

**WHAT:** Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Russellville School District

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 6:00 p.m. at the Gardner Building

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jason Golden, Morgan Barrett, Wesley White, Janet Winn, Holli Hall, Jeremy Keaster, Jeff Carter

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Andrew Vining, Jeff Holt, Mary Beth Cox, Judy Pennington, RSD Principals, Staff, RSD Parents, River Valley Radio, The Courier, Mobile News

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The media was notified of this meeting.

6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by School Board President Jason Golden.

Pledge of Allegiance

Students and Staff of the Month were honored in a video.

IN THE MATTER OF Addenda Items Being Added to the Agenda:

- o No addenda items to be approved.

IN THE MATTER OF Review of Mask Requirement:

Jeff Holt presented mask information and recommendation from the RSD Leadership Team.

40% mask requirement

30% hybrid mask

28% option masks

89% bus drivers – optional for masks

81% building leaders

Proposed policy: Mask will be strongly recommended but not required through the first semester with adjustments to be made as needed. District Mask Policy stating that when a building's population (staff & students) is identified as having 2% or higher of positive cases OR 10% of the total population is quarantined, masks will be required for 3 weeks within that building. Building will stay in *required* status until numbers are back below 2% positive or 10% quarantined

Jeremy Keaster asked if the 3-week mask requirement could be changed to 2 weeks instead.

Annie Schanink explained that having a bigger window would catch more students who might show symptoms later.

6:20 p.m. Jason Golden opened the floor to allow public comments for 3 minutes each regarding the mask requirement.

6:45 p.m. Public comments about the mask requirement were completed.

- MOTION to approve a District Mask Policy stating that when a building's population (staff & students) is identified as having 2% or higher of positive cases OR 10% of the total population is quarantined, masks will be required for 3 weeks within that building. Building will stay in *required* status until numbers are back below 2% positive or 10% quarantined by Jeff Carter
  - Second:
  - Discussion: Jeremy Keaster requested that the motion be amended to 2 weeks instead of the 3 weeks suggested.
  
- MOTION to approve a District Mask Policy stating that when a building's population (staff & students) is identified as having 2% or higher of positive cases OR 10% of the total population is quarantined, masks will be required for 2 weeks within that building. Building will stay in *required* status until numbers are back below 2% positive or 10% quarantined by Jeff Carter
  - Second: Jeremy Keaster
  - Discussion: Morgan Barrett asked if he could hear the difference in 2-3 weeks.
    - Annie Schanink explained the quarantine timeline/process.
    - Morgan Barrett said if we are taking the recommendation from the admin we should accept it, not modify it. I'm not sure I can support.
  - Roll Call Vote:
    - Yes – Jeff Carter, Jeremy Keaster, Jason Golden
    - No – Holli Hall, Janet Winn, Wesley White, Morgan Barrett
    - 4 no, 3 yes -- Motion does not pass

6:51 p.m.

- MOTION to accept recommendation as presented by Jeff Holt, by Wesley White
  - Second: Jeremy Keaster
  - Discussion: Holli Hall is grateful for the criteria in place. She is comfortable with it at the RHS and RJHS level because they have the option of getting vaccinated. She would like to keep masks mandatory in preK – middle grades until we have data back from the older grades.
    - Morgan Barrett said he could not support that, and that we need to go with our admin recommendation.

- Holli Hall wanted more clarification on quarantines. If one has on a mask around a positive who is not masked, do they have to quarantine?
  - Annie Schanink, yes – both have to have the mask on properly.
  - Holli Hall - This will cause more quarantines with optional masks. Our goal is to keep students in school learning, regardless of how we feel about masks.
  - Morgan Barrett – Important to note that masks have to be worn properly, and the elementary kids can't, and the secondary kids won't.
  - Holli Hall – would like to keep the mask requirement for 12 and under for the next 30 days.
  - Jeremy Keaster – the threshold is the recommendation.
  - Mr. Vining – with this policy masks are still strongly recommended.
- MOTION to amend the recommended mask policy by keeping a mask mandate for pre k through middle grades until the next school board meeting.
  - o Second: Janet Winn
  - o Roll Call Vote:
    - Yes – Holli Hall, Janet Winn
    - No – Morgan Barrett, Jason Golden, Wesley White, Jeff Carter, Jeremy Keaster
    - 5 no, 2 yes – Motion does not pass
- MOTION to approve a District Mask Policy stating that when a building's population (staff & students) is identified as having 2% or higher of positive cases OR 10% of the total population is quarantined, masks will be required for 3 weeks within that building. Building will stay in *required* status until numbers are back below 2% positive or 10% quarantined by Wesley White
  - o Second: Jeremy Keaster
  - o Roll Call Vote:
    - Yes – Unanimous
    - Motion passes
    - Policy in place effective immediately

7:04 p.m.

