

September 3, Special Board Meeting Highlights

The Ballard Board met last night to discuss local Covid data and the current instructional model for the schools in the district. The meeting was a result of the Story County 14 day positive rate exceeding 20 percent during the first week of school. The Board believes that under this new environment it is important to discuss data publicly and transparently. While it is clear there is not always consensus regarding the optimal conditions for reopening schools, providing visibility to decisions will, at a minimum, enhance understanding among students, staff, and community.

Chante Huen, District Nurse, presented local Covid positive and quarantine data. Currently, there are no positive cases among students and 30 students quarantined. There is 1 positive staff case and 4 staff quarantined.

The Board decided to monitor local and county data and continue in-person learning, given the local data is not reflective of what is being reported at the county level. Recognizing this can change, the Board will evaluate data again at our regular September 14 meeting.

The Board asked administration to present data thresholds that would trigger future Board meetings for review of the instructional model and possible changes. This will be done at the September 14 meeting.

Finally, the administration indicated that data would be updated weekly on Friday on the district website so the community would be informed about Covid activity. Due to FERPA requirements, Covid data will be presented on a district level to preserve confidentiality of students and staff.

Thank you to all who attended the meeting last night. We appreciate your interest in these matters and welcome your questions and feedback. Have a great Labor Day weekend! GO BOMBERS!

Ballard Board of Education