



North Shore Community School

School District 4084

Board Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria and via Google Hangout/Meet

Approved

Mission: North Shore Community School excels in connecting our students' academics and learning with their natural and social environments in a nurturing community setting.

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 13D.021, members of the public are not permitted to attend this meeting due to the current health pandemic. Persons may monitor this meeting from a remote location through our streaming link: <https://youtu.be/Gp7xcJ4fEcg>

If you need support accessing the meeting, please contact Shelly Pierson at spierson@nscsk6.org.

Call to Order: 7:33 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Directors: Sheri Camper, ~~John Doberstein~~, Gina Gallagher, Linda Johnson, Jaron Larson, Greg Spoelhof, Denny Stolp

Ex Officio: Executive Director Shelly Pierson, Business Manager Nikki Carpenter

Others: Erica Rodriguez

- I. Concerns from Audience:** Public comment for school board meetings may be submitted through email to: dstolp@nscsk6.org no later than Monday, August 10, by 12:00 p.m. Concerns will be read aloud for the record.
 - A. **John Doberstein** expressed his opinion that school should open with Distance Learning and gradually work toward opening to In Person, acknowledging that all options will be challenging. Advocating for the group of children who, for their well being, need to learn in school to have the opportunity to learn In Person.
 - B. **Betsy Sherman** wrote to express her concern as a staff member to return to school with the Hybrid Model and recommends Staff is surveyed again after some discussion and description of what school would look like under each model.
 - C. **Angela Wood** feels concerns after seeing large gatherings of people not practicing social distancing throughout the summer, NSCS students included. Reports consulting with medical professionals and concluded that Distance Learning is right for her family. Ms. Wood feels opening fully In Person would be irresponsible, that it is possible for the Hybrid model to be achieved safely, but has concerns and that Distance Learning is safest. She poses questions regarding teaching primarily outdoors, how proper ventilation

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will be maintained within the building, how to reduce risk of touch contamination and the safety and availability of having a Sub.

- D. **Anne Lampela** wrote to express her strong feelings for beginning the school year with the Distance Learning Model. Citing the importance of stability and consistency for children and their families she also touched on the fact that as case numbers fluctuate so will the model used to educate our children, thus not giving them the stability that they thrive on. She also offered a description of what it's like to protect a high risk loved one in your home and how different it is for people who live or care for high risk people.
- E. **Kristi Lounsberry** sent an email to share her opinions with the Board. She acknowledges that based on state guidelines we fall into the In Person Model category, which she supports. However, her recommendation is to begin the year with the Hybrid Model in order to both provide a safe learning experience for our children where measures are enforceable due to the smaller number of students, and honor concerns from staff who would be maximally exposed.
- F. **Amy Giddings & Carla Tamburro** shared a detailed list of their concerns as specialists who see each and every student on a weekly basis and therefore are at a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19. Many possible solutions were offered to the board as ways to address their concerns.
- G. **Hannah Bruckelmyer** writes in support of full time school this year due to concerns over the children's education and social skills. She also mentioned that putting the burden of homeschooling on parents is a difficulty for them.
- H. **Dan Rosenlund** shared some statistics about active cases in St. Louis County; on August 7 there were 134 in St. Louis County, 10 of which were hospitalized. He also expressed concerns in his email message regarding the social and academic education that children miss out on if school is not reopened. He asks that school open this fall for the sake of his children and their parents.
- I. **Travis Johnston** writes to state his desire for his daughter to go to school this year and his potential unhappiness if she doesn't.
- J. **Brandon and Mariah Raisanen** support opening the school with the In Person Model citing that studies have shown that COVID-19 has very little impact on grade school students and that Distance Learning is very difficult on mothers with many children.
- K. **Seth and Heather Levanen** wrote to request that their child be able to attend school in a traditional classroom setting if possible.
- L. **Danny & Jenna Johnston** emailed to say that they support full time schooling.
- M. **Jenny Kirby** writes in support of the In Person Model citing that the kids need the school setting to focus, learn and develop socially. She also expressed concerns that the Hybrid Model is pointless.
- N. **Sheila Simonson** shared that her preference would be to have kids back in school due to 2 of them having learning disabilities.
- O. **Tracy Roberts** cited that children have a low chance of getting infected with COVID-19 and those that do have had minor symptoms. She also noted that going to school is an important part of a child's development and urges the Board to make the right decision.

