

BOARD ACTION REPORT
~~Corporation Office~~
LOCATION CHANGE
SOUTHMONT HIGH SCHOOL LGI ROOM
January 10, 2022
6:00 p.m.

-Mr. Monts announced to all present that the meeting would normally be called to order at 6 pm. He shared that the meeting would not be called to order until all in attendance are masked. At 6:06 patrons continue to argue about masking. Meeting remains not called to order, 6:11 continued. At 6:15 the Board recesses. At 6:24 Mr. Monts and the board returned to announce that the meeting will move to the auditorium with distancing between those masked and those not masked. Those present moved to the auditorium. Mr. Monts thanked all in attendance. Mr. Monts called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm and asked Mr. Kinkead to call roll.

-Those present were: Mr. Blaydes, Mrs. Hess, Mr. Hutson, Mr. Kinkead, Mr. Mason, Mr. Monts, Mr. Spencer and Dr. Greiner.

-Reorganization of the Board:

-Mr. Monts explained he reorganization of the board. Mr. Monts for the slate of Mr. Hutson as president of the board. Mr. Monts as vice president.

-President – Mr. Daryl Hutson

-Vice President – Mr. Brad Monts

-Secretary – Mr. Jerry Kinkead

-Mr. Hutson thanked Mr. Monts for his years of service. Mr. Hutson motioned for Mrs. Hess to be assistant secretary

-Assistant Secretary – Mrs. Julie Hess

-Appointed Mrs. Kristin Charles as Corporation Treasurer.

-Appointed Dan Taylor as Corporation Attorney – Taylor, Chadd, Minnette, Schneider & Clutter.

-Appointed Dr. Roberts as Medical Advisor.

-Approved the Dates/Locations for School Board meetings.

-Approved authorization for Board President to appoint individual Board members to committees.

-Appointed Mr. Mason as the Policy Liaison and Mrs. Hess as the ISBA Liaison.

-Board of Finance Meeting:

-Recommendation of Officers:

-President – Mr. Brad Monts

-Secretary – Mr. Jerry Kinkead

-Director of Business Report: Mrs. Charles provided explanation and background for what she is requesting the board of finance to do. Mrs. Charles provided information checks to be voided and interest for reporting. Mrs. Charles explained that her recommendation is after consultation with Dr. Greiner and Mr. Reuter. Mrs. Charles explained that state statute required that we discuss the DUAB report and any concerns. Mrs. Charles reported that neither DUAB, she, Dr. Greiner or Mr. Reuter has concerns.

-Approved checks to be voided.

-Adjourned.

-Approved revisions to agenda:

-Brooke Busenbark – Maternity Leave Request – February 7, 2022 through April 15, 2022.

-Communications To and From the Board:

-Mr. Monts explained that the board appointed a subcommittee consisting of Mr. Monts, Mrs.

Hess and Mr. Hutson. Mr. Monts explained that the board has contracted with Dr. Carrie Milner who retired from Cloverdale in 2014 and has served as interim at several districts. Mr. Monts explained that a survey was sent out to seek out feedback on desired traits in the next Superintendent. A link to the survey was sent out through school messenger and is available on our website. Mr. Monts described the composition of the University Search Team which will assist in gathering resumes through February 11th. Resumes and surveys will be reviewed at that time with the interview process to follow. Mr. Monts explained that it is typical to go through two rounds of interviews and will follow procedure for public notice on a contract along with requirements of public hearings. Mr. Monts stated that it will likely be mid-April before a person would be named. Mr. Monts stated that more information would be available and shared with the public during school board meetings.

-Public Comments (Agenda Items Only)

-Mr. Priebe thanked the board for keeping things going over the past two years (sports, plays, recitals and learning). He expressed genuine thanks for all the board has done. Mr. Priebe provided statistics from the CDC website about deaths “involving Covid” – Mr. Priebe expressed belief that this statistic does not provide much useful information and makes this information doubtful in his mind. Mr. Priebe asked why we are masking the least vulnerable part of the population when elsewhere masking is a choice. Mr. Priebe said he finds it very “clear that the board is completely defying” the will of those who responded.

