

Rockcastle County Board of Education

Angela Stallsworth-Mink, Chairman ◊ Anna Stevens-Goff, Vice Chairman
Matt Chaliff ◊ Misty Lakes ◊ Angela Parsons-Woods

Rockcastle Teaching & Learning Center ◊ 250 Richmond Street, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2022 - 4:30 PM

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Mink called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 PM.

2. Roll Call

All members were present.

3. Adopt the Agenda

Ms. Goff made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Woods seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

4. Mask Mandate Discussion

Superintendent Ballinger explained that the county is experiencing a spike in COVID-19 positives and that the number of students and staff in quarantine had increased. Mrs. Mink opened the floor for discussion in regards to once again requiring masks in schools.

Mrs. Woods shared that based on the current spike in cases, she felt masks should be required until COVID numbers improve.

Mr. Chaliff shared his concerns that reimplementing the mask requirement would lower morale and be an extra burden on staff. However, he suggested that the "mask when you move" concept may be a good middle ground for the current situation.

Superintendent Ballinger suggested that the Board implement a mask requirement and revisit the issue at the February 8th meeting. She was also in favor of the "mask when you move" concept.

Mrs. Lakes shared her concerns that some parents did not want their child to wear a mask and that she also had concerns how masking affects mental health with students. She also stated that she liked the "mask when you move" concept, but sees both sides of the issue. Mrs. Lakes stated that she would like to hear opinions from staff and parents.

Ms. Goff explained that she would like for us to continue contact tracing even if masks were required.

After further discussion, Mrs. Mink made the recommendation to implement "mask when you move", continue contact tracing and Test-to-Stay for the next 10 school days and then re-evaluate the situation at the February 8th board meeting.

Mrs. Lakes suggested that the Board be very specific in what "mask when you move" means so that the staff and administration are not burdened with trying to figure it out. Mr. Chaliff suggested that students would not have to wear their mask any time they are seated at their desk/table, eating or active in PE class.

Mrs. Mink restated her recommendation that the Board would require masking when students are not seated at their desk/table, eating or in PE class. She noted this was a step toward prevention and that the issue could be revisited at the February 8th board meeting. Superintendent Ballinger added that parameters also needed to be established for after school activities such as ball games. Mr. Chaliff noted that a mask requirement would be difficult amongst adults. Superintendent Ballinger noted that most districts are not requiring masks at extracurricular activities because it is a choice to attend these events, whereas school is a requirement. However, a couple of board members suggested that masks be strongly encouraged at these events.

Ms. Goff made a motion to require masks anytime students are not seated at their desk/table, while eating or active in PE class. This also includes continuing to contact trace and encouraging masks at extracurricular activities. Mrs. Woods seconded the motion. Ms. Goff, Mrs. Mink, Mrs. Woods and Mr. Chaliff all voted in agreement. Mrs. Lakes was not in favor.

Upon further discussion, it was decided to begin the mask requirement on Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

5. Adjourn

Mr. Chaliff made a motion to adjourn at 5:36 pm. Mrs. Woods seconded the motion. All members present agreed.