

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 186, SPRINGFIELD,
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Monday, September 21, 2020 (6:30 PM)

The Board of Education convened in Regular Session on September 21 A.D., 2020, at 5:31 p.m., there being present thereat:

Present: Scott McFarland, President
Julie Hammers, Board Secretary
Nicole Irlam, Assistant Board Secretary

Judith Johnson
Anthony Mares
Tiffany Mathis
Micah Miller
William Ringer
J. Michael Zimmers

Jennifer Gill, Superintendent of Schools

CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

President McFarland called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Executive Session

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves adjournment to Executive Session to consider the following items:

2.1 Student Discipline and Other Matters Concerning Individual Students - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9, 10)

2.2 The Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Employees – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Tiffany Mathis)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session to consider the following matters: 2.1 Student Discipline and Other Matters Concerning Individual Students - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9, 10). 2.2 The Appointment, Employment, or Dismissal of Employees – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 4- 0**.

Those voting "aye": Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Ringer
Those voting "no": None.

Adjournment to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened at 6:37 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was noted that seven Board members were present as Ms. Johnson, Mr. Miller and Mr. Zimmers joined the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3.1 Approve the Agenda for September 21, 2020

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the agenda.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**J. Michael Zimmers**) Moved, Member (**Anthony Mares**) Seconded. Mr. Miller motioned to amend the agenda to remove the Board Salutes. After a second by Ms. Mathis and opportunity for discussion, Mr. McFarland called for a vote on the motion to amend the evening's agenda to remove Board Salutes. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 1. The motion Carried. 6 - 1.

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Ringer, Zimmers
Those voting "no": Miller

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

4.1 President's Comments

Mr. McFarland made the routine announcement that public comment on published agenda items would occur during the Public Comments portion of the meeting. He instructed those interested in addressing the Board to fill out the required Public Participation at Board Meetings Form and submit it to Ms. Hammers or if viewing through YouTube, contact Ms. Hammers by emailing boe@sps186.org.

Mr. McFarland thanked the teachers, staff, families and students that continue working through the remote learning setting.

4.2 Student Board Representative Oath of Office

Mr. McFarland introduced the incoming Student Board Representative, Preston Brondyke, a Southeast High School senior. Mr. McFarland asked Mr. Brondyke to raise his right hand. After Mr. Brondyke raised his hand, Mr. McFarland administered the oath of office, as follows:

"I, Preston Brondyke, do solemnly affirm that I shall faithfully discharge the duties of District 186 student Board member; I shall serve as Board liaison to the student body; I shall represent student interests to the Board; I shall adhere to the highest ethical standards; and shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion of all who come before this Board."

After completing the oath, Mr. McFarland welcomed Mr. Brondyke.

Move of Item 11.3 from Roll Call Action Items to Discussion Items

Ms. Johnson motioned to move item 11.3 Approval of the Metrics and Ratings for the Hybrid Model from Roll Call Action Items to Discussion Items. After a second by Mr. Miller, Mr. McFarland provided information as to how it was determined that the item would be added to the evening's Roll Call Action Items. Ms. Mathis indicated that she would like to see action taken later in the evening to determine the metrics that will be used in order to provide families with ample opportunity to plan for hybrid learning. Ms.

Johnson reported that she had initially asked that school not resume until after the beginning of October. She reminded members that the Board had agreed to discuss how school will resume prior to taking any action on metrics. She indicated that a member could potentially motion to take a vote on the item in the Roll Call, if it was decided that one should be taken. She urged that the item be excluded from repeated inclusion in the Roll Call Action Item section of future agendas and instead be included as a Discussion Item. There was some additional discussion regarding the timeline for action on this item. Mr. McFarland reminded members that action had previously been taken which would preclude schools from administering hybrid learning until at least October 26, 2020.

Mr. Miller urged adding a discussion of the metrics as a standing Discussion Item at future meetings.

Ms. Johnson then asked that her motion be amended. She asked that item 11.3 Approval of the Metrics and Ratings for the Hybrid Model be added as a Discussion Item, in addition to being left in the Roll Call Action Items. There was then some discussion regarding the movement of agenda items and the Governor's Executive Order related to the Open Meetings during COVID-19. Mr. McFarland asked Mr. Miller if he would like to leave his second of the original motion, as amended, in place. Mr. Miller withdrew his second of the motion, as amended. He indicated that he does not feel the public has been given ample opportunity to provide input on any action that may be taken with respect to this topic. As such, he reported that he is of the opinion that the item should be removed from the Roll Call Action Items.

