

**Nevada City School of the Arts
Charter Governance Council**

CGC Emergency Meeting Agenda

Friday, January 15, 2021

This meeting will be by teleconference pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20. The Board of Directors (“Board”) and employees of the NCSA shall meet via the Zoom meeting platform. Members of the public who wish to access this Board meeting may do so at:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97404766660?pwd=c3ZyQ1FaM0ZLTGNTb20yemFDamlldz09>

Meeting ID: 974 0476 6660

Passcode: j7YnHP

Call Order: 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Public Forum: *Members of the public who wish to comment during the Board meeting may use the “raise hand” tool on the Zoom platform. Individual comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. If an interpreter is needed for comments, they will be translated to English and the time limit shall be six (6) minutes. The Board of Directors may limit the total time for public comment to a reasonable time. The Board reserves the right to mute or remove a member of the public if comments or actions disrupts the Board meeting.*

Action Items

1. Approve Agenda
2. Approve Beginning Hybrid In-Person Learning

Adjournment 6:00 p.m.

Access to Board Materials: A copy of the written materials which will be submitted to the School Board may be reviewed by any interested persons on NCSA’s website along with this agenda following the posting of the agenda at least 72 hours in advance of this meeting.

Disability Access: Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations to participate in this public meeting should be made 24 hours prior to the meeting by calling (530) 273-7736. All efforts will be made for reasonable accommodations. The agenda and public documents can be modified upon request as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Hybrid v Distance Learning Survey Results & Rationale for Opening

Teachers	Hybrid	DL
25 Surveyed	18	7
	72%	28%

Students	Hybrid	DL
K	92%	8%
1	66%	33%
2	90%	10%
3	78%	22%
4	89%	11%
5	75%	25%
6	77%	23%
7	62%	38%
8	77%	23%
	78%	22%
Overall 90% Participation		

Rationale

The amount of teachers and parents who desire to come back are now in the majority. When we initially closed, the majority of parents and staff chose to continue DL so we stayed with the majority. When we reassessed in October, no other schools had opened, we still felt worried about contributing to the spread, and most parents still felt they wanted to remain in DL. In addition, because we could not afford additional staff, we needed to focus on supporting our students who needed extra help or internet access and could not afford both. Finally, we felt we were offering a solid distance learning program and students were doing well.

While I know the optics of opening during a peak in Covid cases seems contrary to our previous decisions, we now have so much more information to make an informed decision than we did in the Fall. Since October, we have received more funding and our budget, ironically, is stronger than it was initially, so we can afford the necessary staff to both begin Hybrid and continue to

offer extra support and internet access, thereby addressing issues of equity. Per our County Superintendent, in the county schools that are open now, there has not been one documented case of Covid spreading from a student to staff, staff to student while in school (I am not sure about student to student). This makes opening feel much safer than, say, going to the store or a restaurant where many people don't wear masks, socially distance, or sanitize like we do here at school. Finally, our safety protocols are very strong. We have had only one case of Covid here, not acquired from school, and we were able to contain the spread due to very strict screening guidelines.

Cal Osha and the state are also requiring updated Covid Protection Plans for all schools. We are updating it now, and we meet all the requirements, with the exception of regular Covid testing. This is simply because we cannot get enough appointments to test at the cadence they are suggesting. Further, the updated requirements aren't confirmed yet, so we can't fully update our plan until the state finalizes those requirements. We believe they will change the language around frequency of testing and we understand they plan to finalize the requirements by tomorrow.

After a lot of discussion and creative brainstorming, we are able to provide a DL option to families who wish to wait until it feels safer. While it is far from ideal, it is a middle ground and it is the best we can do under the circumstances. At this time we have offered parents three choices: Home School, Hybrid, and Distance Learning. We feel we have done all we can to accommodate the majority of families' needs. I know a few parents are upset we are not offering Zoom classes to the lower grades, but we cannot realistically satisfy every request. I also know that parents have asked for after care, but due to covid size restrictions, we cannot offer it because that would require mixing multiple cohorts across grade levels.

