

Boldly reach new summits
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Board Agenda – Special Meeting

July 16, 2020

2:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y9o29bxp>

Meeting ID: 976 9138 9466

Password: 619311

I. Call meeting to order: 2:34 pm

i. Roll Call

Mr. Aaron Salt	Mr. Doug Downey	Mr. Eric Davis	Mr. Anthony Bachmann	Mrs. Michelle Ruehl
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present
<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent

ii. Approval of the agenda

I MOVE THAT WE APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE 07/16/2020 NSCA BOARD SPECIAL SESSION

Motion to Approve: [Anthony Bachmann](#)

2nd: [Eric Davis](#)

Roll Call:

Mr. Aaron Salt	Mr. Doug Downey	Mr. Eric Davis	Mr. Anthony Bachmann	Mrs. Michelle Ruehl
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain

Motion Action: [Passed](#)

II. Welcome

a. Pledge of Allegiance (Mr. Salt)

b. Public comments on agenda items.

**Each presenter will be limited to 3 minutes*

[Presenter #1 – Sharon Begin](#)

[Presenter #2 – Meggan O'Mahony](#)

[Presenter #3 – Jenn Reissig](#)

[Presenter #4 – Cortnie Wise](#)

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III. Action

a. N/A

Motion to Approve:

2nd:

Roll Call:

Mr. Aaron
Salt

Yes
 No
 Abstain

Mr. Doug
Downey

Yes
 No
 Abstain

Mr. Eric
Davis

Yes
 No
 Abstain

Mr. Anthony
Bachmann

Yes
 No
 Abstain

Mrs. Michelle
Ruehl

Yes
 No
 Abstain

Motion Action:

IV. Discussion

a. NSCA Reopening Plan Proposal and Communication to Stakeholders

- *We began this process with the overall strategic plan in mind*
 - *From Doug Downey, Vice Chair*
- *We utilized this Risk Matrix during our committee work to ensure that we were objective*
- *Returning options that we came with include:*
 - *Students returning to learning 5 days a week*
 - *To be conscious of siblings, we decided against a hybrid option or A/B Day rotation*
 - *This would be challenging to schedule and continue with throughout the year, given that cohorts will be per grade level*
 - *eLearning will be through a 3rd-party provider*
 - *This curriculum will not completely align with our in-person curriculum*
 - *This is a state approved program that will allow us to count those students during October Count as we navigate that process this year*
 - *eLearning students will be assigned a regular in-person teacher so if the student returns to school in 2nd semester, they will be with the assigned teacher*
- **(Michelle Ruehl)** *Why are doing one-way hallways? Where are we getting this guidance?*
 - **(John Coppin)** *No guidance currently, we are doing this to minimize the passing of students in the hallways to reduce the transmission*
- **(Aaron Salt)** *The delineation of the 1st Grade/Kindergarten hallway would be so that 1st grade only goes by 1st grade classes etc.*
 - **(Sharon Begin/John Coppin)** *We need to adjust the wording and change from "one-way" since grade levels will stay within their own hallway*
- **(Aaron Salt)** *We need to find wording from the Executive Order from 07/16/2020 to see if the mandate is only 2 weeks longer or if it will go longer*
- **(Kim McClelland)** *If the mandate expires before we go to school, we will revert to masks being required for 6th-8th grade students, instead of 5th-8th grade*

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- **(Aaron Salf)** Will we give the opportunity for students doing eLearning to interact with their teacher and classroom during their eLearning time?
 - **(Kim McClelland)** Yes, these students will be able to interact with their classroom teacher and classmates to build connections to make the transition back to in-person learning easier for students
- **(Aaron Salf)** Will the state be waiving seat time for October Count?
 - **(Kim McClelland)** We just received information from ASD 20 and the State of Colorado (a total of about 4 books) regarding the new guidance from CDE. We will be going through that as soon as the reopening information goes out to parents to ensure that we are meeting all requirements that are needed.
- **(Aaron Salf)** What kind of accountability do the students need to have for eLearning and October Count?
 - **(Jenn Reissig)** The Continuity of Learning Committee is working on expectations for parents regarding attendance and grading. These processes are in the works and we will have that information out to parents on or around August 3, 2020.
- **(Aaron Salf)** Regarding Specials, are we doing Spanish?
 - **(Jenn Reissig)** We will not have Spanish (K – 5th), we hired a new music teacher, we need to hire an art teacher, we have P.E. with Laurene Cirruzzo and Kevin Zelasko, and Pam Cassady as Literacy
 - Specials will be on a rotation so each grade level will have the same special for a week at a time
 - TAs will be helping more with Specials to ensure that teachers get their planning time during the day
- **(Aaron Salf)** Recess and Lunch, is there a plan to use this time as a cleaning time for classrooms?
 - **(John Coppin)** We will be using an EPA-rated treatment on our building (safe for our staff and community)
 - Safe to use on all surfaces
 - They will cover our smoke detectors to spray the enviro-shield treatment
 - Once this is applied, it will keep our building safe for 6 months
 - The cafeteria is one of our more heavily cleaned areas in the building anyway because of the nature of the room
 - We will continue to clean the cafeteria, even more so than we have in the past
 - With this enviro-shield option, we will not need to clean as heavily in our classrooms, but it is something we are looking into
- **(Doug Downey)** Do we have service dogs that we need to worry about?
 - **(Kim McClelland)** We might have 1, maybe more; this will need to be approved through D20 still.
- **(Anthony Bachmann)** Will we allow students to choose eLearning if they go through the 1st quarter and they cannot wear the mask all day or whatever that case might be?

