

**Woodlands School
Board of Trustees Special Meeting-**

Woodlands School Mission

Creating the character of the community through diverse education.

Vision External

The best of what an urban education can be.

Minutes

March 3, 2021 —

Attending:	<p>Officers: Chair – Peter Richardson – Y Vice Chair – Keesha Sutton – Y Treasurer – Qasim Khan – Y Secretary – LaTae Mitchell – Y</p> <p>Trustees: Adams, Kenge – N Claypool, Krista – Y Gladney, Alandria – Y Parsons, Don – Y Richards, Jon – Y Tackes, Margaret – N Tate-Techtmann, Margaret – Y</p> <p>Staff Appointees – Rosalie Gazanna, Bluemound Campus Appointee; Ode Osbourne, State Street Campus Appointee</p> <p>Staff – Mr. Michael Pointer Mace, Bluemound Principal; Ms. Amy Fare, State Street Principal</p>
1. Call meeting to Order	Mr. Peter Richardson called the meeting to order to evaluate a report and recommendation to the Return to School Committee.
2. Return to School Committee and Review, Action on Recommendation/ Ms. Vickie Brown-Gurley	<p>Ms. Vickie Brown-Gurley shared details from the Return to School Committee Report. The Return to School Committee met on Monday, March 1st to handle the following items: a recommendation that was brought to the committee by the administration, review some of the new Return to School information, and discussing next possible steps.</p> <p>The Return to School Committee is prepared to bring the following recommendations to the Woodlands Board of Trustees:</p>

Offer a -face-to-face option for a limited number of interested families beginning on April 13, 2021 while still supporting online learning for a least half of the students.

Ms. Vicki Brown-Gurley shared some background information regarding how they got to this place. In January, the Committee met and looked at the current landscape, health data, feedback from other schools/districts, and survey data from parents/staff, at that time the recommendation was to continue in a 100% format and no further action that was required from the Board.

Since that time several factors have changed with the data as well as the education landscape and required us to revisit the format.

What changed from January to March?

January 2021	March 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School visits with administrators at other open or preparing to open schools ● The Health Department data show the gating criteria has room for improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Very few schools in Milwaukee have chosen to remain 100% virtual. Most schools offer some version of in person learning ● The Health Department data shows improvement in the gating criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CDC guidance focused on improved positivity rate in community for schools to reopen safely ● No opportunity for staff to receive the vaccine. ● No definite decision had been made on statewide testing for students ● All schools had access to all of the CARES funds that were allotted to their schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CDC has new guidance that focuses on safe reopening of schools. Schools have had very low virus transmittal rate ● Staff opportunity for vaccine as of March 1st. ● The WI DPI announced that statewide testing on the WI Forward and DLM is required by all schools and must be done in an in-person environment. All students in grades 3-8th must be assessed, in-person. ● Legislators are discussing withholding a portion of the Discretionary Funds from the second round of CARES grant from schools that have not provided any in-person learning this school year.

The City of Milwaukee-Covid-19 Gating Criteria from January 21, 2021. (see report)

The Rationale: We recognize that there is some level of risk for all of the stakeholders who are involved and it is important that we also provide an offering for in-person learning for families and after our Spring Break that would be a viable option at that time. The Rationale continues with the following: **Low COVID-19 Positivity Rate:** The positivity rate of COVID-19 is 4.75% in the city of

Milwaukee. This is the lowest positivity rate since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020.

In-person statewide testing required: The DPI requiring in-person WI Forward/DLM testing at all schools requires us to prepare to open schools for most of our students. **Vaccine eligibility for teachers:** Teachers are eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine as of March 1st. By the time it is time to bring students in-person learning, (immediately following spring break), most educators should have had the opportunity to access the vaccine. **Warmer weather:** The warmer weather will give us more options with providing recess outdoors each day for students as well as assist with ventilation in the classrooms., **Learned about reopening safely:** We have learned a great deal about reopening for in-person learning from the many school leaders with which we have met.

