

**MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RED HILL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10  
LAWRENCE AND CRAWFORD COUNTIES, ILLINOIS**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021**

The Board of Education of Red Hill Community Unit School District No. 10, Lawrence and Crawford Counties, Illinois, met in an emergency special session on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. The meeting was held at Red Hill Jr/Sr High School, 908 Church Street, Bridgeport, Illinois. President Bob Christy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Bob Christy  
Trent Masterson  
Billy Gray  
Chad Hill  
John Phipps  
Derek McCullough

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

John Phipps made the motion to approve the Agenda of the Emergency Special Board Meeting to be held May 26, 2021. Upon said motion being seconded by Trent Masterson, the voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Bruce Jones arrived at 6:06 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVE CHANGE TO RED HILL GUIDE TO REOPENING SCHOOL PLAN**

The Administration was recommending the Board of Education approve the Change to the Red Hill Guide to Reopening School Plan back to mandating masks for students and staff effective immediately in order to be in compliance with Executive Order 2020-47, which was reauthorized by Executive Order 2021-09. Bob Christy said the District had received a letter from ISBE, which prompted the emergency meeting. Mr. Walker said we have until 12:00 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, May 27th) to determine if we are going to follow the ISBE and Governor's mandate. We may lose recognition from the State if we don't comply. We have to be recognized to receive state funding. Our local funding makes up only 19% and the rest comes from the State. Our budget was going to have a surplus at the end of this year but we won't if we lose funding. The

Education Fund pays for teachers, etc. It pretty much covers everything except cleaning and transportation. He talked to the ROE Superintendent and said we would lose money if we don't change. Billy Gray said the Administrative Code, Section 1.20 on Page 2 says we would be on probation and lists the ranks of going through this. We are on probation whether we go with the mandate or not. Item c says the status can be changed at any time. Billy said leave as is now but if we get a warning then change what is needed. Chad Hill said before he changes, he would like the State to show him in person where the information is in writing. Mr. Walker said he was told it goes back to Section 2-3.25 where it ties into. Chad had another lawyer look at it. The letter we got was a blanket letter. This is a scare tactic. If it had teeth, it would say more. 2-3.25 says nothing that ties to guidance about mask wearing. Chad knows executive orders have been issued. Our school attorney, Chris Miller, says it is now settled law that the State of Illinois has the authority to mandate mask wearing in schools. Chad said people are tired of having to do this. It has nothing to do with safety control. It should be a choice. The lawyer we have now has given a cookie cutter explanation. Chad said the stance is not going to change with a scare tactic of what they want us to do. Bob Christy invited the standing room only crowd to speak. Some questions and comments were:

- Guest - Are we the only District in the State doing this? It was mentioned that Hutsonville started but backed down.
- Guest - Masks do not work. We need to remove the Governor.
- Mr. Walker said we follow what ISBE says.
- Guest - Should be a personal choice. His daughter doesn't want to wear one and we should not make her.
- Beth Heath said local taxes only pay 19%. We can't afford to lose funding. We have a fiscal responsibility for the schools.
- Guest - If we go one day on probation, would this disappear? Mr. Walker said this issue would go back to the May 20, 2021 Board Meeting.
- Beth Heath said grievances could be filed by the staff.
- Billy Gray said we could "what if" all night.
- Guest - Their eight year old son is nervous. He had trouble with the mask the first day. He thinks the mask is now routine. He wants to know it's ok to not wear it. If this requirement goes into next year, they will be looking at a different school district.
- Guest - We can't hear what the Superintendent and President are saying because of their masks. I have to look at their lips.
- Guest - If we don't stand up now, we will lose. This won't stop if we don't fight. If you are worried about money, you won't have students to worry about.
- Guest - We need money to run the school. She has grandkids in Unit #10 and #20. She is in her 60's and does not wear a mask. Her grandson has not been back since the mask. He has asthma. It was mentioned we could accept a

physician's note not to wear a mask. Her other grandkids in Unit #20 have become anxious. There are no lockers, they can't get drinks from the fountains, and they don't want to attend. If masks are optional, it would be better. She believes this is a farce. She believes if we back down and reinstate the mandate, kids will leave. This has got to stop. All have to use common sense. We are bullied.

- Guest - This is what we have turned into - depressed, sad, miserable. People are tired.
- Derek McCullough said he read the executive orders and there doesn't seem to be a plan to end. The world is trying to figure it out. Why are we still doing today what we did in August? Could we get ISBE or IDPH to come down and explain what the plan is? If they say we are losing funding, is there a plan to get it back? That seems to be the problem. Mr. Walker said they would have to be emailed. They are not back in the office yet.
- Beth Heath asked if we email them by noon, can we say the plan is to start May 28th and let the Reopening Committee meet?
- Billy Gray said let's table this until later.
- Mr. Walker asked "could we go remote for the final day?" Parents answered that it would not be fair to the kids. Attendance at the Jr/Sr High would be down. The other buildings would probably be okay.
- Guest - A lot of parents have your back but they could not make it tonight. If you back down, you will need the gym for next month's meeting.
- Guest - They only care about dictating.
- Guest - You only care about money.
- Guest - If worse comes to worse, what would happen to the kids? It was stated they would be sent to other districts.
- Chad Hill said the ISBE letter got into the hands of someone that wasn't supposed to have it.
- Guest - Get with other District Superintendents and tell them you have had enough. Ban together.
- Derek McCullough said table this and give them no answer and have them come in.
- John Phipps said he was not for tabling this.
- Billy Gray said no all the way - Put this in their court.
- During the open comment invite, other comments were made by various guests speaking at the same time, which was hard to determine their individual opinions.

Derek McCullough moved that the Board of Education table any changes and invite representatives from ISBE and IDPH to the June Board Meeting and state their plan for reopening. Upon said motion being seconded by Billy Gray, the President put the question and the roll being called, the following members voted:

YES: Bob Christy  
Trent Masterson  
Billy Gray  
Derek McCullough  
Bruce Jones

NO: Chad Hill  
John Phipps

The motion carried (5-2).

At this time, we will continue as “recommended” and not “required” for face masks as determined at the regular May 20, 2021 Board Meeting.

Chad Hill mentioned he wanted to look at a new lawyer for school representation.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Bruce Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Trent Masterson seconded. The voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

---

Bob Christy, President  
Board of Education  
Red Hill C.U.S.D. #10

---

Bruce Jones, Secretary  
Board of Education  
Red Hill C.U.S.D. #10