

**LABOR / MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HEALTH AND SAFETY
MEETING**

**Monday, September 13, 2021
3:30 p.m. Board Room**

Minutes

In Attendance: Dan Adams, Matt Grose, Ben Hawkins, Kara Lundin, Kasie VanQuekelberg, Jenny Lund, Clayton Lindner, Gwen McLaughlin, Esther Hoganson, Julie Rasmussen

Unable to attend: Nancy Mann, Jessica Setness, Pat Medure, Darin Cherne, Bryan Fideldy, Bill Flynn,

1. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda: none
2. The 5/10/20 minutes were agreed upon by consensus of the members present.
3. Superintendent's Report - Matt Grose
 - a. See Topics of the Month
4. Safe Environment
 - a. Health and Safety Report – Darin Cherne
 - i. No report.
5. Topic of Month
 - a. Enrollment - Kara Lundin
 - i. The original budget estimated 3900 students. With summer enrollments, we expected 4050 students to start the year, but we've received about 70 drops for various reasons along with some new enrollments. Current enrollment is about 4025. The enrollment number is very fluid at this time, which is normal for the first month of school.
 - b. COVID-19 update - Matt Grose
 - i. Monitoring the COVID-19 situation: increase in spread over the past few weeks, hospitals are at full capacity but not all are COVID cases, multiple family members getting sick, the Delta variant is very contagious. The number of COVID cases in a building drives our masking decision in each school. Masks will be required at Bigfork School for the next 2 weeks due to an increase in positive cases (through sept 24) for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status. District Nurse Jamie Goodwin is working on getting rapid tests and asymptomatic tests for school use for both students and staff. Rapid tests are not currently available due to limited supplies. While we are hopeful this will change soon, families will need to obtain a test from their local health care provider. When the state announced that they were going to be supporting districts with testing and testing supplies, we started the process on our end, applied for the waivers, and procured the funding we needed. Unfortunately, the supply

chain for tests has not kept up with the demand, and we are waiting on testing materials. We will communicate with families as soon as supplies are available in our schools. The county is around 60% vaccinated. A vaccine for children age 12 and under may be available toward the end of 2021 to early January 2022. We are waiting to hear President Biden's possible mandate on masking in schools. Hibbing Schools are requiring masks starting today.

- c. State of the District - Matt Grose
 - i. School principals reported a great start to the year. Enrollment is stronger than last year. Further budget reductions will still need to be made this year. Additional funding is being used toward Covid expenses, learning loss, and SEL.
 - ii. Watch for communication from Jessica Setness on focus groups for gaining feedback on the district's strategic planning.
 - iii. Negotiations are being scheduled with units.
 - iv. The Bigfork roofing project is being done. Indoor air quality checks completed in buildings. The school board is looking at options for Murphy, Southwest and the Admin building.
 - v. There have been some meetings with Nashwauk/Keewatin and Greenway in the area of collaborating services for students. The leadership structure of IASC is being reviewed. Education Innovation Partners is disbanding, however this should not have a noticeable impact on the district.
 - vi. LMC committee members are asked to bring the following message back to their unit groups, "How we talk about things publicly and on social media can reflect negatively on the school district, especially with controversial issues. Parents know that we work with their children, and we represent the school district as a whole."
- d. Electronic timecards for C-7's - Jenny Lund
 - i. Toward the end of the month or early next month, Jenny and Kasie will meet with groups that aren't currently using electronic timecards for submitting extra duty time (C-7's): ESP's, teachers, Indian Ed, student workers. They will also gain feedback from principals and secretaries on processing them.
- 6. Employee Engagement Committee update – Kasie V. & Jessica S.
 - a. No report.
- 7. Budget Forecast and Discussion – Kara Lundin
 - a. New staff hires due to an increase in enrollment.
 - b. There will be a small increase in LTFM funding.
 - c. The district audit is scheduled in 2 weeks. Be honest if they ask you questions.
- 8. Legislative Review and Discussion – Kara Lundin
 - a. The Governor approved additional funding on declining enrollment aid. It calculates to \$200,00 - \$250,000 for our district.

9. Labor-Related Comments/Updates – Kasie VanQuekelberg
 - a. Answering concerns from staff on the increase in insurance rates. What can the district do for retirees?
 - b. ESP's worked with students online last year and will likely do so again this year. Students are on Schoology but ESP's do not have access to it. They have iPads but are unable to print from that device.
 - c. There is a need for additional employees in the areas of bus drivers, ESP's, Food Service, etc... A suggestion was made for employees currently working in a part-time position to become a full-time employee by working in another part-time position where help is needed.
10. Schedule Topic of the Month for December 13 meeting
 - a. Electronic Timecards follow-up
 - b. Enrollment
 - c. COVID-19
 - d. State of the District

Meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.