

**FOND DU LAC BOARD OF EDUCATION
72 West Ninth Street
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
August 12, 2020**

SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Board of Education via Zoom was called to order by President Jones at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Gedemer, Godfrey, Jurgella, Strand, Teifke, Uselmann, Jones.

Administrative Staff members present: Simon, Buchholz, Gerlach, Moder, Noonan, Reichenberger, Seyfert, Snyder, Williams.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS
AND DELEGATIONS**

Peter Feldner, 419 Center Street, FDL spoke about the registrations that were completed already and how many parents had chosen online.

Brittany Hoerth, N7678 RedTail Lane, Malone referenced the mental health of children and concern about the learning limitations in the blended model and the inability for children to shift back and forth from in-person to virtual learning. She also spoke about the limitations of day care to help, and the burden on families, and that the education of children is the job of schools, not families. She mentioned the children who rely on school to be their safe zone. She stated that the decision the board had made should not be changed, as it shows weakness, and the board should not be concerned with approval but with the voices of the parents. She asked what changed since July 29 when FDL is still in Phase 2.

Megyn Stroup, N9260 Meyer Court, FDL identified herself as an educator and as a parent. She shared that the spring shutdown and virtual learning were difficult for her in both roles. She stated that teachers want to be in class full time, but circumstances dictate that business as usual is not appropriate now. Students should be healthy and safe. CDC recommends opening schools in communities with low spread, and Fond du Lac has reported a recent increase, close to returning to Phase 1. CDC states that smaller cohort sizes help limit spread. Her classroom will support better social distancing in the blended model. The opening of schools in other areas, and events in the local area have led to a rise in cases. She offered that students would be establishing relationships and routines in the beginning of the school year more easily in smaller numbers and asked the community to trust the educators.

Alivia Roloff , N6598 Carrington Drive, FDL stated that she works with children in Fond du Lac. She has seen a need for advocates for the children's education and mental health. She asked what it says to our children to rescind this, and what else will be rescinded. She referenced materials that indicated that school plays a role in students' well-being, and that students need to feel connected in and to school. Schools help protect youth and develop critical social skills and relationships. Students' perceptions of teacher support are most important in influencing outcomes. She questioned how the children who did not open their Chromebooks in spring were affected. She asked about emotional support for children. She asked how to explain the change to rescind to children.

Tiffany Brault, 196 Sheboygan Street, FDL stated that she appreciates the board taking the time to reconsider this decision. She has noted the rise in cases and is concerned about sending students back to school right now. She chose the distance learning because of the possible consequences on her children and school staff. Social distancing is not possible in the classrooms. Children are adaptable; she gave a personal example. She believes children will understand why they need to go back only two days.

CONSIDER MOTION RESCINDING
ACTION TAKEN ON JULY 29, 2020
DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION
TO OPEN SCHOOLS IN A TRADI-
TIONAL MODIFIED FORMAT, WITH
ALL 5TH GRADE AND LOWER
ATTENDING FULL TIME, AS LONG
AS FOND DU LAC COUNTY
METRICS STAY IN PHASE 2 OR
BETTER

Board members gave reasons for blended learning and changing their votes, including citing problems in districts that have reopened, a rise in cases, and life or death consequences. They also gave reasons for the full opening, including the virus being here to stay so that schools need to adapt, students needing face- to-face instruction to maintain educational gains, the will of the people, and that a decision was already made.

MOTION BY Godfrey, seconded by Jones, that the Board of Education rescind the action taken on July 29, 2020 directing the Administration to open schools in a traditional modified format, with all 5th grade and lower attending full time, as long as Fond du Lac County metrics stay in Phase 2 or better. MOTION CARRIED, ayes 4, nays 3 (Gedemer, Jurgella, Teifke).

CONSIDER APPROVAL DIRECTING
THE ADMINISTRATION TO START
THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR FOR
ALL STUDENTS, K-12, IN THE
BLENDED MODEL

MOTION BY Godfrey, seconded by Jones, that the Board of Education directs the Administration to start the 2020-21 school year for all District students, K-12, in the Blended Model as outlined in the 2020-21 School Year Plan. MOTION CARRIED, ayes 4, nays 3 (Gedemer, Jurgella, Teifke).

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Godfrey, seconded by Jones that the Board of Education adjourn the special meeting. MOTION CARRIED, ayes 7. The special meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Linda Uselmann, Secretary/Clerk