

Salmon School District #291
Board of Trustees
Special Board Minutes
December 7, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Chuck Overacker at 6:01 p.m.

Present were, Chairman Chuck Overacker, Vice Chair Juniper MacFarlane, Trustee Tammy Dahle, and Trustee Kellen Miller. A Quorum was present. Also present were Superintendent Chris Born and Director of Finance, Planning and Program Evaluation, Eileen Holden, and Board Clerk Chaylin Farrand. Trustee Richard Natelson was absent.

Regular Session

Chairman Chuck Overacker led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input

Jim Bob Infanger told the Board about the gym that was being funded by Nep Lynch. He let them know that they would be putting the roof and insulation into the building within the next week. Jim Bob Infanger thanked Chairman Overacker and Superintendent Born for attending meetings and other gatherings when needed. He told the Board that Channel 8 News would be doing a story on Nep Lynch and his donation for the gymnasium that would likely air on Wednesday night.

Camille Williams thanked the Board for having a Special Meeting to discuss the issue with sports spectators. She told the Board that there were parents including herself present to support parents attending games. She suggested allowing 2 essential representatives per athlete to attend each game. Williams also suggested using a sign in sheet at the gate so that they would be able to do contact tracing should the need arise.

She told the Board that at the last game her daughter participated in the parents were not allowed to attend and therefore were not there when their child needed them. She attributed this as one of the main reasons for wanting to allow two representatives for each athlete.

Sarah Kirby told the Board that she was the mother of 7 homeschooled children who participated in extracurricular activities through the Salmon School District. She told them that she was thankful to live in a state that allowed sports to still be played during the pandemic since she knew of other states that were not allowing it. Kirby backed Camille Williams proposal. She explained that she would like to see a sports season as close to typical as it could be with the current pandemic.

Pam Hoggan expressed her concern of not having parents present at games and suggested the Board duplicate other schools' rules to make it easier.

Chairman Overacker expressed to his fellow Board members that they were in a Special Board meeting not long ago and thought they were going to have to shut the schools down all together. He said that now Lemhi County is back in yellow and will hopefully be back in green by the end

of the week. He said the plan needed to be special to Salmon and hoped that with the number of COVID cases being down it would help.

Rick Sessions asked if he would be able to speak. He explained that he was coaching when the meeting started.

Chairman Overacker granted it.

Rick Sessions explained that as the Varsity Basketball Coach for the girls he had many concerns with not having parents at the games. He told the Board that over his years as a coach he had seen several injuries including blown out knees, severe concussions, and compound fractures. He said his biggest fear is having one of his athletes get hurt at a game and not knowing how the parent would handle the injury.

Action Items

New Business

COVID Activities Plan

Jeremy Burgess passed out his proposed plan for the gym to maintain social distancing. He thanked the parents for being so understanding at the first game. He told them that he knew it was not easy for them to not be allowed into the game. He also told them that he tried to create as many essential positions at the previous games as he could to ensure that most of the parents would be allowed into the game.

Mr. Burgess proposed 2 spectators per athlete at each game. He proposed a possible waiver and suggested a seating chart so they could do contact tracing if the need raised.

Chairman Overacker explained that he did not want to vote on anything that would not be enforced. He asked if this plan would be practical.

Mr. Burgess told Overacker that he thought this plan was the most practical one yet.

SJSHS Principal Russ Bradshaw agreed that it could be enforced.

Mr. Burgess told the Board that there would be 12 sections in the stands for the home team and 12 sections in the stands for the visiting team. He explained that he would like to call the 2 persons per athlete “essential representatives” so that they would not be violating the Governor’s orders. He explained that if the proposed plan were approved, he would be sending the information out to the opposing teams to let them know how it will work.

Superintendent Born explained that the liability waiver could be an issue since it does ask minors to sign away their rights. He told the Board that he had sent it to legal and was currently waiting to hear back.

Trustee Kellen Miller explained that at the last meeting Jeremy Burgess stated it would be easy to monitor the plan they had placed, but now all the sudden it had turned into big deal. Miller said that at every meeting leading up to the current one that masks would not be enforced by the A.D and that if the Board wanted it done, they would have to do it on their own. He said that the present plan sounded great, but he had concerns of voting on something that would not be enforced and then the Board would be right back to where they had started.

Jeremy Burgess explained that at the previous meeting they were dealing with higher COVID case numbers and at that time his biggest concern was being able to have games and now that cases were down it might be an option to have some spectators.

Chairman Overacker explained to the audience that the Board wanted to make the community happy but if the rules could not be followed, they would shut it down.

Trustee Juniper MacFarlane explained that all the plans have been based on the Governor's orders along with the CDC's recommendations.

Trustee MacFarlane motioned to amend the Activities COVID plan to allow two essential representatives per student on either team to attend events and to move on with the proposed seating chart and check in procedure. Trustee Miller seconded.

Trustee Dahle explained to everyone that she felt they were all on the same page. She said that the plan as always been fluid. Nothing has ever been set in stone when it comes to the COVID plan that the Board has put into effect. Dahle explained that she had a child that was a senior this year and she understood why parents wanted to be at all the games, but she also said that the most important thing was to keep the children in school. If we say two essential people, she said it needed to stick. No one can turn a blind eye to the plan not being followed.

Passed 4/0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Chuck Overacker, Chairman

Date

Chaylin Farrand, Board Clerk

Date