

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH WHITE SCHOOL CORPORATION

The Board of Trustees, North White School Corporation met in a special session on Monday, August 25, 2021 following the adjournment of the Public Hearing in the office of the Superintendent of North White School Corporation at 402 E. Broadway St. Monon, Indiana according to Indiana Code 10-5-3-2, Public Law 57, and the rules of the Board. Board members present were Jim White, Ricki Westerhouse, Scott Denton and Joshua Robertson. Board Members Rebecca Princell and Carlene Hunt were present via Google meets. Board member not present was Scott Williams. Also present were Nicholas G. Eccles, Superintendent, Karen Pfladderer, Bob Little, Greg Briles, Andrew Hawk, Elizabeth Dean, Leander J. Hoover, Jill Scott, Jimmie Scott, Michael Stubbe, Karen Bacon, Kirby Bacon, Rebecca Myers, Charrisse Hook, Sonya Einsele, Tanya Klopfenstein, Katie Sherrick, Troy Sherrick, Terrie Brown, Rita Hughes, Sara Stinson, Amber Stearns and Michael Johnson.

1. Mr. White called the special meeting to order.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance followed, a Quorum was recognized and visitors were welcomed to the meeting.
3. Mr. White opened the floor to discussion on the 2021 NWSC Re-Entry Plan: Mr. Stubbe, MS English Teacher, spoke on Virtual vs. In-Person. He asked to reissue the mask mandate and social distance students safely. Rita Hughes, bus driver, voiced concerns that she has asthma, wearing a mask makes it harder to breathe, fogs up glasses, and the masks are not good for the kids. Sonya Einsele, bus driver, voiced concerns on wearing masks on a hot bus. Kelly Kitchel, Henriott Group Insurance Representative for NWSC, stated that the question of a mask mandate was not something the insurance company would be concerned about. He said that schools have been given civil immunity, and suggested that the corporation attorney provide guidance on the mask mandate. Mr. Kitchel did acknowledge the exceptions to immunity, being gross negligence and willful or wanton misconduct. Bob Little, NWSC Attorney, advised that if the School Board were to continue employing reduced standard protocols from those employed last year, in view of the numbers presented by the Superintendent that showed 12 positive cases all last year, but 12 positive cases already this year with the relaxed standards, it was certainly, at a minimum, arguable that gross negligence was involved in the decision. Mr. Little suggested that adopting a policy of masks and social distancing comparable to the one in force last year would go a long way toward maintaining civil immunity. Mr. Little also suggested that a decision on mandating masks ought to be based in large part on keeping our children and staff safe, and in keeping our children able to continue in person learning in school.
4. Vote on adjustments to the 2021 NWSC Re-Entry Plan
Mr. White asked the Board if they would like to adjust the 2021 NWSC threshold of

1% positive COVID-19 cases reached within our school population, this would move us to virtual education. Mr. Denton motioned to move the current 1% threshold of positive cases to 5%. Mr. Robertson seconded this motion. Discussion was held by the Board. Mr. White closed the discussion and asked for a motion and a second. Mr. Denton moved to change the threshold to 5%. Mr. Robertson seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Mr. White motioned to re-instate the mask policy corporation wide to mitigate close contact and social distancing. Mr. Robertson seconded. Discussion was held by the Board. Mr. White closed the discussion and asked for a motion and a second. Mr. Robertson moved to re-instate the mask policy corporation wide. Mrs. Westerhouse seconded and the motion carried 5-0-1, Mr. Denton was opposed.

Mr. White motioned to return to classrooms being spaced out with seats being six feet apart at the elementary and middle/high school. Masks are to be worn in areas where social distancing of six feet is not available. Mrs. Westerhouse seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Mr. White motioned to keep the Elementary and Middle/High School classes socially distanced and in assigned seats in the cafeterias to minimize close contact. Mr. Denton seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Mrs. Westerhouse asked when does the mask policy start. Mr. Robertson motioned to begin the mask policy on Monday, August 30, 2021. Mr. Denton seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Eccles read over the adjustments to the NWSC 2021 Re-Entry Plan as follows: The NW School Board voted to implement the following measures beginning on Monday, August 30, 2021 to help: Reduce the number of positive COVID cases, reduce the number of students who are required to quarantine and to keep our students in-person for their education. Masks will be mandatory in the following situation for ALL students and staff: On school buses, except when the outside heat index reaches 90 degrees, in classrooms and other areas deemed appropriate ONLY where social distancing of six feet is not available. Masks do not need to be worn during passing periods. Masks do not need to be worn at lunch as students are in assigned seats. The threshold for changing to virtual education is set at 5% of our entire school population testing positive for COVID. Exception: If we do not have the necessary staffing to conduct in-person education, then the school may have to change to virtual education prior to meeting the 5% threshold. All classrooms will be spaced out with as many seats being six feet apart as possible. Students will be spread out as much as possible in the lunchroom to minimize the possibility of being considered a close contact. Students will have assigned seats. Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected. Any

student who is quarantined will receive information on what tests will qualify for re-entry to school. Athletics will follow the IHSAA guidelines. Please note that these items are fluid and as such may be adjusted or changed if deemed necessary by our school board and/or designees.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.



PRESIDENT



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SECRETARY



MEMBER



MEMBER

MEMBER



MEMBER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NORTH WHITE SCHOOL CORP.