

The Fordyce School Board met in regular session on Monday, October 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at Fordyce Middle School. The meeting was called to order by Jessica Young at 5:00 p.m.

Word of prayer was given by Silas Warner.

Those answering roll call were Susan Ridings, Silas Warner, Deborah Mathews, Jessica Young, and Dr. Hubbell. Nick Cranford arrived at 5:04 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes from the September 20, 2021 board were presented for approval. Silas Warner made a motion to accept the minutes that were presented. Deborah Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Financial Statements

The September financial statements were presented by Teresa Matkin for approval. Deborah Mathews made the motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0

Rhonda Lawson reported that Mr. Norman Hill will come to look at the federal budget on salaries after the October payroll has been processed. Mrs. Lawson reported that the ACT can be paid for with federal funds.

Old Business

None

New Business

Dr. Hubbell presented the Over and Beyond award for the month of September to Samantha Axsom, elementary librarian. This is Mrs. Axsom's first year as the elementary librarian. Dr. Hubbell commended her on the job she is doing with Redbug Live and updating the library. She was presented a \$25 gift card.

Mrs. Lawson asked for the board members email addresses so they could be included in the Redbug Live emails.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to set the date for the public hearing for the Facilities Master Plan for the beginning of the November 8th meeting.

Tammie Works presented several updates and changes for the district personnel policies. 3.4 Licensed Personnel – Reduction in Force. Option 2 was recommended by Dr. Hubbell, Mr. McCollum, and Mrs. Lawson. Option B was selected for Section Two.

8.3 Classified Reduction in Force Section Two Option B was selected.

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3.48 Licensed Personnel Weapons on Campus
Other Weapons-Option 2 was selected.

4.51 Food Service Pre-Payment
Option 2 was selected

4.58 Food Sharing and its Removal from Food Service Area
Food Sharing Table-Option 1 was selected
Removing Food Items from the Food Service Area-Option A was selected
Protocols for Food Removal from Cafeteria will remain the same

5.23 Equivalence Between Schools
Take out completely

6.4 Volunteers
5 years for background check
Option 5

7.17 Food Service Prepayment
Option 2

Covid Policy 3.32.1 and 8.32.1
Removed Covid leave policy from Arkansas School Board Association from last year. Jessica Young suggested we add documentation to the policy and use it.

Nick Cranford made a motion to accept the policies as suggested. Susan Ridings seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to approve The Arkansas Children's Hospital Dental Outreach Program for the elementary school. It will be a screening and fluoride clinic. Deborah Mathews made a motion to approve the elementary school to participate in the program. Nick Cranford seconded the motion.

Dr. Hubbell asked the board to approve the HVAC replacement for the arena. The project has been pre-approved by the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation. East Harding submitted a bid of \$638,000 for the replacement. It will be funded with ESSER III funds. Nick Cranford made a motion to replace the HVAC in the arena. Deborah Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Jessica Young asked for a spreadsheet of the HVAC units that have been replaced. Elvis said he would get a list of the units that have been replaced.

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Mask Mandate: Chase McCollum reported 60% of FHS students are vaccinated. He said masks have worked. It is a struggle to make sure the students are wearing masks. He is open to the board for thoughts on the mandate.

Susan Ridings asked about the 70% with students and employees. Currently FHS is below the 70% mark.

Rhonda Lawson reported that the elementary students are wearing their masks. Nick Cranford stated there are some classes wearing them. He thinks it's time to let the students make up their own minds about wearing a mask.

Dr. Hubbell is concerned about the holidays and people gathering with their families and friends.

Chase McCollum is torn about the situation.

There are currently no students quarantined at the elementary or high school.

Ms. Ridings asked what to keep in place as far as cafeteria seating. The cafeteria seating will remain the same.

Mr. McCollum said he has about 175 high school students that aren't vaccinated. If there is a positive case anyone not vaccinated will have to quarantine.

Mrs. Lawson said she thinks elementary students should continue to wear masks.

Deborah Mathews said she thinks masks should be worn. She stated students could take the virus home to someone with underlying health conditions.

Mr. McCollum said the high school teachers have said it is either talk about the masks or teach class.

Jessica Young said there are targeted areas at the elementary school.

Nick Cranford said the masks are causing chaos. Rhonda Lawson said she hasn't had chaos in her building.

Ms. Ridings stated the risk is so much lower.

Mr. Cranford asked does this have to do with masks or the difference in contact tracing?

Mr. McCollum stated the hospital has started testing only symptomatic patients meaning there are fewer tests being administered.

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Mrs. Young said we had some going to soon that were negative results but would have been positive if they had waited longer to be tested.

Mr. McCollum said he has students at the high school that will end up in ISS and Dhall if the mandate continues.

