

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Villa Grove Community School District #302 of Douglas and Champaign Counties, Illinois was called and held Monday, July 20, 2020, at the Villa Grove Community Unit School District Building, within the boundaries of said District. Upon roll being called, the following members were found to be present: Jim Clark, Bill Fulk (via phone), Carol Ezell, Meagan Quigley and Charlie Mitsdarfer.

Time: 6:01 p.m.

Administrators present: Mrs. Munson, Mr. Beck, Mrs. Jones.

VGEA Representatives present:

Visitors present:

VISITOR RECOGNITION: None.

Mrs. Munson began the meeting by opening up discussion about the proposal to reopen school this fall. She met with administration and staff to go over the return-to-school survey results submitted by both staff and parents.

305 responses indicate that parents are split 50/50 on in-person vs. blended instruction. 98 families would utilize transportation. The biggest challenge parents face is balancing the home, school and work routine.

85 responses indicate that staff is split as well on in-person vs. blended instruction, and 81% of staff who responded indicated that early dismissal would be helpful.

Mrs. Munson said that due to the split opinion, guidelines from the State would dictate much of the return-to-school plan. In order to conform to the guidelines and follow social distancing policies, the best option will include blue and gold days or Mon/Wed and Tues/Thurs schedules with Fridays being remote learning for all. School will dismiss at 2:00 p.m. each day. Special education students will attend daily Mon-Thurs, with early dismissal as well. The District will implement this plan for the first quarter, with the intention being to reevaluate after that time. The school calendar will remain the same, other than adding two teacher institute days to the two already scheduled. Masks are required, but breaks will be scheduled to allow students to social distance without masks.

It should be noted that changes could be implemented by ISBE before school begins.

#### Board Comments:

QUIGLEY: Questioned the procedures for positive COVID test results. It was indicated that we would have to follow the guidelines set by the county health department. She also questioned the possibility of full-time remote learning for parents who wanted to do that. As we do not have the resources for that, it will not be an option unless medically necessary. She asked about monetary help for PPE. We are receiving funding through the CARES grant. She questioned what would happen on Fridays for families that have to work. We may be able to accommodate families that need extra help. Subs are also an issue, as we have a sub shortage. Parents who don't have special ed children also need to be educated on the requirements/laws if they don't understand why their child isn't allowed to attend all four days.

MITSDARFER: Will our staff be prepared for this? What is the percentage of students who are special ed? It was indicated 15-20%. What are our plans for after-school care for families who need extra help? A survey could be sent out to families to determine how the District can help during this time. During inclement weather, will mask breaks be provided? Will grading standards change this year with the new plan? It was indicated that grading will be back to normal. Are there standards that the District will have to meet that may allow the state to withhold funds? It was indicated that that is not foreseen.

ZIMMERMAN (submitted comments prior to the meeting): He is in favor of AM/PM separation with kids in attendance each day. He is concerned about childcare for families.

FULK: Had a parent ask about a mid-day swap. He pointed out that it would be difficult to transport that many kids each day and still maintain social distancing.

CLARK: Would love to see all kids return five days a week, full-time, but looking at ISBE and State guidelines, it is impossible.

Mrs. Munson indicated that the administration has already begun the process of ensuring siblings will be on the same schedule.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Joe Keith: Cleaning currently is subpar, there is no way it can be cleaned for an AM/PM schedule. Will temperature checks be done? Mr. Beck said split days will be more beneficial for both students and teachers for learning.

For JH: Can the clothing requirement be loosened? Masks provided? How will classes work? Will students stay in class and the teachers switch? How will lunch work? Employees will lose 15 hours/week, would lose lunch plan and sick days/holidays. Mrs. Jones said students will move classes, utilize every other desk, lunch will be spread out. The plan is not 100% but they are working on it. Mrs. Munson does not see any reduction in hours or staff. Many of these are good questions that we don't have all the answers to yet.

Stevens arrived at 6:50 p.m. and began taking the minutes as follows:

Sarah Hosler: Would prefer her son go two days per week and do remote learning. Kids with learning disabilities are already singled out, no need to single them out more.

There were no further public comments.

Clark moved and Quigley seconded a motion to approve the reopening plan as presented. All members present voted in favor.

Clark moved and Mitsdarfer seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda, which includes Agenda Items D, E, F and G. All members present voted in favor.

The first order of business was approval of policies, five-year review, as presented. Stevens moved and Mitsdarfer seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

Quigley moved and Clark seconded a motion to approve the food, bread and milk bids for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. (Milk - McCormick, Bread - Aunt Millie's, Food & Supplies - Kohl). All members present voted in favor.

Clark moved and Quigley seconded a motion to approve the first reading of PRESS Plus Issue #104. All members present voted in favor.

Stevens moved and Clark seconded a motion to approve the extra-duty roster for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. All members present voted in favor.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Construction updates: Outstanding RFPs. #7, step footings - Duce/CTS will assume responsibility. #28, Interior striping, CTS will cover. \$1,200 discrepancy for curtain length, CTS will cover. In exchange for this, CTS is asking the District to assume responsibility for the two-tone exterior paint upgrade. The two-tone was actually just shading in the renderings and perceived as two-tone, so there is an upgrade charge for that.

The parking lot is currently dug up between the bus barn and the school as Davis-Houk Mechanical looks for a steam pipe leak. The cost for this is unknown and is being billed on a time-and-materials basis.

The Board acknowledged the extra costs above and agreed to proceed as recommended by Mrs. Munson.

#### PRINCIPALS' REPORTS:

##### MRS. JONES:

Received a letter from SIU with several former students on the Dean's List.

Graduation set for July 26, 7:00 p.m., on the football field.

##### MR. BECK:

Online registration via TeacherEASE being tested tomorrow, will be live by the end of this week/early next week. There will be an option for parents to pay in person or mail in their payment to avoid extra fees. The free-and-reduced form will be encouraged to be filled out in order for the District to receive much needed funding.

Ezell requested an update on the co-op situation. It was indicated that Heritage had not voted on the athletic co-op and that no one had reached out to Villa Grove as of yet.

Clark moved and Stevens seconded a motion to move to closed session. All members voted in favor.

7:27 p.m.

Clark moved and Stevens seconded a motion to reconvene to open session. All members voted in favor.

8:05 p.m.

Stevens moved and Quigley seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Nicole Beals, HS Business Education Teacher. All members present voted in favor.

Stevens moved and Clark seconded a motion to pro rate all coaching stipends and pay as one lump sum. All members present voted in favor.

Stevens moved and Clark seconded a motion to approve the hire of Blake Swan, JH Cheer Coach. All members present voted in favor.

Stevens moved and Clark seconded a motion to adjourn. All members voted aye.

Meeting adjourned: 8:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Board Secretary      Jill Stevens

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Board President      Jim Clark