

## Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District Board of Education

### Regular Meeting

May 24, 2021

Meeting called to order at 5:15 p.m. by president Carri Traczyk

Roll Call: Goulette, Hamilton, Haselhuhn, Olson, Reisner, Traczyk, and Lentz were present.

Others Present: Dr. Mark Johnson, Tammy Lenbom, Scott Kowalski, Tyler Nelson, Larry Zeman, Linda Zeman, Koll Fjelstad, Tim Haselhuhn, Rachel Carlson, Bob and Lynda Rogers, Heidi Timmers, Rev. Van Beek, Kara Van Beek, Wendy Newman, Mary Larson, Jo Romen, Selyn Olson, Shonda and Kevin Anderson, Laura Sauve, Diane Hurias, Abbie Kane, Kathy Bowers, Kathy Krug, Jackie Leonhard, Scott, Barb Drousseau, Laurine Karstens, Mikki Jerdt, Jenica Paulson, Kathy Rykal, Keith Newman, Jay Olson, Armada Mujwid, Mark Mujwid, Amy Capra, Courtney Schofield, Elizabeth Checkalski, Crystal Odegard, Dolly Neby, Angela Young, Amanda Kohnan, Keri Poppe, Jenny Lenbom, Mike Lenbom, Mark Lenbom, Debbie Berning, Tim Berning, Rachel Westberg, Carolyn Blumer, Sandra Kane, Mark Rykal, Chelsi Jenness, Sara Gregorich, Zannic Lindemer, Cassie Pearson, Wendy Weaver, Matt Forrest, Austin Chamberlain, Jenny Schofield, Renae Gesing, Dannette Rahm-Jost, Marvin Rahm-Jost, Rita Hong, Haley Johnson, Carl Cooley, Joy Grotberg, Rich Carlson, Kate Lindberg, Jenica Paulson, Summer Ahrens, Bob Rykal, Peter Wise, Heidi Wise, John Wise, Cooper Antczak, and 6 unknown

Virtually Present: N/A

Motion by Lentz, seconded by Olson to approve the May 24, 2021 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

#### District Celebrations:

##### A. 2020-2021 CWASD Points of Pride

CWASDPointsofPride\_2020-2021.pdf

Dr. Johnson read through the points of pride for non-school board members present at the meeting. Commends students and staff for the year that they have had. Thanks to the families and community for support during the school year and all year long. Thanks to the administration and support staff for their role in making the school year happen. See pdf listed above.

Hearing of Visitors: Community members are invited to share their questions, comments, or concerns with the school board. When speaking, citizens should state their name and address for the record and limit their presentation to three minutes. Where possible the board will answer factual questions immediately. A written response may be provided when information is not available. If a response would involve discussion of the board policy or decisions that might be of interest to citizens not present at the meeting, the board may place the item on a future meeting agenda.

Peter Wise addressed the board. He states "masks make it harder to learn." He said that adults are "smarter and braver" and he is "sad" about the Board's decision to keep masks in place for the remainder of the school year. He states that teachers tell him and other students to "stand up to peer pressure" and he doesn't understand why the administrators and Board members aren't doing the same. He states masks are "unjust and harmful" and encourages adults to "follow evidence" supplied per his mom, Heidi Wise.

Laura Sauve begins by thanking the administrators and Board for their leadership in keeping the school "in person for the entire year". Also, compliments the above for having processes in place for different types of scenarios. Also reports that new information is learned every day regarding COVID-19. She does state that "masks and social distancing is needed" for children to stay in school.

Mikki Jerdt states she is a lifelong resident of Chetek and considers the school district her "second home". She says

that she supports the Board and teachers for their “effective use of masks.” Reminds the audience that asymptomatic people can still spread the virus. She reminds everyone that the B1 17 variant doesn’t have markers that are measured, and that 12-17 year olds are closely coming to meet the adult percentage of infection ratings. She states there is “no harm in wearing masks”. Also states that in the Chetek community “we take care of each other.”

Bob Rykal states he has been an administrator for years before retiring and that the Board has “unappreciated tasks” to handle. He encourages the Board to “do what science tells you to do.” He says that it’s a “tough job” but the goal is to “keep kids safe.” He says “masks are the simplest way to do that.”

Bob Rogers is a resident of Chetek. He talked about his grandson from a different school district that has not had their school open this year, but has been virtual instead. He talked about the struggles of virtual learning. He says he is “very thankful for open schools”.

