

The Lowellville Board of Education met in special session on Monday, July 27, 2020 in the Cafetorium (In-Person & Virtual); President Michael Palumbo presiding. Mr. Palumbo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:	Brian Wharry - Present	Stephanie Yon - Present
	Gerald Dubos - Present	Michael Palumbo – Present
	Joseph Sturm - Present	

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Introduction, discussion, and/or revisions of the 2020-2021 Reopening Plan (Guidelines); Board Education Work Session:

Dr. Thomas explained the reason for the Special Board Meeting and the process for how the meeting would be conducted. Dr. Thomas then presented the Restart/Reopen plan to the Board Members and audience.

Mr. Gerald Dubos asked about students showing symptoms for ten (10) days and for some clarification on it. Dr. Thomas said he would rework the explanation to make it more clear and easier to comprehend.

Mrs. Stephanie Yon inquired about who would determine symptoms or illness. Dr. Thomas and Brian Wharry agreed that doctors would make determinations on illness.

Mr. Michael Palumbo asked about the plans for students entering the building. Dr. Thomas informed the Board that the details were still being worked on.

Mr. Joseph Sturm inquired about whether teachers would be in the building if the county gets to a level three (3) or four (4). Dr. Thomas explained that they likely would be in the building under a level three (3), but he was still uncertain about level four (4).

Kyle Premis asked for clarification on the two options. Dr. Thomas said Option 1 is in-person everyday and Option 2 is online.

Terri Altiero inquired about the number of teachers and if they would give instruction for online programs. Dr. Thomas informed everyone that the District will be hiring full-time substitutes to manage online programs.

Mr. Kumer asked to clarify that Remote Learning is if the school is shutdown. Dr. Thomas agreed, remote learning occurs if the school is shutdown and is taught by the students' normal teachers. Online is a separate program that has an online course and curriculum that will be managed by the full-time substitutes.

Dr. Thomas informed everyone that in 5th and 6th grades the teachers would be switching classes to minimize student contact.

Dr. Thomas also updated everyone that the deadline to enroll in the online option is August 10, 2020.

Mr. Kumer also inquired about masks in classrooms and gym class. Dr. Thomas said masks can be taken off in the classroom thanks to the protective desk shields and that there will still be gym class.

Scott Ogle mentioned how these precautions could hinder the student's ability to socialize which is part of why they attend school. Dr. Thomas acknowledged that the precautions are restrictive, and parents' decisions will be personal preference.

Mr. Michael Palumbo inquired about room capacity. Dr. Thomas acknowledged that rooms will be examined, and the District will make sure there is sufficient space to accommodate all students.

Debbie Goodman asked how student absences will be tracked. Dr. Thomas informed everyone that the District is expecting to get waivers from the Ohio Department of Education.

Bob Norberg asked what the online learning will look like. Dr. Thomas updated everyone that the online courses are set up in modules and will be monitored by full-time substitute teachers that the District will hire. The students will work their way through the modules and will be able to contact the full-time substitutes for assistance.

Dawn Harris asked if there was a number cap for either the online or in-person options. Dr. Thomas informed everyone that there is no number cap on either option.

Kyle Premis asked if the parents pick which online program is used. Dr. Thomas informed everyone that the District will pick the online platform and ensure the courses match the school's curriculum. Mr. Premis also inquired about special needs students. Dr. Thomas said those students would be structured case by case.

Lucy Bartlett informed everyone that the special education teachers will be working more collaboratively with the rest of the staff and teachers. The spring shutdown happened very quickly and there was not a lot of time for planning or collaboration, so remote learning this fall will be much more collaborative. The remote learning schedule and format has improved a lot from how it functioned in the spring. Also, the teachers and the union have been working hard at being accommodating. However, with all the safety protocols it will be a tough balance between cleaning and safety and the actual time for learning.

Michelle Ballone asked how music and band classes will work. Dr. Thomas informed everyone that the teachers were aware of the complications and it is being worked on.

Ron Bunofsky inquired about extracurriculars and the process that went shutting them down. Dr. Thomas informed him that his question is not part of the reopening plan which is what the current meeting is focused on. However, the District worked collaboratively with the State and County Health Departments to follow proper protocols. He can make an appointment to discuss further at another time.

