

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
OF
CLAY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

A Special Session of the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees was held at the Central Administrative Office, 1013 S. Forest Avenue, Brazil, IN 47834, on Tuesday, June 30, 2020. Kevin Kumpf, Michael Shaw, Lynn Romas, Charley Jackson, Andrea Baysinger, Tom Reberger, and Amy Burke Adams were present.

I. Call to Order

The special session meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board President Tom Reberger.

II. Clay Community Schools Virtual Academy

Superintendent Fritz noted that Dr. Tim Rayle, Assistant Superintendent, had provided information regarding a Clay Community Schools Virtual Academy in the board packet and would share additional information during this meeting. Approval to establish a Clay Community Schools Virtual Academy was then recommended by the superintendent.

To further explain, Superintendent Fritz commented that the intent was to provide viable learning platforms for students. With a lot of unknowns coming for the next school year, the administration had been doing a lot of planning. Protecting the ADM (Average Daily Membership), which is tied to student funding, was another goal. Superintendent Fritz stressed that there would be fluidity with this whole process; with COVID-19, it is ever-changing, and the documents will be as well. Some details are still being researched, such as the impact of the virtual academy on class rank. Superintendent Fritz shared that Athletic Director Scott Buell had sent him information from IHSAA regarding new guidelines with regard to virtual academies, and he noted that documents would be revised as needed.

If enrollment in the virtual academy exceeds 100 students, the school corporation would have to apply for a school number for the academy as a stand-alone school. However, Superintendent Fritz and the administration hope that doesn't happen because they firmly believe traditional, direct, person-to-person instruction is best for students.

Dr. Rayle then showed a video with information about the virtual academy, which will be offered through Edmentum. Following the video, Superintendent Fritz clarified that, at this point, students who enroll in the virtual academy would still be considered enrolled in their home school, and the building principal or school counselor would do checks on those students to make sure the progress was there. If the 100-student threshold was exceeded, they might have to look at a different option with regard to how that would be managed. Superintendent Fritz asserted that, with the life and times we live in with the pandemic, the administration felt the program would be good for the students and the school system.

The board members asked the following questions in regard to the virtual academy:

Charley Jackson

- Will there be a cut-off date? Response: There would be a cut-off date for out-of-county transfer students because of ADM. Otherwise, they would be looking at a monthly enrollment, with the opportunity to go back to the regular classroom at the end of a month. Superintendent Fritz noted that the school corporation would be absorbing the cost and felt more comfortable with monthly enrollment initially.
- Once enrolled, do students have to stay in the virtual school for a whole semester? Response: No, students would follow the same Indiana rules and laws for enrollment that they would if they wished to transfer to a different school building during the school year.
- When does a student have to make the decision to enroll in the virtual academy? Response: A request to enroll will be out tomorrow online; once an enrollment form has been received, the principal of the district school in which a student would be enrolled would be contacted, and they would set that up. It is desired to have students enrolled by the first day of school, if at all possible.
- If a high school student decides to go to the virtual academy for two months and then for whatever reason decides it is not for him/her, can the student enroll in Northview or Clay City on November 1 and be eligible for extra-curricular activities? Response: If a student was failing five out of seven classes for their nine-week grades, then the student would not be eligible. Mr. Jackson followed up by asking if a student was eligible academically, would the student not need to be in the virtual academy one semester? Scott Buell, the Northview athletic director, shared information from an IHSAA meeting that had been held a day ago in which he had been told they are looking at all options and are trying to work with the schools because they fully understand the situation the schools are in. So next week it could be something else that they've had to change. He was sure the question Mr. Jackson had asked was going to come up.

Lynn Romas

- How would lab-type sessions be handled through the virtual school? Response: It would be a virtual lab.
- Can a student be enrolled in school, taking a full load of classes, and then also go into the virtual academy and take extra credit? Response: The virtual academy doesn't have that right now as one of the options. Students are either half-time or full-time virtual students.

Tom Reberger

- If a student tries the virtual academy for a month and then wants to go back to the regular setting, should they be able to be absorbed right back into the regular classroom, if they have kept up? Response: Yes. The virtual academy and the regular classroom both follow Indiana standards, and students should be able to go right back in.
- If a student is in a typical classroom setting for the first semester and participates in athletics and band and then goes to the virtual school for the second semester, would the student no longer be eligible to participate in athletics and band? Response: Yes. Unless there are changes are coming, that's the way it stands

right now. Mr. Reberger then asked to clarify whether a student, once he/she is in the virtual school, must participate in the virtual school for one full semester before becoming eligible for IHSAA sports and band. Response from Superintendent Fritz: Not necessarily band, because band would be considered a class and would be co-curricular. Dr. Rayle added that this is fluid, and after working with athletic directors and band directors, band is basically identical to athletics. The way it is written is that a student has to be enrolled in the virtual academy for a full semester; they couldn't be in band unless they're taking one class after one semester plus the virtual academy. They could take the band class but not be in the co-curricular activities or clubs.

