

RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS
Pocahontas Public Schools
Regular Board Meeting
November 15, 2021

Board Members Present: Jim Toney, President; Karen Baltz, Vice President; Judy McClain, Secretary; Dr. Michael Davis and Gary Cole

Others Present: Lesa Grooms, Superintendent; Trisia Bland, Abigail Reen, Austin Tate, and Ethan Throesch, Visitors

Item 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the junior high library. All board members were present.

Item 2: Reorganization of the Board

On a motion by Mike Davis, seconded by Jim Toney, the board voted 5-0 to reorganize in the following manner:

- Karen Baltz – President
- Judy McClain – Vice President
- Gary Cole – Secretary

On a motion by Judy McClain, seconded by Jim Toney, the board voted 5-0 to name Gary Cole as Disbursing Officer.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Jim Toney, seconded by Gary Cole, the board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on October 18, 2021 and the minutes for the special board meeting on November 1, 2021.

Item 4: Approval of Financial Statements

On a motion by Mike Davis, seconded by Judy McClain, the board voted 5-0 to approve the financial statements for the Pocahontas School District for the month of October 2021.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 5: Termite/Pest Services – Pocahontas Elementary

On a motion by Gary Cole, seconded by Mike Davis, the board voted 5-0 to approve Hyde’s Pest Control as the service provider for the Pocahontas Elementary Building.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 6: Classified Personnel Policy Committee Proposal

On a motion by Judy McClain, seconded by Gary Cole, the board voted 5-0 to approve the following proposed policy change:

Bereavement Leave

In the event of death in the immediate family (grandparents, **grandparent-in-law**, step-grandparents, parents, step-parents, foster parents, spouse, children, stepchildren, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandchildren, and step-grandchildren) an employee may use up to three days without loss of pay, or loss of sick days at the time of/and for the purpose of attending the funeral. If more days are needed, each individual must request that additional days be sick leave, personal leave, leave without pay or a combination of these.

Item 7: Parent Involvement Facilitators

On a motion by Gary Cole, seconded by Jim Toney, the board voted 5-0 to approve the following parent involvement facilitators and stipends as follows:

- Pocahontas Elementary: Tabitha Byrd (\$500), Shelly Futrell (\$500), Shawnee Dubois (\$500)
- M.D. Williams: Destiny Craft (\$750) and Shannon Barr (\$750)
- PJHS: Emily Hausman (\$1500)
- PHS: Pat Wren (\$1500)

Item 8: Legal Transfers

On a motion by Mike Davis, seconded by Judy McClain, the board voted 5-0 to approve the following legal transfers:

Name	Age	Grade	From	To
Jason (Harli) Philyaw	11	6	Pocahontas	Maynard
Jaelynn Sorg	9	3	Pocahontas	Sloan Hendrix
Jacob Sorg	6	1	Pocahontas	Sloan Hendrix
Cohen Turner	8	2	Pocahontas	Sloan Hendrix
Jacob Short	16	10	Pocahontas	Sloan Hendrix

Item 9: Review of Mask Mandate

On a motion by Jim Toney, seconded by Gary Cole, the board voted 5-0 to approve the attached revised Mask Policy, effective November 17, 2021.

Item 8: Resignation

On a motion by Mike Davis, seconded by Judy McClain, the board voted 5-0 to approve the following resignation:

- Christy Kimble – PJHS/Central Office Custodian

OTHER

1. Lesa Grooms, Superintendent, provided the board with an evaluation form that will be used for the Superintendent's evaluation in January.
2. The December board meeting date was moved from December 20, 2021 to December 13, 2021.

ADJOURNED



Karen Baltz, President



Gary Cole, Secretary

Pocahontas School District

Revised Mask Policy Effective _____, 2021

Face Coverings:

If the Pocahontas School District has to quarantine 115 or more total of students and staff (approximately 5% of the district) due to close contact and positive COVID-19 cases, then the District will enforce the emergency face coverings policy until the School Board revokes such policy.

Students:

It is now OPTIONAL for all students in pre-kindergarten through the 12th grade to wear a face mask

- (a) while attending school or a school function in any school building, facility, or other areas of a school campus
- (b) when riding in school-provided transportation

Employees:

It is now OPTIONAL for all District employees, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a face mask while working or attending school function in any school building, facility, or other areas of a school campus.

Cleaning and Sanitation:

Until further notice, all District employees will be required to help with cleaning as needed while working or attending a school function in any school building, facility, or other areas of a school campus. All employees shall assist as needed in the following manner:

- Cleaning common spaces, high touch surfaces, restrooms, and student desks will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day as scheduled.
- Sanitizing buses after each route.
- Athletics will continue to adhere to all guidelines set by the ADH and Arkansas Activities Association which includes all disinfecting and sanitizing of facilities and equipment.
- Cafeteria will assist in advanced sanitization practices.
- Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing will be encouraged by staff for students using schedules.
- The Pocahontas School District is revising the Emergency Mask Policy for all students and employees per ADH, DESE, and CDC guidance and as part of the Pocahontas School District Mask Policy. We reserve the right to make changes as information is updated by the CDC, ADH, and DESE.
- The Pocahontas School District will follow the most current ADH and CDC guidance for contact tracing and quarantining students/staff who are NOT wearing face masks and are not vaccinated.