

Benton School District

**Benton Board of Education Special Meeting****03/31/2021 05:00 PM****Meeting Minutes****Printed : 4/1/2021 11:06 AM CT**

Professional Development Center

211 N Border

Benton, AR 72015

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by board president, Holley Little, at 5:03 p.m.

**II. Establishment of Quorum**

All board members were present: Paul Childress, Luke Fulcher, Jarrod Hambric, Chris Ledbetter, Holley Little, Randy Mitchell, Jonathan Woolbright.

Luke Fulcher left the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

**III. Motion to Amend the Agenda**

5:05, Randy Mitchell made motion to amend the agenda to discuss changing mask mandate for the district.

Luke Fulcher seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**A. Discussion/Vote mask mandate**

Randy Mitchell stated he believes it's time to remove the mask mandate and move forward based on feedback from parents and teachers. He also noted the quarantine rules are stricter when no masks are worn.

5:06 Randy Mitchell made motion to remove the mask mandate for Benton School District.

Discussion: Paul Childress stated he is elected to represent the Benton School District and that he must put his personal beliefs aside. He said he received 2 calls against and over 100 for removing the mandate. He has concerns for the severe consequences as a result of lifting the mandate.

Discussion: Randy Mitchell stated he had to listen to what the patrons are saying but feels the new rules seem to be a punishment for removing the mandate.

5:36, Mr. Mitchell withdrew his motion for more discussion.

Holley Little read aloud the mandate rules provided by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Luke Fulcher stated that if masks are option parents can make the decision for their student.

Chris Ledbetter stated that we can't go both ways. We mandate the masks or we do not. He asked Dr. Skelton if it was possible to know what students are supposed to have mask.

Dr. Skelton stated he did not know how we could possibly do that.

Jonathan Woolbright stated his concerns that due to the change, students might be quarantined and miss prom and graduation, which wouldn't have happened if they had on a mask.

5:39, Randy Mitchell made motion to remove the mask mandate and let it be optional for students and staff to wear masks.

Jarrod Hambric seconded the motion.

Members voting yes: Chris Ledbetter, Jarrod Hambric, Randy Mitchell, Paul Childress, and Luke Fulcher.

Holley Little and Jonathan Woolbright voted no.

Motion passed.

**IV. Student Disciplinary Hearing****A. Student #901600**

The student and parent were present and requested a closed hearing.

The board went to executive session at 6:00 and reconvened at 6:19.

6:19, Jarrod Hambric made motion to lift the expulsion and allow student to return to school on April 1, 2021 with punishment being time served.

Randy Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Student #702429**

The student and parent were present and requested a closed hearing.

The board went to executive session at 6:46 and returned at 6:57.

6:58 Randy Mitchell made motion for suspended expulsion for one calendar year and for the student to finish this school year via the HUB program.

Paul Childress seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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President

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Secretary

**Benton School District**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Printed : 3/31/2021 9:46 AM CT**

**Benton Board of Education-Lunch with Board**

**03/30/2021 11:30 AM**

Benton Jr. High School

411 N Border Street

Benton, AR 72015

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**I. Board Luncheon**

Board members attending the luncheon between 11:30 - 1:00 at BJH: Paul Childress, Jarrod Hambric, Holley Little, Randy Mitchell.

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President

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Secretary

**Benton School District****Benton Board of Education****03/08/2021 05:30 PM****Meeting Minutes****Printed : 3/9/2021 11:22 AM CT**Professional Development Center  
211 North Border**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by board president, Holley Little, at 5:30 p.m.

**II. Establishment of Quorum**

Board members present: Paul Childress, Chris Ledbetter, Holley Little, Randy Mitchell

Jarrod Hambric entered meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Board members absent: Luke Fulcher and Jonathan Woolbright

**III. Pledge of Allegiance****IV. District News - Panther Pride**

- A. BJH Quiz Bowl - Chad Pitts
- B. National Merit Finalists - Curt Barger
- C. BHS All State Choir - Curt Barger

**V. Consent Agenda**

5:34, Paul Childress made motion to approve the consent agenda.

Second by Randy Mitchell. Motion passed unanimously.

