

Approved 11.18.2020

**MINUTES**  
**VSWEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**EMERGENCY MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020**  
**VIA [Zoom](#)**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gregory Schneider (GS) – President

John Tanner (JT)

April Sauer (AS) – Secretary

Nathaniel Allen (NA)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

John Elling (JE) – Treasurer

The President and Secretary were present and a quorum was reached.

**NO GUESTS**

Members of the public present via Zoom/Registration through Google Forms:

- Henry Limesand
- Barb Cunningham
- Colleen Pope
- Crystal Lee
- Gabrielle Ayala
- Danielle Martinez
- Debbie Allen
- Helena Moriarty
- Jill Thomas
- JJ
- Juli Curtain

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- Kim Baker
- Kristen Ziegenbein
- Laura Heaney
- Masako Gardner
- Meaghan Kelsey
- Michelle Kratzer
- Nick Caure
- Sami Rank
- Sarah Fairchild
- Shannon Quigley
- Susan Kerr
- Tiffany Kanehl
- Adeline Carrera
- Heather Sullivan
- Kris Paegal
- Dan Franks

### **OPENING VERSE / INTRODUCTIONS**

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. GS welcomed the public to the meeting. The Board members introduced themselves.

### **COVID-19**

#### **Additional State-issued Guidance/Hybrid to Virtual**

GS Reminded us of the history of the benchmarks and our votes as a board. Wants to discuss the latest changes in guidance from the state.

AS Mentioned Dr. Cara Christ's update as of today. While she said the group with most cases is the college age group, all age groups are increasing in number of cases. In the age group 20 and below, as of 11/1 there were 2732 cases. That is still a large number and an old one. Cases have increased. All schools in Maricopa have the same information we do; they read the same data, yet some have never even moved to hybrid. Roosevelt School District, which is where we are, has been virtual this whole time. Other schools around the valley which were doing hybrid have now chosen to move to virtual. She is happy with the motion we passed last week and would like to stick with that. She would like to err on the side of caution to keep our students and faculty safe.

NA Feels as though he was questioned as to whether he wants to follow state guidance. Now he wants to question whether the full board wants to follow the guidance since it has changed. Wants to get more information from other stakeholders. We still have the options for those

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families who wish to keep their children home. His opinion hasn't changed. He's willing to follow closure if state mandates it. The current guidance is in line with his views.

JT Wanted to remain integrity with the original information. Now that the guidance has changed, he wants to choose to keep the school open at this time. He wants to watch closely and be ready to take swift action. Shutting down the school is very complicated. The children's education and mental health is important. This is a stressful time. Having school open at this time is important for the children. It's about the total experience. He respects the decision that parents have made to keep their children home and supports them. Parents are keeping sick kids home and following our school's guidance. He's grateful. We are a model school for following the guidelines—mask wearing, hand washing, etc.

GS Mitigation is important and following the school's guidance is important. Planning is difficult at this time. He spoke with Teresa Marzolph about the issue of moving from hybrid to all virtual. 30 students would need on-site support services. He wants to have a clear plan and be consistent. The state/county are changing their guidance. We previously committed to adhering closely to the state guidance, but now that's changed. As AS said many school districts have never opened or are choosing to close now and go to virtual. He would like to err on the side of caution as well. The public health experts have changed their guidance and now there's some leeway that wasn't there before. We are not experts. We are doing the best we can. No matter which way we go, people are going to disagree.

NA Wants to see a motion and vote.

JT Wants to see a scenario where we can move quickly if we need to and have a plan.

GS Staff has already been planning, and he feels we are more prepared for this change than we were the last time when we made a transition. He wants to adjust our reopening and transition to virtual learning plan to realign with the current public health guidance.

GS moved that Desert Marigold School will remain open, or re-open, using its current hybrid learning model as long as, using data from Arizona Department of Health Services for Maricopa County [School Benchmarks](#), **all** of the following factors are met for **two consecutive weeks**: (1) cases per 100,000 people remains **below** 100; (2) percent positivity remains **below** 7%; and (3) hospital visits for COVID-like illnesses remains **below** 10%.

Desert Marigold School will transition as quickly as feasible to virtual learning (with on-site support services for eligible students), using data from Arizona Department of Health Services for Maricopa County [School Benchmarks](#), when **all** of the following factors are met for **two consecutive weeks**: (1) cases per 100,000 people remains **above** 100; (2) percent positivity remains **above** 7%; or (3) hospital visits for COVID-like illnesses remains **above** 10%.

JT second.

Further Discussion

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NA Are we overcomplicating using such specificity? Maybe just follow the recommended advice.

GS Good point.

NA Discussed more details of the motion, including the percent positivity of 7% vs new guidance which sits at 10%.

GS It would simplify it logistically. He withdrew his motion.

GS moved that DMS will follow the recommended delivery model as stated on AZDHS website based on the data for Maricopa County.

JT Second. No further discussion. Approved: GS, JT, NA. Opposed: AS **Motion Passes.**

GS Grateful to the board for a good discussion and coming together even when we disagree.

### **OPENING/CLOSING VERSE**

GS Move to adjourn. NA second. Vote: Unanimous in favor (JT, GS, AS, NA). **Motion passes.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Prepared by AS on 11.12.2020.