- Can a student enroll in the virtual school after one month of attending regular classes? Response: Yes.
- Can a student who has been enrolled in the virtual school for one month go back to the regular classroom after one month? Response: That is correct. It will be the same option on a monthly basis.
- Will the grade a student is making, percentage-wise, transfer with them and become a part of the cumulative grade retroactively? Response: It's a possibility, yes, but if a student takes an assessment and isn't competent, then he/she has to re-take that portion. Mr. Reberger shared his concern that a student might go to the virtual school if he/she is failing a class at the end of the first month. He did not want to discourage that if it was a valid reason for making the move; however, he did not want 200 kids transferring in and out every month. To this, Dr. Rayle added that it is basically an hour per subject per day at a minimum, so the rigor is there. If a student was saying he/she wanted to go to the virtual school because he/she was not passing in the traditional setting, he would suggest that they re-think that because the rigor would be there, and the student would be locked to a computer in that class online. Mrs. Adams noted that this may be challenging for parents who have many children at home, trying to juggle computer use, but she still thinks it is a fabulous idea, and she is glad the school corporation is ahead on this. Dr. Rayle commented that, for some students, they would benefit tremendously from this; it would fit right in their wheelhouse. Mr. Reberger noted that this may allow the school corporation to save some kids it might lose otherwise, for a multitude of reasons.

Kevin Kumpf

- Athletic-wise, from what he has read, students enrolled in the virtual academy cannot participate during the first semester and must be enrolled in at least one in-person course the second semester to participate. He asked to be corrected if he was wrong. Response: At this time, yes, that is correct; however, IHSAA is looking at making adjustments to that. What Clay Community Schools is doing is happening around the state. Mr. Kumpf continued the question, using the example of a student who wished to be on the wrestling team. The season would start in January, but wrestling practice would take place before the end of the first semester, while a student was enrolled in the virtual academy. Would the student be allowed to practice? Response: No.

- Is there a book fee for digital learning? Response: None of which Dr. Rayle was aware. The fee would be for the Chromebook, which students would get from this school corporation because they would be one of our students.
- Amy Burke Adams
- Has a deadline been established for accepting enrollment into the virtual academy? Response: None has been established for non-out-of-district transfers.

Comments from board members included the following:

Amy Burke Adams: Although this is new territory for everyone, uncharted waters, she was confident this would go well for the people who wanted to use it. She believed we couldn't have better people, with Dr. Rayle and Bill Milner at the leadership of this virtual program. She was very confident it would go well.

Lynn Romas: He thought it was a wonderful thing to do. He thought there would be a lot of adjustments and a lot of changes, and things would come up that no one had any idea would come up, but he thought it was a good thing to try. He added that there were some kids that had a hard time with big classes, and they needed an option.

Mrs. Baysinger moved to approve the recommendation to establish a Clay Community Schools Virtual Academy. Mr. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

A copy of the information regarding Clay Community Schools Virtual Academy will become a part of the official minutes.

III. CCS 2020-21 School Year Roadmap

The CCS 2020-21 School Year Roadmap, which includes the 2020-21 Phased EC/CO Curricular Return to Play Plan as well as the Sports and Extracurricular Activities Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement, had been provided to the board members, and approval was recommended.

Superintendent Fritz noted that nine teams had been involved in developing the 2020-21 School Year Roadmap. The teams had been comprised of multiple members and had done a great job. He stressed that the Roadmap was a living, breathing document that would undergo changes and revisions as necessary, which could occur on a weekly, perhaps even daily, basis. Reference was made to the state IN-CLASS document as being the driving document used to develop the roadmap. Superintendent Fritz shared that approval of the roadmap from legal counsel had been sought and had been received. In addition, the Clay County Board of Health had approved the plan, and the school corporation will continue to work hand in hand with that board.

Superintendent Fritz then reviewed portions of the roadmap with the Board. A copy of the CCS 2020-21 School Year Roadmap will become a part of the official minutes. The document has also been posted on the school corporation website.

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the CCS 2020-21 School Year Roadmap. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

IV. Adjournment

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

The meeting was audio recorded and copies may be requested by contacting the Central Administrative Office.