



Board of Education Meeting Minutes

[Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:00p.m.]

In Attendance: Dr. Laurel Tait, Heather Smith, Tina Ward, Lindsey Gustafson, Shelby Thomas, Eli Keller, Stephen Delaney

Call to Order

Lindsey Gustafson

Mrs. Gustafson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Stephen Delaney

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Brenda Robinson, teacher at Sylvan Hills High School, commented that she thought the Face Covering Resolution was great. She shared that the COVID case numbers are sky high and that school districts have a 97% infection rate. Ms. Robinson stated that she was very leery when the Board adopted the mask optional policy as she takes care of her elderly parents; however she hoped that the Board would adopt the resolution before them tonight.

Karen Maynard, parent of students in the District, shared that she was 100% for the mask optional mandate. She shared that her daughter, who teaches in the District, made a good point by saying that a teacher would not put a child in front of them to protect them in the event of an active school shooting, so why would you do it for the sake of them wearing a mask.

Daniel McPherson, parent of students in the District, shared that the Board learned the importance of masks during the pandemic at the previous school board meeting, by way of Pediatric doctors and healthcare professionals in our community. He mentioned that, at that time, his dad did not really care whether people wore masks or not, but after hearing from those doctors and medical professionals he was in support of masks. Mr. Pherson shared some data regarding current COVID cases in the state and said that the issue is not mask or no mask, but how we can keep schools open safely. He closed by stating that if there is a better way to keep the virus from spreading let's try it, but we must trust the data and he trusts the Board to make that decision.

Rebecca Davis, parent of students in the District, stated that she emails the board a lot and shared that the number of COVID cases are community cases, not school district cases. Ms. Davis stated that the number of cases have been lower when masks are optional. She requested that the School Board keep the optional mask mandate.



Dora Reed, community member, shared that she was against the mask required policy. She stated that it was oppressive child abuse to require students to wear masks. Ms. Reed stated that the policy was deceptive and she has little faith in CDC studies. She continued by stating masks do not filter or block very small particles, an FDA study found. Ms. Reed closed by stating that she really should be addressing the government, not the school district, when it comes to the mandate for masks.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Vote to approve minutes from meeting on December 7, 2021 Special Meeting

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Vote to approve minutes from meeting on December 7, 2021 Regular Meeting

-Motion by Heather Smith

-Seconded by Dr. Laurel Tait

In Favor

Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Vote to approve minutes from meeting on December 16, 2021 Special Meeting

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Certified P.P.C. Presentation

Brenda Robinson, Certified PPC Chairperson, shared with the Board that revising the salary schedule talks continue and that the recent revision to it was just the first stage of restructuring the schedule. She stated that the District was entering the 3rd nine weeks and that teachers are ready. Ms. Robinson reiterated that staff members want our schools to be safe and to have in-person learning with precautions in place and that deep cleanings are taking place in the school buildings, she gave a shout-out to Mr. Johnson and the custodial staff. She then thanked Dr. McNulty and the Board.



Classified P.P.C. Presentation

There was no Classified PPC presentation.

Reports

School Board Appreciation Month

Jessica Duff, Executive Director of Communications, recognized the board members for their dedicated service to the District and presented the name plaque for the 2021-2022 school year.

Updated COVID-19 Protocols

Jessica Duff presented the new quarantine isolation rules from ADE that were shared with family and staff today, in Dr. Warren's absence.

Financial Updates

Ms. Rowlett

Construction Updates

Mr. Johnson

Action Items - Old Business

COVID-19 Protocols/Updates (Face Covering Resolution) - COVID Team

Vote to approve COVID-19 Protocols/Updates (Face Covering Resolution) - COVID Team

-Motion by Tina Ward

-Seconded by Lindsey Gustafson

In Favor

Tina Ward, Lindsey Gustafson

Opposed

Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller

Motion Denied

Board Policy 6.2 Relations with School Support Organizations and Board Policy 7.2IP1 Facilities Planning (First and Second Reading) - Dr. Yolaundra Williams

Vote to approve 1st Reading of Board Policy 6.2 Relations with School Support Organizations

-Motion by Eli Keller

-Seconded by Shelby Thomas

In Favor

Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed



Vote to approve 2nd Reading of Board Policy 6.2 Relations with School Support Organizations

-Motion by Heather Smith

-Seconded by Dr. Laurel Tait

In Favor

Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Vote to approve 1st Reading of Board Policy 7.21P1 Facilities Planning

-Motion by Eli Keller

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Vote to approve 2nd Reading of Board Policy 7.21P1 Facilities Planning

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Eli Keller

In Favor

Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Action Items - New Business

2022-2023 District Calendar - Brenda Robinson

Vote to approve 2022-2023 District Calendar

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Stephen Delaney

In Favor

Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed



2022 Master Plan Resolution/Budget

Vote to approve 1st Reading of Board Policy 7.21P1 Facilities Planning

-Motion by Eli Keller

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Comments from the Board

Ms. Ward reiterated how she could not stress enough the importance of wearing masks and looking out for the health and safety of our employees and students. She stated that this is a health issue and it is a sad day when we make decisions based on opinions and not the expertise of healthcare professionals. Ms. Ward stated that people are dying from COVID-19 and that parents can make safety decisions for their children at home and let the health/educational professionals make those decisions in public schools.

Mr. Delaney reminded the board that their Financial disclosure forms were due to the State at the end of the month.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. McNulty thanked the board for their commitment to the District. He also thanked the professional staff and reminded everyone that schools would be back in-person the next day. Dr. McNulty shared that he was excited for the 2nd semester and gave kudos to the District's COVID, Human Resources and Operations teams.

Consent Agenda

Vote to approve Consent Agenda

-Motion by Eli Keller

-Seconded by Stephen Delaney

In Favor

Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed

Executive Session

The board went into Executive Session at 7:43p.m and returned at 10:22p.m. It was announced by Mrs. Gustafson that the Board was pleased with the direction of the District and the Superintendent contract negotiations are underway.



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PULASKI COUNTY
SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Adjournment

Vote to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

-Motion by Shelby Thomas

-Seconded by Heather Smith

In Favor

Tina Ward, Stephen Delaney, Shelby Thomas, Lindsey Gustafson, Heather Smith, Dr. Laurel Tait, Eli Keller

Opposed

(None)

Motion Passed