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- P. **Ed Hendrickson** is hopeful that children can return to school in a normal manner. It is his belief that it is harmful to expect them to learn on their own as well as to lose the structure that school provides. It is also his belief that the Board & the Administration can arrange a safe environment for the children and address infections if or when they arise.
- Q. **Zach & Trina Sundberg** would appreciate school resuming normal classes.
- R. **Travis & Alicia Stolp** wrote to share that they feel that returning to school would be safe because there is evidence that COVID-19 affects children no more than the flu or a cold. Making the recommendation that teachers who do not feel comfortable teaching at this time opt for a long term sub to take their place, or paying the mothers instead of the teachers in the case of Distance Learning. It is their belief that it is in the best interest of the school to teach in a normal way, there is potential that enrollment would drop from unhappy families finding alternative educational opportunities for their family.
- S. **Tim & Cindy Carlson** offered to support any protocols required for in person learning this year.
- T. **Callie Efrainson** sent an email to share that she prefers in school learning for her child.
- U. **Shawna Rosenlund** requests that her children go back to school to be taught by trained professionals. Opting for another school in lieu of distance learning is a possibility for her family.
- V. **Sarah Bunn** would love it if her daughter could return to school full time.
- W. **Heidi Nelson** writes to share her belief that her children benefit from in person schooling and hopes that NSCS will consider opening this fall. Not having training as a teacher is stressful for her family.
- X. **Colleen Waliezer** emailed that she would like school to remain open.
- Y. **Adam & Erin Labat** emailed with concerns with any form of Distance Learning concerning their child with an IEP. With last spring's distance learning they saw that this was not a good way to educate their child and expect a different learning opportunity for their child to meet his needs. Erin addresses the financial burden that distance learning would put on their family, not having their kids in school during their working hours could mean significant loss of hours. The couple write that they would consider leaving NSCS for an In Person schooling option elsewhere.
- Z. **Tyler Bruckelmeyer** wrote in support of reopening in a normal classroom setting, noting that those at risk can adequately be educated through distance learning.

II. Recognition:

- A. **The Board recognized Shelly Pierson for her unwavering support of NSCS and thanked her for the dedication that she shows to our community**
- B. **Shelly Pierson added that the support of Kristi Lounsberry & Nikki Carpenter has been crucial to the success of the planning process**

III. Approve Agenda: MOTION by S. Camper to approve the Agenda with adjustments to New Business, changing Item C. from Adoption of Learning Model Policy to Learning Model Resolution. Also nesting Item D. Safe Learning Plan underneath Item C. as number 1. *Seconded*

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by L. Johnson. Camper: yes, Doberstein: absent, Gallagher: yes, Johnson: yes, Larson: yes, Spoelhof: yes, Stolp: yes. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Consider items to add from the August 10, 2020 Board Retreat

Electronic forms of this and all supporting documents for the August 10, 2020 Meeting are available to guests of the meeting at <https://northshorecommunityschool.org/board/> under the Meeting Notice_Agenda tab.

IV. New Board Member: Jaron Larson

A. Appointment of Jaron Larson

B. New Board Member Oath of Office

1. Read by D. Stolp
2. Signed by D. Stolp & J. Larson

V. Unfinished Business:

A. Adopt New Policy: 5XX Tele-Related Services

1. **MOTION by L. Johnson to adopt the Tele Related Services Policy** to be numbered at a later time, **Seconded by G. Gallagher.** *Camper: yes, Doberstein: absent, Gallagher: yes, Johnson: yes, Larson: yes, Spoelhof: yes, Stolp: yes. Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Lease Agreement with ABC

1. *Tabled until the August 24, 2020 Board Meeting*

VI. New Business:

A. Title IX Rule Changes and Updated Policy (Awaiting from MSBA)

1. MSBA did not have this policy ready so it will appear on the August 24, 2020 Agenda

B. Adoption of Mask Policy

1. It was decided not to adopt the policy and instead have a slimmed down version titled "COVID-19 Face Covering Requirements." This decision was based on the fact that schools are required to comply with executive orders regardless of if they also have a policy in place.

C. Safe Learning Plan and Adoption of Learning Model Resolution

1. Members of the Board heard a presentation from Shelly Pierson detailing the core values of the school, the executive order laid out by Governor Walz, results from surveys answered by staff and parents, as well as her recommendation to open school using the Hybrid model with the exception of students on an IEP and children of tier 1 essential workers, who, under her plan, would attend school in person four days a week.

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2. Board Members each spoke about their perspectives and how they utilize the information available to make their own recommendation as to which learning model should be used.
3. **Safe Learning Plan: MOTION by S. Camper to adopt a Hybrid Model Resolution** for the first weeks of school with the plan to reevaluate at the September 28, 2020 Board Meeting. **Seconded by G. Spoelhof.** Camper: yes, Doberstein: absent, Gallagher: yes, Johnson: yes, Larson: yes, Spoelhof: yes, Stolp: yes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

VII. Board Reflection:

- A. This long, productive meeting required patience. It is the hope of the Board that families & staff felt heard and members can move forward from disagreements.

VIII. The next Board Meeting will be held: August 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria and via Google Hangout/Meet

- IX. Adjourn: MOTION by L. Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 p.m, seconded by G. Gallagher.** Camper: yes, Doberstein: absent, Gallagher: yes, Johnson: yes, Larson: yes, Spoelhof: yes, Stolp: yes. **Motion carried unanimously.**