Dolly Neby is a teacher with CWASD for 29 years. She starts by saying “thank you.” She states administrators and the Board “dove into complex conversations” right away which lead to “clear directions” for the teachers no matter what the scenario. She states “I applaud you and thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Chelsi Jenness expresses “gratitude to students.” She states she is “thankful for families”. She is “grateful for colleagues” and expresses “gratitude and appreciation to administrators and Board.” Reports that she is thankful for the time and dedication that is put in and that it’s “always what’s best for kids.”

Paul Poppe begins by saying he supports Peter Wise. He says masks are a healthcare decision and “healthcare decisions are a family decision”. Talks about a May, 2020 article that shows “science is not clear.” He says this causes a “breakdown in trust.” He also says “ there is an overstep of parental authority. That’s dangerous.” He tells the audience “40% of the military” are not accepting the COVID-19 vaccine. He says that if the school “oversteps authority” parents will look around for other options for schools.

Gloria works as a hairdresser in town. She feels like her clients are confused regarding mask use. She says that she is “saddened by that.” She also says that “fat people will get COVID and die.” Continues to say if they “can’t control their eating then”. Finished by saying “stay at home if you have health issues.”

Cooper Antacyzk, a student at CWASD begins by thanking the Board for continued mask use. He says that science is conflicted but that this is a “life changing pandemic. 3 ½ million people have died”.

Rich Carlson congratulated Peter Wise and said he is a “wise boy” who “stands up for his convictions”.

John Wise states “children don’t get or spread COVID” and “enough is enough”. He believes that the children deserve better. He states “Peter has sacrificed” going to school because of the school policy and he hasn’t been “more proud” of Peter for standing up for himself and others. He ends by saying how “disappointed in the Board” he is.

Pastor Chris Van Beek thanks the students and Board. He says he can’t imagine how difficult this has been. Thanks Board for “keeping kids at heart.” Then says “God bless you all.”

Amanda Kohnen starts by wanting to clarify that this building is “our building” and that she pays taxes for this building. She states the Board is “short .” She says wearing masks is “against my religion” and if anyone wants to know how or why they can speak to her. She questions why anxiety rates are up along with depression rates and suicide rates if it isn’t from mask usage? She also says that she supports Peter Wise.

Keri Poppe says she has spoken to different teachers from different areas and they report that masks have affected children psychologically.

Wendy Newman begins by thanking the Board for hearing everyone tonight. She begins by clarifying that of the 140 people who signed the petition for optional mask usage in schools “38 were parents of students, 11 were relatives of students, 22 were concerned citizens from the district, 4 from homeschool families, and 72 were out of school district concerned citizens.” “Almost 50% of the individuals not supporting the policy don’t live in the school district, with some living as far away as Boston and Atlanta.” She then referred to a German article that a letter writer referenced in The Chetek Alert. There is an Editorial Note on the site Research Square for you to view. This is what the note says “Due to multiple limitations, this study cannot demonstrate a causal relationship between mask wearing and the reported adverse effects in children.” “The limitations of the study include sampling bias, reporting bias, and confounding bias as well as lack of a control group.” Continues to say “the use of masks, together with other

precautionary measures, significantly reduces the spread of COVID-19 and is considered safe for children over the age of two years old.” Wendy also addressed a letter to the editor regarding lack of healthy debate. She says “healthy debate is based on facts, not opinions and narratives that aren’t supported by any clinical evidence.” She reminded the audience that health professionals operate under an oath “that specifically states “do no harm”.She suggests that the health professionals are held at a higher standard related to public health than “others providing their opinion on this issue.” She ends by saying “There are clearly people we can put our faith and confidence in more than others.”

Heidi Wise says she is Peter Wise’s mom. She says “so we are cherry picking data.” She thanks the school for being open. She says “I know my stuff.” “This is total BS. Let’s talk about cherry picking.” Reminds everyone that “respect is a two way street.” She states she didn’t like not being heard by the Board the first time she came to speak. Then said “here we are being heard.”

Joy Grotberg grew up in a socialization nation and became a US citizen 18 years ago. She said that people need to “address fear”. “It’s sad” that people are scared regarding COVID-19 and mask usage or not. She says “think about the freedoms giving up right now.”

Kate Lindberg has been a teacher here at CWASD for the past 16 years. This is her first year wearing a mask and she didn’t need to use any PTO days and attendance was better at school. States the “school board and administration are at the top of their game. Go bulldogs.”

#### Information and Action:

A.Student-Centered Learning Update -Mr.Zeman, teachers and students - SCL Research Summary.pdf

Fail to have half the students proficient in ELA and math. Students are bored and stressed.

4 pillars of student centered learning. Personalized learning. Student driven learning. Anytime, Anywhere learning. Competency based learning.

