

MINUTES

Regular Board of Education Meeting
November 20, 2020
Early Childhood Center
Closed Session – 5:30 p.m.
Open Session – 6:30 p.m.

Tim Mullen, President
Scott Perkins, Vice-President
Sylvia Payne, Treasurer

Tana Booker, Member
Jason Evans, Member
Kim Grayson, Member
Justin Strong, Member

- I. Call to order and roll call at 5:31 p.m. at the Early Childhood Center, Tim Mullen, President, presiding. All members present. Jason Evans via Zoom.
- II. Motion made by Justin, and second by Sylvia to approve the November 20, 2020 agenda as presented. All members present voted yes on said motion.
- III. Motion made by Sylvia, and second by Kim to adjourn Open Session to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 610.021.3 (Personnel Matters-hiring, firing, promoting). Tim-yea, Scott-yea, Sylvia-yea, Tana-yea, Jason-yea, Kim-yea, and Justin-yea. Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.
- IV. Call to order and roll call at 6:32 p.m. to begin regular open session. Tim Mullen, President, presiding. All members present. Jason Evans via Zoom.
- V. All said the Pledge of Allegiance.
- VI. Public Comment – Brett Bailey spoke to the Board regarding COVID-19. He first told the Board how thankful he was for our School remaining open. He thanked them and the Principals for all their day to day hard work. He spoke briefly about COVID-19 and how it has affected our school district. He said statistics show that our kids have a better chance of getting killed in a car accident than getting COVID-19. He told the Board the true threat of the virus is our own reaction to it. Many parents are stressing due to having to go virtual Monday and Tuesday. Quarantining is hurting our kids and parents. He told the Board that if mandating masks keeps our kids in school, then let's approve it.
- VII. Consent Agenda Items:
Motion made by Sylvia, and second by Kim to approve the consent agenda items with the exception of MSBA policy DJF. All members present voted yes on said motion.
- VIII. Reports:
 - A. Steelville Organization of Staff – No report given.
 - B. MSBA report – Jason Evans reported that things are flooded with COVID-19 issues. MSBA said that Board Members can be substitute teachers.
 - C. Principals report – Elementary Principal, Candice Richter reported she is happy to be in the new Elementary gym this week. High School Principal, Steven

Vetter wanted to congratulate the Cross Country team going to State and their State accomplishments. Boys and Girls basketball will be kicking off soon.

- D. Director of Learning – Mr. Hammonds reported that he has been preparing for the two days of virtual. The State continues with A+ changes. A new A+ forgiveness sheet can be given to students with COVID-19. MAP and EOC testing is still scheduled at the end of the school year.
- E. Superintendent report - Mr. Whittaker reported that the Halloween drive-thru was a success. There were a lot of people that drove through. He thanked the Principals on their hard work of getting their building involved. Christmas Lights will be going up soon. Josh Booker, Athletic Director is working on attendance at the basketball games. The school is going to invest in a better camera system in the high school gym for stat purposes and viewing live. The CARES ACT will pay for the camera system.

IX. Previous Business:

- 1. Facilities Update – Mr. Whittaker let the Board know students are in the new Elementary Gym. There is still a little more work to be completed. Seams on the gym floor need to be fixed along with the trim work and a couple of glass doors that leak when it rains. He told the Board it will all be fixed. Jack Mentink from Integrity Engineering was present and let the Board know as well that these items will be fixed. Once all work is completed there is a one-year warranty on all of the work. Jack told the Board that the project was declared substantially complete on September 30, 2020. Board President, Tim Mullen told Mr. Mentink that this date is unacceptable. There was no way this project could be substantially complete on September 30th when the floor wasn't even finished. Mr. Whittaker also replied to Jack and told him there was no way this project could have been substantially complete on September 30th. Elementary Principal, Candice Richter told the Board there was still glue exposed. Mr. Whittaker continued by saying the gym floor still had not been painted. The entire Board agreed with Mr. Mullen that the date of September 30, 2020 was unacceptable as a end date. Mr. Mullen told Mr. Mentink that we would have to get our attorney involved if this date can't be changed. Mr. Mentink said the school district will have to prove what their losses are due to not opening the gym on time. He said often proving the losses to a Court is difficult to do. Mr. Mentink is going to speak to Septagon to try and get them to change the substantially finished date. Mr. Whittaker finished by speaking to Mr. Mentink and stressing to him what still needs to be completed and telling him let's get it done. The awning is leaking and needs to be sealed, trim work on the outside needs to be fixed, the doors that are leaking need to be fixed, 5 to 6 wooden doors are cracked at the bottom, and the trim work in the hallways need to be fixed.
- 2. MSBA Policy Update – Title IV. Mr. Whittaker and Mr. Vetter have completed training. Mr. Whittaker said there still needs to be a little more paperwork completed before this can be approved.

X. New Business:

- 1. Motion made by Sylvia, and second by Jason to authorize Mr. Whittaker to seek bus bids to reduce the numbers on busses due to COVID-19. All members voted yes on said motion.
- 2. Motion made by Tana, and second by Kim to authorize Mr. Whittaker to seek playground equipment bids to reduce student contact due to COVID-19. All members voted yes on said motion.
- 3. COVID-19 Information – Mr. Whittaker provided a handout to the Board that shows COVID-19 numbers and dates in the school. He told the Board the

calendar change for Thanksgiving is to give everyone extra days in case they aren't feeling well and they stay at home. Mr. Perkins asked the Principals to explain their work load when a COVID-19 case is reported. Middle School Principal, Stephanie Billingsley explained to the Board her process. It is very time consuming all the tracking that goes into a positive case. Having to go virtual with those students that are quarantined is more time consuming for her and teachers.

4. Motion made by Sylvia, and second by Kim to mandate face coverings beginning December 2, 2020 for grades 3rd – 12th and K – 2nd wearing face coverings in small groups. All members voted yes on said motion.
5. COVID-19 Essential Worker Designation Consideration – Mr. Whittaker reported that many schools in the state are declaring their employees as essential workers. Mr. Whittaker gave each Board member a handout that will explain this more in detail. The Health department will support this, however, there is some risk according to our attorney. After much discussion, our Board decided not to consider this at this time.
6. COVID-19 Antigen Test Consideration – Mr. Whittaker told the Board at first he was for this test, but after researching he said if someone gets the test and is positive, they have to go get another test. If they are negative, we would advise them to go see their primary care physician. After much discussion, our Board decided not to consider this test at this time. We would advise our employees to go see their primary care physician.
7. Motion made by Scott, second by Justin to set the Next Regular Board Meeting for Thursday, December 17, 2020, 5:30 p.m. for closed session and 6:30 p.m. for open session. All members present voted yes on said motion.

XI. Motion made by Sylvia, and second by Justin to adjourn the meeting. Tim-yea, Scott-yea, Sylvia-yea, Tana-yea, Jason-yea, Kim-yea, and Justin-yea. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Board President

Date

Board Secretary

Date