



LA CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.
101 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD MEETING

**BOARD STUDENT LINKAGE
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 9, 2021
7:00 PM**

*****VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE*****

Board Members Present: Wendy Chord, Todd Jones, Eric Lindberg, Win Muffett, Cris Yaw

Board Members Absent:

Superintendent: Dave Holmes

Administrators: Peter Rosenkranz, Carol Patton, Greg Hall, Nancy Carner, Lauri Landerholm, Kurt Gray

Staff and Guests: Bill Hrdina, Andrew Helm, Carrie Lindsay, Daina Galster, Denelle Eiesland, Jackson Simmonds, Clayton Muffett, Gianna D'Emilio, Mary Kneiser, Makena Campbell, Lauren Fox, Shawn Child, Anthony Larkin, Kacey Rolph, Sam Graham, Mary Lambert, Saneer Walker, Peyton Larkin, Austin Aseph

Minutes taken by: Tammy Lichliter

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Mr. Jones. He opened up the forum to the high school students that had joined the linkage meeting to talk about how distance learning was going for them.

Mary Lambert, a senior, said she struggles with online learning, she would like to go to at least a hybrid schedule because she likes academic challenges. In distance learning, she struggles to stay on track. She also said that it will be hard to transition from online learning to college.

Makena Campbell, a junior, said that her grades have not suffered this school year, but she does struggle with retaining the information she has learned. She would do better in-person.

Lauren Fox said that a lot of her friends have had trouble with retaining information. She said that staying on the computer all day is hard. She added that distance learning makes it easier to cheat for students. Being in the building would make students more accountable. She added it is also easier to learn in-person.

Shawn Child, a senior, said that learning this year is different. He has learned to stay organized. Staring at a screen all day "sucks" and he misses interacting with everyone. A hybrid schedule would be good if we can't fully go back to in-person learning.

Jordan Rehfeldt, a junior, said that she has done really well in distance learning, but it has been hard on her sister who is in middle school. She just can't sit at a computer all day. It would be easier for her to learn at school.

Mary Lambert also talked about the mental aspect of distance learning. Interactions with people would do wonder to help students mentally. Even one day a week would make a difference.

Gianna D'Emilio, a sophomore, said she has missed interacting with people. It also is hard when students don't have their cameras turned on. It makes you uncomfortable if you are one of the few with it turned on. She misses seeing her friends at school and would like to start at least a hybrid schedule to come back. She added that a lot of kids have been cheating while at home. This is not the most effective way to learn. Being back at school would be best for everyone.

Clayton Muffett, a sophomore, said that there are pros to learning online. Time management is one of them. He can finish his work by 10:30 on some days. Doing a hybrid a schedule would help you to work harder in each scheduled class which would lead to learning more.

Mr. Muffett then asked the students to give a thumbs up or down to a few questions.

The first was, "Do good grades mean you are learning?" The students gave a thumbs down to that question.

The second was, "Is in-person learning far superior to online learning?" The students gave a thumbs up to this question.

The last question was, "Do you know someone who is struggling with mental health at this time?" The student gave a thumbs up to this question.

Ms. Patton then read a letter that she received from a student that said that they were suffering from mental health during distance learning. This student said that school needs to start at least a hybrid so that the school can help kids like me.

Ms. Patton said that students and parents are struggling mentally during this time. She is proud of the resilience of the students. The teachers have worked hard to help students get information and an education during distance learning. She added that La Center has not let kids down and we will continue to pull together to start a hybrid schedule as soon as possible.

The board then met with middle school students.

Peyton Larkin, a 7th grader, said that distance learning has really helped him. Zoom has helped him to be able to communicate with his teacher online. It has been great to be able to work on assignments and concentrate at home. He would actually like to keep online learning. It makes him feel more independent and academically stronger. He misses being in school, but feels he is doing better and his grades have improved this year.

Jackson Simmonds, an 8th grader, said he has been impacted a lot. He is not doing well with distance

learning. He has actually been attending the internet cafe that was offered to students because he is not supervised at home so he doesn't get his work done there.

Sanee Walker said that she has been impacted mentally. The social aspect of school is important. It is hard to stay indoors all day. School gives her the motivation to get out of bed in the morning. She knows a few people that feel the same way. It has been really tough.

Austin Aseph said that this was a good opportunity to use the computer and that he is doing OK with online learning.

Mrs. Yaw told the students that the school board has been looking for ways to get them back to in-person learning. The district has talked to attorneys and written letters to the governor and the legislature to try to get kids back. She said she is very sorry that this happened to them and feels like "the adults" have really let them down.

Mr. Jones added that education is important, but the kids need to be back for their social and emotional wellness. The District and Board are putting in every effort to get kids back as soon as we can. Mr. Holmes added that if the numbers keep going down, we should soon be able to get all kids back.

The entire board expressed their appreciation to students for sharing their experiences.

The elementary video was then shared with the board. Katie, a 4th grader, said that she liked working with her mom during distance learning. She did not like not seeing her friends or her teacher. She said that it is awesome being back at school. It is easier to ask the teacher a question if you are confused. It is also good to see her friends. Recess is hard because you can't play with friends who are not in your class.

Westyn and Kelson, second graders, were then asked how distance learning went for them. Distance learning went pretty well, because the days were shorter. Zooms were long and it was hard to hear everyone on them. They did not like not seeing their teacher and classmates. Now that they have returned to in-person on a hybrid schedule, they are glad they get to see their friends now. They also like to get breakfast and lunch at school. They don't like wearing masks all day and just want Covid to be gone.

Mr. Hall reiterated that the kids just wanted to be back to see their friends and teachers. Getting breakfast and lunch at school has also been important to students and the social aspect has been the number one component.

The board then talked about how the meeting went. Mr. Jones was surprised by the behavior of some Zoom participants at the beginning of the meeting. "Zoom bombing" happens and it is a reflection of society. He added that his daughter has done well in distance learning as her mom is at home to help.

He is glad to see that the middle school students will be going back to in-person hybrid starting next week with 6th grade and 7th and 8th to follow shortly thereafter. Mr. Holmes added that freshman may be able to start the same time as the 7th and 8th graders if the county's Covid case numbers stay down. The hope is to get freshmen and seniors back as soon as possible. The schedule would have to be hybrid

because of social distancing guidelines' 6 foot rule. Until that rule goes away, hybrid schedules will be necessary because of space.

Mr. Muffett added that the board should continue writing letters to the legislature to get kids back in school. Less than .2 percent of new cases come from schools. Olympia has to make a change. We need to stand up for the kids. Mr. Holmes said that it is definitely worth the time to send a message to local representatives and senators.

Mr. Lindberg asked Mr. Hall what the attendance impact has been. He replied that attendance has greatly improved this year. Kids actually want to be at school. There are the usual 10 to 15 students on the attendance list that have not been coming to school. He added that parents have been very cooperative in keeping their students home when they are ill.

Mrs. Chord asked when the board can start to meet in-person again? Mr. Holmes replied that virtual meetings will continue until the governor lifts the ban on in-person meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board Chair

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member