-Kathryn Dockins – A mother of 7 grandchildren in various grade levels, homeschool family and background as a nurse healthcare administrator. Ms. Dockins expressed concern that kids will touch their faces and their masks. She also asked if it would be possible to have a parent sign a waiver to release a child from wearing a mask. Ms. Dockins asked if it would be possible to move lunch times so that nobody would face a wall. She encouraged all to “figure it all together”. Ms. Dockins asked why we are not automatically doing eLearning when in the red.

-Mrs. Sondra Sixberry states she believes we can agree that students need to be in school and do better when in the classroom. She discussed that the district’s infection rate was lower in the beginning of the school year when the district was not masking. Mrs. Sixberry referenced that the positivity rate is based on the number of people found positive for the day divided by those tested for the day. She also states that she believes the school board should represent those who have elected them. She stated that she believes parents are first responsible for their education.

-Mr. Cox noted that Dr. Greiner’s last meeting will be a memorable one. Mr. Cox states that he never doubted the motivation and commitment of Dr. Greiner. Mr. Cox states he would also like to thank the board. Mr. Cox states he believes decision making is easy when all information is available and when nothing changes. Mr. Cox stated his child was quarantined 5 times last year, and he believes that masking was decided to reduce quarantining. He stated that he may disagree with decisions and encourages all to vote. He ended by thanking all in attendance and that they become more involved. Mr. Cox stated he hates masks but that he understands that we may all have rules we have to follow and don’t like it.

-Mrs. Daniel Lindsay states that she believes we all agree that we love our children and want what is best for them. Mrs. Lindsay states that she hopes that masking will continue until we exit the red. She also states there are no rapid test available for those other than school aged children who are symptomatic. She expressed concern that the hospital has stopped elective surgeries. She offered to share the information that she brought from the health department.

-Mr. Caden Sixberry stated that he has spoken with other students who dislike wearing a mask. Mr. Sixberry stated that he believes to do what is best for kids that you should consult with students. Mr. Sixberry shared a biblical reference of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in their fight against the king. Mr. Sixberry thanked the board for their time.

-Elisha Zachary thanked the board. She stated she believes the school board is responsible for education but the parent is responsible for the health of the child. She provided statistics about children injured or killed through falling furniture or school shootings. She states that the board has the job to teach about education. She feels that we are creating “cliques” between kids.

-Ms. Danielle Newkirk states that she works for West Central. She states that she believes masking is not in the best interest of children when they are under three years of age. She also states that parents make health decisions. She stated that masking all day is unhealthy “extremely dangerous and reckless”. She feels that the psychological damage will be seen too late. She states that other surrounding counties are in the red and remain unmasked. She referenced the 3% marker previously referenced in the survey and shared.

-Ms. Ashley Testerman referenced an email sent out by the district. She states that she understood that masking was put in place to prevent or lessen quarantines. She also states that she does not see that quarantine requirements are different for masked or unmasked schools. Another patron clarified and showed that there is indeed a difference.

-Mr. Covault shared his role as a parent of two students. He states that many in attendance are obviously against masking and questions why masking is required only during school hours. Mr. Covault state that the basketball team and coaches were unmasked. Mr. Covault referenced “close proximity” sports and questioned why they are not masked. Mr. Covault made clear that he does not agree with masking. Mr. Covault states that he believes common sense is not being used here nor by the CDC. Mr. Covault stated that we need to implement common sense. He referenced a study of 25 students and that negative effects of masking were reported.

-Mr. Hutson called time and thanked all in attendance.

-Approved the following consent agenda items:

- Approved minutes from previous meetings.

- Approved claim 105163 through 105267 and pre-paids.

- Approved December payrolls.

