

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

The Board of Education met in special session on Thursday, September 16, 2021, with the following members present: Mr. Crews, Mrs. Rayhel, Mr. Cook, Mr. Gard, Mrs. Hendrix, and Mr. Macke. Superintendent Mr. Ross along with administrators Mrs. Lake and Mrs. Williams were also present.

Mr. Macke called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Macke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The purpose of this special session of the Marshall School Board was to discuss the governor's executive orders for mandated vaccinations and testing for all school personnel.

During the open comment session Pam Miller and Trecia Bishop spoke.

Mr. Ross commented on the governor's orders that all school personnel be fully vaccinated or submit to weekly testing. This includes all staff—teachers, aides, secretaries, cooks, custodians, bus drivers, and substitute teachers. Mr. Ross has been meeting with staff and having personal conversations with concerned staff members.

Teachers Carrie Miller, Trecia Bishop, Lori Royer, Jessica Robinson, and Nancy Medsker individually spoke to the board and expressed their concerns and presented research that they had done.

Mr. Ross commented, "We did not ask for this order." Mr. Ross pointed out that he and the school board are still pushing for local control, the district risks losing its school recognition as a school district if it does not comply with the orders.

The district has been using the BiNax test for the past year is allowed under the governor's orders. "I wouldn't put something in our schools that isn't safe", said Ross. Marshall was one of the first two schools in the state to offer this test. Mr. Ross offered, "Our goal was to keep kids in the classroom." Mr. Ross went on to say, "Our teachers have been warriors in this. Our staff has been fantastic, doing everything we've asked of them."

About the vaccination and testing order, "I don't want to do this. I don't like this. This has backed boards and administrators into a corner. This is never a decision we would have made here. I fear what's coming down the road."

On the day of this meeting (September 16), there were 25 students positive with 53 students in quarantine. "Every quarantine, illness, and positive test result hurts me," said Mr. Ross.

Board president, David Macke, said, "It's been 18 months and everyone is sick of it. Every decision is made for our students. I'll promise you were going to do what's best for our kids."

Mr. Crews offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Gard, to go into closed session for the purposes listed under 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)(personnel) and 5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)negotiations. On roll call, the vote was as follows: Mr. Crews, aye; Mrs. Rayhel, aye; Mr. Cook, aye; Mr. Gard, aye; Mrs. Hendrix, aye; and Mr. Macke, aye.

Mr. Macke offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, to return to open session. All present voted aye. The board returned to open session at 7:10 p.m.

Open comment session

Governor's executive orders discussed

Teachers spoke to the board

Closed session

Open session

Mr. Macke offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding:

In response to a change in work conditions due to Governor Pritzker's Executive Orders 2021-20 and 2021-22, which calls for weekly Covid 19 testing for School Personnel who have not been fully vaccinated against Covid 19, the Marshall Education Association and Marshall CUSD No. C-2 Board of Education agree that the following will be in effect as of September 19, 2021 until the end of the aforementioned Executive Orders, or July 1,2022, whichever comes first. If said orders are still in effect as of July 1,2022, the terms of this MOU will be revisited.

Approved executive orders for vaccination/testing for staff for which the MEA negotiates

Staff for the purposes of the MOU include staff for which the MEA Negotiates, whether members of the MEA or not.

Non -vaccinated, partially vaccinated, or staff unwilling to share vaccination status will be in the weekly Covid testing pool.

Marshall Schools will offer an on-site, approved testing option for those required to be in the testing pool and any other staff that opt in.

If a staff member opts to test during their prep time, they will not be reimbursed for their prep time.

Staff may opt, at their cost, to get an approved test elsewhere from a medical provider and provide the proof of test and the result to the district in a timely manner.

Staff, per previous board action, have been allotted 10, paid covid days for the 2021-22 school year.

On roll call, the vote was as follows: Mr. Crews, aye; Mrs. Rayhel, no; Mr. Cook, aye; Mr. Gard, aye; Mrs. Hendrix, no; and Mr. Macke, aye.

Mr. Macke offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Crews, to approve the following for non-certified and non-MEA personnel:

In response to a change in work conditions due to Governor Pritzker's Executive Orders 2021-20 and 2021-22, which calls for weekly Covid 19 testing for School Personnel who have not been fully vaccinated against Covid 19, agree that the following will be in effect as of September 19, 2021 until the end of the aforementioned Executive Orders, or July 1,2022, whichever comes first.

Approved executive orders for vaccination/testing for non-certified school personnel

Non -vaccinated, partially vaccinated, or staff unwilling to share vaccination status will be in the weekly Covid testing pool.

Marshall Schools will offer an on-site, approved testing option for those required to be in the testing pool and any other staff that opt in.

Staff may opt, at their cost, to get an approved test elsewhere from a medical provider and provide the proof of test and the result to the district in a timely manner.

Staff, per previous board action, have been allotted 10, paid covid days for the 2021-22 school year.

On roll call, the vote was as follows: Mr. Crews, aye; Mrs. Rayhel, no; Mr. Cook, aye; Mr. Gard, aye; Mrs. Hendrix, no; and Mr. Macke, aye.

Mr. Macke offered a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rayhel, to adjourn. All present voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Adjourn

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education