Ms. Vicki Brown-Gurley discussed the Implementation Timeline, Information/Procedures, School Daily Schedule, and the differences between the two plans:

Fall 2020 Hybrid Plan	Spring 2021 In-person Learning Option
<p data-bbox="638 940 1010 1003"><u>Woodlands Hybrid Plan: Four Day Work Week A/B Rotation</u></p> <p data-bbox="609 1012 1036 1182">*This schedule incorporates a blended model of face-to-face and virtual instruction. It also supports synchronous (real time), as well as asynchronous (not concurrent in time), learning for students.</p> <p data-bbox="609 1190 1013 1360">* Half of the student population reports to school four full days per week for in-person learning while the other half of the school population participates in virtual learning at Home.</p> <p data-bbox="609 1369 1013 1432">*The two student groups alternate between in-person and virtual learning weekly.</p> <p data-bbox="609 1440 992 1541">*All grade bands are included. Social distancing will occur in all classroom and public spaces.</p> <p data-bbox="609 1549 1036 1757">*Classrooms at both campuses have been measured to assure the <1 person/30 feet guideline can be followed. Our classrooms at Woodlands campuses can accommodate up to 22 individuals following this guideline.</p> <p data-bbox="609 1766 1018 1866">*Our plan is to have no more than 12 students and 2-3 adults in the classrooms at any given time.</p>	<p data-bbox="1062 940 1474 1003"><u>Woodlands In-person Learning Option: Four Day Work Week</u></p> <p data-bbox="1055 1012 1484 1075">*This schedule provides an in-person learning option for identified students</p> <p data-bbox="1055 1083 1438 1146">* Parents opt-in for their students to learn in-person for the remainder of the year</p> <p data-bbox="1055 1155 1474 1255">*Parents that do not select this plan will remain in virtual learning for the remainder of the year</p> <p data-bbox="1055 1264 1365 1327">*Identified students attend all day Monday-Thursday.</p> <p data-bbox="1055 1335 1461 1398">*All students, virtual and in-person will have asynchronous learning on Fridays</p> <p data-bbox="1055 1407 1435 1507">*All grade bands are included. Social distancing will occur in all classroom and public spaces.</p> <p data-bbox="1055 1516 1468 1617">*Our plan is to have no more than 12 students and 2-3 adults in the classrooms at any given time.</p>

Additional Information and Procedures; Ms. Vicki Brown-Gurley asked some staff to come back earlier to prepare classrooms/offices and provide recordings of staff and classrooms for new families February 19th-March 26th.

School Daily Schedule:

- The building opens at 8:00am for student entry
- In-person learners will begin their school day at 8:15am Monday-Thursday (this will give 15 minutes extra time to work with students around safety protocols and other in-person procedures)
- All students (virtual and in-person) begin the day at 8:30am with the Morning Meeting
- In-person learners will end their school day at 3:15pm each day
- Buildings will continue to follow the Woodlands daily schedule for each unit introduced in August 2020 (adjustments to be made for middle school schedules)
- Virtual learners and in-person learners will follow the same daily schedule (except for the start time)
- Teachers will “live stream” their lessons taught in the classroom to students learning virtually
- Teacher assistants will be in the classroom on a laptop to support virtual learners as needed

Start of Day/End of Day:

- Students will be assigned entry doors based on their grade level unit
- Families will receive entry information prior to the first day of in-person instruction
- Students will be allowed into the building in a physically distanced manner
- No lockers or cubbies will be used
- Students must hand sanitize upon entering the classroom
- At the end of the day, students will be called by their carpool number for dismissal
- Students will exit the same door at which they entered
- No parents will be allowed in the building

The Classroom Selection Process is the following: Families that sign up for the In-Person option will be placed into In-Person classrooms on a first come first served basis. Up to twelve students will be accommodated. There is no minimum. If there are more than twelve students in each class, the parents of the thirteenth student or more, will have the option to have their child placed in another classroom with an In-Person teacher or remain virtual. If the family becomes

