

Mark Twain Union Elementary School District
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

DATE: Wednesday, September 23, 2020

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

LOCATION: *VIRTUAL for all public and Board Members*

1. Open Session

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and a quorum was established with all five (5) Board Members.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Establish Quorum- All present

2. Review and Action Items

2.1. Approval of the Mark Twain Union Elementary School District LCAP (Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan)

Motion approve the LCAP made by T. Randall and seconded by D. Bateman

Motioned Carried: 5-Ayes (Bateman, Morlan, Randall, Eltringham, and Rollings)/0-Noes /0-Absent /0-Abstained

2.2. Approval of Re-Opening Mark Twain Union Elementary School District prior to November 30, 2020.

- Maggie Rollings read the recommendation made by Superintendent Paula Wyant. The recommendation is to continue with the original plan of opening school with in person learning on November 30, 2020.
- A statement from Carly Schwartz was read by Maggie Rollings.
- County Superintendent, Scott Nanik, was in attendance and praised the community and Board on the organization of this process. He shared how difficult this decision is and appreciated how everyone is talking. Mr. Nanik advised the board to approach this decision with caution as there are many guidelines to follow when opening schools again.
- Kendall Morlan shared several items in favor of opening school before the November 30th date as long as procedures are in place.
- Maggie Rollings asked what a day will look like when the children will look like when they children return to school. Some questions were centered on weather the day would be a full day or half day, along with questions on if the schedule would be a blended model like it was discussed at the beginning of the year.
- Mr. Nanik shared that the County Office will be working very closely with Public Health during this time as schools decide to open to reduce exposure.
- Diane Bateman thanked everyone that shared at the Public Hearing. Ms. Bateman shared this is a very difficult time for many families and after much thought, and good consciousness, she feels she could not support opening the school early due to the exposure to the children at this time.
- Jenny Eltringham shared she feels the children are suffering not being in school. She supports the students being back in school.
- Timothy Randall shared as a High School teacher he understands the difficulties everyone is going through. Mr. Randall would be in favor of opening sooner unless it would negatively impact the staff.
- Maggie Rollings expressed concern having a plan that will work for the staff when things are changing and continue to change. Ms. Rollings requested more information from

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Administration and staff at the next Board Meeting. She would like to know if the staff is ready to have students back on site. She also respects the families that are not ready to send their students back to school and would like to continue with Distance Learning. Ms. Rollings stated the agreement the Board made with the staff was to open school at the beginning of the second trimester and she feels unless the staff feels confident on returning to school with students, the Board should honor the agreement. Ms. Rollings asked what Paula's thoughts were on opening school before the November 30th date.

- Paula Wyant shared in the original Re-Opening plan on August 13th which was a blended model there would have been hardships on families and staff. Ms. Wyant shared that one of the hardships were the need of more custodians. Postings of positions were put up and there were no applications submitted. The District does not need more hours for the staff members we already have, the district needs more people to cover more areas. Ms. Wyant is continuing to consider on how to improve the plan. There are fiscal and human resource concerns in opening early. Ms. Wyant shared she will be revisiting the re-opening plan. She does not see a way for school to be full days as our classrooms are not large enough to handle social distancing, which is why we are looking into the blended learning plan.
- Jenny Eltringham asked if the District has looking into a cleaning service to assist with some of the cleaning duties.
- Paula Wyant shared that she and Bill Davis have looked into this and depending on the fiscal cost on the District, will need to be considered.
- Maggie Rollings requested the COVID team re-convene and talk about an opening date that would best fit the staff.
- Kendall Morlan shared that the agreement that the Board broke with the District just before school started, and the decision was made to go completely distant learning.
- Paula Wyant shared that the District was ready to start with the blended model at the beginning of the school year, however, the guidelines changed and as a District we felt we could not in good coconscious start with students on campus.
- Timothy Randall asked Paula how long it would take to get the school ready to start after the Board Meeting on October 8th.
- Paula Wyant shared that it would depend on what plan is chosen, she would be able to give a better idea at the Board Meeting on how long it will take.

Motion to amendment to the motion was made for the COVID team to meet together to determine what school would look like if opened before November 30th for the October 8th Board Meeting.

Motion was made by Timothy Randall.

- There was some clarification to this motion from Maggie Rollings, explaining that Superintendent, Paula Wyant would gather her COVID team to look at the re-opening plan to present to the Board and what it would take for the staff to open school before November 30, 2020. This would be voted on at the October 8th meeting.
- Jenny Eltringham clarified with the statement that the Board was not voting this evening with this motion, but asked if the Board could give direction to the staff to start working on a plan to open school earlier.
- Maggie Rollings confirmed that Paula would ask her COVID team to put a plan together and then present the plan at the next Board meeting. There are concerns that there are positions that still need to be filled in order to have students on site safely.
- Kendall Morlan asked Paula Wyant what would have happened if the Board would have voted to open this evening?

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- Paula Wyant commented that there is a plan, one idea is to re-purpose staff. One area we are struggling in is transportation, there have been discussions of not providing transportation when school opens, or very limited at best. This would help with a few of the staff re-purposing. Some of the administrators and myself may need to take on some of the roles that are missing.
- Jenny Eltringham asked if the Board does not vote tonight, would this be held until the October 8th Board Meeting?
- Paula Wyant shared that what she is hearing is that the Board would like her to put the COVID team together to put a viable plan together that allows the school to open prior the second trimester.
- Kendall Morlan asked if the Board could make the decision to open and still hear from Paula about the re-opening plan on October 8th?
- Maggie Rollings shared that she feels that she needs more information.
- Timothy Randall asked how the Board can vote without having it be specific
- Paula Wyant shared that she can not direct the Board on how make motions.
- Jenny Eltringham expressed her concern for the families and felt the urge to decide this evening.
- Paula asked if there was a second for the motion made by Timothy, no second was made at this time.

Timothy Randal withdrew his motion.

Motion to open school by October 19, 2020.

Motion made by J. Eltringham and seconded by K. Morlan

- Timothy Randall abstained his vote, however due to the bylaws, he cannot.
- Timothy Randall asked if Paula could give the Board feedback on opening school on October 19th at the next Board Meeting
- Paula Wyant shared that if the Board tasks the staff and herself with a goal, they will accomplish the goal.
- Timothy Randall stated he would vote yes for the motion on the floor.

Motioned Carried: 3-Ayes (Eltringham, Morlan, and Randall)/2-Noes /0-Absent /0-Abstained

3. Next Scheduled Board Meetings

3.1. October 8, 2020 virtually for public and Board

4. Adjournment

Board President, Maggie Rolling called for the meeting to be adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by J. Eltringham and seconded by K. Morlan

Motioned Carried: 5-Ayes (Bateman, Morlan, Randall, Eltringham, and Rollings)/0-Noes /0-Absent /0-Abstained

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Signature Page

Board of Education Special Board Meeting on
September 23, 2020

Maggie Rollings

Maggie Rollings, Board President

10/9/2020

Date

Paula Wyant

Paula Wyant, Superintendent

10/9/2020 pd
~~*9/23/2020*~~

Date