Mrs. Young said there has got to be a way to keep the students in class.

Mr. McCollum stated that over 70% of the high school staff is vaccinated. He was hoping the \$50 incentive cards would make more students want to get vaccinated.

Ms. Ridings asked how many of the 7-12 staff work with in the elementary buildings.

Mrs. Lawson stated she can't handle another year like last year.

Ms. Ridings said Dallas County is the second highest vaccinated county in the state.

Mrs. Mathews said she wants to leave the mask mandate in place until the November 8th meeting.

Mr. Cranford said he isn't against the mask mandate but there needs to be a repercussion for not wearing a mask.

Mr. McCollum said it is a nonstop battle with the high school students. He thinks promoting the vaccination will help. He said there would be a choice about wearing a mask because some of the students live with elderly family. He also stated Covid wrecked the beginning of this school year and he thinks it will wreck the elementary if there is another outbreak. He said he is proud of all of the employees in the district.

Dr. Hubbell said she has noticed seating arrangements have been made in classrooms and she thinks the faculty and staff have done a good job with the masks.

Mrs. Young thinks we need to be cautious. Don't drop the policies because we don't have feedback from students. If there are faculty that's not abiding they should go to the house.

Mr. McCollum said his purpose is to educate the students. It will end up with students in OSS.

Mrs. Young said she trusts Mr. McCollum and Mrs. Lawson have the best interest of the students.

Silas Warner stated that he doesn't want any repercussion over the masks.

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Deborah Mathews made a motion to keep the mask mandate in place until the November 8th meeting and revisit. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Nick Cranford and Susan Ridings voted Nay. Jessica Young asked what will be different in one month? In a month, you will be in the same boat. Mrs. Young said we are so close to the 70% mark now.

Mr. McCollum said the high school started handing out incentive cards last Monday.

Mrs. Mathews suggested having someone from the medical field come talk to students.

Ms. Ridings said 70% of the staff/students at FHS would be really close.

Jessica Young said she would like to table her decision until the next morning to get the high school percentages from Mr. McCollum.

Principal's Report

Rhonda Lawson said her staff attendance is getting better at the elementary school. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held October 25th. Mrs. Lawson handed out a paper on "The Redbug Way". Students are working for their prizes.

Chase McCollum said the staff attendance at the high school is better. September 22nd the juniors and seniors went to SAU Tech. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held October 25th. Wednesday will be the end of the 1st nine weeks. They are working on incentive trip to Magic Springs at the end of the school year. Football has suffered a couple of losses. The homecoming assembly was great. Football had a big win over Junction City. Football will travel to Dardanelle this Friday night. Jr. High Football was undefeated. The tennis team had two members make it to state tournament at Fairfield Bay. The members were Briar Carlson and Brayden Socia. Trenton Gambill went to the state golf tournament in Melbourne.

Superintendent's Report

The flu clinic will be held October 15th in the arena.

Dr. Hubbell said she thinks the covid vaccine is working. The vaccination card incentive cards have worked.

PBS came down to talk to Dr. Hubbell and went to football practice.

Will continue incentive money cards this school year.

Dr. Hubbell said she thinks the vaccine will be available for younger students by Christmas.

Dallas County had the second largest drop in population.

The enrollment projection shows our district to be down to 600 students by 2030. Need to think about industry for the area.

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Dr. Hubbell encouraged the board members to go by and look at the arena floor since it has been refinished. The shot clocks are being installed.

Board Comments

Deborah Mathews said she knows everyone is frustrated. She knows we have to agree to disagree. She said she understands the headache because of her job. She knows everyone wants to agree.

Certified

None

Classified

Rena Kennedy- PRN as needed LPN sub. She is a RN nursing student and this will fit her needs as well as the schools. She will only be called if all of the other nurses are out. Susan Ridings made a motion to hire Rena Kennedy as needed. Deborah Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Hire Gloria Hall as a special education paraprofessional. Nick Cranford made a motion to hire Mrs. Hall as a special education paraprofessional. Deborah Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

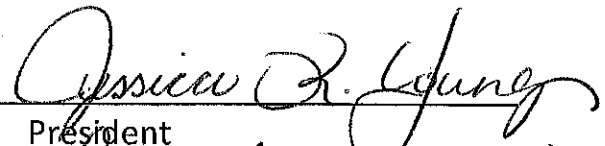
Hire Misti Estrada as an elementary paraprofessional to replace a vacant position. Deborah Mathews made a motion to hire Ms. Estrada as an elementary paraprofessional. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment

Deborah Mathews made the motion to adjourn at 6:34 p.m. Silas Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

12-13-2021

Date



President



Secretary