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- **(Kim McClelland)** Yes, we will have the option for families to choose eLearning if the in-person learning does not fit with their situation at that time. This will be something that goes on a case-by-case basis and can be reviewed by the principal and other staff.
- **(Eric Davis)** How do we keep our teachers from constantly focusing on social distancing or mask wearing instead of their lessons?
 - **(Sharon Begin)** We cannot truly social distance students, it will be better for our staff to set up their classrooms in a way that points each student towards the front of the class and help minimize the distraction for the students
 - **(Kim McClelland)** We want to continue being an environment that teaches kids a love of learning but allowing our staff to wear face shields versus masks so that kids can see facial expressions and see how much our staff cares about them
- **(Doug Downey)** Do we have anything from the Flippen Group and Capturing Kids Hearts that we can implement?
 - **(Kim McClelland)** I have a phone call with the Flippen Group set up so that we can get the most up to date information from them to see if anything new has come out for us to utilize
- **(Anthony Bachmann)** Are we done using Schoology?
 - **(Kim McClelland)** We have always had Google Classroom, so we are looking at the option of using that over Schoology. We are looking into Seesaw for Primary (K – 2nd). Our Tech Committee is going over this to see which platform is more user-friendly
- **(Aaron Salf)** Is Mind Up supplemental curriculum since we are using it school-wide?
 - **(Kim McClelland)** I will have to review the wording to see if the BOD needs to approve the curriculum. Since this is non-academic, I am not sure if this is something that we need to have the BOD approve or not.
- **(Aaron Salf)** What would daily temperature checks/screenings look like?
 - **(Sharon Begin)** I am in the process of creating this, I would envision that this is something like doctor's offices/dentist offices are doing at this time.
 - Staff will have to sign a daily wellness check
 - Students will have daily temperatures taken by teachers or TAs in the morning and if it reads a certain temperature, that student will be taken to the Health Room for further assessment.
 - We might consider doing afternoon temperature checks to see if students are presenting symptoms after morning-administered medications (Tylenol, etc.) wear off
- **(Aaron Salf)** Did we do a survey for Middle School parents to see if they would rather social distance versus wearing masks?
 - **(Kim McClelland)** No we did not.
- **(Aaron Salf)** Why did we change from masks optional to masks required?
 - **(Sharon Begin)** We have never said that we would not require masks.
 - AAP guidelines came out 3 weeks ago, so we are trying to follow those guidelines

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- **(Kim McClelland)** We also used our decision/risk matrix to determine if we could say masks could be required or optional.
- **(Doug Downey)** We weighted our options in the risk matrix and decision matrix. We can use those again to look at the governor's directive to make sure that we are aligned.
- **(Kim McClelland)** A large part of our decision came from ASD 20 and Tom Gregory (ASD 20 Superintendent) regarding the messaging that they were going to communicate to families. We took heed of what ASD 20 said because our charter contract requires that of us.
- **(Anthony Bachmann)** Requested that Mrs. McClelland give the BOD weekly Friday updates regarding this process and where we are at with the committees.

