

# BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

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NOVEMBER 17, 2020

# Our Driving Principles

- ❖ To provide an in-person learning experience for as many students/parents who want it for as long as we can, while providing a reasonable risk reduction strategy for all.
- ❖ To provide a rigorous and relevant virtual instruction experience for those students/parents who are desirous of that experience.

# The Why

- ❖ Have not seen significant in-school spread to date.
- ❖ Have only moved one building to virtual learning.
- ❖ Seen significant increases in community spread.
- ❖ Number of quarantined staff and students have increased significantly.

# The Why

- ❖ Impact on staff and substitute teacher availability is becoming a significant problem.
- ❖ Majority of isolations and quarantines come from outside school exposure.
- ❖ Data from medical sources state the risk of transmission is reduced the younger the children are.

# The Why

- ❖ Significant social gatherings on holidays have only produced large spikes in community positive cases 10-14 days after those events.
- ❖ This is not about in-school spread; community spread has stretched our resources.

# Survey of Staff and Parents

## ❖ Staff

- 35.9% Support Staff; 64.1% Certified Staff
- 51.4% Early Childhood/Elementary; 42.5% Secondary; 7.7% District

## ❖ Parents

- 65.7% Early Childhood/Elementary; 60.1% Secondary

# Survey of Staff and Parent

Are you concerned about the rate of Covid-19 transmission in our community?

## ❖ Staff response

- 773 responses

- Not/little concerned 13.7%; Neutral 16.4%; Very/Concerned 69.9%

## ❖ Parent response

- 2319 responses

- Not/little concerned 48.4%; Neutral 18.9%; Very/Concerned 32.5%

# Survey of Staff and Parents

Are you concerned about the rate of Covid-19 transmission in our schools?

- ❖ Staff response
  - 785 responses
    - Not/little concerned 23.8%; Neutral 23.2%; Very/Concerned 52.9%
- ❖ Parent response
  - 2329 responses
    - Not/little concerned 48.4%; Neutral 19.1%; Very/Concerned 32.5%



# Survey of Staff and Parents

Are you concerned that the rate of Covid-19 transmission in our schools is directly impacting the safety of students and staff?

## ❖ Staff response

- 783 responses

- Not/little concerned 21.1%; Neutral 21.2%; Very/Concerned 57.7%

## ❖ Parent response

- 2332 responses

- Not/little concerned 26.0%; Neutral 0.12%; Very/Concerned 71.1%

# Survey of Staff

Are you concerned that the rate of Covid-19 transmission in our schools is directly impacting the workload of staff?

❖ Staff response

○ 786 responses

■ Not/little concerned 10.1%; Neutral 10.2%; Very/Concerned 79.7%

# Survey of Staff

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson recently issued new guidance that would allow schools to change quarantine practices. Under this new guidance, the district would not have to quarantine students or staff who were exposed to a Covid-19 positive individual if both parties were wearing masks. Are you comfortable transitioning to this new guidance in our schools?

## ❖ Staff response

- 777 responses.

- Very/Comfortable 15.0%; Neutral 11.0%; Very/Uncomfortable 74.0%

## ❖ Parent response

- 2336 response

- Very/Comfortable 33.9%; Neutral 12.1%; Very/Uncomfortable 54.1%

# Survey of Staff and Parents

With your understanding of the Covid-19 situation in Cass County, are you supportive of moving to a different mode of instruction, such as virtual learning, for the three-week period after Thanksgiving?

## ❖ Staff response

- 655 responses

- Very/Comfortable 61.9%; Neutral 10.5%; Very/Uncomfortable 27.5%

## ❖ Parent responses

- 2130 responses

- Very/Comfortable 40.5%; Neutral 13.4%; Very/Uncomfortable 46.1%

# Survey of Staff and Parents

With your understanding of the Covid-19 situation in Cass County, are you supportive of moving to a different mode of instruction, such as virtual learning, for the three-week period after Thanksgiving?

- Among K-5 parents, 36.9% were comfortable or very comfortable; 13.3% were neutral; and 50.5% were uncomfortable or very uncomfortable.
- Among 6-12 parents, 43.7% were comfortable or very comfortable; 13.8% were neutral; and 42.5% were uncomfortable or very uncomfortable.
- Among K-5 staff, 65.7% were comfortable or very comfortable; 11.7% were neutral; and 22.5% were uncomfortable or very uncomfortable.
- Among 6-12 staff, 59.8% were comfortable or very comfortable; 10.3% were neutral; and 29.9% were uncomfortable or very uncomfortable.

# OPTIONS



# Option A

- ❖ Stay the course with the current approach.
- ❖ End the semester for students on Dec. 18; Dec. 21 and 22 will be teacher work days.
- ❖ Return for the second semester as scheduled.

# Option B

- ❖ Move to fully virtual schedule for secondary schools.
- ❖ Move to a four day in-person week for elementary schools. Fridays will provide some virtual instruction time, but the majority of the day for teacher design time.
- ❖ End the semester for students on Dec. 18; Dec. 21 and 22 will be teacher work days.
- ❖ Return for the second semester as scheduled. Jan. 6-8 will be K-12 virtual instruction. Jan 11 would be the first in-person day. K-5 would be in-person five days a week with rotating Fridays for teacher collaboration and lesson design time; grades 6-12 would be a hybrid schedule.
- ❖ Plan and adjust as necessary at the elementary school.



# Option C

- ❖ Move to a fully virtual schedule in grades K-12.
- ❖ Plan for childcare at K-5 locations for those that need it; limited capacity.
- ❖ End semester on Dec. 18; Dec. 21 and 22 will be teacher work days.
- ❖ Return for the second semester as scheduled. Jan. 6-8 will be K-12 virtual instruction. Jan 11 would be the first in-person day. K-5 would be in-person five days a week with rotating Fridays as teacher collaboration and lesson design time; grades 6-12 would be a hybrid schedule.

# OTHER ISSUES

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- ❖ Because this change is due to resource availability and not school spread, extra-curricular activities can continue subject to all safety constraints.
- ❖ Shull Early Learning Center will be open all 5 days.
- ❖ Activity busses will run each day.
- ❖ In-person tutoring would continue; transportation could be made available.



**Plan and Adjust**

**Patience and Grace**

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