

April 12, 2021

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met in a Workshop Session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2021 at South High School.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, the following Board members answered present: Nancy Kupka, President; and Members Sherell Fuller, Daniel Nicholas, Terry Pavesich, Rick Pavinato and Joanna Vazquez Drexler. Mike Davenport, Vice President, arrived at 6:31 p.m.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; Rob Lang, Assistant Superintendent for Staff Services; Scott Wuggazer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Mark Staehlin, District Controller; Ed Schwartz, South High Principal; Janice Schwarze, North High Principal; Student Board Members Zoe Boyd and Sam Bull; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

There were no visitors.

1. STUDENT PERSPECTIVES – NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

North High student Kate Gross shared how grateful the girls' basketball team was for the opportunity to play and listed some of the adaptations made, due to the pandemic, such as: mask time outs during games, no jump balls, only two family members per player at games, live streaming of games, social distancing on the benches and only playing conference teams. Sam Bull, Student Board Member and North High soccer player, expressed how grateful the team was to have a season and that there seemed to be more comradery on the field since the team was not able to socialize. Robby Boucher, Assistant Lighting Designer for the North High Musical "Freaky Friday," explained how the musical was being modified due to the pandemic. He shared changes included only parents and friends of the cast attending in person, a hybrid of singing and lip syncing, rehearsals socially distanced, more modular sets and the pit orchestra playing live from the band room.

The Board expressed how impressed they were with the students and how they rose to meet the challenges this year.

2. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

South High Student Board Member Boyd recapped activities occurring this spring including Snowball, Foreign Language Week, the Key Club Virtual 5K, Group Interpretation Competition, football, music groups performing together, and the filming of the musical "High School Musical." Ms. Boyd shared students are excited to be back and they like the schedule.

North High Student Board Member Bull reported the band and color guard performed at a football game and a limited number of students were able to attend, sports have started, the *Omega* is planning their first print issue since February 2020 and seniors are excited about prom and graduation. Mr. Bull shared it's like normal school, but with masks, and snack time provides an opportunity for students to socialize.

3. RECOGNITION

Dr. Thiele read a letter from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) recognizing and thanking President Kupka for her service on the IASB Executive Committee from 2019-2021. The Board also congratulated President Kupka.

4. 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR UPDATE

Dr. Thiele reported 71% of students returned to in-person learning, 90% of staff are vaccinated, and the District is investigating hosting a student vaccination clinic. He shared he is part of the ISBE planning group for the fall return of students. Dr. Thiele explained the plan for next year is to return to school as much like pre-COVID is possible, with possible differences being additional spacing at lunch, which the District is working on, and the wearing of masks.

Dr. Thiele reviewed the document sent to students, families and staff earlier in the day about contact tracing and what constitutes a close contact. He noted there has been a rise in the number of close contacts, most of which can be attributed to activities, athletics and riding the bus. Dr. Thiele stated the District is following the guidelines for quarantining and contact tracing established by the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) and quarantined students receive concurrent instruction remotely.

5. SUMMER SCHOOL COSTS/TUITION UPDATE

Dr. Thiele stated this would be an Action Item on April 19 and that Administration was recommending waiving all Summer School Tuition and Fees, except for Driver Education, for all in-District students; out of District student fees would remain the same. He shared this is possible through the use of grant funds.

The Board thanked Administration for making this possible.

6. STAFF RECEIVING TENURE

Dr. Thiele stated Tenure is granted by the State and reviewed the three ways a teacher can receive tenure - Traditional, Accelerated and Portable. He displayed the list of District 99 teachers receiving tenure.

7. DRAFT BOARD PROTOCOLS

Dr. Thiele shared the Board began working on these Protocols in December during its self-evaluation and a goal of the Board was to have the Protocols in place before the term of this Board ended. He asked that if Board members would like any changes to advise President Kupka and himself by Thursday. He stated the Board Protocols would be voted on next Monday, and reviewed annually during the Board's self-evaluation with the IASB.

