

November 29, 2021
Franklin, Tennessee

The Franklin Special School District Board of Education met in a Special Called Meeting on Monday, November 29, 2021 in the Media Center of Moore Elementary School, 1061 Lewisburg Pike, Franklin. A link to the recording may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ftwg44GmlM>.

The following members were present: Chair Robert Blair, Alicia Barker, Allena Bell, Robin Newman, Tim Stillings and Kevin Townsel.

Others present were: Dr. David Snowden, Dr. David Esslinger, Susannah Gentry, Amy Fisher, Celby Glass, Lisa Chatman, Leslie Duke, Mark Anderson, Sam Vega, Carol Riordan, Dr. Joel Hoag, community and media.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:51, following the Board meeting in Executive Session with our attorney, Mr. Chuck Cagle.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Blair welcomed those in attendance; Mr. Townsel led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Cagle announced following the Pledge that there were no decisions or deliberations made by the Board in Executive Session, citing the case of Van Hooser v. Warren County Board of Education, and not violating the Open Meetings Act, T.C.A. §§ 8-44-101.

III. PUBLIC INPUT

No one from the public chose to address the Board at this meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve the Board Agenda as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **carried 6-0**.

V. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

- 1. Discussion and Consideration of COVID-related Matters** - Dr. Snowden introduced the Business item to the Board. Due to the mask mitigation protocol expiring at midnight on January 10, 2022 and the court case that had been filed, the Executive Committee has continued to consult with legal counsel, and thus having the Board meet in Executive Session before this meeting. From the Executive Session, the Board was advised that they do have the authority to make decisions on the mask requirement based on the court ruling, whether invoking or dissolving a mask requirement.

As of this date, the latest COVID number for the district: 2 positive staff members and 11 positive students, which is .00314% of our student population. As of this date, the total active cases in Williamson County is 550. On this date last year, the total active cases were 1,063.

Williamson County has a population of approximately 240,000. Also as of this date, Williamson Medical Center reported that there are 10 positive adult cases in the hospital, no pediatric COVID cases and no ICU COVID patients.

The COVID team met this afternoon, and based on the COVID statistics as well as availability of the vaccination for those 5-11, the team believes at this point in time the mask mandate could be lifted unless we have a serious increase, then the Board could invoke another mandate. Other mitigation protocols would remain in place as deemed necessary.

Tim Stillings made a **motion** that FSSD rescind the mask requirement immediately. Allena Bell **seconded** the motion. After discussion, the **motion carried 6-0**.

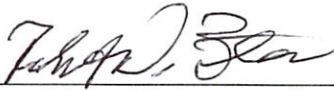
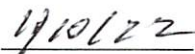
Discussion/statements before the vote included:

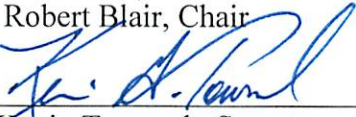
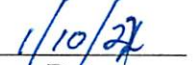
- The COVID dashboard will remain being updated weekly.
- Other mitigation protocols will be in effect; changes will be posted online.
- Masks are optional for students and personnel.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Blair adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Following the meeting, a Work Session was conducted in the Teacher Center.

ATTEST: 
Robert Blair, Chair 
Date


Kevin Townsel, Secretary 
Date