Mr. McFarland then asked for a second on the original motion, as amended. Mr. Zimmers seconded the motion, as amended. He urged that a vote be taken related to the metrics to avoid a delay in notifying parents about any potential start of hybrid learning. There was then some additional discussion regarding the amendment of Roll Call Action Items. Once discussion was complete, Mr. McFarland called for a vote on the motion, as amended. The motion failed by the following vote:

Those voting "aye":	Johnson, Miller, Zimmers
Those voting "no":	Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Ringer,

Mr. McFarland reported that those that have registered to provide public comment on this topic will be given the opportunity to provide that comment prior to a vote on Roll Call Action Item 11.3 Approval of the Metrics and Ratings for the Hybrid Model. There was some further discussion regarding when public speakers should be allowed to provide comment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

5.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Gill provided the following updates and information:

- She reminded families to turn in physical and immunization forms, as required, as soon as possible. She reported that schools have the ability to assist families in meeting the requirement, if contacted for assistance. Schools can help by picking up completed forms from families with transportation issues, or help with setting up or with transportation to an appointment. The due date for the forms is October 1, 2020. She urged families to contact their regular care providers. Superintendent Gill reported that families without a regular healthcare provider can contact the Central County Health Center, SIU Pediatrics, SIU Center for Family Medicine, or the Sangamon County Department of Public Health. Each of these organizations has the ability to provide students in need of a physical or immunization with that care without having seen the student previously as a patient. She directed families to the District's homepage banner where additional

information about physicals and immunizations can be found. She then overviewed the grades of students that require physicals or immunizations.

- With respect to attendance, Superintendent Gill reported that administration is working on issues surrounding how attendance is taken on asynchronous school days. She reported that some students have needed to complete their asynchronous days work in the evening, rather than during the regular school day, and have been marked absent. Administration is working with teachers to ensure attendance is correctly recorded and updated to reflect those students as having attended. There was then some discussion about the options available to teachers related to checking the daily attendance. Mr. Zimmers asked if the attendance system has an option that will provide teachers with a daily report in which the class attendance is consolidated. Superintendent Gill reported that teachers have the option to review a consolidated list within Canvas that provides information as to which students completed logged in on any specific day. There was additional discussion regarding the hurdles associated with taking accurate attendance while teaching remotely. Mr. Zimmers and Mr. Miller requested that teachers be provided with some enhanced assistance navigating attendance.
- From September 1 through September 18, the District served approximately 29,100 lunches to students. Beginning on September 7, 2020, the Summer Feeding Program was extended. This allows the District to provide meals to anyone under the age of 18, whether or not the individual has a student identification number. This program has been extended through the end of the semester. Each car can pick up as many as eight meals. Since September 7, the District has served approximately 22,400 meals, a significant increase in the number of meals served daily as compared to the number served between September 1 and September 6. Superintendent Gill reported that this is an increase of approximately 1000 meals per day.
- The Sangamon Alert Messaging Program is a complimentary service available to the district through a partnership with the County. The program is a mass notification tool that agencies across Sangamon County can use to send emergency phone, text and email messages to individuals that have registered for the service. This supplements other avenues of communication the District uses. It is primarily intended for use during emergencies. Individuals interested in receiving the updates will be able to sign up through Sangamon County to receive them. They will have the ability to select the types of messages received when signing up for the service. This service will be a function of the Sangamon County government. The District will have a sub-account within the County's general account. Superintendent Gill reported that this tool will be an addition to other communication tools used by the District to communicate with families. It will not replace other means of communication. The service will assist the District in coordinating communication in the event that a crisis or emergency should occur. Mr. Miller asked if the system would be used to communicate with families regarding COVID positive cases in the future. Superintendent Gill reported that communications related to COVID positive cases are more focussed than this system allows. She indicated that ParentLink is used for COVID positive case communications. This system will also serve as a back up if ParentLink is temporarily down. Ms. Johnson asked how frequently ParentLink is down. Superintendent Gill reported that this is an infrequent occurrence.
- Superintendent Gill reported on the student engagement efforts of several schools and community partners. She indicated that Northside Community Church has partnered with Fairview Elementary by providing pizza parties to families. Southern View Elementary is distributing materials and activities every other week to students and families.
- This year's National Merit semi-finalists have been announced. These students are amongst 16,000 students chosen from a national pool of high school seniors to be recognized for their

academic achievement. District students chosen for this distinction this year are Springfield High School students Emma Cox, David Jiang and Elizabeth Scherschel.

