

**BEEBE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Special Meeting
April 1, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Jason Smith, President
Mr. Clay Goff, Vice President
Mr. Harold Davis, Secretary (via Google Meet)
Ms. Janet Hines, Member
Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price, Member

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Chris Nail, Superintendent
Dr. Rick Duff, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Scott Embrey, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Holly Glover, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Dr. Brandy Dillin, Director of Special Programs
Mr. Chris Ellis, Director of Athletics
Mrs. Jessica Prothro, Communications Coordinator / Recorder of Minutes
1 Visitor

The Beebe Board of Education met in special session on Thursday, April 1, 2021, in the Beebe School Board Meeting Room.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price. The Vision and Mission Statement were recited by Janet Hines, and the Invocation was led by Clay Goff. Mr. Jason Smith, President, called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Nail presented the agenda with no changes.

Clay Goff made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Harold Davis.

VOTE: For – 5 Against – 0

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Mask Resolution -

Dr. Nail presented informational slides for the board to consider in their decision regarding mask requirements for students and staff. Discussion was held among board members regarding a zero tolerance policy for bullying, especially related to mask-wearing. Further discussion was held over how many current active cases are within the district (1) and the status of other area and state schools' mask policies. Comments were made on the results of the staff survey (80% prefer to make masks optional).

Clay Goff made a motion that Beebe School District make mask-wearing optional for all students and staff. His reasoning was that the teachers and staff have expressed that this is their desire, and they are the front line. At this time, Mr. Smith asked if there was any further discussion. Board members shared their reasoning for or against the mask mandate. At this time, Mr. Smith asked if there was any further discussion and if not, if there was a second for the motion.

Janet Hines seconded Mr. Goff's motion that BSD make mask-wearing optional for all students and staff. Mr. Smith asked for a vote by show of hands.

VOTE: For – 3 Against – 2

B. Out of State Trips -

Dr. Nail explained that since the board had tabled out of state trips so far this year, the board would need to take action on whether or not to continue this restriction.

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price made a motion not to allow any out of state trips for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year, seconded by Harold Davis. This restriction will expire on June 30, 2021.

VOTE: For – 5 Against – 0

C. Facility Rentals -

Dr. Nail shared that so far this year, the district has not allowed our facilities to be rented out for non-school events. He asked the board to take action on whether or not they would like to allow facility rentals to begin again. Mr. Davis proposed that the item be tabled until the regular April board meeting in order to allow time to gather more information about facility cleaning costs and rental costs.

The board agreed to table the item until April 19, 2021.

- D. State-Required Testing for Virtual Students -
Dr. Nail shared that virtual students must come on site next week to complete required standardized testing. He proposed that since most of these students are virtual due to health concerns that the district require masks in virtual testing rooms throughout the duration of virtual testing.

Clay Goff made a motion to approve the proposal as presented, seconded by Janet Hines.

VOTE: For – 5 Against – 0

IV. ADJOURN

Janet Hines made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m., seconded by Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price.

VOTE: For – 5 Against – 0