

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
525 SUNSET RIDGE ROAD  
NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS 60093  
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
November 18, 2020  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL: (6:20 p.m.)**

Mr. Spaan called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. and upon roll call, the following were present:

Present: Mrs. Detlefsen, Mr. Hayes, Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Welch,  
Ms. Alpert Knight, Mr. Spaan

Absent: Mr. Subeck

Also Present: Dr. Stange, Mr. Beerheide, Dr. Sukenik, Mrs. Kiedaisch,  
Mrs. Styczen, Mr. Dreher, Approximately 150 virtual  
Participants

**VOTE TO ALLOW**

**VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION:**

Mr. Hayes moved to approve the virtual participation of Mr. Subeck.  
Ms. Alpert Knight second the motion, The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mrs. Detlefsen, Ms. Alpert Knight, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Welch,  
Mr. Spaan, Mrs. Peterson

Absent: Mr. Subeck

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2.1 Audience Comments**

Dr. Stange, Mrs. Peterson, and Mrs. Detlefsen read written public comments submitted by the following individuals;

- Melanie Wagner – Encouraging the Board to keep schools open.
- Stephanie Puljas – Encouraging the Board to implement a full remote schedule
- Brent Payne – Encouraging the Board to implement a full remote schedule
- Dena Kelly – Encouraging the Board to implement a full remote schedule
- Katie Lutz – Encouraging the Board to keep schools open and individuals to do their part to keep virus transmission down.
- Jackie & Eric Johnson – Encouraging the Board to keep schools open
- Kelly & Stan Lovelace – Encouraging the Board to implement a full remote schedule
- Anne Mertes – Encouraging the Board to implement a full remote schedule
- Charlie Pick – Encouraging the Board to implement a full remote schedule
- Dr. Shaun O’Leary – Encouraging the Board to keep schools open

## **2.2 Update: COVID-19 Regional and Local Metrics**

Dr. Stange reviewed the most recent COVID-19 metrics noting that all regional and local metrics (e.g., Test Positivity Rates, New Cases Per 100,000 Residents) were in the “substantial” range and at the highest levels recorded to date. He also noted that, in the past week, that District 29 had a) an average of 16 staff absences per day with 7 staff currently under quarantine, b) an average of 4 unfilled staff absences per day, c) one grade level currently pivoting to remote learning due to insufficient staff and, d) 4 staff and 3 student confirmed/probable cases of COVID-19.

Dr. Stange also noted that suburban Cook County School districts are not benefitting from the same level of support from our local health department as are districts in neighboring counties (e.g., Lake, DuPage). More specifically, he noted that the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), unlike health departments in surrounding counties, has refused to make a recommendation to schools about the safety of in-person learning.

## **2.3 Board Open Discussion**

The Board discussed a) the rising COVID-19 prevalence data, b) the current staffing situation at both schools and, c) the potential impact of upcoming holiday travel and social gathering on the transmission of COVID-19.

The Board also discussed a) their general preference for in-person learning, b) their expectations for student engagement during remote learning and, c) their collective commitment to return to the hybrid in-person learning program on January 11, 2021.

Each individual Board member articulated their concerns, expectations, and recommended action.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

### **3.1 Implementation of Adaptive Pause (Remote Learning)**

Mrs. Peterson moved to approve the implementation of an “Adaptive Pause” (remote learning) for all students from November 30, 2020 - December 18, 2020 and again from January 4, 2021 through January 8, 2021. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mrs. Detlefsen, Ms. Alpert Knight, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Welch,  
Mr. Spaan, Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Subeck

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved by Mr. Hayes seconded by Ms. Alpert Knight to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. All were in favor.



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President, Board of Education



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Secretary, Board of Education

Approved , 2020

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