IN THE MATTER OF Athletic Training Room, Indoor Multipurpose Building – Dr. Finley Turner:

- MOTION to approve the naming of the Athletic Training Room, inside the Multipurpose Building on the Russellville High School campus after the late Dr. Finley Golden, former team physician. By Wesley White
  - o Second: Jeremy Keaster

- o Discussion: Wesley White spoke about how Dr. Finley Turner has been here to provide guidance as a sports physician. This is a great way to honor him.
  - Jeff Carter – growing up here, knowing Dr. Turner, we can all just agree this is a good move.
  - Morgan Barrett – I agree. I wish there was more we could do.
- o Vote: For Unanimous
- o Motion passes

7:08 p.m.

#### IN THE MATTER OF Consent Agenda:

No Consent items were pulled. All items as listed were acknowledged. All items considered approved. No vote needed.

- a. Minutes from the August 10, 2021, Regular Board Meeting.
- b. Minutes from the August, 27, 2021, Called Board Meeting.
- c. RHS Cross Country team to participate in a meet in Joplin, MO.
- d. RHS Robotics team to compete in Space City Tournament/Houston, TX.
- e. RHS Choir to sing at choral festival in Boston, MA.
- f. Bus (2) 78 passenger (2) 48 passenger and Truck (3) purchase for the district.
- g. Professional service speech therapy contract with Britney Harmon.
- h. Petitions for Transfer of Students.
- i. Contract Disclosure with Leah Babb student sales to RMS from Kristi Babb.
- j. Contract Disclosure with Mullen Teams Sports from Andrea & Michael Mullen.
- k. The authorization of the RSD Preschool program to submit claims for snack reimbursement through Arkansas Department of Human Services Child and Adult Care Food program.
- l. The DESE Federal Programs Statement of Assurances for the 2021-2022 school year.
- m. Resolution to allow RSD employees to be used as after hour interpreters when outside sources cannot be attained.
- n. Contract Disclosures with RSD employees as interpreters when outside sources are not available from Alejandro Infante, Alyssa Petty, Angel Ocacio, Angela Sergent, April Torres, Heidi Velazquez, Jahziel Martinez, Jennifer Rentfro, Kenia Segovia, Kristi Babb, Mima Mata, Nancy Giron, Nathalie Hernandez, Suliana Hurtado, Avigail Phillips.

#### IN THE MATTER OF Finance presented by Justin Robertson:

- MOTION to approve the financial report as presented, by Holli Hall.
  - o Second: Jeff Carter
  - o Discussion: No discussion

- o Vote: For Unanimous
- o Motion passes

7:10 p.m.

- MOTION to approve the ADE Annual Financial Report for 2020-2021 and proposed budget for 2021-2022, by Wesley White.
  - o Second: Janet Winn
  - o Discussion: No discussion
  - o Vote: For Unanimous
  - o Motion passes

7:11 p.m.

IN THE MATTER OF Policy:

- MOTION to approve the policy revisions as listed by Morgan Barrett.
  - o Second: Janet Winn
  - o Discussion: No discussion
  - o Vote: For Unanimous
  - o Motion passes

7:11 p.m.

IN THE MATTER OF Personnel

- MOTION to approve all Personnel certified and classified staff resignations, transfers, retirements, and employment, by Jeff Carter.
  - o Second: Jeremy Keaster
  - o Discussion: No discussion
  - o Vote: For Unanimous
  - o Motion passes

7:12 p.m.

IN THE MATTER OF Other:

Mark Tripp was given 10 minutes to address the board. He handed out a 50-page packet, with 21 complaints on record. He summarized the complaints.



IN THE MATTER OF Executive Session:

7:30 The board entered into Executive Session.

8:13 p.m. The board returned from Executive Session.

Board Member, Jeff Carter resigned – Zone 3 (Dwight)

- MOTION to accept Jeff Carter's Resignation by Wesley White
  - SECOND: Janet Winn
  - Discussion: Morgan Barrett thanked Jeff for stepping up when there was a vacancy. He has done a tremendous job. Jeremy Keaster stated that he appreciated Mr. Carter and that he is a classy individual all the way.
  - Vote:
    - For – Wesley White, Janet Winn, Jason Golden, Jeremy Keaster, Holli Hall
    - Abstained – Morgan Barrett

8:18 p.m. Adjournment

  
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Jason Golden  
School Board President

  
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Janet Winn  
School Board Secretary