- Shout-out to all parents, grandparents, guardians, friends and community members that are supporting our district during remote learning. Superintendent Gill thanked families for their dedication and support during this time of great need.
- Lastly, Superintendent Gill shared an update on metrics from Gail O'Neil of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health. She reported that for the week of September 6-12, the positivity rate was 3.6, representing a minimal risk. The rate had been in decline over the month prior to the reporting week. New cases per 100,000 population are 67, representing a moderate risk. The goal for new cases per 100,000 is 50. The number of new cases is 130, a minimal risk. The number of new youth cases saw an increase to 36, which is within the minimal risk category. Additionally, Superintendent Gill indicated that Ms. O'Neil's report included information about new cases that had been reported earlier in the day, prior to the evening's meeting. She indicated that 44 new cases have been reported. Seven individuals included in that figure are hospitalized. Additionally, of those 44 new cases, three are children and two are teens. Additional information provided by Ms. O'Neil immediately prior to the evening's meeting includes a range from September 1st related to the frequency of age and percentage. For individuals in the birth to age 5 category, the frequency was 6, representing 1.7% of the overall positives. Individuals in the 6 to 10 years of age category saw a frequency of 7, representing 2% of the overall positives. Individuals age 11 - 15 saw a frequency of 9 cases, representing 2.6% of the overall positives. The category for 16-19 year olds saw a frequency of 53, representing 15.1% of the overall positive cases. She reminded members that these figures are for the entirety of Sangamon County. They are not specific to the District 186 population.

5.2 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report for the 2019-2020 School Year

Board members were provided with copies of the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report for the 2019-2020 School Year. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and available for public viewing on the District's website and through the Electronic School Board.

Mr. McFarland reported that this item is an annual requirement.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

President McFarland reported that during the COVID19 crisis, the approach to Old and New Business must be modified. Per State of Illinois mandate, Old and New Business must be limited to emergency or time sensitive issues only.

6.1 Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

6.2 New Business

There was no new business at this time.

6.3 Student Business

Representative Brondyke reported that the Superintendent's Student Roundtable had conducted its first meeting of the year earlier in the day. He indicated that each high school had generously promoted membership to it's students, which resulted in 127 students joining the Roundtable. He reported that this is a significant increase over previous years' memberships. He further reported that during the meeting

students had questions for Superintendent Gill about sports and activities, and shared feedback with her about online learning. Through a Padlet poll provided to the students, information was gathered about what is going well for them with respect to school and online learning, as well as how the District can help them be successful with online learning. This poll resulted in students reporting that their relationships with their teachers are stronger now, communication is easier, teachers are more understanding, and the new technology (Canvas) is a good learning tool that is preparing them for college. Additionally, he indicated that some students reported that they like the Zoom format over independent study that occurred in the Spring. Comments related to needed supports to ensure successful online learning outcomes included concerns raised about how attendance is taken, which seems to be mostly related to the time of day/night that students are logging on to complete their asynchronous learning work. He reported that students would like to see a different attendance approach which will allow students some flexibility with respect to when asynchronous work is completed. Additionally, some students expressed interest in having a singular platform for the delivery of online learning, i.e. using Canvas alone rather than utilizing Canvas along with other platforms, such as Google Classroom. Lastly, students asked that teachers post assignments at the beginning of the week rather than on a daily basis, to provide students with varied schedules a chance to work on their homework throughout the week. He indicated that students generally understand that e-learning is new for everyone and seem to have patience surrounding this.

Ms. Mathis and Mr. Miller welcomed Mr. Brondyke. Mr. Miller congratulated him for providing an excellent report. Superintendent Gill indicated that Mr. Brondyke adeptly led the Roundtable meeting earlier in the afternoon over Zoom.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

There were no presentations to the Board at this time.

