

Currituck County Schools**Special Meeting**
07/27/2020 09:30 AM
Virtual Meeting**Meeting Minutes**

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The open session of this meeting can be viewed at [CCS_BOE YouTube](#)

Attendees

Voting Members

Karen Etheridge, Chairman
Dwan Craft, Vice Chairman
Dr. Bill Dobney, Board Member
Will Crodick, Board Member
Janet Rose, Board Member

A. Call to Order**B. Return to Learn Plan (Action)**

The Board discussed Option B (hybrid A-B schedule with in-person and virtual instruction) and Option C (completely virtual) during their work session on July 22, 2020.

Will Crodick made a motion for the district to implement Option C for four weeks - with a plan to open K-5 in four weeks and a plan by nine weeks to open middle and high schools. He included sending a resolution to the Governor asking for consideration regarding the restrictions placed on schools. The current restrictions cause a hardship on the district, students and parents who have to find childcare in order to work. Childcare also effects teachers with children. Students need to return to school so parents can work and teachers can return back to the classrooms.

He added Currituck has a very low rate of COVID -19 and the recovery rate is 99.35%. In addition, children have a very low rate of contracting the disease or transmitting it. Not everyone will be happy with the decision but for the betterment of the County students need to return to school.

Chairman Etheridge asked Mr. Crodick to condense his motion - which he did. The motion was seconded by Janet Rose.

Dr. Dobney said he was going to maintain his stance and rather be safe than sorry. He recommends waiting to see the results of the elementary schools that are returning. Janet Rose said waiting four weeks would give the district time to access. She said on the recent survey only 20% of staff and parents selected Plan C. She also received information from *Public Schools* that strongly recommended Pre-K in-person instruction.

The Board continued to discuss the plans of various local districts and within the state. At the present, Dr. Lutz said it was approximately 50/50 for districts using Plan B or Plan C.

Dr. Lutz said the Governor needs to lift some of the restrictions. Should the district operate under the current restrictions, transportation costs for the extra hour of runs will cost the district approximately \$48,660 per week and approximately \$91,000 a year to make all nurses full time.

Administration and the Board discussed the impact and procedures if a teacher or student should test positive and were attending school.

Dr. Dobney asked if any of the district's teachers had tested positive. Dr. Lutz said the district has employees who tested positive.

Mrs. Rose asked Dr. Lutz for his recommendation and asked if the return to school planning groups had included nurses, guidance and teachers. Dr. Dobney said the decision regarding the plans was

the ultimately the Boards. Dr. Lutz said he did not mind giving his opinion. He went on to say that after reviewing the options provided by the state and giving the circumstance of implementing Plan B while still required to offer student services under Plan C - he recommended Plan C. Dr. Lutz said implementing both at the same time would be very difficult, but he also understands the urgency of getting students back to school. The return to school planning groups did contain nurses and teachers.

Mr. Crodick said he understands the difficulty in rolling out a plan with all of the restriction and that the resolution would help. He hopes that some of the restrictions could be lifted by the Governor in addition to the resolution. He said the district should not be compared to larger districts and areas with a lot of cases of COVID -19.

Chairman Etheridge said in addition to safety there is also the fiscal responsibility. She said it does not come down to the mighty dollar but it's a combination of the two. She said Plan C will give the district time to plan. She said that many of the restrictions with attending school will be very difficult for students.

The Board discussed the added transportation costs and if it would be lower with only K-5 being transported. Dr. Lutz would provide the additional data later. Mr. Crodick said he had studied many recommendations and there was a lot of interpretations and misinformation out there. Mr. Crodick motioned to amend the current motion to implement Option C for four weeks, with returning K-5 and by nine weeks, if restrictions are lessened and the district has the ability, middle and high schools return. This along with the resolution and he added forming a staff committee for additional input and guidance on implementation of the plans. Janet Rose asked that the committee include school nurses and counselors. The motion was seconded by Janet Rose.

Dr. Dobney said he was concerned with the staff that currently have COVID and or either high-risk or have family members that are high-risk. The Board again discussed the impact and issues with a staff member testing positive with COVID. With that, Chairman Etheridge recommended implementing Plan C and to reassess after 9 weeks. Mrs. Rose she too is concerned and would like to give staff and parents a choice. She said everything she has heard, the virus is not going away. Chairman Etheridge said the district must follow the Governors' orders. Mrs. Craft said it would only take one child or one teacher to shut things down. Mrs. Rose said there are other things that are harmful to children. Mr. Crodick said that one child is too many, but the nation has lost 30 children and K-5 should be returning to school.

Dr. Dobney inquired about endangering high-risk staff. Mr. Crodick said that the district would not use high-risk staff but either restructure or use substitutes. Mr. Crodick stated the COVID recovery rate of 99.35%. Mrs. Rose asked if it was possibly that the district could change course if the restrictions were lessened and if things got worse. Mrs. Craft said it was her understanding that Administration would continue to evaluate returning students as the district was in the remote learning mode during the first nine weeks. Interim Superintendent, Matt Lutz replied absolutely and the schools would reopen as soon as things returned to as normal as possible. Again he expressed his concern with the district trying to perform Plan B and Plan C at the same time. Dr. Lutz said he wanted to make sure the district provided the best services under the current circumstances.

Mrs. Rose asked if the four weeks would allow enough time and to learn from other districts who are reopening. Dr. Lutz said some districts only have one elementary versus the district's six elementary schools and some district's had pulled back due to the logistics. He was not in favor of coordinating a modified Plan A and Plan B schedule with 50% capacity across six buildings in four weeks. Mrs. Craft added that Plan A was not currently an option.

Mrs. Rose asked if the district could conduct a parent survey concerning the current plan. Chairman Etheridge said that most parents are going to want their children back in school but she did not believe the parents understood what was involved. She understands it effects the parent's

employment. Dr. Lutz shared data from national polls which provide no definitive choice and approximately 40% are not going to be pleased with either plan.

The Board voted on the existing motion. A roll call vote was requested; Yes - Will Crodick and Janet Rose; No- Dr. Bill Dobney, Chairman Etheridge and Dwan Craft. The motion failed.

Chairman Etheridge made a motion for the district to move forward with Plan C ; to continue to reevaluate the COVID-19 data and to make a determination at the end of nine weeks and to hold a Special Meeting if the district is able to return students sooner. The motion was seconded by Dwan Craft.

Mr. Crodick ask about teachers dealing with childcare and returning to work. Chairman Etheridge said those details could be discussed during the August 6th meeting. Mr. Crodick replied that this meant at this time, the Board would not inform parents or teachers on how they would be impacted and treated similar or indifferent when dealing with their children. Chairman Etheridge said today's meeting was only for the Board to vote on Plan B or Plan C. The Board voted on the motion. A roll call vote was requested; No - Will Crodick and Janet Rose; Yes- Dr. Bill Dobney, Chairman Etheridge and Dwan Craft. The motion carried.

Motion made by: Karen Etheridge

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Karen Etheridge - Yes

Dwan Craft - Yes

Dr. Bill Dobney - Yes

Will Crodick - No

Janet Rose - No

C. Adjourn Meeting (Action)

Motion made by: Janet Rose

Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Chairperson

Secretary