

Currituck County Schools

Meeting Minutes

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Special Meeting

01/07/2021 05:00 PM

Currituck County Historic Courthouse

Attendees

Voting Members

Karen Etheridge, Chairman
Dwan Craft, Vice Chairman
Dr. Bill Dobney, Board Member
Janet Rose, Board Member
Kelly Williams Peters, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Matt Lutz, Superintendent

A. Call to Order**B. Options for Returning High School Students to In-Person Learning**

Dr. Lutz presented the options for reopening CCHS & JP Knapp for in-person instruction. The high schools have been operating virtually since the governor's pandemic mandate on March 13, 2020.

Dr. Lutz's presentation also included an update on how the district is currently operating within the mandates of Covid.

The district provides a weekly update on the district's website regarding positive cases of Covid that may impacts the schools. Quarantines for non-positive cases are not tracked. The dashboard is updated every Friday.

The Virtual Academy will remain in operation until the end of the school year.

The options to reopen the high schools would allow the district to conduct a soft start on January 25, 2021.

The list of BOE meetings held since the pandemic were shown. Several Special Meetings had been held to discuss the planning of in-person and virtual instruction for the district's Pre-K through 8th grade. Work Sessions and Special Meetings do not have Public Comment Session,

Transportation continues to be an issue since there are capacity restrictions and only a limited number of buses in the district's fleet.

Athletic guidelines are provided by NCHSAA. The district has had athletes with Covid. The cases were handled according to the guidelines.

School calendars continue to be revised. Dr. Lutz thanked parents and the community for their patience.

Currently 155 staff members have received the 1st dose of the Covid vaccine. The district will continue to work with the local health department to bring the vaccine to staff members.

Other considerations include the availability of substitutes, bus drivers and asking everyone to limit their exposure outside of the workplace since this can impact the schools.

Dr. Dobney asked if the school calendar would be extended. Administration was unsure at the time and is waiting on direction from the state. CCHS leadership team expressed concerns with the logistics of reopening the school for in-person instruction. Using Plan B and cohorts A & B will allow approximately 400 students in the building at one time.

Student BOE Member, [Olivia McDonald](#) was asked how she was dealing with virtual learning. Ms. McDonald said that she was doing very well. In fact her grades had improved due to having more time to study. Bullying was no longer an issue. She will remain virtual through the spring semester.

Mrs. Craft asked Dr. Lutz what other districts were doing as far as high school instruction. Dr. Lutz said some local districts were using cohorts and others were remaining virtual. Districts are using various methods to bring students into the buildings - depending on transportation availability and social distancing guidelines.

Mrs. Rose said she was happy to hear about the number of staff getting the vaccine. She asked about the number of students who remain virtual. Dr. Lutz said currently CCHS has 177 students and JP Knapp has 77. It consistently runs 20% of the student population.

Mrs. Peters asked about the logistics of providing lunch to students in the building. Dr. Lutz and Interim Principal, Allison Sholar, said planning may include delivering meals to the classrooms.

The Board discussed the availability of dispensers for hand sanitizer. Virginia Arrington, Coordinator of Student Services, said they will be available in main areas. Mrs. Rose asked about sanitizing. Dr. Lutz said supplies are being delivered to the high schools. Transportation continues to be a challenge. A soft start is recommended for the schools. Planning with the schools' leadership teams will continue to address class sizes and scheduling. Dr. Lutz said the district's planning will also allow the district to go back to full virtual learning within 24 to 48 hours if the state mandated the closure of schools again.

Dr. Dobney asked about synchronized learning in all classrooms. Dr. Lutz said that option was not favorable among the elementary teachers. Mrs. Dowdy said the hybrid is very challenging with younger students. The middle schools have done an amazing job.

Dr. Dobney asked if the middle school could share information with the high schools. Mrs. Dowdy said there is a plan for high school staff to visit the middle schools.

Chairman Etheridge asked about the number of high school teachers who need to remain virtual. Dr. Lutz said there are four teachers at CCHS and one at JP Knapp.

Dr. Dobney asked Robert Griffin, CCHS Math teacher, for his thoughts on returning students to the schools. Mr. Griffin said some students are succeeding in the virtual setting, other students are not and need the opportunity to return to school.

The Board discussed the ability of the district's teachers to record lessons allowing students to catch up if needed.

Dr. Dobney made the motion for the district to utilize Plan B for the high schools starting January 25, 2021. The motion was seconded by Chairman Etheridge. All were in favor.

Motion made by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Motion seconded by: Karen Etheridge

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

C. Adjourn Meeting (Action)

Chairperson

Secretary