

Special Meeting
August 6, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Louisa-Muscatine CSD met in special session on Thursday, August 6, 2020 beginning at 4:00 p.m. Board members present included Scott Wilson, Carol Whittaker, Eric Schlutz, Barbara Thompson and Bryce Hoben. Also present was Supt. Mike Van Sickle.

Call to Order/Approval of the Agenda

President Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Whittaker moved and Schlutz seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of School Board Statement

Hoben moved and Whittaker seconded to approve the following School Board Statement:

The school board thanks the staff and parents for their perspectives on the issues facing the start of the school year.

We would like to remind everyone that the school board is a collection of non-paid, elected community members. None of us are experts on serology or constitutional law. We are a collection of community members that cares about education and kids. Every member on this board has given days of personal time throughout the school year to ensure that L-M is a place to learn and have a positive educational experience.

For those who think that we are not doing enough to mitigate the spread, be aware that four of the five members on the board have students enrolled in the school. Our Superintendent, Secondary Principal, and Curriculum Director also have students enrolled. The Administration and Board are risking as much as any other parent or staff member regarding the opening of the school.

For those who think we are mandating too much and encroaching on personal freedoms, we ask for you to be patient as we work through the opening of school. We need to show that the procedures we pass today can boost confidence that the school is a safe place and any infections that do occur can be safely mitigated.

COVID-19 is a reality that this district will be facing for the foreseeable future. There is no perfect solution and people must be flexible to change.

We believe if the illness should occur, it can be contained and treated efficiently following guidelines given to us by the state. The hope is that eventually, a sense of normalcy can be achieved with a few modifications at the school that do not intrude on freedoms.

Thank you for supporting L-M School system.

Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Return to Learn Plan

Supt. Mike Van Sickle reviewed surveys summarizing a fairly even split for face masks at school and on student transportation. The majority of parents preferred the face to face education model. Supt. Mike Van Sickle and the board reviewed the return to learn plan and made changes to the living document as it was reviewed.

Citizens/Parents David Riggins, Chad Lee and Christel Schreiber voiced opinions on plans we will be following, masks, how symptoms will determine attendance and preferred "not required" wording for face masks. Whittaker moved and Schlutz seconded to approve the LMCS D Return to Learn Plan as modified dated August 6, 2020 and give authorization to the Superintendent and Board President in collaboration to be able to make temporary changes to the plan, if needed, until the board is able to convene. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Recommended Return to School Model

Supt. Mike Van Sickle and the board reviewed the return to school plan and made changes to the document as it was reviewed. Citizens/Parents Amanda Mott, David Reid and Chad Lee voiced opinions on preferring the hybrid model, coming back full (in person) and wanting clarification on the first weeks. Kim Van Sickle noted that Preschool follows DHS guidelines.

LMCS D Return to School Plan for 2020-2021:

Soft start of School August 17-21

Secondary School

Monday, August 17: 7th Grade and Seniors in Attendance.

Tuesday, August 18: 8th Grade and Juniors in Attendance.

Wednesday, Aug. 19: Freshman and Sophomores in Attendance.

Thursday, August 20: 7th Grade, Freshman and Juniors in Attendance.

Friday, August 21: 8th Grade, Sophomores and Seniors in Attendance.

Elementary School, K-6

Monday, August 17: No School for All Students

Virtual Sessions with Parents and Students. On-Site Meetings by Appointment.

Tuesday, August 18: Students with the last names starting with A-L in Attendance.

Wednesday, Aug 19: Students with the last names starting with M-Z in Attendance.

Thursday, August 20: All K-6 Students in Attendance.

Friday, August 21 All K-6 Students in Attendance.

August 24th

L-M Elementary School starts with full days and with all students

The 2-hour early out will be on Friday, August 28th. All students attending class on campus.

August 24-28th

L-M JR/SR High Implements Hybrid Plan A. For the week of August 24-28, the two-hour early out will move to Friday. Group L students will attend school on campus on Monday and Wednesday. Group M will attend school on campus on Tuesday and Thursday. All students will report to school on Friday, August 28th.

August 31, 2020

L-M JR/SR High converts to full days with all students.

Whittaker moved and Schlutz seconded to approve the LMCS D Return to School Plan as modified dated August 6, 2020 and give authorization to the Superintendent and Board President in collaboration to be able to make temporary changes to the plan, if needed, until the board is able to convene. Motion carried 5-0.

Personnel

Hirings: Thompson moved and Whittaker seconded to approve the following hirings: Kelsey Koenig, Full Time Bus Driver, Brandon Lessenger, Assistant Bowling Coach and Cassidy Chambers, Assistant JH Volleyball Coach. Motion carried 5-0.

Resignations: Whittaker moved and Hoben seconded to approve the following hirings: Kathleen Herrig, Head (JH) Volleyball Coach (2021-2022 school year). Motion carried 5-0.

Board Goals

Whittaker moved and Hoben seconded to suspend the review and approval of board goals to a special meeting on August 17, 2020 to start at 5:15p.m prior to the regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment

Whittaker moved and Schlutz seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Scott Wilson, President

Charles Domer, Secretary