Ryan McNicholaus asked what the deadlines were for choosing online or in-person. Dr. Thomas updated everyone that the decision will be made every nine (9) weeks for that nine (9) weeks at a time. There is not currently a specific timeline for when that decision needs made leading up to the start of the nine (9) weeks.

Mr. Joseph Sturm asked if masks are required for all students. Dr. Thomas informed everyone that yes, masks will be worn K-12.

Paul Morrocco made a point that asthma (and other medical issues) cause similar symptoms to COVID and wanted to know how that would be handled. Dr. Thomas informed everyone that this would be done on a case by case basis. Any parent who believes their child may have some type of issue with this can contact the school.

Scott Ogle asked if there was a mandated system of reporting for COVID. Dr. Thomas said no, we will rely on parents to inform the school of a positive case.

Jamie Demain asked if the student tests positive, will they then need a negative test to return. Dr. Thomas informed everyone that yes, they would.

Dawn Harris asked that in the case of a vaccine becoming available, will the District require students get it to come to school. Dr. Thomas said it was unlikely.

Ben Kosar asked if students who travel out of state will need to quarantine. Dr. Thomas informed everyone that it will be a case by case basis and more details will be released.

Drew Ginnis asked if a student is quarantined, will there be an option for online. Dr. Thomas said yes, but it will be case by case.

Angel Laudermilt noted that quarantining is not a state mandate and asked when will people find out that they need to quarantine and what the circumstances are that lead to needing to quarantine. Ron Bunofsky agreed that quarantine is not a state mandate. Dr. Thomas informed them that details are still being clarified and will be updated soon.

Holly Smith asked if student or teachers will be using the disinfectants. Dr. Thomas informed everyone that both students and teachers will be using disinfectants throughout the day. A special formula is being made for the desk shields that students will use.

Rachel Norberg asked that if two (2) students are sitting together on the bus and one (1) test positive, will they both need to quarantine? Dr. Thomas said that due to contact tracing it would be likely that they would both have to quarantine.

Rachel Norberg also inquired about the after-school program. Dr. Thomas updated everyone that it will continue and has expanded some due to the circumstances.

Paul Morrocco asked if students can use face shields attached to hats. Dr. Thomas said he would have to examine them to decide.

Jennifer Johnson asked if guidelines were done by each district. Dr. Thomas said guidelines were district by district but were worked on collaboratively.

Rachel Norberg asked if there were any benchmarks for the online option. Dr. Thomas informed everyone that the benchmarks were being worked on.

Dawn Harris inquired about the credits for the online program transferring. Dr. Thomas said yes, the credits would transfer.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

(20-07-7656)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the 2020-2021 Reopening Plan (Guidelines):

Mr. Palumbo called for a motion to approve. Moved by Brian Wharry, and seconded by Joseph Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Dubos - Palumbo - Sturm - All Aye.

Mr. Palumbo declared motion carried. 5-0

(20-07-7657)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve Megan Anderson as a long-term substitute teacher for the 2020-2021 school year:

Mr. Palumbo called for a motion to approve. Moved by Michael Palumbo, and seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Dubos - Palumbo - Sturm - All Aye.

Mr. Palumbo declared motion carried. 5-0

(20-07-7658)

3. It is recommended that the Board approve Makayla Ginnis as a long-term substitute teacher for the 2020-2021 school year:

Mr. Palumbo called for a motion to approve. Moved by Michael Palumbo, and seconded by Stephanie Yon.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Dubos - Palumbo - Sturm - All Aye.

Mr. Palumbo declared motion carried. 5-0

(20-07-7659)

4. Adjournment:

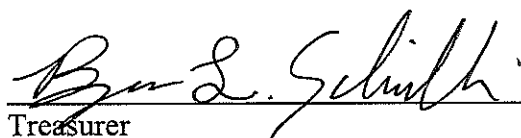
Joseph Sturm moved to adjourn at 8:49 pm. Seconded by Michael Palumbo

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Dubos - Palumbo - Sturm - All Aye.

Mr. Palumbo declared motion carried. 5-0



President



Treasurer