

# LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOLS

## Special-Called Board Meeting

November 04, 2020 3:00 PM

Board Room at the Student Support Center, 305 Danville Avenue, Stanford, KY 40484

### Attendance Taken at 3:01 PM:

#### Present Board Members:

Mr. Win Smith

Mr. Alan Hubble                      Mr. Bruce Smith

#### Updated Attendance:

Mr. Ricky Lane was updated to present at: 3:07 PM

### 1. Welcome

2. **Call to Order** Board Chair, Mr. Win Smith, called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

### 3. Action Items

#### **3.a. Possible Action to Appoint Board Member for District 5 (Term Ends December 31, 2020)**

Upon the resignation of Tom Blankenship in September the Board decided to wait until after the November elections to appoint his replacement. Ms. Etta Meek, of Stanford, won the election.

**Order #57. - Motion Passed:** Appoint Board Member Ms. Etta Meek for District 5 (Term Ends December 31, 2020) passed with a motion by Mr. Alan Hubble and a second by Mr. Bruce Smith.

Mr. Alan Hubble	Yes
Mr. Ricky Lane	Absent
Mr. Win Smith	Yes
Mr. Bruce Smith	Yes

#### **3.b. Possible Action to Continue In-Person Instruction or Go All Virtual**

Currently Lincoln County is Red causing all schools to close to in-person instruction. Students will be virtual at least until the County returns to Orange status. For students who choose in-person instruction these interruptions are going to continue to occur. The Board weighed the options of continuing in-person instruction or remaining virtual until after Christmas break.

Board members agreed that in-person instruction is best for students, as long as it can be done safely. Board members also agreed that the continued interruptions due to the quarantining of staff and students, and the recent increase of cases in Lincoln County as whole, is frustrating for parents and students. They noted it is extremely difficult for parents to plan for childcare, when they don't know from week to week if their children will be in school or at home. The lack of consistency is stressful for students, families, and staff. Additionally, there are not enough certified substitutes to cover for staff that has been quarantined, making it challenging to ensure adequate instruction and supervision while maintaining a smaller classroom size so students can social distance. The district is also facing a shortage of classified substitutes, including bus drivers.

Board members asked how many staff and students were currently quarantined and if the staff was polled about their thoughts on continuing in-person instruction. Health Coordinator, Ms. Tracy Griffin reported that Lincoln County currently has 26 staff and 89 students who are in quarantine. Communications Coordinator, Mr. Brad Smith, reported that a staff survey was sent out on Tuesday evening which received 433 responses, of those, 24.5% preferred to continue in-person instruction while 74.5% wish to stay virtual until January.

Vice-Chair, Mr. Ricky Lane expressed further concern that, with the Holidays approaching, continued quarantines could prevent families from being together to celebrate. Mr. Lane also asked that the Board consider flexible schedules for teachers and look at continuing in-person Preschool and Head Start instruction.

Board Member, Mr. Alan Hubble, asked if sports will be cancelled in the event schools go virtual until January.

Superintendent Michael Rowe explained that the district is currently using two different metrics. The schools follow the Lincoln County Health Department guidelines and recommendations and sports follow the Kentucky High School Athletics Association (KHSAA) guidelines and recommendations. No other county has called off sports despite continued virtual instruction.

Mr. Ricky Lane observed that the protocol and recommendations for sports have been followed and athletics have done a really good job of mitigating exposure.

Board Chair, Mr. Win Smith, asked for a motion and Mr. Ricky Lane made the motion to cancel in-person instruction. The motion was not successful. The Board asked that Superintendent Rowe bring additional information and a plan for flexible teacher hours, preschool/head start, bus drivers, other classified staff, and sports in the event the Board votes to go virtual.

**Order #58. - Motion Failed:** Cancel In-Person Until the Next Semester and Give Teachers a Flexible Schedules to Meet the Needs of their students failed with a motion by Mr. Ricky Lane and a second by Mr. Win Smith.

Mr. Alan Hubble	No
Mr. Ricky Lane	Yes
Mr. Win Smith	No
Mr. Bruce Smith	Yes

#### 4. Adjourn

**Order #59. - Motion Passed:** Adjournment of meeting at 3:37 PM. passed with a motion by Mr. Bruce Smith and a second by Mr. Win Smith.

Mr. Alan Hubble	Yes
Mr. Ricky Lane	Yes
Mr. Win Smith	Yes
Mr. Bruce Smith	Yes

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Chairman of the Board

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Secretary to the Board