- Approved resignation of Dr. Shawn E. Greiner – Superintendent – effective January 28, 2022.

- Approved resignation of Mr. Eugene (Buck) Waddell – West Central Fire Rescue – effective December 17, 2021.

- Brooke Busenbark – Maternity Leave Request – February 7, 2022 through April 15, 2022.

- Cheryl Politz – Secretary/Clinical Assistant – Southmont Jr. High School.

- Tony Gonczarow – Webinar stipend - \$50.00.

- Kathryn Yoakum – Webinar stipend - \$50.00.

- Jerry Long – Webinar stipend - \$50.00.

- Jamie McCormick – Webinar stipend - \$50.00.

- Cindy Armbruster – Webinar stipend - \$50.00.

- Caitlyn Tennison – Webinar stipend - \$50.00

- Jennifer Ballard – JH Swimming Assistant Coach - \$1053.00.

- Kaleb Swick – Rescind stipend for Freshman Boys Basketball Coach.

- Kaleb Swick – JV Boys Basketball Coach - \$2800.00.

- Rachel Welliever – JH Wrestling Coach - \$1500.00.

- Boone Welliever – JH Assistant Wrestling Coach - \$1053.00.

- Desson Hannum – Varsity Track Coach - \$3880.00.

- Rob Reimondo – Varsity Girls Tennis Coach - \$3139.00.

- Bill Whalen – Varsity Boys Golf Coach - \$2639.00.

- Brad Wininger – Varsity Baseball Coach - \$5000.00.

- Dan Taylor – Varsity Softball Coach - \$5000.00.

- Jake Turner – Fall Weight Program - \$1674.00.

-Desson Hannum – Winter Weight Program - \$1674.00.

-FFA to Indiana FFA Leadership Center, Trafalgar, IN on February 4-6, 2022.

-Ladoga, New Market & Walnut 5th grade trip to Camp Tecumseh on April 7-8, 2022.

-Ladoga outstanding checks over 2 years old.

-SA-5 Report for Southmont High School – 1st trimester report – July 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021.

-Mrs. Hess thanked Dr. Greiner for 9 years of service to our community, the financial part and the building and facilities. She stated that his service was appreciated. Mr. Monts wished Dr. Greiner the best of luck and thank you. Mr. Hutson stated that it has been a wonderful time to grow together.

-Items for Action: Review updated COVID Data & Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

-Mr. Monts provided an update on the state and county availability of medical services and hospital spaces. Mr. Monts read mitigation is important and that while children are little at risk for severe issues for Covid that transmission to those who are more vulnerable is a factor.

-A patron made a statement interrupting Mr. Monts' update from Dr. Douglas. Mr. Monts asked the patron to please refrain from interrupting, noting that no board members interrupted patron during their time to speak.

-Mr. Monts stated that he does not believe that masks are an answer to all but that masking does allow us to keep children in the classroom and evade concerning. Mr. Monts stated that he has heard concerns about "when will masking end". Mr. Monts stated that masking, he believes, doesn't stop the spread but it does mitigate the risk and does keep kids in school. Mr. Monts thanked the administration for their efforts in working with the health department. Mr. Monts stated that all buildings are still under 1% as a rolling average. Dr. Greiner verified this. Mr. Monts states that he hopes that we won't jump to 3% but believes that we may go to that point. Mr. Monts shared a story of a parent who homeschools and has a sick child and is concerned about where she would take her children. Mr. Monts stated that he wants to prevent difficulties and protect children. A patron stated that Mr. Monts comment was longer than 3 minutes.

-Mr. Hutson stated that he would be glad to keep his comments to 3 minutes. Mr. Hutson explained that the CDC has changed the quarantine guideline to 5 days since the district made the decision to mask.