BUSINESS REPORT

8.1 2020-2021 Tentative Budget

Board members were provided with copies of the Business Office Report. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing on the Electronic School Board.

Nathan Fretz, Director of Business Services, reported that Education fund revenues during the month of August 2020 were approximately \$7.38 million. The fund saw expenditures of approximately \$2.8 million for the month. The Operations and Maintenance Fund saw revenues of approximately \$624,000 and expenditures of approximately \$1.09 million for the month. Mr. Fretz reported that as of September 17, 2020, outstanding State payments totalled approximately \$1.25 million. Additionally, as of August 31, the District had a combined cash balance of approximately \$52.5 million in the bank for all funds. Total investments were \$85.8 million. Earned interest on all cash accounts for the month totalled approximately \$34,000, with a year-to-date total of approximately \$66,000. County sales tax proceeds received during the month of September were \$864,000 for June collections. Total collections, to date, are approximately \$9.5 million. This is 12 months of collections.

Mr. Mares asked when the collections for the 12 month period of Sales Tax revenues began. Mr. Fretz indicated that they began in July of 2019. Mr. Mares then asked how the projected Sales Tax collections compared with the actual amount collected. Mr. Fretz indicated that it had been anticipated that the District would collect approximately \$10 million over the course of the first 12 months, approximately

\$500,000-\$600,000 less than what had been actualized. Mr. Fretz reported that the collections had not been impacted as greatly by the pandemic shutdown as had been previously anticipated. Mr. Mares then asked how the shortfall will impact the repayment schedule for the bonds that were sold. Mr. Fretz reported that the shortfall has not impacted the repayment schedule. He reported that it is anticipated that the District will be able to fully repay the bonds as originally planned. Mr. Miller reported that the price of gasoline and impact that will have on the Transportation budget, going forward, gives him cause for optimism. Ms. Johnson asked why the Operations and Maintenance fund's expenditures seem to consistently exceed the revenues. Mr. Fretz reported that due to the pandemic, the property tax collections were uneven. Because of this, revenues for the month of August were down but will be mostly made up in September. Ms. Johnson asked for confirmation that tax collections had been received. Mr. Fretz confirmed that five payments have been received, to date. He indicated that he would provide a report with the balances at the next regular meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 Public Hearing on the FY21 Tentative Budget

(Tiffany Mathis) motioned, "That the Board of Education adjourns into a public hearing regarding the FY21 Tentative Budget and that upon conclusion of such hearing the Board shall immediately reconvene into open session." After a second by (Micah Miller) and opportunity for discussion, Mr. McFarland called for a vote. The motion carried by the following vote:

Those voting "aye":	Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer, Zimmers
Those voting "no":	none

The meeting adjourned into the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

Board members were provided with copies of the Fiscal Year 2021 Tentative Budget. Copies have been filed with the Official Minutes and are available for public viewing in the Board Office.

Mr. Fretz reported that since the presentation at the September 8 regular meeting, there were changes as follows to the tentative budget:

- Education Fund Expenditures are projected to be reduced by approximately \$112,000.
- Transportation Fund Expenditures are projected to be reduced by approximately \$930,000.
- The Net Operating Fund is expected to see an overall deficit reduction of approximately \$1.2 million.

Mr. Fretz then provided information on the CARES Grant. He indicated that the grant totals approximately \$7.87 million, exclusive of \$1.17 million that is currently held in escrow and inclusive of the approximate \$427,000 allocated to private schools.

Lastly, Mr. Fretz provided a recalculated projected year-end fund balance distribution report for the District's operating funds. He reported that it is estimated that the fund balance will see a reduction of approximately \$6.4 million overall, from a projected beginning balance on July 1, 2020 of \$37.8 million to a projected ending balance on June 30, 2021 of \$30.3 million. The Education fund balance is projected to be reduced by approximately \$6.19 million. The Transportation fund balance is expected to be reduced by approximately \$312,000. The Operations and Maintenance fund balance is expected to increase by approximately \$63,000. Mr. Fretz indicated that the fund balance to revenue ratio is expected to decrease from 19.32% to 15.18% over the course of the fiscal year. Mr. Fretz reported that after meeting with First

Student Bus Company, a reduced contract amount has been negotiated. He indicated that Dr. Lance Thurman, Coordinator of Transportation, will provide a presentation during the October 7 regular meeting. Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Fretz for the information. He asked that consideration be given to renegotiating the waste hauling contracts to take into consideration the reduced need for these services during the pandemic. Mr. Miller asked if anything had changed since the last meeting with respect to the money being held for parochial schools. Mr. Fretz reported that the federal case had been thrown out. He anticipates that ISBE will release the funds to public school districts in the next few weeks.