V. Adjourn: 4:34 pm

I MOVE THAT WE ADJOURN THE 07/01/2020 NSCA BOARD SPECIAL SESSION

Motion to Approve: Anthony Bachmann
2nd: Doug Downey

Roll Call:

Mr. Aaron
Salt

Yes No

Mr. Doug
Downey

Yes No

Mr. Eric
Davis

Yes No
Left the meeting
at 4:20 pm

Mr. Anthony
Bachmann

Yes No

Mrs. Michelle
Ruehl

Yes No
Left the meeting at
4:00 pm

Motion Action: *Passed*

Sharon Begin - Public Comment
07/16/2020 BOD Meeting

As most of you know I am a nurse practitioner and the school nurse at NSCA. I am also a parent of a New Summit student. I'm extremely invested in the safety and health of not only our students, but our staff and families as well. As many of you are also aware, the decisions having to be made surrounding COVID-19 and schools are very difficult and complicated. These are never decisions that should or would be taken lightly by me. Within those decisions is the topic of masks and who should or shouldn't be wearing them and what are the benefits and risks. The one thing I have stressed to my team all along is that we are professionals and therefore we cannot afford to put our own biases and opinions above the safety of those we are responsible for protecting. We have promised our New Summit families that we will strive for a safe community and that means looking at this from a global perspective and not a personal one. We cannot afford to be wrong about our decisions because that literally might mean life and death to someone.

The problem with the decision surrounding masks is that the evidence is new, not complete and still forthcoming. It is not solid evidence and yes, you can find "research" to support any opinion you might have on the topic. That makes this decision all the more risky, especially when the lives and health of humans are at stake. This also makes it extremely important that our biases don't cloud our decisions regarding this topic. I have spent many, many hours, reading research about COVID-19; how it's transmitted, who gets it, how it affects certain populations, how can we protect those most vulnerable, what should we do so that we can go back to school with the odds in our favor. The things we know now with the present research and information:

- Children don't seem to be getting as sick and transmitting the virus as easily as adults when infected with COVID-19.
- From the research I've read, sometime between the ages of 10 and 15 there is an increased risk of infection and transmission.
- We know that the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is with social distancing.
- There is also evidence that hand washing, mask wearing and contact tracing are all things that support social distancing as a means of preventing transmission.

- In regards to the negative impact of mask wearing - there is evidence that CO2 collection within the masks can impact concentration and cause headaches and respiratory difficulty if worn too long, however, this occurs when wearing a N95 mask which is not recommended for public use.
- Surgical and cloth masks work for public use by preventing droplet spread from an infected person to a non-infected person by barrier method - reducing the distance that droplets fly after a cough, sneeze, forceful talking, laughing or singing.
- Adults older than 40 are in a higher risk category than younger people and the risk goes up from there with age and comorbidities.

Taking these things into consideration along with the recommendations from the CDC and AAP in regards to school openings is how we are making our decisions. At this point, my utmost concern is our staff and the older students in the school. The staff are the ones in the high risk category. This is also why our mask recommendation changes with middle school. This is simply because we don't know where the risk for transmission increases in the 10-15 age category. The staff's safety and secondarily the safety of our middle school students HAS to be a priority over anything else. From there it becomes a risk vs. benefit decision. It is clear to me at this point that the risk of not wearing masks outweighs the benefits.

Meggan O'Mahony - Public Comment
07/16/2020 BOD Meeting

Yesterday a co-worker asked me what things could be done to support mental health for teachers. My answer was simple: Knowing beyond a shadow of a doubt that my school leaders have the safety and health of their staff and students at the forefront of every decision. Currently, I do not feel that the leaders of our school have our health and safety as a priority. I can stand here and give statistics and facts all day like the fact that COVID cases amongst children in El Paso County have risen by 60% in just 2 weeks time which is higher than the national average of 45%, or that El Paso county now has the second highest rate of infection in the state, but unfortunately, coronavirus is no longer about facts and science but has become political and emotional. As leaders, it is your duty and responsibility to set aside personal feelings and beliefs and examine the scientific facts and the advice coming from experts in the field of infectious diseases. Masks shouldn't even be a debate or up for a vote- the CDC, WHO, and AAP have been saying face masks should be worn to prevent the spread. If this board is not willing to follow the directive's of our governor, or the advice from experts in the medical world when the mask mandate comes to an end in 30 days, then it will be obvious to everyone that this board is only interested in stroking its own pride and placating people over the welfare of our future generations. I don't know if you've ever lost a spouse or a child but I know from having experienced BOTH events before the age of 30 that you will seek reparations wherever it is possible. I ask you this, isn't it possible that this school will become such a target? And when it does, isn't it possible that when a family seeks those reparations, they will hold not only the board and administration responsible, but the teachers as well. My ultimate goal is what is best for my students and my colleagues however I feel that I am being forced to choose between my health and my family and my job. My stepson is in the high risk category, his asthma and allergies cause a common cold to turn into pneumonia. He has been hospitalized at least 3 times due to this. If I brought home COVID to him because I have students not wearing masks, it will be devastating. I have already lost one son, I can not afford to lose another when it could so easily be prevented. I implore the Board to look at the facts and listen to the experts, set aside your personal beliefs regarding wearing of masks and do what is right: mandate masks in school. Making masks optional is a way out of making an unpopular decision.