	<p>number 13, the school’s leadership will notify the parents and let them know where things stand.</p> <p>Students will be placed with their current teacher if possible, if their current teacher is remote, parents will be given the choice of placing students in-person with another staff member while continuing to receive their main instruction from their current teacher on their devices. The parent also has the choice of moving their student to another classroom that has an in-person teacher.</p> <p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Masks must be worn covering nose and mouths at all times covering (except while eating lunch) ● All students and all adults must wear masks ● Each staff member and each student will receive two Woodlands cloth masks (reusable) ● Additional masks will be available if needed ● Staff serving students with speech and other oratory needs will wear other PPE <p>Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students must bring their Woodlands issued device, (Chromebook or iPad), headphone, charger and carrying case to and from school each day ● Student devices must be brought to school fully charged each day (there are no charging stations available in the classrooms) Support will be there to handle any issues. ● Students will not be able to share technology at any time <p>Ms. Vicki Brown-Gurley discussed the following topics in the report; Lunch procedures, Recess, Extension, Cleaning Procedures, Classroom Setup, Ventilation, Infection Control and Mitigation Plan, Infection Protocols and Facility Safety Protocols and In-Person/Virtual Teaching Assignments for Staff (See report).</p> <p>Mr. Peter Richardson asked for comments or question for the Board, the audience, and vote on the recommendation.</p>
<p>3. Public Comment</p>	<p>Mr. Qasim Khan asked if we would have a full-time nurse at both campuses and what’s the rationale? Ms. Vicki Brown-Gurley stated we will have one part-time nurse at each campus. Individuals are there to address any individuals who are not feeling well, responsibilities regarding immunizations and other things that the nurses will be able to do and provide medication to students. Mr. Jon Richards asked several questions; would virtual students be able to ask teachers questions and see other students? Also, was the Special Ed staff included in instruction? Ms. Vicki Brown-Gurley responded</p>

the primary teacher virtual/in-person is the classroom teacher. The teacher assistant is available to provide additional support. The students will only see the teacher, teacher assistant and other virtual student. Virtual students will not see in-person students. Ms. Latonia stated we remain using technology and keep safety in mind. Ms. Maggie Tate-Techtman asked if majority of our teachers will have time to be fully vaccinated? Ms. Vicki Brown-Gurley stated we have provided links and opportunities for staff. Ascension is our partner and have the option to get vaccinated. We want to provide educational opportunities for staff. In addition, Ms. Vicki Brown-Gurley spoke with our attorney and found out we can ask staff if they have been vaccinated. We are not mandating that teachers be vaccinated. Ms. Maggie Tate-Techtman made a comment/question; she wanted to make clear we are providing a high level of support to our educators and asked about the scramble of the twelve students. Ms. Vicki Brown-Gurley stated they were trying to find ability to determine when we get to our twelve, because we weren't sure if we would make the twelve and had some options to choose from. If the building is at capacity, we have some additional options. Ms. Krista Claypool asked about the equity issue and wanted clarification regarding the electronic format. Ms. Vicki Brown-Gurley stated we will continue to have work done in the electronically because that's an equity issue as well. We have designed a learning program with certain tools in it and asking teachers to not change. Ms. Alandria Gladney asked if we are open to a Group A/B to accommodate all the families that wanted to be faced to face. Ms. Vicki Brown-Gurley stated if we had many classes, we would share with families and written in the plan as an option. Ms. Keesha Jones-Sutton asked if the students on Google meets, they will see each other? Ms. Vicki Brown-Gurley stated if everyone is on Google meet, the students will see each other. Additional comments/questions were asked by the board.

Mr. Peter Richardson asked if there was a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation to reopen pursuant to the plan submitted: Mr. Qasim Khan made the motion seconded by Ms. Alandria Gladney.

Comments and questions were asked by parents.

Ms. Keesha Jones-Jones Sutton called a question. Mr. Peter Richardson asked for a vote from the Board.

The following members were in favor of the motion: Qasim Khan, Keesha Jones-Sutton, Alandria Gladney, LaTae Mitchell, Maggie

	Tate-Techtmann, Don Parsons and Krista Claypool. Opposed by Jon Richards. The motion is approved, and the staff is authorized to proceed with the plan.
4. Adjourn	Mr. Peter Richardson asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jon Richards moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. LaTae Mitchell, the motion passed unanimously. The next Board Meeting is scheduled on March 23, 2021.

Prepared by: LaTae Mitchell