8. MASTER FACILITY PLAN PROGRESS

Dr. Thiele reported the Master Facility Plan is on time and under budget. He shared pictures of the South High Auditorium and Commons and the North High Commons. Next week the Core Team will be touring South High and the following week they will be touring North High, according to Dr. Thiele.

9. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Thiele stated three Public Comments were submitted via the online Public Comment Form; two wanting the students back more in-person and one thanking the District for bringing the students back. The comments are attached.

10. CLOSED SESSION

Member Pavesich moved and Member Fuller seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned to Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); and collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Pavesich, Fuller, Nicholas, Pavinato, Vazquez Drexler, Davenport and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

President Kupka announced the Board would not be taking any Action after coming out of Closed Session.

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 7:14 p.m.


11. RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Open Session with the following members of the Board of Education in attendance: Nancy Kupka, President; Michael Davenport, Vice President; and Members Sherell Fuller, Daniel Nicholas, Terry Pavesich, Rick Pavinato and Joanna Vazquez Drexler.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; Rob Lang, Assistant Superintendent for Staff Services; Mark Staehlin, District Controller; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Member Pavesich moved and Member Nicholas seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the unanimous voice vote of the seven members in attendance, the President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.



Nancy Kupka, President



Juli Gniadek, Secretary

Public Comment: Submitted via Google Form
April 12, 2021 Board Meeting

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| Jim Devitt | <p>I have several issues for the Board to address. First off, as a candidate during the last election, as well as a taxpayer, resident of the District and parent of a student, I am very disappointed by several members of the Boards action in very obviously supporting certain candidates during the campaign. By showing clear partisanship, it signals that the Board is NOT non-partisan as it should be. It also may create hard feelings throughout the District as well. In addition, the actions of a guidance counselor who involved her use of very libelous comments, as well as her position of power in an email campaign against a candidate are sickening. These actions all show a VERY partisan system in place here in District 99, and that is a very dangerous thing. I would also like to know now that the Governor has announced that the State will not be reimbursing school districts who have used Safeguard Surveillance for saliva covid testing, where the money is going to come from to pay for the testing, and exactly how much the district will have to pay? I would also like to know exactly what the plan is moving forward for the rest of this school year, as well as the fall session. Such a plan should already be in place in some form, and available for the public to see.</p> <p>Finally, I would implore the board to institute a suggestion that I had during the campaign, and that was to allow any student, at any time during the day, to leave their class to seek counseling, whether it be for mental, social or educational assistance. We have all seek mental health, as well as grades deteriorate, and we need some aggressive steps done to combat this. Not surveys, not focus groups, not politics or take, but ACTIONS, and serious ones to show these kids that they are cared for and about.</p> |
| Amy laverty | <p>I am writing on behalf of my daughter who just started at DGS this year and it has been such a challenging year for everyone but as the weeks and months have passed she keeps asking "Why are we not full day yet?" I have been explaining all of the barriers that have been presented to everyone which some have agreed with and some have not. I am now really trying to determine our future within D99 as we still continue not to offer full in person learning and other area schools do and many schools do all around the nation. The choices are simple: remote learning or full in person learning. Period. We should be going through a "dry run" now so we are working out kinks for Fall. I am saddened by how this last 13 months were handled but more specifically how this current semester has been. The kids really do need to be in, they want to be in, and it has been proven they can safely be in. Education is essential and we deserve, the kids deserve, better from D99 administrators and leadership. Thank you.</p> |
| Anonymous | <p>This week has meant the world to these students. Please continue to make it happen and know after waiting a year, they were at breaking points. I am concerned with your quarantine protocols as it differs from other districts in our areas. Even after your email today, which was very clear, policies are not in line with other high schools. I am also concerned as I have seen lawsuits due to inappropriate quarantine in other districts. I believe this has to be looked at very closely. Also, the blatant endorsement of school board candidates by current members during this past election was very off putting and makes me wonder what kind of bipartisan people they are. Personal bias does not belong here. It really put the entire board in a very negative light. I hope for the representation that we deserve including listening to a majority of the stakeholders and not just chosen families that are the loudest, yet remain in the minority. We have lost many families to private schools, and the sense of quality and excellence has flown out the window. It is up to the administration and board to bring it back.</p> |