



BICS Board of Directors Special Meeting
July 15, 2020, 7:00am

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 am by President Gary Boyer.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were in attendance: In person: Gary Boyer, Scott Gaenicke, Steve Richardson, Theresa Murphy, Jackie Flynn, and Reneé Bernhard; Via Teleconference - Patricia O’Sullivan and Becky Schell (Teacher Representative). Staff members present: Christine Quam

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made to adopt the agenda as presented (Gaenicke/Richardson). Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

The following visitors were in attendance and provided comments regarding the Action Agenda item:

Tracy Henn – safely reopening schools; mandating masks
Angela Hendershot – safely reopening school; mandating masks
Diane Estes-safely reopening school
Nancy Urich-safely reopening school
Amber Williams-safely reopening school; age based expectations; flexibility for our learners
Christine Quam-safely reopening school; mandating masks

ACTION AGENDA

Mrs. Bernhard presented the draft of the Reopening Plan for Sculptor Charter School. She stated that this plan was adapted from the plan of Brevard Public Schools. A copy of this plan is attached to these minutes.

Mrs. Bernhard began by stating the Governor issued an Executive Order requiring all schools to open for face to face instruction, five days per week, for all students. The order allowed for families to choose to participate in “innovative learning methods” or “eLearning.” However, the school would still need to be open for students to attend face to face. All schools needed to write and submit a plan for reopening. Upon approval of such a plan, schools would continue to be funded – even for students who chose eLearning. However, if our plan did not include opening for face to face instruction, we would risk not receiving funding.

Gary P. Boyer

The reopening plan included measures taken so far to prepare the school for reopening, recommended learning options for students, commitments for each learning option by parents, teachers, and students, health considerations, including the requirement of temperature checks for students and staff, changing the middle school schedule to modified block scheduling, the requirement of wearing masks or face covering, student transportation procedures, health services, food services, other guidelines/procedures for safety, guidance for when students or staff were exposed to or tested positive for COVID-19, Before/After Care services, and school closures

Mr. Gaenicke questioned the language regarding masks (specifically the words “expected” and “required”). Both Mr. Gaenicke and Mrs. Murphy wanted the word “expected” replaced with “required.” Discuss was held as to how this would be enforced. Dr. Quam commented that violations would be handled on an individual basis. If there were repeated violations, parents would need to become involved and, perhaps, the student might be better served through eLearning.

Questions arose as to whether the requirement was only for masks or would face shields be permitted. Mr. Gaenicke expressed concern that face shields were very loose and did not provide adequate protection. However, he did acknowledge that students with ASD or sensory issues might be able to wear the shield instead of a mask. But the primary face covering should be a mask. Ms. Flynn suggested we provide shields to students who could not afford them. Mr. Boyer commented that students will need to have mask breaks in order to prevent face breakouts and abrasions behind the ears.

Mr. Richardson stated that we might need to increase the custodial staff and/or contract with a cleaning company.

Mrs. Murphy questioned whether parents would be able to walk students in on the first day. Mrs. Bernhard replied that, unfortunately, they would not. Staff would be available to escort students. Mrs. Flynn suggested that perhaps the VPK/Kinder staff, particularly, could meet parents outside when students were being dropped off. This might lessen the parent’s anxiety and help them have a positive attitude about the student’s first day.

Ms. Flynn left the meeting at 8:55am.

Mrs. O’Sullivan stated that the board needed to trust the staff to make decisions. She said that the “finest kind will do magic.” She also thanked everyone who sent emails to the board expressing the opinions and concerns regarding the reopening of school. Mr. Richardson agreed with Mrs. O’Sullivan and stated that the Administration was very capable.

Mr. Boyer called for a motion to accept the school reopening plan, which included the use of masks or face shields, temperature checks for students, opening Before and After Care, providing both face to face and eLearning options for families, providing sick leave for staff (based on COVID guidelines and applicable laws), transportation option for students, and other items needed to safely reopen the school. Such motion should also allow Mrs. Bernhard to incorporate other necessary language and procedures necessary to file the reopening plan with the county and state.

Mr. Gaenicke made a motion to accept the reopening plan as written, except with the change of requiring masks (removing the word "expected"), and allowing for the use of face shields, employing temperature checks of students and staff upon entering the building, and authorizing Mrs. Bernhard to write the plan, as needed for submission to the District/State, with the understanding the plan is dynamic. Such motion also authorized Mr. Boyer to work with Mrs. Bernhard to approve minor procedural necessities or details in order to complete the plan without another board meeting, unless changes required are major.

While waiting for someone to second the motion, Mr. Gaenicke asked if he could revisit the mask/shield option. He wanted the plan to state that masks should be the primary face covering and shields reserved for special situations. Mr. Gaenicke withdrew his motion.

Discussion was held as to whether we should define masks as the primary face covering.

Mrs. Murphy then remade Mr. Gaenicke's original motion to accept the reopening plan as written, except with the change of requiring masks (removing the word "expected"), and allowing for the use of face shields, employing temperature checks of students and staff upon entering the building, and authorizing Mrs. Bernhard to write the plan, as needed for submission to the District/State, with the understanding the plan is dynamic. Such motion also authorized Mr. Boyer to work with Mrs. Bernhard to approve minor procedural necessities or details in order to complete the plan without another board meeting, unless changes required are major (Murphy/O'Sullivan). Receiving a second, discussion continued as to whether face shields should or should not be allowed. Mr. Gaenicke, again, expressed his concern regarding the effectiveness of the shields. Mr. Boyer stated he believed that students should have the option in order to account for those students with special needs, but not limit the option to those with special needs He stated that the face shield is a hard barrier. Mr. Gaenicke stated that particles could still go around that barrier. Mr. Boyer reiterated the necessity of having the option to wear the face shield.

Mr. Boyer then called for a vote of the motion made by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. O'Sullivan. The vote was as follows: Murphy-yes, Gaenicke-no, O'Sullivan-yes, Boyer-yes. Motion carried.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:17am.

Respectfully submitted,

Reneé Bernhard
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Boyer", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