Mr. McFarland provided an opportunity for Board Members and registered speakers to comment or present questions. There were no additional comments or questions.

The open session resumed at 7:34 p.m.

CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

10.1 Approval of Consent Action Items

Approval of consent action items as listed in the agenda.

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 10.2 through 10.4 as described in the corresponding resolutions.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**J. Michael Zimmers**) Moved, Member (**Tiffany Mathis**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends approval of the consent action items 10.2 through 10.4 as described in the corresponding resolutions'.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0.**

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer, Zimmers
Those voting "no": Miller on 10.2 Regular Meeting Minutes

10.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2020

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield School District 186 reviews the minutes of the regular session and the executive session of the previous Board Meetings; and

WHEREAS, copies of these sets of minutes were distributed to the Board in the board packet prior to this meeting;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the aforementioned set of regular session and executive session minutes and directs the Secretary to include them in the official records of the Board of Education meetings.

10.3 Approval of Payroll and Bills Payable

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves payroll and bills payable as shown in the attached report.

10.4 Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation for Purchase and Payment

Bid #21-10 — HVAC Upgrade and Secure Entry - Lindsay School

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED to accept the low acceptable bid for the following bids and to approve payment of same upon completion:

Bid #21-10 - HVAC Upgrade and Secure Entry - Lindsay School

ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

11.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Personnel recommendations as presented:

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**J. Michael Zimmers**) Moved, Member (**Judith Johnson**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Personnel recommendations as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer, Zimmers
Those voting "no": None

11.2 Approval of a Resolution for the Adoption of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Budget for FY 2020-2021 (Fiscal Year 2021):

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield Public Schools, School District No. 186, County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, caused to be prepared in tentative form a budget and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such budget on the 21st day of September, 2020, notice of said hearing was given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto as required by law, and all other legal requirements having been complied with;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of said district as follows:

1. That the fiscal year of this School District be and the same hereby is fixed and declared to be beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021;

2. That the following budget containing an estimate of amounts available in each fund, separately, and of expenditures from each be and the same is hereby adopted as the budget of the School District for said fiscal year.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**J. Michael Zimmers**) Moved, Member (**Anthony Mares**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends adoption of the Budget for FY 2020-2021 (Fiscal Year 2021):

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Springfield Public Schools, School District No. 186, County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, caused to be prepared in tentative form a budget and the Secretary of this

Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such budget on the 21st day of September, 2020, notice of said hearing was given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto as required by law, and all other legal requirements having been complied with;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of said district as follows:

1. That the fiscal year of this School District be and the same hereby is fixed and declared to be beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021;
2. That the following budget containing an estimate of amounts available in each fund, separately, and of expenditures from each be and the same is hereby adopted as the budget of the School District for said fiscal year.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Miller, Ringer, Zimmers
Those voting "no": None

11.3 Approval of the Metrics and Ratings for the Hybrid Model

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the Superintendent commencing the hybrid education model if the following metrics, as reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health each week, are met in two concurrent reporting periods:

- County positivity rate below 5% (minimal rating)
- County case count lower than 50 out of 100,000 (moderate rating)
- County new youth case count less than 5% (minimal rating)
- County weekly case count increase of less than 10% (moderate rating)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will move to return to full remote learning if any of the factors listed above go beyond the set metrics for two concurrent reporting periods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that specific classrooms or schools may intermittently return to remote learning due to positive cases.

