

Minutes of the Special Meeting Workshop of the Board of Education, NICE Community School District, Townships of Champion, Ely, Humboldt, Ishpeming, Tilden, and Spurr; Counties of Baraga and Marquette; and the State of Michigan held on **Tuesday, August 4, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Mariani **in an Electronic Meeting via Zoom** at 5:34 p.m.

Members Present: Steve Baril, Kathleen Carlson, Donna Champion, Randy Couveau, John Grove, Ron Mariani, Wendy Pederson

Members Absent: None

Administrator's Present: Bryan DeAugustine, Jon Beckman, Cliff Fossitt, Chris Marana, PJ O'Brien

Administrator's Absent: Nathan Longton, excused.

Public Comment (regarding agenda): Jill Sladek, teacher at Aspen Ridge Middle School, asked about distance learning in addition to teaching face-to-face all day. She also asked if it would be run through the Patriot Online Academy.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Randy Couveau supported by Kathleen Carlson to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations and Discussion Items

Much discussion took place regarding the Return to School Plan.

Community Comments:

Sara Hinze, Jill Sladek, Sonya Seablom, Heidi Dawson, and Karen Liimatta all spoke about the Return to School Plan.

Closing comments by Board or Superintendent:

Steve Baril stated that he trusts the professional educators at NICE and as a parent and a board member, he feels that his trust is verified. He mentioned his background in safety, and the Patriot Online Academy does give parents an option if they feel unsafe sending their kids to school.

Kathleen Carlson appreciates everyone who attended the meeting. She has heard from many people in the community and thinks we need to listen to them but also trust our gut. She is hopeful that a majority of the community will be in support of the Return to School Plan.

John Grove echoed Steve Baril and Kathleen Carlson's comments and also asked the question about what other area schools are doing for their Return to School Plans.

Donna Champion thanked John Grove for asking about what the other schools are doing. She stated that this was a very important meeting with good discussion. She stated that she hopes our kids feel safe and comfortable returning to school and hopes that we don't lose a lot of kids to homeschooling.

Wendy Pederson referenced the Upper Peninsula being in Phase 5, and thinks that there could be some balance with the mask requirement at different grade level groups. She also stated that if masks are to be worn campus-wide, by all staff and all students, they should be worn for all activities as well. Lastly, she asked when the Return to School Plan would be revisited and suggested the October School Board Meeting as an option to take another look.

Randy Couveau stated that he thinks decisions should be made based on fact and not emotion. He asked what is best for students and the district in a time of so many unknowns and feels that kids are resilient and will do what they need to do. He thanked Mr. DeAugustine for all of the hard work dedicated to creating this plan.

Ron Mariani thanked everyone for participating. He echoed Randy Couveau's comments and added that the responsibility as a board member is the safety and education of our students and while getting our kids back to school

*NICE Community School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 4, 2020*

is a priority, the district will offer that option as safely as we can, trusting the support from area health professionals as we go.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Board President: _____ * **Board Secretary:** _____ *

**Pending signatures and approval at next board meeting. Original signed copies of the meeting minutes are filed at the Superintendent's Office.*