

**Jackson County Board of Education
Minutes of Emergency Meeting
Sylva, North Carolina
Central Office**

398 Hospital Drive

February 17, 2022

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in an Emergency Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 17, 2022, in the board room of the Central Office, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, NC. The following members were present:

Ali Laird-Large, Board Chairperson
Elizabeth Cooper, Vice-Chair
Wes Jamison
Abigail Clayton

The following member was present via telephone and/or online platform:

Margaret McRae

Also present were Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent; Jacob Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent; Ashley Leonard, Board Attorney; Teri Walawender, Director of Human Resources; Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer; and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

Alison Laird-Large, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Laird-Large led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

INFORMATION AGENDA

A. **Agenda Item:** Update on the recently updated State guidance regarding face coverings in schools, and to consider action in response to changing circumstances, including modifications and/or amendments of prior decisions.

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers updated the board concerning the recent changes to the State guidance regarding face coverings in schools. Dr. Ayers provided the board with the most current data for student and staff quarantines and positive cases in Jackson County Public Schools. She said that NC Governor Roy Cooper held a press conference this afternoon encouraging schools and local government to end

mask mandates. Changes to the NC Strong Schools Tool Kit, which go into effect on February 21, 2022, no longer require quarantine for exposure to COVID 19 unless symptomatic.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to move the mask mandate to the action agenda.*

ACTION AGENDA

A. Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers made a recommendation to the board to end the mask mandate for students, staff and visitors to Jackson County Public Schools and asked for board approval. She stated that the board would review the mask mandate monthly as required by the Department of Public Education.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison the board voted unanimously to approve the removal of the mask mandate and to review COVID procedures monthly.*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairperson Alison Laird-Large adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Mrs. Alison Laird-Large, Chairperson

Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Secretary