

September Special Called Board Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 2020
6:00 PM



The September 24th special called meeting will be held in the annex. In compliance with the COVID-19 State of Emergency declarations affecting the number of persons who may physically attend a gathering, seating may be limited. Therefore, a livestream will be made available: <https://www.asheschools.org/Page/6117>

The board was called to order by Chairman Jones. Roll call was taken and all members were present.

Dr. Eisa Cox, Superintendent of Schools provided a slide show with information on the ABC Collaborative from Duke University and the three recommendations for schools who may be ready to return to Plan A: Small districts less than 6,000 students, high mask wearing compliance, and those already in Plan B. Dr. Cox shared that there was NO risk-free environment.

Jennifer Greene, Health Director for AppHealthCare provided the most updates metrics available for Ashe County. At the time of the meeting, there were 11 active cases in the community. The board asked questions about the cases and trends in Ashe County.

Dr. Eisa Cox, Superintendent of Schools shared parent survey results where 75% wanted to return under Plan A, and 63.6% of teachers wanted to return under Plan A. She also shared the number of staff and students currently with COVID-19, quarantined, or waiting to be tested.

Dr. Eisa Cox, Superintendent of Schools also shared that if the board agreed to move to Plan A for grades K-5, the intention of the school district is to maintain as much of Plan B as possible under Plan A. This includes on the busses, still maintaining 1 student per seat, with family units still able to sit together on one seat. Classrooms may be tight and 6 feet may not be possible in all classrooms, but we would spread out as much as possible. Cleaning and disinfecting would be similar to current Plan B. Estimated costs of safety items were shared. Everyone entering school buildings would be screened and have their temperature taken. Students would still eat in their classrooms. We would continue to monitor the cases and quarantines.

Members of the board asked questions about classroom sizes, cleaning and safety, and cases of COVID-19.

Challenging young minds to soar.

If the board votes to move to Plan A for grades K-5, the suggested two options were:

1. Option 1: Start on October 19th for all students grades K-5. Wednesday remains remote for deep cleaning. All self-contained students return to Plan A, including middle and high school.
2. Option 2: Start on October 19th for grades K-3. Wednesday remains remote for deep cleaning. Return grades 4-5 on October 26th. Wednesday remains remote for deep cleaning. Additionally, all self-contained students return to Plan A, including middle and high school.

Dr. Cox shared that principals preferred option 2.

Keith McClure made a motion to adopt Option 2. Lee Beckworth seconded the motion. All approved.

Polly Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dianne Eldreth seconded the motion. All approved.