



Members Present: C. Brown, K. Denzer, N. Donnay, J. Gottschalk, R. Hajlo, D. Keyes, A. Melendres, S. Mueller

Members Absent:

Board Advisors Present: J. Gutierrez, K. Gutierrez, J. Karetov, A. Kleinboehl, W. Renner, P. Rosell, A. Sachariason

Call to Order

S. Mueller called the board meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Open Forum

There were 15 requests to speak at the Open Forum: Celia Witt (student), Karl Strobeck (MS/US teacher), Delaney McDowell (student), Kate Gilman (US teacher), Alison Sachs (parent), Stacy Mittag (US teacher), Jane North (parent), Erin Richgels (US teacher), Michael Clinger (MS teacher), Dr. Justin Halbe (parent), Carolyn Bagne (US teacher), Lean Domine (parent), Karen Vidlock (US teacher), Dr. Heather Neuman (parent), Abby Lee (parent).

Learning Model Transition Guidelines – K. Gutierrez

The school's Covid team presented the three proposals (as discussed and agreed upon at the last school board meeting) to the Regional Support Team conference call on Thursday. RST's preference is option 1 which (high level) across the board requires two or more prior weeks of material increases or decreases (depending on more restrictive or less restrictive learning models) in case rate numbers or three consecutive weeks above the corresponding MDE/MDH case rate threshold. Options 2 and 3 were removed from the proposed transition guidelines.

Motion to approve the proposed Learning Model Transition Guidelines as presented: S. Mueller
Second: J. Gottschalk
Approved: All

Learning Model Decision

Case rates in Washington County are currently over 80, near 60 with correctional facilities' numbers removed. We have three criteria for remaining in a learning model: 1). Case rate data, 2). Quarantine/isolation numbers and 3). Staffing. Staffing has been an issue with the increasing number of teachers and staff out due to quarantine and isolation, particularly in the Middle School.

In the Regional Support Team call today, it was made pretty clear their direction was that they would prefer for the School to be in DL by the Thanksgiving break. Keeping in mind the two week (if feasible) notice to families and staff before transitioning to a DL learning model, if we transition at the end of next week, it would be as close as possible to the two week mark.

Motion to approve Upper, Middle and Lower Schools moving to distance learning starting Monday, November 23. The final hybrid learning day will be Thursday, November 19 and Friday, November 20 will be a non-instructional day reserved for staff planning. Target return date is first day of third quarter, Wednesday, January 20, 2021: R. Hajlo

There was discussion about why we would delay the return to hybrid learning to January 20. It was determined that it would be beneficial to have a two week incubation period following the holidays (for gatherings, etc.) and the end of the second quarter was a good cutoff.

K. Denzer recommended that if case rates are down, and we follow the approved guidelines for a change in learning models, that we could look to move to a less restrictive learning model, should the case rate numbers go down.

S. Mueller requested that we be a leader in making a decision on a learning model rather than waiting to make a decision.

Andrew Melendres noted that he would be willing to second the motion and requested that we continue to work on a plan to get to in person learning as soon as possible. He said we need to be a leader in finding a way to get kids back in school.

Second: A. Melendres

Approved: All

Activities

Proposal to continue with athletics and activities while school is in distance learning. Other districts are doing this as well.

Motion to continue to offer Middle and Upper School Athletics and Activities when in the Distance Learning Model provided each individual activity operates with MSHSL and/or safety guidelines and the operation of each program is contingent on viable registration and ability to staff the program with qualified coaches/advisors: A. Melendres

There was discussion about testing athletes weekly. Administration will look into it.

Second: S. Mueller

Approved: All

Distance Learning Model Overview by Division

Lower School – Fridays are set up to be similar as in the past with 30 minutes of Language Arts and 30 minutes of math. Art, music and gym will be drop in as needed. All of these specialists will send out two videos per week with the assignments. During the weekday, there is more built in time for math and reading. EAs will be utilized more than they were in the spring. There will be small group time to divide up students to work more individually.

Middle School – the plan is to keep the same schedule in DL except for Monday and Wednesday there will be Lion Time which allows for small group meetings, one on one



meetings and prep time. There will be live instruction to maintain consistency and also time for student/peer connection.

Upper School – the schedule has been adjusted with shorter times for each class. They have built in Lion Time daily for small group connections and times for one on one instruction for students. The US is looking for ways to connect with other divisions such as tutoring in the Lower School.

SPED – per the Governor’s order, SPED students can receive face to face interaction during distance learning. The SPED department is looking at students’ and families’ needs and evaluating what they will be doing for each student, particularly in the Lower School. In the Upper School and Middle School they are looking to have breakouts by grade level in different classrooms.

Other Family Support – administration is continuing with providing 100% access to technology and internet access. They are working on essential worker learning support, will continue to provide on-site before and after fee based childcare, providing emergency meals to 5 days per week through December 31. In addition, administration is looking at ways to support all DL families through potential learning pods, other social and emotional needs. Amy Riedel, our school counselor through Youth Service Bureau, will continue to provide support to our students and families.

Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 pm: R. Hajlo
Second: N. Donnay
Approved: All

Submitted by S. Peterson, St. Croix Preparatory Academy