- A. Reading of Previous Minutes
- B. Financial Reports
- C. Approval of Gifts/Donations
- D. Approve Aramark January 2021 Invoice
- E. Approve Renewal of Lawn Care contract

**VI. Action Items**

- A. Amendment to ALE Contract for 2020-21 - Dr. Skelton

Dr. Skelton presented the amended contract for ALE which increased the cost due to the addition of two personnel.

5:36, Randy Mitchell made motion to approve action item A.

Second by Chris Ledbetter. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Arch Ford Contract for 2021-22 - Dr. Skelton

Dr. Skelton presented the MOU with Arch Ford for Fusion and ALE for the 2021-22 school year. He noted that the amount included the additional two staff.

5:37, Paul Childress made motion to approve.

Second by Chris Ledbetter. Motion passed unanimously.

- C. Approve District Lighting Update - Kevin Chastain

Dr. Skelton presented the proposal to approve updating the district lighting in all facilities, with the exception of new facilities. Representatives from Excel Energy were available to answer questions regarding the lighting upgrade and how the process will happen.

Mr. Jack Truemper, representing Stephens, Inc., was available for financing questions. He stated that we would finance by a competitive bid process in order to keep interest rates as low as possible. financing would be for 10 years with pre-pay options.

5:50, Randy Mitchell made motion to approve action item C.

Second by Chris Ledbetter. Motion passed unanimously.

- D. Adoption of Revisions to Policy Section 4 - Dr. Eric Saunders

Dr. Saunders presented the adoption of Section 4 policies.

5:51, Randy Mitchell made motion "to propose that we adopt a policy to rescind the entirety of section 4 of our current policy manual, which constitutes the entirety of the district's Student Personnel section and adopt section 4 of the ASBA model policies with requested changes for the purpose of bringing into compliance with ASBA. This means that our policies

will be identical or virtually identical to those in other Arkansas school districts."

Second by Paul Childress. Motion passed unanimously.

**VII. Executive Session**

The board went to executive session 5:51 - 6:45 p.m.

**VIII. Personnel Recommendations/HR Report - Dr. Larry Smith**

Dr. Smith presented the personnel recommendations.

6:47, Paul Childress made motion to approve.

Second by Chris Ledbetter. Motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Departmental Update - Child Nutrition - Stacy Adams**

**X. Department Reports**

- A. Facilities Report - Kevin Chastain
- B. Secondary Education - Dr. Eric Saunders
- C. Transportation Report- Dan Revis
- D. Athletics Report - Scott Neathery
- E. Child Nutrition/Food Service Report - Stacy Adams
- F. Special Education - Angie McWhorter
- G. Technology/PR - Isabella Bradley
- H. Elementary Education - Dr. Kim Anderson
- I. Human Resources/Admin & Student Services - Dr. Smith

**XI. Superintendent - Upcoming Dates to Remember**

- A. March 18, 2021 - Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- B. March 22 - 26, 2021 - Spring Break
- C. March 30, 2021 -Lunch with the Board
- D. April Kindergarten Round Up
- E. April 1, 2021 - Good Friday, Offsite Virtual Day
- F. April 12, 2021 - Board Meeting
- G. April 13, 2021- Chamber Banquet 5:30- Stuart Walton at 6:30

**XII. Student Discipline Hearings**

The board recessed 6:53 - 7:00

**A. Student #1749**

The student and parent were present at the meeting and requested a closed hearing.

The board went to executive session at 7:19 and returned at 7:38.

7:38, Paul Childress made motion to reject the recommendation for expulsion and place a suspended expulsion at Fusion for one calendar year, along with 40 hours community service. Jarrod Hambric seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Student #90845**

The student and parent were present and requested a closed hearing.

The board went to executive session at 7:53 and reconvened at 8:15.

8:15, Holley Little made motion to accept administration recommendation for expulsion.

Randy Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

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President

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Secretary

**Benton School District**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Printed : 3/9/2021 10:40 AM CT**

**Benton Cafeteria - Soft Opening**

**03/05/2021 12:00 PM**

**Benton High School  
211 North Border Street**

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**I. BHS Cafeteria Soft Opening**

Board members present: Holley Little, Chris Ledbetter, Randy Mitchell, Paul Childress

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President

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Secretary