Mr. McFarland reported that the language he provided for the resolution contains a typo. The "County case count lower than 50 out of 100,000 (moderate rating)" is where the typo lies. He reported that the minimum rating for that metric is actually a county case count lower than "County case count 50 out of 100,000. The moderate rating calls for a county case count lower than 100 of 100,000. He indicated that after gathering feedback from some Board members, he had meant to list that particular metric as, "County case count lower than 100 out of 100,000 (moderate rating)." He indicated that members have the ability to make an amendment to change the metric to 50 out of 100,000 to reflect the minimum rating instead of the intended moderate rating, if they see fit to do so. He then provided procedural information.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Mares)** Moved, Member **(Tiffany Mathis)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion, 'That the Board of Education approves the Superintendent commencing the hybrid education

model if the following metrics, as reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health each week, are met in two concurrent reporting periods:

- County positivity rate below 5% (minimal rating)
- County case count lower than 50 out of 100,000 (moderate rating)
- County new youth case count less than 5% (minimal rating)
- County weekly case count increase of less than 10% (moderate rating)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will move to return to full remote learning if any of the factors listed above go beyond the set metrics for two concurrent reporting periods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that specific classrooms or schools may intermittently return to remote learning due to positive cases.'

Mr. McFarland reported that he had developed the language for the resolution after receiving feedback from some members of the Board and members of the community that had requested metrics be developed that will allow the Board to move forward, as well as allowing parents and teachers the ability to plan for a possible transition to hybrid learning. He indicated that this resolution will not change previous action taken by the Board that keeps the District in remote learning until at least October 26, 2020. Two weeks of metrics that would otherwise facilitate the transition to hybrid learning prior to October 26 will not provide for an earlier transition unless the Board takes action to change the action taken related to that October 26 date. He reaffirmed that the earliest schools will return to a hybrid learning model is October 26, 2020.

Mr. McFarland then asked if any members objected to having the two public speakers registered to speak on this topic speak at this point in time. Ms. Johnson asked that the Superintendent provide input regarding the proposed metrics prior to any public speakers. Superintendent Gill reported that she is of the understanding that the language was developed based on the Illinois Department of Public Health indicators with moderate or minimal ratings. She reported that the correction of the language in the metric related to the county case count would be acceptable. She reported that the Sangamon County Health Department has provided information related to the location of cases, which would allow the District and Board to make an informed decision as to if any potential outbreak is in fact within the school community or lies outside the bounds of the school community. She reported that she had asked that the last metric included to ensure the District has the ability to close classrooms or schools. She referenced a grid provided by the Sangamon County Department of Public Health that will be used to help the District determine action that should be taken when presented with a COVID-19 positive case. Ms. Johnson asked Superintendent Gill to expand upon the information related to the decision making process that will be utilized for closing classrooms or schools. Superintendent Gill provided an example of a scenario and the outcome that would result from that scenario. She further reported it is expected that elementary level exposures will close individual classrooms rather than the entire building. She provided information on the precautions that will be taken once a hybrid model is implemented.

Mr. Mares asked that parents and guardians be reminded prior to the start of any hybrid learning what the requirements are related to social distancing, masks, and health department and State guidelines for students displaying any COVID symptoms. Superintendent Gill reported that significant communication with families will occur. She indicated that once hybrid learning is implemented, it will likely become somewhat normative for students on an individual basis to need to return to remote attendance for a period of days due to the need to isolate because of having displayed a single symptom.

Mr. McFarland then called for the public speakers to provide comment. The following individuals provided public comment on returning to hybrid learning:

- LaChay Brown - via phone
- William, 7th grade Franklin Middle School student - via email

Mr. Miller asked if the minimal rating associated with the “county case count lower than” is 50 out of 100,000. Superintendent Gill confirmed that to be correct. Mr. Miller then pointed out a second typo. He reported that the last metric, “county weekly case count increase of less than 10% (moderate rating)” is incorrect. He indicated that an increase of 10% is considered minimal. A moderate rating is considered to be between 10% and 20%. He asked for clarification regarding which metric is intended in this proposal. He also reported that the metrics should be listed as “and or equal to”. He indicated that he feels the metrics presented are a good starting point. He expressed concern over unduly burdening the local health care system. He asked if the Board should consider and solicit additional input from the panel of nine healthcare professionals that had previously recommended starting school with remote learning. Next, he asked how many tests will the medical community be able to perform on a daily basis within Sangamon County. He expressed concern over whether the local health department will have the resources needed to conduct the number of tests that will be necessary should school reopen. Mr. Miller then asked what will be used to determine if an individual classroom needs to be closed or if the entire will need to be closed. Lastly, Mr. Miller asked if it would be possible to engage in conversations with the parochial schools to determine how in-person learning has progressed for those schools.

