

August 12, 2021

Highland CUSD No. 5 parents and staff,

The Highland CUSD No. 5 Board of Education conducted a special board meeting last night to consider and discuss ongoing mitigations to start the school year. As you are aware, Governor Pritzker issued another Executive Order on August 4, 2021. The Board meeting allowed public comment from 24 individuals who signed up to address the board with a crowd of about 75 in attendance and approximately 380 viewing on live stream. The Board voted 5-2 to amend the current Return to School plan to include the requirement of masks by all individuals entering our K-12 schools when children are present per the executive order.

This was a very controversial topic and one that the Board considered a variety of information. The board meeting can be viewed by using the following link: <https://youtu.be/BT4a6V1DwO0> I will be providing other updates regarding our Return to School Plan in the next couple of days. I will meet with a variety of groups over the next few hours to put the final touches on our amended plan. I felt it necessary to put this brief message out to update our stakeholders rather than pursuing other means to find the outcome of the meeting😊

I assure you that we understand the gravity of the decisions that are being made and will continue to welcome feedback from our parents, staff, and community. I plan to provide a much more detailed update soon. I want to thank our Board of Education for their dedication to our schools under a very stressful time for everyone. I also thank our students, staff, and community for their continued support of our schools.

STUDENTS and STAFF, ARE YOU READY????

Sincerely,

Michael S. Sutton, Superintendent