

LESLIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Minutes
Special Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 2020
6:00 p.m. - High School Library/Remote

CALL MEETING

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the Leslie Public Schools, Ingham and Jackson Counties, Michigan, was called to order by President Dave Cowing at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Dave Cowing
 Shauna Howe
 Eric Isham
 Deann Maynard
 Mary Cowl
 Bud Fifield

Members absent: John Wayne Stewart

Administrator(s)
present: Jeff Manthei, Superintendent
 Scott Powers
 Todd Gonser
 Connie Gonzalez
 Rob DeSmith
 Andrea Roach
 Anita Strong (remote)
 Travis McComb
 Dave Medcoff

Others: Kelly Sundeen
 Deanna Perleberg
 Will Derr
 Leslie staff and community members (remote) A complete
 list of remote attendees is available at the
 Superintendent's Office.

Pledge of Allegiance given.

COMMENTS AND/CONCERNS OF CITIZENS PRESENT:

Regina Douglas, Woods Road, had connection problems and wasn't able to speak.

Hattie Dornbush, Berry Road, Pleasant Lake, expressed her concern with pushing out the start date of school.

Trinty Craft, Pine Drive, Mason, shared his frustration with not receiving anything from either the Middle School or Woodworth.

Hillary Cranmore, Maven Lake, Pleasant Lake, shared her concerns with changing the start date this late with school starting in two days.

Jessica Lightner, Bellevue Road, Onondaga, questioned the teacher professional development days as well as the random days off on the school calendar.

Tim Howering, Ingalls Road, Leslie, shared the facts as he perceived them as: 1) other schools have gone back and in two weeks were shut down, 2) MSU has gone to complete online, 3) virus is contagious, 4) need to think carefully about this, 5) University of NC brought kids back and then two weeks later shut down, 6) its too volatile to bring kids back to school they need to be kept safe.

Terry Weber, Walker Road, Leslie, shared his thoughts that a plan was made and we should move ahead as planned.

Amy Covert, Main Street, Leslie, expressed support for pushing the start date out two weeks.

Renee Reed, Edgar Road, Leslie, shared her support with starting school and face-to-face instruction. She questioned how to receive a laptop for her child.

Andrew Murray, Goodman Street, Mason, shared his support with pushing out the start date two weeks.

Desiree Smith, Churchill Leslie, shared that she had received no communication from the school. She wondered if there were other ways to communicate than mail.

Joe Strong, Johnston Road, Leslie, shared that deadlines must be met in the real world or people may lose a job. The schools have known since March when school would be starting. He suggested that the school look at a proactive approach.

Elise Harper, Doty Street, Leslie, expressed support with pushing the start date out two weeks. This would provide more time logistically for preparation and placing student and staff safety as the priority.

Mariah Kapp, Bellevue Road, Leslie, was concerned with the lack of communication from the school. She works for a school district and has been receiving communication since August 1, 2020.

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Amanda Pearson, Fitchburg Road, Leslie, shared that she thought the decision had already been made when school would start. She quit one of her jobs because her daughter could not stay home alone.

Brad Newman, Russell Street, Leslie, shared that the school should stick to the plan they had already made.

Teresa Brown, Kinneville Road, Leslie, asked the question did the teachers get the supplies needed to keep the school sanitized and the students safe?

President Cowing responded that the district already has the PPE needed and we are ready to go.

Derek Rogers, Rives Eaton Road, Rives Junction, shared that they selected face-to-face for their children, both parents work and daycare ends on Friday. He said this late in the game the school should stick with their plan.

Melissa Caulk, Sherman Road, Leslie, shared if school is ready to open and all the safety procedures are in place, then to move forward with plan. If they do not have the equipment in place to push it out two weeks, wants it to be as safe as possible for students. Also questioned if the school would be providing equipment for online learning.

Jean Fox, Tompkins Road, Rives Junction, shared that MSU just made the decision to have undergraduates return to school with online learning. Her biggest concern is decisions may need to be made rapidly. If one person needs to be quarantined others will too. She did not think the timeline should be an issue as much as helping those most at risk and help parents that do not have alternate solutions.

Wendy Bodell, Pennsylvania Street, Leslie, stated that she was torn on this. She shared she was a contact tracer for Ingham County. She stated that four daycares have had COVID-19 exposure. They were shut down. Shared there are three levels of exposure. It is not until a kid becomes positive that the whole family needs to quarantine. The whole school would not need to be shut down.

Erica Willard, Woodworth Street, Leslie, stated they had chosen for their kids to start virtually and appreciated the opportunity to do that. She is looking to the teachers and administrators as the experts and if they are asking for more time, we should listen and support our experts.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

A. Start of School

Discussion was held by the Board and the union representatives regarding moving the start date out two weeks and having Wednesdays for teachers to prepare and collaborate their online classes. On those Wednesdays, the face-to-face students would be given online instruction. Administrators were asked for their input. Food Services Director shared that having Wednesdays for preparing meals and cleaning would be advantageous to her staff.

Moved by E. Isham, supported by S. Howe that the Board of Education modify the District's Continuity of Learning Plan to include a distance learning option and a face-to-face option that includes four days of in-person instruction and one day of distance learning. The first day of school will be Monday, August 24, 2020. The first day of district wide distance learning will be September 2, 2020. Roll call vote: ayes, D. Cowing, S. Howe, E. Isahm, D. Maynard, M. Crowl and B. Fifield, nays 0, absent 1 (J.W. Stewart), abstention 0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by E. Isham, supported by B. Fifield to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m. Roll call vote: ayes, D. Cowing, S. Howe, E. Isham, D. Maynard, M. Crowl and B. Fifield, nays 0, absent 1 (J.W. Stewart), abstention 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Isham, Secretary
Leslie Public Schools