Superintendent Gill reported that she had met with Dr. Bruce Sommers and others regarding the University of Illinois’ new saliva test. She reported that the University expects to have the test up and running, along with a lab located in Springfield. These tests may be available to the schools within the community. This is still in the planning phase and there will be costs associated with the test. She reported that community partners may be able to assist with an offset of the cost associated with the testing. Mr. Miller reported that he is concerned that there won’t be enough available tests.

AMENDED - Motion

Member (**Tiffany Mathis**) motioned to amend the motion to read: “That the Board of Education approves the Superintendent commencing the hybrid education model if the following metrics, as reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health each week, are met in two concurrent reporting periods:

- County positivity rate equal to or below 5% (minimal rating)
- County weekly case count increase of less than or equal to 20% (moderate rating)
- County case count less than or equal to 100 out of 100,000 (moderate rating)
- County new youth case count less than 5% (minimal rating)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will move to return to full remote learning if any of the factors listed above go beyond the set metrics for two concurrent reporting periods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that specific classrooms or schools may intermittently return to remote learning due to positive cases.”

Member (**Anthony Mares**) seconded to approve the amended motion. There was then some further discussion. Mr. Zimmers expressed concern over the proposed metrics related to “county case count”. He indicated that the county currently has 67 new cases and that is considered to be a warning level by the report provided by Ms. O’Neil from the County Health Department. He indicated that he feels the 100 out

of 100,000 is too high. He recommended using the lower 50 out of 100,000 figure related to that particular metric. Mr. Miller and Ms. Johnson expressed support of using the lower figure.

Upon a roll call vote being taken to amend the motion, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 3. The motion **Carried. 4**
- 3

Those voting "aye": Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Ringer,
Those voting "no": Johnson, Miller, Zimmers

Mr. Zimmers and Ms. Johnson asked that the amended motion be read. Mr. McFarland then read the amended motion, as follows:

"That the Board of Education approves the Superintendent commencing the hybrid education model if the following metrics, as reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health each week, are met in two concurrent reporting periods:

- County positivity rate below or equal to 5% (minimal rating)
- County case count lower than 100 out of 100,000 (moderate rating)
- County weekly case count increase of less than or equal to 20% (moderate rating)
- County new youth case count less than 5% (minimal rating)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will move to return to full remote learning if any of the factors listed above go beyond the set metrics for two concurrent reporting periods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that specific classrooms or schools may intermittently return to remote learning due to positive cases."

Mr. Miller expressed concern over the amended metrics, as they relax the standard to the point that the District would currently meet the standards to begin school. He indicated that he had opposed the addition of this item to the agenda. Mr. McFarland reminded members that it will not be possible to begin hybrid learning until October 26, at the earliest. There was then some additional discussion regarding the metrics and potential timeline for starting hybrid learning.

Mr. Zimmers expressed concern also over the changes to the metrics. Mr. Ringer asked for clarification as to the soonest hybrid learning can begin. Mr. McFarland reported that the earliest hybrid learning can begin is October 26. He further reported that a determination regarding this will be based on the metrics provided by Sangamon County Department of Public Health from the two concurrent reports prior to that date.

Superintendent Gill asked if there would be a review of the weekly metrics at the next meeting. Mr. McFarland indicated that if the motion is passed, that would be correct. Mr. Miller provided some additional data to support his argument related to use of the proposed metrics. Mr. McFarland provided some additional procedural guidance. Mr. Ringer reported that he would not be opposed to tabling the motion or voting against it. Ms. Johnson suggested setting a time period limit for establishing the final deadline to return. Mr. Zimmers asked Superintendent Gill to provide guidance as to how much time will be needed after a date is set for the implementation of hybrid learning to prepare schools and notify parents. Superintendent Gill indicated that the District has agreed to give teachers 10 days notification. She also reminded that approximately half of the students will stay in remote learning, as they indicated was their preference. There was some additional discussion regarding the need to set a timeline.

