

Yuma School District-1  
October 1, 2020 Special Meeting  
Board of Education

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dan Ross, President

Duane Brown, Vice President

Kim Langley, Secretary/Treasurer

Thomas Holtorf, Director

Lindsey Galles, Director

Dianna Chrisman, Superintendent

Rhonda Metcalfe, Executive Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

- None

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President, Dan Ross called the special meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 1, 2020 in the Yuma High School Auditorium.

**2.0 AGENDA-ADDITIONS/DELETIONS-APPROVAL**

- None

Motion by Ross, seconded by Langley, to approve the agenda as presented.

Voting Aye: Brown, Galles, Holtorf, Langley, Ross. Motion carried.

**3.0 DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

3.1 Visitors Comments/Requests

- ❖ President Ross read the guidelines for citizen's comments.
- ❖ Citizen statements regarding COVID and other topics were heard.
  - Dave Sheffield – Jr High Football, student participation
  - Jeremiah Lungwitz – Concerns regarding health department
  - Sarah Day – Communication, consistency of policies, masks
  - Keith Daugherty – Jr High Football, COVID related restrictions on restroom use, free speech and consistency between schools, bus drivers.
  - Terri Frame – Legality of executive order
  - Jen Roth – Communication, COVID data for schools, remote learning options, masks, activities for students
  - Anne Ptacnik – Respect for our flag and nation at YMS
  - Ron Blach – Communication, frustration over rules, concern for students
  - Ellie Roth – Activities, concern regarding difficulty of remote learning for some students
  - CJ Leonhardt – Jr. High sports/football

- Shannon Sheffield – Children’s mental health, masks, Jr. High football
- Deidre Huwa – Masks, stress on teachers
- Alicia Adolf – Difficulty of remote learning/eligibility
- Jacqueline Cecil – COVID, free speech
- Zach Wall – Masks, hand washing

#### **4.0 Discussion/Action Items**

##### **4.1 COVID Response Updates**

- ❖ President Ross asked for Superintendent Chrisman to give an explanation of YSD-1 COVID rules, how the district has implemented them and why, as well as address current status with COVID numbers, mask wearing, and other concerns that were brought up in citizen statements. Director Galles also asked Superintendent Chrisman to clarify what is coming from the state and health department, etc.
- ❖ Superintendent Chrisman gave an explanation of the district numbers and how data is being used to make decisions. Chrisman reported on the current status of the district’s COVID numbers. She stated that the numbers are currently trending in the right direction.
- ❖ Superintendent Chrisman addressed the communication concern. She agrees that it has been very difficult to keep up with all of the changes. Chrisman reports that the district has been working on different and better methods to get information out to the community.
- ❖ Chrisman responded to a comment that addressed staff exhaustion. She recognizes the strong staff that the district has and how hard everyone is working to keep the students in school with direct in-person learning and balancing having other normal and typical activities.
- ❖ Superintendent Chrisman addressed the mask issue. Chrisman stated that she agrees with many things that have been said and that she has pushed back with the health department on various things. She stated that she had pushed back on the masks with some of the same comments made earlier regarding the executive order. Chrisman stated she has argued with the health department, the school district’s attorney, the governor’s office liaison, as well as discussion in the Rural Alliance meetings. Chrisman stated there are three different governmental based agencies that give mandates and guidelines that have to be juggled; the governor’s office, Colorado Department of Health and Environment, and the health department. She explained the expectations on masks from these 3 agencies. She explained the legal premise of this. If as a school agency the district is given mandates, regulations and guidelines, that becomes the legal reasonable standard of care that the district is expected to provide to students. If the district does not do that then the school district is open to liability and claims, as well as individual liability placed on each board member personally. Therefore, if the board chose to not follow the mask mandate in our schools they could be putting themselves in personal liability that the district’s insurance would not cover as it would be willful defiance of orders or mandates or regulations. Chrisman briefly explained a new change that would

- possibly give more leeway in the cohorts and quarantines.
- ❖ President Ross stated he felt the question being asked is if YSD-1 is not being allowed to, why every other school in the area is not requiring masks in the classroom. Chrisman stated that would be a question for each individual school as it is their liability. Chrisman reiterated that her job is to make sure district policies are followed, that the district complies with anything that would put the district in jeopardy.
  - ❖ Chrisman also responded to comments given on the cohorts. She stated what she is hearing in all of the comments are two very conflicting goals. Chrisman stated that certain systems such as cohorting are put in place to minimize risk of exposure. Risk of exposure or actual exposure means directed quarantine. Cohorting is a local control issue. There are no requirements that the district has to cohort, it is a recommended strategy. If the district decides that cohorting is not the way the district wants to go then the contact tracing by the health department will be very limited and more students will be subject to quarantine if there are additional cases. She stated that the big question is, what the goal is. Up to now the board conversations have been, as well as feedback from the community, that we want the kids in school. For that to happen there are some other strategies that have to be put in place. Chrisman explained how this played out when the first positive case was identified at YHS, as well as exposures at YMS and MES. Again, if the goal is to keep kids in school then the district is going to have to do some things differently. If the goal is to have as many normal typical activities as possible, the district does run the risk of having more kids out of school and if the kids are out of school then the activities cannot happen.
  - ❖ A community member, unidentified, suggested using seating charts at YHS. Chrisman stated this had just recently been identified as a conversation that needs to happen.
  - ❖ Chrisman addressed the Jr. High sports topic. She stated she wonders what other options or compromises would be if the district is going to do tracing to keep more kids in school. What are some other options? Mr. Dischner has been having conversations and looking for solutions. Chrisman stated her suggestion is to find common ground and do the best the district can in the situation at hand. Chrisman stated the district is working very hard to balance the options and to do as much as can be done with the restrictions and mandates given.
  - ❖ President Ross stated that he personally believes the district can still do cohorting in the middle school the same as in the high school where four grades are able to play activities together. He feels this would help the mental aspect for the students. General discussion followed.
  - ❖ A Q&A session was allowed at this time.

President Ross closed the Visitor Comment/Request section of the meeting.

Motion by Ross, seconded by Holtorf, to continue cohorting throughout the district as much as possible but to comingle the seventh and eighth grade much like we do the high school so that we can have middle school sports.

Brief discussion.

Voting Aye: Galles, Holtorf, Langley, Ross. Voting Nay: Brown Motion carried.

4.2 Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b).

Motion by Ross, seconded by Langley, to postpone executive session for this evening.  
Voting Aye: Brown, Galles, Holtorf, Langley, Ross. Motion carried.

#### 4.3 Transportation

- ❖ Superintendent Chrisman stated that Transportation Director, Jeanne Yenter, and she have been meeting regularly since prior to the last board meeting looking at options for the bus routes. They feel that one way to help some of the bus situation is to minimize the in town routes and expand slightly the walking area. Per board policy the transportation director has the authority to create the routes and then the superintendent approves those recommendations. The proposal agreed upon is reducing the in town routes. Jeanne Yenter reported on the specifics of this proposal. Chrisman reported more details on the proposal. Discussion followed.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. by Dan Ross.

Motion by Ross, seconded by Langley, to adjourn the meeting.  
Voting Aye: Brown, Galles, Holtorf, Langley, Ross. Motion Carried.

Sincerely,



Kim Langley, Secretary/Treasurer  
Yuma School District-1  
Board of Education



Dan Ross, President  
Yuma School District-1  
Board of Education