-Mr. Mason states that he appreciates all the comments and would be in the non-masked section. He stated that he voted for quarantine only because of the 90 kids that were being quarantined and weren't in school to get a proper education. He believes that this is a way to stay in school so that children will not be quarantined so that they can stay in school. Mr. Mason states that the school north of us has masked all year. Mr. Mason said it is wearing a mask here to keep kids in school and made reference to the Chicago school where all children are learning virtually currently.

-Mr. Spencer was invited to speak and declined.

-Mr. Kinkead stated that he votes against masking and still holds that view. Mr. Kinkead states that he feels the quarantining has been a problem but the masking prohibits some experiences for children. Mr. Kinkead stated he would like for masks to be optional and a parent choice. Mr. Kinkead stated he respects his colleagues and all sides and all views.

-Mrs. Hess stated that she voted against masking children. Mrs. Hess explained that in 9 years that the board has had on (this first) 4-3 vote, but she supports her colleagues and the decision of the board as a whole. Mrs. Hess stated that what was implemented was done to prevent quarantines. Mrs. Hess states that masking was done to prevent quarantine to ensure that ALL students would have a supportive school environment. Mrs. Hess notes that not all students in home at quarantine will have a supportive environment due to many constraints. Mrs. Hess thanked all for coming and for those who have supported the board.

-Mr. Blaydes was invited to speak, but declined.

-Mrs. Hess motioned that masking end this Friday and end to the previous status of masking being optional unless we reach the 3% positive rate. Mr. Hutson clarified that the motion was that masking continue through Friday and then we return to that 3% rate to dictate that one building (any building) going at or above 3% until two weeks (14 days). Mr. Hutson clarified that this would be a return to the prior terms of the instruction plan. Mrs. Hess made this motion.

-Mr. Spencer requested a roll call vote:

Mr. Blaydes, Mrs. Hess, Mr. Hutson, Mr. Kinkead, Mr. Monts, Mr. Mason – yes

Mr. Spencer – no

-Report from Superintendent – Dr. Shawn E. Greiner

-Nothing to report.

-Report from Director of Business – Mrs. Kristin Charles

-Nothing to report.

-Reports from Directors & Principals

-Mr. Mike Tricker – Director of Operations: Nothing to report.

-Mrs. Anna Roth – Director of Curriculum: Nothing to report.

-Mr. Eric W. Brewer – Director of Transportation & Safety and Principal at Walnut Elementary: Nothing to report.

Public Comments (All Items)

-Melissa Stark stated she researched information on her student with an IEP. Mrs. Stark discussed her son and stated that she is concerned that nobody helps him as he is in 8th grade and at a 2nd grade reading level. She expressed concern that the IDOE is being investigated for civil rights violations by the federal government. Mrs. Stark is concerned that her child continues to struggle and cannot read and lacks basic math skills. Mrs. Stark stated she has requested additional testing and that she does not know what to do. Mrs. Stark stated that she needs help and does not want to settle for a certificate of completion.

-Mrs. Judi Waddell is concerned that her grandchildren express concern that they do not get help and they all have IEP's. Mrs. Waddell states that she would like the school board to understand where the parents are coming from. She also states that teachers should be respectful to students and not yell at them.

-Mrs. Norman thanked all the board and all in attendance. She asked that all making comments about teachers consider how hard it is in a classroom. She encouraged all to help teachers and to back up teachers and to support teachers at home. She thanked all and said that she hopes all will send an email to parents and principals not just complaining and "bitching" about what they want. She expressed that all school staff are trying to be a role model. She asked that all think before they speak and think before they act and be a role model.

-Dr. Greiner spoke as a parent and stated that his kids have been here for 9 years. He thanks the teachers who have supported his own children for 9 years. Dr. Greiner stated that he believes all teachers are approachable and will work with parents who have needs.

-A patron made an unintelligible comment.

-Items for Discussion by the Board: Mr. Monts asked all board members to be sure to check their emails so that the superintendent search can move forward. Mr. Hutson thanked all in attendance and stated appreciation for all comments. Mr. Hutson invited all back to be involved.

-Adjourned.