

**CLIMAX-SCOTTS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING**

Date: August 10, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: ZOOM Virtual Meeting; Board Members/Administration @ Jr./Sr. High Band Room

1. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

Board President, Mrs. Susan Reichert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Mrs. Lori Bagwell
 Ms. Jackie Longman
 Mr. Trent Piper
 Mrs. Susan Reichert
 Mrs. Terri VandeGiessen
 Mrs. Heather Wechsler
 Mr. Steve Wurtzel

Member's Absent

None

Other School Personnel Present

Mr. Brent Cole, Jr./Sr. High School Principal
 Mrs. Teri Peters, Elementary Principal
 Mr. Doug Newington, Superintendent

3. Public Forum

Chelsea Mertin, 904 W. Kalamazoo Avenue, Apt. 5, Kalamazoo, MI 49007, 269-769-6147, Chelsea.mertin@gmail.com. Ms. Mertin, a first grade CS teacher, spoke to the board regarding Return to Learn concerns. She was upset that Mrs. Lark Murphy had to ask teachers, instead of the school, what the teachers' opinions were regarding going back to school. She viewed face-to-face as a social experiment.

Lark Murphy, 8590 North 43rd Street, Augusta, MI; lmurphy@csschools.net. Mrs. Murphy, a teacher, and President of the CSEA Teachers Union, shared with the board her CS Educator Survey, and a letter she sent to the board via email on August 9th. Due to technology issues at the school due to changing networks, none of the board members had received her email. She reported the following results of her survey of 29 of the 31 teachers "What method of instruction would you personally prefer to return to work with students on September 8th: face-to-face, remote or a hybrid model, and why?":

<u>Overall teachers (29/31)</u>		<u>Elementary Teachers</u>		<u>Jr./Sr. High Teachers</u>	
Remote	55.1%	Remote	64.2%	Remote	46.6%
Face-to-Face	28.5%	Face-to-Face	28.5%	Face-to-Face	33.3%
Hybrid	13.7%	Hybrid	7.1%	Hybrid	20.0%

The rationale given for the survey choices from the Climax-Scotts educators include:

- Remote: health and safety concerns (x 13); start here and move to other options when it is safer to do so; self or family members who could be negatively impacted; too many issues related to strict regulations needed for face-to-face, worries about compromised individuals (students and staff); too much of a risk to all directly involved at the school and those in the home; too many unknowns about long-term effects of the virus; concerns of illness and death of students, their families or staff; and we are in a time of a deadly global pandemic.
- Face-to-face: students and their families aren't prepared for remote learning and would need training; importance for students (but would support remote); does not feel at risk personally (x 3); best way to teach students, but doesn't know if it's the safest; fear of job loss if remote; and it's the best way to teach the subject matter or grade level (x 2).
- Hybrid: reduces exposure in small groups or with less students; concerns for success in a strictly remote mode; start here because we will eventually be shut down; and subject matter concerns.

4. Agenda Modifications

None.

5. Consent Calendar Items

None.

6. Items for Action or Discussion

a. Return to Learn Plan

Mr. Newington went over the COVID-19 Back to School Preparedness & Response Plan that has been developed for the CS Community Schools. The plan includes the following categories for the different phases, Phases 1-2-3, which is closed for in-person instruction; and Phases 4-5, which allows for in-person instruction.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)	Hygiene
Spacing, Movement, Access	Screening Staff & Students
Testing Protocols	Food Service, Gatherings, Extra Curricular
Athletics	Cleaning
Busing & Student Transportation	Medically Vulnerable Students & Staff
Mental & Social/Emotional Health	Elementary Drop-Off & Dismissal
Instruction	Remote Instruction
Communication	Professional Learning & Resources
Facilities, Hygiene, Movement, Cleaning	Technology

After a thorough discussion, Mr. Wurtzel **moved**, supported by Mrs. Bagwell, to approve the COVID-19 Back to School Preparedness & Response Plan as presented. **Motion carried 6-1** (Ms. Longman – No).

b. Adoption of online course catalogs

Two online options were discussed, KVIC (KRESA Virtual & Innovative Collaborative), K-12, which is a virtual learning program operated jointly by the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) and Accelerate K-5; and Edmentum 6-12. Online courses were provided to the board for review.

Mrs. Wechsler **moved**, supported by Mr. Wurtzel, to approve the online courses as presented. **Motion carried 7-0**.

7. **Adjournment**

At 7:03 p.m., Mr. Wurtzel **moved**, supported by Mrs. Wechsler, to adjourn the August 10, 2020 special meeting of the Climax-Scotts Board of Education. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Approved on August 17, 2020 by:



Susan Reichert, C-S Board President



Heather Wechsler, C-S Board Secretary/Treasurer