

MARCUM-ILLINOIS UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President Alan Menigoz called the meeting to order at 6:04.

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Menigoz, Jennifer Taylor, Jill Bramhill, Jeff Moore, Keith Turner.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Occasionally an item requiring attention will arrive in the office after the agenda is posted. Items may be added to the agenda with 2/3-majority approval of the board. Items to be added will be made available to the public at the meeting.

Alan Menigoz motioned to approve the agenda. Keith Turner seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote 5-0

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

“As the Board discusses agenda items, audience participation is permitted. The president will recognize those members of the audience who wish to speak. If necessary, each person wishing to speak will be asked to identify himself prior to speaking. Individual speakers shall be allowed three minutes to address the Board on each agenda or non-agenda item. The president shall limit the total time for public input on each item to 20 minutes. With Board consent, the president may increase or decrease the time allowed for public presentation, depending on the topic and the number of persons wishing to be heard. Generally, the president will ask board members for their remarks prior to recognizing requests to speak from the audience. At the president’s discretion, agenda items may be considered in other than numerical order.” Board Policy (Bylaws) 9323

Tami Ortega addressed the Board and spoke on behalf of the 6th-8th grade teachers. She shared that having the students back in person the last few weeks has been great and that they have all seen the benefits of in person instruction with their students. She said they are hoping to remain in-person with their students as long as possible and will consider each in-person day with them a gift.

Paula Villarreal addressed the Board and shared that she has been enjoying seeing all of the students in person at school. She shared that she feels that the social aspect of school is incredibly important. She noted that she was glad the Board was holding this meeting to consider keeping school open for 6th-8th grade.

Courtney Brazil addressed the Board and shared that she agreed with what Tami and Paula said but that she recognizes that there are risks with remaining open. She said our school has done a great job of keeping our students and staff safe. She recognizes that it

is slightly risky, but that it is also risky to go to the grocery store, and she feels that it is worth the risk for our kids to get the benefits of being back in person. She shared that she feels our school will do everything possible to mitigate the potential risk of the virus.

Shasta Ford commented in chat, “Well said, Courtney.”

Melissa Davis addressed the Board and shared that she has a daughter in 8th grade and is also on staff. She shared that as a staff member she feels it is best for students to be at school, but as a parent she is concerned about her own daughter long term. She is worried about the long-term affect if there was an outbreak and feels it might be better to be home for the holidays doing distance learning. She noted that she feels not much gets done at school during those 3 weeks around the holidays. She would like the Board to consider this.

5. ACTION ITEM

5.1 Discussion and Vote on Marcum-Illinois Plan for School In-Person and Distance Learning for Grades TK-5 and Grades 6th-8th.

Mr. Eggers shared the staff survey that asked if staff felt safe at school with students participating in in-person learning. 77.8% (21 staff members) said yes 22.2% (6 staff members) said no.

Mr. Eggers shared Dr. Luu’s letter from 11/16 which recommended 7-8 closure, Tom Ruesser’s clarification email that Dr.Luu will not make the recommendation an official order, Tom Ruesser’s letter encouraging the district to follow the recommendation of Dr. Luu to avoid financial liability for the district, a bar graph showing the low number of cases in cities outside of Yuba City and Live Oak and a bar graph showing the low number of case transmissions that indicated cases were transmitted at schools or daycares (6 cases in Yuba-Sutter since March). Mr. Eggers also presented a letter from the districts Workman’s Comp insurance carrier as well as a letter from the districts Liability insurance carrier that said that Covid related claims would be covered.

Alan recognized the benefits for students of in-person schooling and that the local data Mr. Eggers presented showed lower levels of concern for our area.

Jeff Moore shared that he had pause about the letter submitted from TCSIG. He shared concern that the final few paragraphs that were not clear in support of covering district claims during if we didn’t follow the recommendation and that the letter suggested the district seek legal council to confirm that Dr. Luu’s letter does not apply to the exclusion noted. Jeff suggested that we seek legal council to review all the documentation and receive clarification that claims that could result if we remain open in opposition to Dr. Luu’s recommendation are covered.

Jennifer Taylor shared that she feels that the overall the risk for our district is low and that kids need in person schooling, emotionally. She also agreed that the last paragraphs of the liability insurance carriers letter need to be reviewed by legal council.

Jill Bramhill agreed that it is best for kids to be on campus but feels that we need to speak to legal council for confirmation of coverage.

Keith Turner agreed that it is better for the kids to remain in school, but wants the district to review with legal.

Alan Menigoz proposed that we plan to stay open as of now, for all grades, and directed Mr. Eggers to contact legal council to ask if we are liable if we were to stay open. He requested that Mr. Eggers get an answer from legal by Tuesday of next week and that we hold another Special Board Meeting next Tuesday.

Alan Menigoz motioned that the District will plan for in-person schooling to remain for all grades following the district's waiver and reopening guidelines, contingent on meeting again next Tuesday to get feedback from district legal council regarding concerns brought up by Board Member Moore. Keith Turner seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

6. NEXT BOARD MEETING

- November 24, 2020 via Zoom (SPECIAL BOARD MEETING)
- December 14, 2020 (REGULAR BOARD MEETING)

7. CLOSED SESSION

- *Government Code Section 54957.6*
Conference with labor negotiator
Name of negotiator: Jimmie Eggers
Unrepresented employees: Certificated Employees
- *Government Code 54957 – Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint*

8. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Nothing to report.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.