

Hume R-VIII Special Board Meeting
Multi-Purpose Room
Maintaining Social Distancing Rules
July 27, 2020
8PM

The Hume R-VIII School Board met in special session July 8, 2020 at 8PM in the cafeteria.

Present: Josh Rogers, Verne Wepener, Bryce Cannon, Greg Fillpot, Steve Yarick, Mark Byrd, Brad Steuck arrived 8:10pm, Colby Sisson, Scott Morrison, and Melody Wikoff.

Visitors: Heather Rogers and Melanie Byrd

Mr. Wepener moves, Mr. Fillpot seconds to approve amended agenda.

Meeting was called to order by president, Josh Rogers.

Mr. Morrison informed the Board that lots of time had been spent on meetings, webinars, discussions with Bates and Vernon County Health Departments and research regarding opening of school including CDC guidelines and DESE and DHSS guidance for reopening. He stated the minimum requirements needed to be done, allowing room to add more requirements. Mr. Morrison asked the Board if they had a chance to review the 4-phase plan and if anyone had any questions about the plan on COVID Contingencies and Precautions for the Hume School.

Discussion began right away on the issue of facemasks. Mr. Morrison quickly informed the Board that this was not a political issue about wearing or not wearing masks. He stated that the issue is about public health and the Hume R-VIII School District. He then stated that masks are highly recommended if social distancing cannot be maintained - he stressed highly recommended, but not required. The health departments will tell us when we change phases. He also stated that having a phased plan helps us adapt quickly if needed. He also commented that we have to social distance - which is the number one precaution to stop the spread. Mr. Morrison also informed the Board that our district is small enough to social distance in the classrooms and at lunch. Students age 10-19 are more likely to spread the virus than students younger than 10 years of age, and adults are even more likely to spread the virus to students.

The reason to wear a mask is to provide protection for those around you, not necessarily the

person wearing the mask. Face shields were also discussed with concern being that they were not as effective as a mask in preventing transmission from occurring. All teachers were asked if they were asked if they thought they should wear a mask on day one - 60% said yes, 24% if we need to, 12% were not sure, and 4% no. Mr. Morrison stated that it apparently is not a problem with our teachers.

Mr. Morrison stated we will likely start in Phase 2 of the plan which states "Social distancing will be in place throughout the school campus. Enhanced handwashing for staff and students as well as enhanced use of hand sanitizer will be in place. Parents will not be permitted into the building for pick-up of their child or drop off. The parent must call ahead of time to set up a meeting to enter the building. Masks will be required for any authorized visitor, and highly recommended for all students and staff. Extra cleaning will take place. Extra sanitation methods will be used to keep the school disinfected. Extra cleaning and sanitation will be used on the buses as well." Different categories of all phases were reviewed as well.

Preschool students will be signed in and out at the front door. We are going back to school, but not back to normal. Mr. Morrison talked some on contact tracing and the reason for seating charts to contact trace. Preschool will eat all meals in classroom, all classes will eat breakfast in classroom, vo-tech students will eat in multi, and high school and elementary students will have two lunch shifts. Mr. Morrison did state that no syrup would be allowed for breakfast in the classrooms. One grade at a time will have recess on the playground.

Mr. Sisson reviewed a questionnaire for parents of children within our district, excluding staff or board members. He stated 99% of our sample is planning to attend Hume School, 97% of sample population is in favor of wearing masks when we cannot social distance, 3% is against wearing masks, 10% of the yes population would want their child wearing the mask all day and 90% of the yes population only want their child to wear a mask if they cannot social distance - they do not want it to be an all day deal. The last question asked of the sample population was should parents transport children instead of taking a bus? 75% yes, 25% no. Mr. Sisson also reviewed other comments and concerns that parents had.

Few families do not have internet. Online learning will be different as it will be accountable this year. Our goal is to stay open, but the virus will not care. We have to provide instruction, give feedback, etc. Learning has to happen. Students that choose

to learn remotely will be given the option of using Edmentum one semester at a time. Students have to be in class at the school 2 hours a day to qualify for sports.

Bus routes were discussed. Being in a small, confined space more than 15 minutes at a time creates a dangerous environment and social distancing may be difficult to maintain. A comment was made that all modes of transportation require masks with the driver being required to wear a mask as well.

Much more discussion took place on requiring masks to be worn on the bus. A comment was made that we should require masks to be worn on the bus from day one. Why wait until

something happens to move up a phase to require masks. A comment was stated that we are trying to keep our doors open and kids in school. Our kids want to come to school, we have to stay positive and keep kids safe. Due to varying opinions of requiring masks to be worn on the bus in phase 2 versus phase 3 a vote was taken.

Mr. Cannon moves, Mr. Steuck seconds to leave school phase plan as is with no changes. 2 in favor, Byrd, Yarick, Rogers, Wepener opposed.

Mr. Byrd moves, Mr. Wepener seconds that all bus transportation including all routes and vo tech will require students grades 3-12 beginning in Phase 2. 5 in favor, Steuck, Cannon opposed.

Sanitation and cleaning issues were discussed, more janitorial staff will be needed, another dumpster may be required, all disposable tableware will be used for meals, salad bar and fruit/vegetable bar will not happen.

Mr. Byrd moves, Mr. Wepener seconds to approve school plan. Unanimous approval.

Mr. Yarick moves, Mr. Byrd seconds to allow Mr. Morrison to adapt plan and make changes to the plan as necessary. Unanimous approval.

Mr. Byrd moves, Mr. Yarick seconds to adjourn meeting. Unanimous approval.

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