Abbi, Zannic, Will and Summer, all students who took global skills courses this year, discussed and demonstrated their final projects.

Group would like to pursue this type of learning by offering to families that are interested in the program. They would like to use the IMC/purple lab as a learning studio. Families will have a choice to participate or not in this program. Numerous questions were asked. Mr. Zeman was encouraged to communicate with families regarding this type of teaching/learning because families have voiced concerns and questions.

#### B.Summer School and Summer Activity Planning Request

It is the request of the superintendent for the BOE to allow the administration to develop the health and safety practices for summer school and all summer activities held at CWASD. This request allows the administration the flexibility to make changes to our practices as needed without having to schedule BOE meetings to change policy. We will communicate the plan to the BOE prior to publicly releasing the contents to our students and school families. Upon reading the plan, if the BOE objects to the plan, they can schedule a meeting to discuss changes. If the BOE requires further information or explanation, they can contact the superintendent for clarification. Our timeline for the completion of this plan would be no later than Friday, May, 28, 2021.

#### C.Governance and Board/Superintendent Relations Policies

Motion by Lentz, seconded by Haselhuhn with respect to B/SR-4, Delegation to Superintendent, GP-4, Monitoring Board Governance Process, GP-5. Board Officers and GP-7, Agenda Planning, the Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District Board of Education concludes through self-assessment its performance during the previous reporting period has been in compliance. Motion carried unanimously.

#### D.Executive Limitations

Motion by Lentz, seconded by Haselhuhn with respect to EL-2, Emergency Superintendent Succession and EL-10, Communication and Counsel to the Board, the Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District Board of Education concludes that the Superintendent's performance during the previous reporting period has been in compliance. Motion carried unanimously.

Communication:

A. Board Members- N/A

B. Administrators- **Kowalski:** Close to 150 students signed up for summer school. The highest it's been for some time now. Summer school will run June 7- June 24 with an academic and enrichment piece to each program.

**Nelson:** Have had some fun this third trimester. Luau, field trips, track and field, softball tournament, 4K graduation will happen on two separate days, and 5th grade graduation to come also.

**Larry Zeman:** US News & World Report ranked us 100 out of 462 schools. Level 3 AP Pacesetter School meaning we have a 60% passing rate. Celebrated the Top Scholars with a banquet at Lehman's for 15 students. Graduation will be Saturday at 7:00pm.

**Linda Zeman:** Thanks the Board for the mental health therapist. Will have mental health maintenance over the summer. There is a rise in anxiety, depression, and suicide, but it is not due to mask usage.

C. Superintendent- N/A

Executive Session

Motion by Lentz, seconded by Olson to enter into executive session at 8:08 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lentz, seconded by Goulette to return to the open session of the regular meeting at 8:22 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lentz, seconded by Haselhuhn to approve the May 24, 2021 consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting, April 26, 2021
2. Minutes of Executive Session Meeting, April 26, 2021

B. Human Resource Approval

1. Employment:

- a. Gretchen Engel, Kids Club Employee
- b. Mikaylla Gillett, Kids Club Employee
- c. Andrew Elbin, HS/MS Vocal Music Teacher
- d. Molly Boe, Kindergarten Teacher
- e. Brandon Books, Kids Club Employee

2. Resignations/Retirements

a.Krystal Razim, Kindergarten Teacher Roselawn Elementary

b.Donna Bachowski, Dance Coach

C.Business Service Approval

1.Claims and Accounts, May 2021

2.Proposed Rate Schedule for 2021-22

3.Approval of New Activity Account-Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship

D.Open Enrollment Approvals/Denials for 2021-2022 - 39 open enrolled out - of these: 7 are currently attending CW, 10 are PK, 16 are not currently attending CW (attending school they are applying to through a current year waiver, in anticipation of a move and want to continue to attend the school of current attendance, or applying to attend a different non resident school then they are currently attending), 4 are home schooled and 2 are kindergarteners that aren't currently attending a 4 year old program. 34 open enrolled in - of these: 23 are applying to L2L, 11 are applying to brick and mortar school, 2 of the open enrolled in are SPED - per Linda Zeman: It is my recommendation that we approve both of these open enrollment requests. Both IEP's have services we have already in the district and neither of these students require services from one of our capped programs.

Agenda Planning/Other Information:

A. Annual Agenda Planning

Plan Board Meeting/Agenda Calendar for 2021-22

BOE Meeting Schedule 2021-2022.pdf

B. Other Information

Motion by Lentz , seconded by Goulette to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Korie Lentz, Clerk