

Minutes of Special Meeting

The Board of Education Mahtomedi Public Schools

A **Special Meeting** of the Board of Education of Mahtomedi Public Schools was held **Monday, November 2, 2020**, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Mahtomedi District Education Center - Community Room, 1520 Mahtomedi Avenue, Mahtomedi, Minnesota 55115

1. CALL TO ORDER

Due to the declared health pandemic and declared state of emergency this school board special meeting was held by conference call or interactive technology in accordance with Minnesota State Statute 13D.021. This meeting was live streamed and recorded.

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Lucy Payne.

2. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Present: Kevin Donovan; Julie McGraw; Lucy Payne; Judy Schwartz; Stacey Stout; and Superintendent Barbara Duffrin, ex-officio.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Donovan moved, Schwartz seconded, approval of agenda. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Schwartz-Aye, Stout-Aye. Carried 5-0.

4. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Learning Model Change

School Board Chair Lucy Payne reported Superintendent Duffrin has consulted with the Regional Support Team, The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and other metro area superintendents to understand the changing guidance for a learning model change. Payne shared the following school board goals, set at the beginning of the year: the school board will make operational decisions based on objective information provided by scientific, public health, and medical experts; the school board will prioritize keeping our staff and community safe with our operational actions; and the school board will return our students to full-time, in-person instruction when it is safe to do so. School Board Director Kevin Donovan reported he has consulted with elected officials, leadership at the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA), and the Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD). Donovan and Superintendent Duffrin also consulted with Heather Mueller, Deputy Commissioner of Education, to get clarity on the recommended guidelines. Superintendent Duffrin presented on The Learning Model Change Process and the COVID-19 data from July–October per 10,000 people in Washington County. The adjusted 14-day case rate for October 4-17

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(excluding the correctional facility population) was 36.08 and is trending upwards. Based on this scientific evidence and guidance from MDE and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) the learning model recommendation would be Hybrid for elementary students and Distance Learning for secondary students. Duffrin explained each school district works with a Regional Support Team made up of members from MDE, MDH and other local public health officials and their recommendation is to move to a Distance Learning Model for Mahtomedi High School on November 10. Also considered was the school schedule, mobility and independence of high school students. Tony Pierce, Director of Student Support Services, reported there will be in-person learning groups during Distance Learning for high school students who need the most direction and support, such as high need special education students and students requiring academic or social/emotional interventions. Aaron Forsythe, Associate Principal of Athletics and Activities, reported activities and athletics will continue during Distance Learning to help support students' social and emotional wellbeing. The administration has created a Mahtomedi Public Schools COVID-19 District Dashboard. The dashboard will be updated every Friday with student/staff positive cases and quarantined numbers and can be found on the district's website. The Regional Support Team will re-examine the data the week of November 16. School board members discussed concerns, such as loss of learning, students' mental health and the safety of students and staff. Superintendent Duffrin and board members heard from community members, families, teachers and students, receiving over 100 public comment emails, with many different perspectives in the last 11 days. The school board members thanked the community for their input and the superintendent, administration, teachers and staff for working tirelessly to do what is best for Mahtomedi students. Superintendent Duffrin thanked the school board members for all of their support. Schwartz moved, McGraw seconded, approval of the learning model change to Distance Learning 2.0 at Mahtomedi High School. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Schwartz-Aye, Stout-Nay. Carried 4-1.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Donovan moved, McGraw seconded, adjournment. Roll Call Vote: Donovan-Aye, McGraw-Aye, Payne-Aye, Schwartz-Aye, Stout-Aye. Carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

JULIE MCGRAW, CLERK