

**MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, August 3, 2020**

The special meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kendra Horn. Kendra Horn, Therese Sutton, William T. C. Wood, Principal Rodney Stout and Superintendent Micheal Wetherbee were present. William Fabel, John Russ Hamilton and Klint Todd attended the meeting electronically.

Visitors: Lindsey Wuelfing, Harley Sprinkle, Anna Stender, Brian Curtis, Megan Ellis, Fran Galiger, Jaeleen Munns, Luke Cordingley, James Schrank, Laurie Bartoletti, Zachary Munns, Joan Woodward, and Tanya Curtis. Ridgley Elser, Kristina Cordingley, CR Motich, and Kali Hardy attended the meeting electronically.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Board and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Pledge

PUBLIC COMMENT: None. Public Comment

**POSSIBLE DECLARATION OF UNFORESEEN EMERGENCY
PURSUANT TO 20-9-801 THROUGH 20-9-806, MCA:**

William T. C. Wood moved to declare an unforeseen emergency through June 30, 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, pursuant to 20-9-801 through 20-9-06, MCA. Therese Sutton seconded the motion and the motion carried. Declaration of Unforeseen Emergency

APPROVAL OF SHERIDAN SCHOOL DISTRICT REOPENING PLAN:

Members of the public expressed their support for returning to school as normal as possible, and their preference for not requiring students to wear masks; returning to school under the circumstances will be difficult for students and staff; masks will be distracting and impractical for younger students; concerns regarding public support at games; recess and lunch; public health considerations; and stability and normalcy for the students. The Board reviewed the Summary of the reopening plan provided by Superintendent Wetherbee; discussion included, but was not limited to, the following: the Board and administration are not taking the reopening of school lightly; a lot of research has gone into developing the reopening plan; the number of cases that the phases are based on seem reasonable; the emphasis is on reasonable, common sense approaches like handwashing and social distancing; Mrs. Bartoletti reported that the teachers are supportive of returning to work, masks recommended for staff and students, additional training in health and safety protocols and remote teaching; feedback from the community has been strongly against requiring masks and opposed to an A-B schedule; the District has an obligation to meet the highest standard of care; the Board is making an informed decision based on the best data available and wants the students back in school as normal as possible, and want to keep them in school, but as safe as possible while they are there; the plan has some complicated pieces, and it would be better to simplify the transitions between phases. The Board asked Reopening Plan

Superintendent Wetherbee to revise the plan to eliminate the requirement of masks, except where necessary, and the A-B schedule. The item was tabled until the August 11 regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF MOU WITH SHERIDAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS:

The SFT was able to meet Monday morning to discuss the MOU, and there were a few items that needed slight revision. (See enclosed.)

- Page 1, Section 3 “Any/all training outside the adopted school year calendar will be compensated at the teachers’ daily pay rate” will be changed to “Any/all training outside the adopted school year calendar will be compensated at the rate established in the Certified Employee Handbook.
- Page 3, Section 7, Subsection D “Any teacher who falls under one or more of the circumstances...” will be changed to “Any member who falls under one or more of the circumstances...”
- Page 3, Section 8, Subsection B: “in section 2 above, bargaining unit members are expected...” will be changed to “in section 2 above, teachers are expected...”

The teachers expressed concern about the expected workday, and compensation for hours worked outside of their contract. The District has concerns regarding the provision on page 3, section 7, subsection C regarding the FFCRA expiration, as that provision may unfairly obligate the District to honor the terms of the FFCRA for the remainder of the school year. It was agreed that if the FFCRA expires, the MOU can be revisited at that time.

William T. C. Wood moved to approve the MOU with the Sheridan Federation of Teachers with the changes outlined. Therese Sutton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF REVISED 1900 SERIES COVID-19 EMERGENCY POLICIES:

The Board reviewed the revised 1900 series COVID-19 emergency policies. (See enclosed.) Similar policies were adopted by the Board in March and April, but they had an expiration date of June 30, 2020; due to the ongoing nature of the pandemic, MTSBA has been revising the policies based on updated information, and recommends that Districts adopt the policies again.

William T. C. Wood moved to adopt policies #1900, 1900P and 1900F as presented and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Therese Sutton moved to adopt policy #1901 as presented and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Superintendent Wetherbee recommended that the Board not adopt policy #1902. There was no motion.

MOU with
SFT

1900 Policy
Series

Therese Sutton moved to adopt policy #1903 with option 3, and William Fabel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

William T. C. Wood moved to adopt policy #1903F as presented and John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Therese Sutton moved to adopt policy #1904 with line 27 stricken regarding contractors and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

William T. C. Wood moved to adopt policy #1905 with physical distancing option 1, and page 2, line 4 revised to read "Recess will continue as scheduled in accordance with physical distancing guidance. ~~Without the use of playground equipment. Any other use of school playgrounds is strictly prohibited~~" and with option 2 for personal protective equipment, with "mask" changed to "face covering". Therese Sutton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Therese Sutton moved to adopt policy #1905P as presented and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

John Russ Hamilton moved to adopt policy #1906 with options 1, 2, and 3 and the language regarding summer school, but without the language regarding an extended school year. William T. C. Wood seconded the motion and the motion carried.

William T. C. moved to adopt policy #1906P as presented and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Therese Sutton moved to adopt policy #1907 as presented and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

John Russ Hamilton moved to adopt policies #1908 and #1908F as presented and William T. C. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

William T. C. Wood moved to adopt policy #1909 with option 1 and Therese Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Therese Sutton moved to policy #1909P as presented. William T. C. Wood seconded the motion and the motion carried.

William T. C. Wood moved to adopt policies #1910, #1910 F1 and #1910 F2 as presented. John Russ Hamilton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Therese Sutton moved to adopt policies #1911 and #1912 as presented. William T. C. Wood seconded the motion and the motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF REVISED SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2020-21
SCHOOL YEAR: Superintendent Wetherbee advised the Board that there had

been some discussion in moving the start date of the school year to allow for two full weeks between the county fair and the start of school. The teachers preferred to keep the calendar as is. The Board felt it was best to move forward with the calendar as it was previously adopted.

Calendar

REVIEW STUDENT HANDBOOK ABSENCE POLICY:

Superintendent Wetherbee asked the Board if they would like to review the student absence policy. The current policy does allow for exceptions due to extenuating circumstances. The Board felt it was unnecessary to change the existing policy.

Student
Absence
Policy

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:55 p.m., William T. C. Wood moved to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourn

The minutes of this meeting were recorded and transcribed by Rebecca E. Larsen, District Clerk.


CLERK


CHAIRMAN