

Meeting Minutes: Governance Committee, special meeting

Date/Time: May 5, 2021/7:30 a.m.

Location: Board Room

Start: 7:30 a.m.

End: 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Nikkie Gullickson, Rebecca Knutson, Jim Johnson, Robin Nelson, David Paulson

Committee Members Absent: None

Non-Committee Members Present: Jennifer Benson (via phone)

Staff Members Present: Doug Andring, Missy Eidsness, Rupak Gandhi, Jackie Gapp, Robert Grosz

Recorder: AnnMarie Campbell

Guest: Cristie Jacobsen (Fargo Police Department)

Agenda Item	Discussion – Conclusion	Recommendations/Actions
Approval of April 22 Minutes	The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the April 22 meeting.	The minutes will be posted on the Board’s section of the public website.
1. GP-2E: Public Participation at School Board Meetings A. FPS COVID-19 Smart Restart Plan Masking Requirements B. Guidelines for Public Participation/Attendance at Board Meetings C. Public Participation/Attendance Enforcement Measures	<p>Rebecca Knutson shared she called a special meeting of the Governance Committee to discuss Board meeting protocols. This was due to members of the public and a Board member not to adhering to school district protocols during the April 27 Board meeting. She wished for the entire committee to weigh in on a conversation and any potential decisions on protocols prior to the May 11 meeting.</p> <p>At the May 11 meeting, there will be a discussion on a postponed motion regarding usage of masks on elementary playgrounds and in outdoor physical education classes for secondary schools. Mask requirements is also a current discussion in the community. Dr. Gandhi noted that masks are required in FPS schools due to recommendations from Fargo Cass Public Health and the ND Department of Health. Additionally, FPS is following masking requirements for close contacts and quarantine guidelines. He noted that masking and close contacts and contract tracing due to a positive COVID-19 case go hand-in-hand. Currently, about 50% of Cass County residents have been vaccinated for COVID-19. Dr. Gandhi shared about how mask exceptions occur for students. If a student with mask exemption tests positive for COVID-19, then students and staff defined as a close contact would need to quarantine. Staff members also have the ability to file doctor’s paperwork for a mask exemption with HR for accommodations. Discussion occurred.</p> <p>At the January Governance Committee meeting, the committee decided to move the Board meetings back to the Board Room at the District Office from the South High School theater. The minutes of that meeting note Board members and meeting participants would need to wear a mask. Discussion occurred. Doug Andring shared the process of a staff member presenting a medical exemption; once submitted, the employer determines if a reasonable accommodation can be made. Discussion occurred on medical exemptions and accommodations.</p> <p>AnnMarie Campbell shared masking requirements and protocols at the City of Fargo Commission Chambers. Masks are required within the chambers. If a citizen is not wearing a mask, a staff member reminds them of the requirement, asks them to use a mask and offers them a mask if they do not have one. If they refuse to wear a mask, no further action is taken. Dr. Gandhi asked the committee to discuss what steps need to occur when Board meeting protocols are not followed for any reason, including</p>	

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	<p>disruptions to the agenda. While a concern for mask usage currently exists, he encouraged the committee to discuss protocols globally for any future issues.</p> <p>Cristie Jacobsen of the Fargo Police Department shared the police department has a liaison officer to the Human Relations Commission and Native American Commission, while also having officers and the City Commission meetings. The police department does not govern private property or school rules enforcement. If someone does not choose to follow a mask requirement, the police department could not enforce that rule as it is not a law. However, if someone was asked to leave a property or facility for not following a rule or due to a disturbance, the police could step in at that time due to a criminal trespass. In doing so, the same standard would need to be followed in all district facilities. If a disturbance occurs and someone is disrupting a Board meeting and safety is a concern, the police could intervene to verbally deescalate the situation. The officer would request the individual follow proper procedures and attempt to bring the individual to a state of compliance.</p> <p>Discussion occurred on next steps for compliance with masking requirements. Suggestions offered were to notify the participants at the last meeting that masks need to be worn or the meeting could be ended due to public participants not wearing a mask. Discussion occurred if members of the public who do not wear masks would be escorted out of the building, and if so, who would do that. A police officer cannot do so until it becomes a safety issue. A suggestion was made to take a break during the meeting for the public participants come into compliance. For the Board member who chose not to comply with masking requirements at the April 27 meeting, President Knutson had a conversation with that Board member on May 4, as per the four-step process to address Board member violations detailed in GP-12.</p> <p>Discussion occurred on the May 11 meeting agenda. AnnMarie Campbell shared the items currently on the agenda, including two separate executive sessions that are needing to occur. One session is for attorney consultation and one is for negotiations strategy. Both are time sensitive and need to occur on May 11. A suggestion was made to arrange the meeting agenda to ensure Board business occurs accordingly. Consensus was reached to have both executive sessions at the beginning of the meeting.</p> <p>Discussion occurred on the ability to have a virtual Board meeting. AnnMarie Campbell shared that fully virtual meetings are not allowable under state law at this time. They were previously allowable due to an executive order by Governor Burgum, which has now been rescinded. During the 2021 legislative session, an amendment was approved to open meetings laws that will allow for virtual meetings; however, the amendment will not go into effect until August 1.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to share with the individuals that provided public comment at the April 27 meeting that masks are required in the Board Room. Ms. Campbell indicated the</p>	<p>The May 11 Board meeting agenda will have two executive sessions occur at the beginning of the agenda.</p> <p>Information will be added to the public comment thank you letters about mask wearing.</p>

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	<p>thank you letters to those individuals had not been sent as of yet. Rebecca Knutson will assist with adding language to the thank you letters.</p> <p>Discussion occurred on having Board members at the doors of the District Office to ask citizens to wear masks, if the public will be allowed into the Board Room if they are not wearing masks and what processes should be in place for the May 11 meeting.</p> <p>Consensus was reached for the May 11 meeting agenda to have the executive sessions at the beginning of the agenda, then all agenda items will fall after in their usual order. Consensus was reached to have extra signage on the door or handouts for the public regarding Board policy and masking requirements; Rebecca Knutson will work with Dr. Gandhi and AnnMarie on the items needed.</p> <p>Discussion occurred on having a police officer present at the meeting. A Board member has expressed concern for safety at the meeting. Dr. Gandhi shared that a police officer can be present, paid at an overtime rate through the SRO contract. The police department has inquired about establishing a police officer liaison to the School Board, which was to be discussed with the Governance Committee in the future. Consensus was reached to take breaks as needed or end the meeting if needed on May 11. Consensus reached to explore the liaison relationship with the police department to the School Board. Rebecca Knutson will discuss the possibility with Dr. Gandhi and AnnMarie Campbell.</p> <p>Rebecca Knutson shared there will be a need to move to step #2 of GP-12 to address a Board member violation. She asked committee members to review GP-12 in preparation for step #2 as it is a conversation with the Governance Committee and the offending Board member.</p>	<p>The May 11 Board meeting agenda will have two executive sessions occur at the beginning of the agenda; all other agenda items will come in their usual order. Rebecca Knutson, Dr. Gandhi and AnnMarie Campbell will determine any needed handouts or signage for the meeting.</p> <p>Consensus was reached to take breaks or end the meeting. if necessary, on May 11.</p> <p>Rebecca Knutson will work with AnnMarie Campbell and Dr. Gandhi on the possibility of a SRO liaison to the School Board.</p>
<p><i>The next meeting will be held May 27 at 7:30 a.m.</i></p>		