

MONTOURSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL BOARD MEETING Online Zoom Webinar

Thursday, October 1, 2020
7:12 PM

Call to Order - Board President
Roll Call - Board Secretary

MEMBER

 x Daniel L. Albert
 x Susan Beery
 x Scott W. Konkle
 x Jennifer L. Marriott
 x Dottie M. Mathers, Vice President
 x William S. Ruffing

MEMBER

 x David Shimmel, President
 x Ronald E. Snell
 x Dale Ulmer
 x *Fred Holland, Solicitor
 x *Christina Bason, Superintendent
 x *Brandy N. Smith, Business Mgr./Bd.Secretary
*(Non-Voting Member)

OTHERS

 x Breon, Amy - Elementary School Principal
 x Feerrar, Darrin - Elementary School Principal
 x Gnoffo, Joseph - Supervisors of Buildings and Grounds
 x King, Christopher - Assistant High School Principal
 x Myers, Curtis - Middle School Principal
 x Peipher, Sebastian – Lead Network Administrator
 x Taormina, Daniel - High School Principal
 x Williamson, Michele - Supervisor of Special Education
 x Residents x Media Students

Prior Presentation

Mrs. Bason gave a recap of events that has brought the District to this point to give context for the decision being made during the meeting. She provided the options for re-opening that were discussed and the reasoning for the five-day week choice. Mrs. Bason also thanked everyone for their hard work and patience through everything this year.

Mr. Snell made a motion to have students return to a five-day a week schedule as outlined by Mrs. Bason. Dr. Beery gave a second to that motion.

Mr. Shimmel then opened the meeting for public comment.

Public Comment

Sheldon Schwartz thanked the Board for holding the meeting. He stated that he believes masks are very important, but he doesn't see the lack of social distance to be a problem.

Khoi Tran wanted to share that many students are nervous about attending school full time. He wanted to know what the District's plan was for students who are worried about going back full time due to living with relatives who are older or have pre-existing conditions.

Martin Jeirles shared that many kids are going to day care or elsewhere the other days of the week where they have to wear a mask so he thinks the transition shouldn't be a big issue.

Dan Asiello wanted to know if the schools were doing temperature checks in the morning and what the criteria was for sending a student home.

Tina Marie Kline stated that if the students will be returning to school five days per week then the cleaning needs to be more meticulous.

Pattie Connelly shared that she is glad to see a five-day week being considered. She asked if students will be allowed to go outside for mask breaks and if the elementary school students have desk shields at their desks too. Pattie also shared how the current schedule is affecting her child.

Ethan Lyons wanted to know how lunches will be handled with all of the students being back.

Mya Wilson asked how temperatures were taken each day as she doesn't recall it happening.

Tina Marie Kline wanted to be sure that cleaning supplies were readily available to the students to clean the rooms they are coming in to if they choose to do so.

Diane Hess asked if students would be allowed to take buses from school to school if the students were going 5 days per week again.

Dan Asiello wanted to know how the students with their own desk shields fit their shield onto the desks with taped shields. He also stated that he believes as long as the cleaning products are safe that the kids should help clean. Dan wanted to know if the increase in students would have an impact on the machine's ability to take an accurate temperature.

Wendy Smith asked how information would be relayed to parents if there are cases within the District.

Kristine Conklin asked why all students aren't starting back on the same date.

Christy Sherwood shared that her son said every class he is in has the sanitizer and wipes available at the front of classroom.

Jennifer Gotshall stated that her children are having a good experience with the hybrid model, but she supports a return. She said she believes the students should be sanitizing the desks after each period. Jennifer asked what the financial impact is of a student choosing to use the Warrior Online option.

Sharon Meyer wanted clarification on if elementary students will be receiving mask breaks.

Veronica Lepley thanked the principals, Mrs. Bason, the teachers, and everyone else involved for their hard work this year.

Pamela Nelson said her children have been doing okay with the hybrid schedule but doesn't believe it works for younger students. She stated that she is happy the Board is evaluating a return to a 5 day per week schedule.

Scott Metzger stated that he would like to see a return to a 5-day week. He believes the District can do it safely and effectively as others have.

Brenda Oberheim asked if it was possible to start students in the Middle School earlier than the scheduled date.

Jenn DeSanto said she believes that going straight to five-day weeks may put a strain on teachers if students have to quarantine. She also asked if school dismissal times would return to normal.

Kim Rehn shared that her family has had a good experience with the hybrid model. She asked if a model where the elementary students went full time and the older students were hybrid was discussed.

Mindy Vlacich shared her frustrations with the current hybrid model. She said her children are really struggling while working on assignments at home.

Brandie Fry listed some problems that her children have had with the hybrid model. She requested that there be more communication to the parents specifically regarding technology.

Danae Newell shared her concerns with returning to a five-day week.

Caroline Lecrone stated that she is in favor of students going back 5 days per week.

Amy Asiello wanted to thank everyone for their hard work the past few months. She said her family has enjoyed the hybrid model but they're excited to go back to a full week.

Kim Rehn shared that not all schools are going back full time. Kim listed some schools in the area who are still in a hybrid model.

Sharon Meyer shared information from a few scholarly journals to support a move to a five-day week.

Mrs. Marriott thanked the administration and teachers for all of their hard work over the past several months.

Mr. Ruffing thanked the parents for their outreach and emails in the days leading up to the meeting.

Dr. Mathers shared that she believes it is safe to go back to a regular schedule. She asked the community to please do their part and wear their masks and take the proper precautions.

Mr. Snell thanked the administration, teachers, students, and parents for all of their hard work. He stated that he believes the community and the students need a regular school schedule.

Mr. Albert thanked the administration for all of the work and planning they have had to do. He voiced his support for a 5-day week schedule.

Motion to transition the District to a full time, 5-day a week schedule beginning on October 12th with the Elementary Schools and October 19th for the Middle and High Schools.

Motion: Snell Second: Beery
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer
No: None
Absent: None
Result: **Motion Carried**

Announcement of Executive Session following the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING 9:41 PM

Motion: Ulmer Second: Ruffing
Voice Vote: Unanimous



David Shimmel, President



Brandy N. Smith, Board Secretary