Mr. Zimmers reported that he would be unopposed to the amended metrics if the “county case count” was changed to “county case count lower than 50 out of 100,000 (minimum rating).”

AMENDED - Motion

Member (Judith Johnson) motioned to amend the previously amended motion to read as follows:

“That the Board of Education approves the Superintendent commencing the hybrid education model if the following metrics, as reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health each week, are met in two concurrent reporting periods:

- County positivity rate below or equal to 5% (minimal rating)
- County case count less than or equal to 50 out of 100,000 (minimal rating)
- County weekly case count increase of less than or equal to 20% (moderate rating)
- County new youth case count less than 5% (minimal rating)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will move to return to full remote learning if any of the factors listed above go beyond the set metrics for two concurrent reporting periods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that specific classrooms or schools may intermittently return to remote learning due to positive cases.”

There was then some discussion about the reporting periods. Mr. McFarland reported that the reporting periods are released by the Department of Public Health.

Member (**J. Michael Zimmers**) seconded to approve the amendment to the previous motion amendment.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 2. The motion **Carried. 5 - 2**

Those voting “aye”: Johnson, McFarland, Miller, Ringer, Zimmers

Those voting “no”: Mares, Mathis

Mr. Miller then asked for clarification on the “county weekly case count”.

AMENDED - Motion

Member (**Micah Miller**) motioned to amend the previously amended motion to read:

“That the Board of Education approves the Superintendent commencing the hybrid education model if the following metrics, as reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health each week, are met in two concurrent reporting periods:

- County positivity rate below or equal to 5% (minimal rating)
- County case count less than or equal to 50 out of 100,000 (minimal rating)
- County weekly case count increase of less than or equal to 10% (minimal rating)
- County new youth case count less than 5% (minimal rating)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will move to return to full remote learning if any of the factors listed above go beyond the set metrics for two concurrent reporting periods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that specific classrooms or schools may intermittently return to remote learning due to positive cases.”

There was no second.

In the interest of providing clarity, Mr. McFarland then read the metrics, as amended and as follows:

- County positivity rate below or equal to 5% (minimal rating)
- County case count less than or equal to 50 out of 100,000 (minimal rating)
- County weekly case count increase of less than or equal to 20% (moderate rating)
- County new youth case count less than 5% (minimal rating)

Mr. Miller again expressed concern over the proposed metrics. Ms. Johnson asked about the protocols put in place for returning students to in-person learning. Superintendent Gill reported that each school has an active safety plan in place for this purpose. She reported that infrared thermometers have been purchased for each building. There was some additional discussion related to the language used in the metrics and the possibility of tabling the discussion and action surrounding the metrics.

Mr. McFarland then called for a vote on the motion, as amended. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 2. The motion **Carried. 6 - 1**

Those voting "aye": Johnson, Mares, Mathis, McFarland, Ringer, Zimmers
Those voting "no": Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

12.1 Next Regular Meeting — Monday, October 5, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. — Board Room

12.2 Freedom of Information Act Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- Gwendolyn Williams - via Zoom - Concern regarding parental behavior during Zoom classes
- Allison Acker - via E-mail - Concerns regarding hot spots, in-person learning, teacher resources
- Natasha Langen - via Zoom - Attendance concerns
- Felicia Weber - via Zoom - Return of Targeted Groups
- Aaron Graves - via Zoom - COVID
- Andrea Dunn - via Zoom - remote learning
- Kadence Koen - via Zoom - In person learning

Mr. Miller reported that he had two teachers at Harvard Park request additional hot spots. He asked that administration follow up with these teachers. Superintendent Gill confirmed that the follow up will occur. Mr. Miller then reported that he had received some feedback from teachers that expressed concern over their perception that 5 hours of daily teaching via Zoom is required per the remote learning plan. Superintendent Gill indicated that the District is responsible for providing 5 clock hours of learning per day. Within that 5 hours, homework and "Specials" classes, such as Art, Music and PE, are included. There was some additional discussion regarding hot spots. Ms. Johnson encouraged directing additional funds to the purchase of hot spots.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. McFarland declared the meeting adjourned until Monday, October 5, 2020. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Scott McFarland, President

Julie Hammers, Secretary

Dated: October 5, 2020