

Minutes for October 7, 2020 School Board  
Work Session  
Holdingford Public School

Chair Christensen called the Work Session of the school Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room using social distancing guidelines.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Elissa Ebnet, Ben Christensen, Rob Knettel, Pat Meier, Lori Opatz and Ed Feia. Member absent: None

Also attending was Superintendent Chris Swenson, Business Manager Beth Heinze, Elementary Principal Jim Stang, Secondary Principal Angela Safran and Administrative Assistant Linda Zapzalka.

Mr. Swenson updated the Board on the construction projects. The Digital Trophy Case has been installed, the sod in the front of the building is installed, the soft spots on the poured preschool playground have been repaired, and the wrestling room was inadvertently left unfinished Mr. Selken from ICS has been notified and is making arrangements to get it completed. Mr. Swenson and the POC committee members decided to postpone meetings until more info on Track project is available.

Mr. Swenson anticipates county COVID numbers to be high. Those numbers have to be balanced with local district numbers and trends. He explained that if the District would have to move to step three Learning Model it would only cause a few changes. Mr. Swenson informed the Board on the new busing rule: It has changed to a whole bus has to quarantine if a passenger has a positive case of COVID. The Advisory committee will continue to meet on Thursdays to review the data and make decisions based on trends before changing Learning Models.

Fall Activities Update: Mr. Swenson reported Football and Volleyball games are starting with no spectators at indoor events. 250 spectators can attend outdoor events and no concessions. The District is following the guidelines given from the MSHSL. Games will be streamed on Utube. The updated activities information will go out to parents and will be posted on the webpage. With the new busing regulation parents are encouraged to transport athletes to and from games.

Conferences were discussed and they will be conducted virtually. The Administration praised the entire staff, students and community for their hard work and extra efforts taken to keep the school open! Letters will go out to parents notifying them of the arrangements for conferences.

Ms. Heinze reported the Audit is being done virtually which makes it very time consuming with scanning and emailing the requested documents. She anticipates two findings, Segregation of Duties because of the small business office staff and a finding pertaining to Student Activity accounts. These accounts are now under board control requiring a new set of regulations. There hasn't been time to get it all done. The Business Office will continue to work on implementing the new regulations moving forward and may require the Advisors to complete summary statements on fundraisers. Ms. Heinze informed the Board that fund balances are growing in all accounts except Com. Ed. This account was hit hard with COVID, being required to provide free childcare to essential workers from March – July and having to cancel most of the classes, activities and events.

Board Goals and Superintendent Goals will be discussed at a future meeting.

The agenda was completed at 7:03 PM with a motion to adjourn by Knettel, second by Opatz. Motion carried. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Evelyn Martini, Clerk

