

In other action...

- The Board accepted the resignation of Natalie Capulong, CMS teacher; and employed Audrey Michaels as a Tri County SSA diagnostician.
- Candidate filing opens for the school board trustee election on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. The last day to file for a place on the ballot will be Friday, February 12. Places 4, 6 and 7 are up for election which are currently held by Kelsey Lytle, Randy Starks and Etta Herring. The election will be held on May 1, 2021 at City Hall. Candidates may file for the place on the ballot at the CISD Administration Building from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Thursday and until 4 p.m. on Fridays. Qualifications for the office can be found at https://www.commerceisd.org/page/board_b
- The next meeting of the CISD Board has been scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, January 19 at the CISD Central Administration Building. The executive session begins at 6 p.m.



Failing students to return to face-to-face

After tabling the measure last month, the CISD Board of Trustees voted to terminate online instruction for students not in compliance with passing or attendance guidelines beginning January 12. The measure would require students to revert from online instruction to attend school if they have a class average of 69 or below or if a student has three or more unexcused absences.

CHS will return to a full-week schedule on January 25. The hybrid plan of alternating days of school will be discontinued.

Parents will receive a letter from the school if their student is affected by this change. An appeal process is available. The entire text can be found on the following page.

Board extends emergency paid sick leave

Even though the federal FFCRA expires on December 31, CISD administrators recommended and the Board approved a resolution that would allow school employees who are absent for COVID-19 related instances to be paid for these absences through June 30. The resolution states that there is a substantial public interest to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and community and extending the payments when employees are exposed to COVID-19 several times at school is a fair way to ensure the well being of the district's employees. Employees must be quarantined by a medical professional.

Building projects discussed

Superintendent Charlie Alderman explained that the lease for the billboard on I-30 was ending and asked the Board for feedback on renewing the lease. Alderman said the annual cost was \$7000 with an additional \$850 redesign fee. Several members said they would like to the district feature students on the billboard but also noted that during tight budget times they would like to discontinue it at this time to save money.

Alderman explained buyers were interested in property owned by the District on Neal Street, which was a middle school practice field before 1994. The property was abandoned by the district when arsenic was discovered. The property was turned over to the City of Commerce after abatement. Although the CISD Board voted to deed the property to the city, the city never accepted it. Alderman suggested that the district and the city split the proceeds of the sale. The action would allow the new property owners to build several single-family houses which would benefit the tax rolls of the city and the district.

The last building project under consideration was beginning to look at the process of building a new middle school. Alderman said although it was not a good time to build, it was definitely a long process that needs to be researched and discussed. CMS is the district's oldest campus having been built in the mid 1960's.

Commerce ISD

TERMINATING REMOTE LEARNING FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS

1. District/Campus will make a home visit and/or leave a District letter explaining to the parent that Campus Leadership came to discuss failing grades and/or attendance, check on the student, and offer any additional resources to assist the student.

Reasons for Home Visit:

- Student has a class average of 69 or below (or the equivalent)
- Student has 3 or more unexcused absences in a grading period

2. If there is improvement to a passing grade and/or attendance, no other intervention is needed at that time.

3. If a student continues to have failing grades and/or truancy problems, District/Campus will send the Parent a notification titled [Parent Notification of Student's Cancellation of Remote Learning](#) and notify the parent of a change of placement.

Reasons for Termination of Remote Learning:

- Student has a class average of 69 or below (or the equivalent)
- Student has 3 or more unexcused absences in a grading period

4. A Zoom meeting and/or conference phone call with parents or guardians will be scheduled with the Campus Committee to outline the district procedure for removal and provide a notice of the right to appeal the decision.

5. Parents may agree to change their child's learning environment to on-campus, or may appeal in one of two ways:

- Submitting a medical exemption. This exemption requires health care provider certification that your child or an individual in his/her household has a high-risk medical condition as defined by the Centers for Disease Control. You can submit this appeal via email to the Campus Principal. **Or,**
- Requesting a transition meeting. If the parent requests a transition meeting, the District/Campus must schedule the meeting with no less than 3 days notice, and must allow the student to continue to learn remotely until the meeting has been held.

6. Appeals will be made to the Campus Committee.

7. If the parent does not appeal or if, at the conclusion of the transition meeting, the District does not conclude with the parent that the student can be successful learning from home, the District may require the student to transition to on-campus learning. There will be a two-week transition grace period to return to in-person learning.

8. Students who ultimately fail to earn a passing grade for a course (or an entire grade level) could be required to repeat the course (or grade level) and/or not graduate.