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

The majority of staff and I feel very strongly about beginning school next week. While 7 staff expressed concern, 5 of them do want to return, they just wish we had the vaccine first. 1 staff member is being accommodated so they can teach from home, and one I would consider very worried.

Therefore I recommend we open to **ONLY 6th and 8th on Tuesday the 19th**. And then the **K-5 Thursday Friday cohort would begin on the 21st**.

This allows two things to happen:

- 1) If we only have 6th & 8th on Tuesday, we can check all our procedures and then we'd have Wednesday to work out the problems so we are ready to roll on Thursday for the lower grades.
- 2) This allows teachers to begin the appropriate rhythm for teaching new content so the Th/F cohort is not behind the M/T. If you begin new content on M/T, then Th/F has to wait three days to receive that new material because we cannot ask parents to introduce brand new concepts.

I have included only a few comments, just so the board can get the tenor of the results.

Sample Comments

As a parent, I am hoping for hybrid learning to begin on 1/18. I hope most teachers and staff feel safe if that is the option.

I think focusing on getting our kids back to some kind of normality of in person learning is crucial to their development and well being. We are ready! My step-son attends Union Hill and has been doing in person learning, successfully, for the whole school year. He is 6 and wears his mask at all times. It's amazing how respectful the kids are being towards the changes for social distancing and mask wearing because they really want to be in school. I am 100% confident that NCSA can have a successfully transition in welcoming students back.

We appreciate you

Thanks for pushing through a very difficult year. Your efforts are noticed.

I appreciate pretty much all the efforts the NCSA team is doing to keep our children on the right patch of learning. Me and my child are taking Covid test regularly every 7 weeks. In case you need a copy for your records I can send them to you.
Thank you very much :)

is very excited to return to school. He doesn't care if has to wear a mask. He just wants to be back in class
we really hope hybrid commences and appreciate everyone's hard work

Like I have already submitted for my older daughter....

While we are soooo ready to return to normalcy and regular life... we just don't feel entirely on board with going back just yet. With the case numbers rising, and new variants, we just feel more in control with distance learning. It's such a hard decision honestly cause on one hand we miss school, we miss our friends, but on the other there is just too many open ended questions and what ifs. We wish to remain in distance the remaining part of the school year and are hopeful for a normal school year next year. That all being said we are so appreciative of ncsa and all that this amazing school is doing for our kids at this difficult time.

Thank you for all the work NCSA is doing to keep our community safe. In my opinion, this doesn't seem like the right time to send my child back to school, although I fully understand the need for other parents in other circumstances to do so. As long as I have the option to keep my child home as long as I see fit for his safety, and send him back when I believe the coast is clear, I have no problem with the school opening back up for others. Thank you, again for all your work!

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Would you offer after care to essential workers or make exceptions to this? My wife and I are both front line essential workers, and to have a little help in this area would be helpful. We are both vaccinated and taking precautions rest assured.

I am still not 100% I have questions about supervision around hand washing. Since we know kids ds don't wash their hands as well as they should. Also questions about lunch snack and water breaks.

I am massively concerned that other who attending being honest about travel and sanitation. I don't exactly trust others to isolate and take the same precautions. I am leaning more toward distance learning. It doesn't feel safe for kids or staff!

My kids are beyond excited!! They are prepared to respect the guidelines!

As much as we want to be in class with you and the others it does not seem like a safe choice at this time. Thank you!

We truly would prefer our daughter to be with her peers in person but currently with numbers spiking locally, we are hoping Spring will bring greater safety for on-campus learning.

I truly want my daughter to go back to school and be with her peers and teachers .
It is so important that she gets a well-rounded education, with trained teachers, in a wide range of subjects-while learning the social codes.
I do not like the idea of the children wearing masks for that long, nor being kept at a distance from each other all day. That is potentially physically and psychologically damaging.

Is there the ability to opt in/opt out if we feel that this is safe/unsafe to attend, once in school learning restarts?

Just to confirm that I understand this correctly, absences due to illness or forced quarantine will only temporarily move a student to the DL cohort. They will not be switched to the DL cohort permanently. Is this correct?