30, and John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: If the state of emergency goes longer than June 30, the Board can extend the declaration or have a new declaration of emergency at the July board meeting when it is a new fiscal year. The motion carried.

Public
Comment

Re-Opening
Plan

Declaration of
Emergency

CONSIDERATION OF SUSPENSION OF DISTRICT POLICY #1310 FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING MTSBA MODEL EMERGENCY POLICIES AFTER ONE READING:

John Russ Hamilton moved to suspend Policy #1310 for the purposes of considering and adopting the MTSBA emergency policies after one reading. Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Suspension of
Policy #1310

CONSIDERATION OF 1900 SERIES COVID-19 EMERGENCY

POLICIES: #1900-Introduction: The Board reviewed the emergency MTSBA policies as presented. Superintendent Wetherbee advised the Board that this policy, which had been adopted on April 5, had been revised by MTSBA. He recommended adopting the revised policy. Charles Gilman moved to adopt revised Policy #1900, and Kendra Horn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Policy #1900,
#1901, #1902,
#1903, #1904,
#1905, #1906,
#1907, #1908,
#1908F,
#1909, #1910,
#1910F1,
#1910F2,
#1911, #1912

#1901-School District Policy and Procedures: Superintendent Wetherbee recommended adopting the new Policy #1901 provided by MTSBA. John Russ Hamilton moved to adopt Policy #1901 as presented by MTSBA, and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#1902-Alternative Grading: (Previously discussed at the April 19 meeting.) The Board agreed this policy is unnecessary. There was no motion on Policy #1902.

#1903-School District Meetings and Gatherings: Policy #1903 will be considered if it is necessary; currently, the District plans to continue with existing protocols. There was no motion on Policy #1903.

#1904-Use of Transportation Funds: Kendra Horn moved to adopt revised Policy #1904, and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: This policy was adopted as Policy #1901 on April 5; the optional language selection to omit line 27 still applies. The motion carried.

#1905-Student, Staff, and Community Health and Safety: There was no motion on Policy #1905, but it will be considered if students are coming to school individually to work with teachers or finish projects.

#1906-Student Instruction and Services: Kendra Horn moved to adopt Policy #1906 with Option 2. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Further discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: Superintendent Wetherbee would like the Board to consider the optional language regarding summer school separately; he plans to have a 20 day summer school program open to all high school students who have a failing grade at the end of this quarter; if it can't be conducted in-person, we won't do it. John Russ Hamilton moved to approve the optional language in Policy #1906 regarding summer school. Kendra Horn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#1909- Human Resources and Personnel: Charles Gilman moved to adopt Policy #1909. Therese Sutton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

#1910-Personnel Use of Leave, #1910F1-Emergency Paid Sick Leave Request Form, #1910F2-EFMLA Employee Request Form: Therese Sutton moved to adopt Policies #1910, #1910 F1 and #1910 F2. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#1911-School District Budget Adoption and Amendment and Audit: John Russ Hamilton moved to adopt Policy #1911, and Charles Gilman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There was no motion for Policies #1906P, #1907, #1908, #1908F, or #1912.

ADOPTION OF REVISED SCHOOL YEAR 2019-20 CALENDAR:

Superintendent Wetherbee provided the Trustees with a revised school year calendar. Charles Gilman moved to adopt the revised 2019-20 school calendar as presented. Kendra Horn seconded the motion. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: the revised calendar shows the days of instruction as modified by the school closure plan and shows the days of instruction provided; seniors are typically released earlier than other students, and May 11 will be their last day. The motion carried.

Revised 2019-
20 Calendar

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Wetherbee reported on the following:

- Teachers are still doing a great job, and students who are successful in school are being successful with distance learning. Students who would struggle in school are still struggling. He thanked Mr. Stout and the rest of the staff.
- The seniors asked about an early release; since they are usually released four days early, he is planning on having them check out on May 11.
- Graduation will most likely be on the football field with attendance limited to immediate family and grandparents; if there are not restrictions on gatherings, the ceremony will be moved into the gym; weather and other concerns will be considered.
- School closure is going about as well as it could be. He has spoken with other superintendents, and feels our staff is doing as well as or better than any school out there. It is a difficult situation, but our staff and students are getting it done.

Supt. Report

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:00 p.m., Kendra Horn moved that the meeting be adjourned. The minutes of this meeting were recorded and transcribed by Rebecca E. Larsen, District Clerk.

Adjourn



CLERK



CHAIRMAN