

# SMITHTON COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 130

Smithton, Illinois

Special Board Meeting, August 10, 2020

## MINUTES

A Special meeting of the Board of Education of Smithton Community Consolidated School District No. 130 was held on Monday, August 10, 2020, in the school gymnasium, 316 South Hickory, Smithton, Illinois 62285.

Mrs. Etling, Clerk to the Board of Education, recorded minutes of the special meeting held on Monday August 10, 2020.

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board President Dale Barschak at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

### Roll Call

Members present: Ms. Pipher, Mr. Lester, Mrs. Sutherland, Mr. Barschak, Mr. Trentman, Mr. Whitworth

Members absent: Dr. Schwemmer

Dr. Wamser, Superintendent and Mrs. Norton, Principal were also in attendance.

### Public Comments

Shannon Hesseldenz spoke and asked the board to not only consider the students education needs but also their social and mental needs which can be just as important as their educational needs.

Brandi Hundelt spoke of the need for IEP students to have the in-person instruction from teachers that are specifically trained to work with these types of students.

Comments and questions were also read aloud from those participating in the meeting remotely.

Mr. Barschak also read some of the emails that were sent to the board members from parents.

### Discussion

Dr. Wamser presented the revised recommendation for the School Reopening Plan. Based on the new information from the St. Clair County Health Department in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Public Health, he is recommending that the school follow their encouragement to begin our school year in full remote status.

Currently, 22 out of the 28 school districts in St. Clair County have made the decision to begin the school year in full remote. He is also recommending to push back the official start of regular remote instruction by one week to allow our staff to better prepare for the change and determine the best way to do small group device distribution. This plan will be reexamined under the advisement of the St. Clair County Health Department every 4 weeks with the next decision coming by September 18, 2020.

Board members discussed Dr. Wamser recommendation.

Mr. Whitworth stated he was in favor of keeping the existing hybrid plan in place. He cited statistics for COVID cases in Smithton is far less than the numbers for St. Clair County as a whole. Mr. Lester cited Wall Street Journal article regarding increased cases in children and recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatricians. He is supporting the decision that is being recommended by the administration since he feels that this decision is being made in the best interest of our students and staff. Mr. Trentman stated that not being in a classroom setting was more detrimental to the students than being at school. He stated more people in the community want to stay with the hybrid plan, therefore is he in favor of keeping the hybrid plan in place. Ms. Pipher had questions about IEP students and social distancing of students in the cafeteria.

A motion to approve Dr. Wamser's recommendation to begin the school year in full remote status and delay the first day of school by one week with first day back on August 20, 2020 was made by Mr. Lester, seconded by Mr. Barschak. Motion carried by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes: Ms. Pipher, Mrs. Sutherland, Mr. Barschak, Mr. Lester

Nays: Mr. Trentman, Mr. Whitworth

A motion to affirm the continuance of the school's fall sports program was made by Mr. Whitworth, seconded by Mr. Trentman. Motion failed by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes: Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Trentman, Mr. Lester

Nays: Ms. Pipher, Mrs. Sutherland, Mr. Barschak

Mr. Barschak explained that the decision to have sports will be reevaluated by administration. Dr. Wamser will reach out to the other schools in the conference to discuss the viability of the season and whether to move forward or not.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. was made by Mrs. Sutherland and seconded by Ms. Pipher. All Ayes, motion passes.



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President



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Secretary