

**INTERSTATE 35 COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**February 1, 2021**

The Interstate 35 Community School District Board of Education met in special session, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2021 at the High School Media Center in Truro, Iowa.

President Jeremy Maske called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Directors Roger Cannoy, Cindi Cassady, Sara Hughes, and Eddie Vonnahme were present. Also present were Superintendent Mrs. Sharon Dentlinger, Board Secretary Ted Bauer and Student Council Representative Will Borseth. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Maske read I-35's District Mission Statement and the District's Priorities.

Motion by Vonnahme, seconded by Hughes to approve the agenda as presented; motion carried 5-0.

At 6:01 p.m., Maske declared the public hearing open on the recommended changes to the 2020-2021 school calendar. Superintendent Mrs. Dentlinger presented introductory comments on the proposed school calendar changes to continue through the end of the school year: (1) Virtual learning Friday's for grades 5-12, (2) Students in grades K-4 would be here from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., (3) Priority students (special education, at risk, English Language Learners, students with limited internet accessibility) may still be allowed access to the building and in person teaching, (4) Transportation will be provided for K-4 students and priority students who currently use school provided transportation. During the public question and answer period, parents raised concerns about students learning remotely, why the change was being requested, how this impacts the school day, and what teachers thought, among others. Mrs. Dentlinger, Mr. Kaster, Mrs. Dutrey, and Mrs. Bertrand all answered questions as presented.

At 6:58, Maske declared the public hearing closed.

Open Forum: No one from the public had any questions or comments.

Education Spotlight: ELA—English Language Arts Teacher, Ms. Kaitlyn Pietan was present with four of her high school English Language Arts students who presented their creative works with the Board and members of the public. Natalie Gibson explained how she demonstrated her project by baking a cake, Ryan Thomas used nature photos that he took to illustrate his project, Briley Albers read her story about friendship, The Piglet and the Pup, and Kelli Fink read her fictional creation, Alexandra the Panda. Ms. Pietan explained that her students had gone to the elementary and read their stories to the 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Ms. Pietan said she was grateful to be teaching at I-35. The Board members thanked Ms. Pietan and her students for their presentation.

Student Council Representative Will Borseth shared that in recent weeks students seem to understand the importance of wearing their masks correctly and there is no longer any deliberate rule breaking so they can be sent home. He added that there has been a clean transition into the second semester. In addition, Borseth announced that a couple of weeks earlier he enlisted into the Army National Guard and was sworn in. Maske and members of the Board congratulated Borseth.

Secondary Principal Steve Kaster explained that grades are pulled each Monday. Today, they had issues with Schoology and Power School working together as they approach the 2-1/2 week mark. Students whose grades have gone up can be removed from the list and no one is added to the list. Hopefully, the issues can be resolved tomorrow. Kaster shared that winter sports are winding down. The regular season for basketball and wrestling is near the end as the post season is only a couple of weeks away. Spring activities including robotics and track will be starting after that. The English department is working on the implementation of standards based grading. Professional development is scheduled for February 12. Instructional Coach/Assistant Secondary Principal Heather Dutrey added that she has been working with Julie Kordick to add to the district's website for the Middle School level. Dutrey reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment for literacy was given last week. Elementary Principal Geoff Tessau shared that the elementary just celebrated 100 days of in-person learning. He thanked the PTO for supporting the activities including the food drive. Preschool registration will be held February 23, 2021. FAST data results are coming in. Spring Play will be a comedy which will be held on April 2-3, 2021.

Superintendent Dentlinger gave an update on getting trophy cases and updated the Board on the recent work done at the Insurance Committee meeting. Insurance renewal rates should be made available in February. Signage for the front of the building is in progress.

Maske called for discussion and approval of the following consent agenda items: minutes of the December 14, 2020 and January 25, 2021 regular board meetings; monthly bills and financial statement; open enrollment. Motion by Vonnahme, seconded by Cannoy to approve the consent agenda items as presented; motion carried 5-0.

Technology Coordinator, Julie Kordick, was present to update the Board on the new district website and the new App.

Motion by Cannoy, seconded by Cassady to approve the early retirement applications received from Ramona Freeman, Jensina Jones, Julie Kordick, and Dennis Meggers; motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Cannoy, seconded by Cassady to approve the final reading of Board Policy Series 200 as presented; motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Vonnahme to approve the second reading of Board Policy 502.12: Student Mask Use; motion carried 5-0.

Dentlinger presented the Legislative Priorities which are currently being discussed by Governor Reynolds and Iowa lawmakers.

Discussion and vote on changes to 2020-2021 school academic calendar: During the hearing for the 2020-2021 proposed school academic calendar changes, Dentlinger proposed the following calendar changes to continue through the end of the year: Virtual learning Fridays for grades 5-12 (MS/HS); students in grades K-4 would be in person on Fridays from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.; priority students (special education, at risk, English Language Learners, students with limited internet accessibility) may still be allowed access to the building and in-person teaching; transportation will still be provided for K-4 students and priority students who currently use school-provided

transportation. Cannoy moved, seconded by Cassady to approve the recommended changes to the 2020-2021 academic calendar through March 1. After additional discussion, Cannoy rescinded his motion and moved to approve the recommended changes to the 2020-2021 academic calendar through March 26, 2021; however, it was not seconded and the motion died. Motion by Vonnahme, seconded by Hughes to approve the recommended changes to the academic calendar as presented; Ayes: Hughes, Maske, Vonnahme; Nays: Cannoy, Cassady. Motion carried 3-2.

Dentlinger explained that the COVID-19 Leave through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) expired after December 31, 2020. After meeting with the Labor Management Committee, Dentlinger presented a temporary COVID-19 Leave Policy for district employees to continue to provide COVID-19 leave for COVID-19 related absences through June 30, 2021. Motion by Vonnahme, seconded by Cannoy to approve the Temporary COVID-19 Leave Policy as presented; motion carried 5-0.

Dentlinger shared information regarding a grant opportunity for our daycare program. Iowa Workforce Development is offering a matching grant, up to \$100,000 to expand, remodel, or build daycare programs in Iowa. The due date is February 12, 2021. Additional information will be shared at future board meetings if the district is successful in being awarded any grant funds to improve and expand the Little Roadrunner Daycare Program.

Healthy Initiative: Dentlinger explained that after meeting with our insurance representatives from Mark Becker & Associates, we have been informed that the district could offer a program to employees to help them be healthier by focusing on weight loss, lower stress, and better sleep. The program is preventative and the district pays for participants if they are successful. While the cost is \$595 and the average success rate is 40%, Dentlinger explained that we will consider having a pilot group and could include more participants in future years.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the High School Media Center in Truro.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Vonnahme to adjourn; motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

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Jeremy Maske, Board President

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Ted Bauer, Board Secretary