



Unified School District 232

De Soto – Shawnee – Lenexa – Olathe
www.usd232.org

USD 232 BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICIAL MINUTES -- REGULAR MEETING

Administrative Office (35200 West 91st Street, De Soto, KS) September 13, 2021

YouTube channel: <https://bitly.com/usd232youtube>

The Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Board President, Danielle Heikes. A quorum of the Board was present. Attendance was as follows:

Board Members Present: Rick Amos
Bill Fletcher
John Gagnat
Danielle Heikes
Stephanie Makalous
Ashley Spaulding
Rachele Zade

Others Present: Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Communications
Steve Deghand, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities & Operations
Wendy Denham, Board Clerk/Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Carrie Handy, Executive Director of Elementary Education
Pam Hargrove, Principal, Belmont Elementary School
Dr. Frank Harwood, Superintendent of Schools
Rob Moser, Coordinator of Safety & Transportation
Brandon Riffel, Director of Technology
Brian Schwanz, Executive Director of Secondary Education
Julie Stucky, Director of Finance

Alvie Cater led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He then briefly explained how the meeting will progress from one agenda item to the next.

Julie Stucky, Director of Finance, reminded board members that in the August board meeting they approved publishing notice of the Intent to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. She said this notice was published in the Legal Record on August 10th, meeting the required 10-day publication period on August 20th. Mrs. Stucky said a Resolution expressing the property taxation policy of USD 232 with respect to exceeding the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate for financing the annual budget for 2021-22 will be on the

Consent Agenda for approval. She asked if there were any comments or questions. No comments or questions were received from the Board or patrons.

President Heikes adjourned the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing at 6:03 p.m.

President Heikes called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:03 p.m.

Julie Stucky said the Board is asked to adopt the 2021-22 budget that was presented in the August board meeting. She said the Notice of Budget Hearing was published in the Legal Record on August 10th, meeting the required 10-day publication period on August 20th, and asked if there were any comments or questions.

Emily Carpenter, Lenexa, said that pay was increased for line judges and spotters, but called into question the pay rate for paraprofessionals.

President Heikes adjourned the Budget Hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Bill Fletcher asked what it would take to increase paraprofessional pay. President Heikes said paraprofessional pay has been raised several times over the last few years and is comparable to area districts. Superintendent Harwood said it doesn't affect approval of the budget, but the administration can look into it if the Board desires.

President Heikes called the regular meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

GOOD NEWS.

Staff Member Recognition. Early Childhood staff member Leslie Hellrung, Social Worker, along with Belmont Elementary staff members Kali Mooney, Center Based Classroom Teacher – Connections-C, and Nicole Hufford, Center Based Paraprofessional – Connections-C, were recognized for outstanding service in their district roles.

PATRON INPUT. President Heikes opened the floor for patron input. The following individuals spoke:

Jeff Prothro, De Soto, thanked the school board for making the difficult decision to do the best they can to mitigate the spread of COVID by requiring masks in the schools. He urged the board to continue the current policy moving forward.

Amy Parker, Shawnee, thanked Bill Fletcher and Rachele Zade for their vote during the last board meeting. She cited the Johnson County Commission's decision to enforce a mask mandate for grades K-6 and said all Johnson County school districts have now implemented full masking policies. She said people are in the throw of political games, and children are in the middle of it.

Dustin Harris, Shawnee, quoted scripture and said forcing someone to do something against their will is not freedom, but rather involuntary servitude and slavery. He said children are being used as chess pieces.

President Heikes called for a five-minute break at 6:25 p.m.

The Board returned to open session and President Heikes called the meeting back to order at 6:30 p.m.

Isabella Fernandez, Olathe, a Senior at De Soto High School, quoted board policy stating the Superintendent will advise the board on policy. She asked why students weren't involved in policy that directly affects them.

Sherelle Witt, Olathe, said she is done asking for permission and done with not being heard. She said only her doctor and herself make medical decisions for her children. She said the patrons pay for district personnel's salaries. She asked the Board to do their job and educate children.

Julie Shouse, Lenexa, asked the Board to vote against the mask mandate and make it a choice for children. She said her children are wearing masks in P.E. and running drills with them on and doesn't believe this is ok. She said children should not be afraid to go to school and take their mask off to get fresh air.

Jeannie Purkey, Lenexa, said her husband is a pastor and they opened their church with no mask mandate or issues. She said her children have experienced harassment from teachers over masks. She said she has sought religious exemptions for them and quoted a statute to support this. She said she and others have deep concerns about the direction the district is going.

Amy Hennes, Shawnee, stated the district agreed to a mask requirement in order to receive ESSER funds. She asked whether the Board considered it prior to being posted on the website.

Alison Phillips, Shawnee, asked the Board if they are going to be talking about the safety of kids why they weren't talking about kids driving, suffering from abuse or neglect, overdoses and poisoning. She said it was her job to decide if her kids should be masked or not, and whether or not they would get vaccinated.

Dan Johnson, De Soto, said last year the CDC, WHO, and Dr. Fauci all said masks don't work. He said masks are simply used to filter out particles. He cited a global research article that said kids should not be wearing masks. He urged the board to make masks optional.

Emily Carpenter, Lenexa, stated the school board is to serve the patrons and lead the Superintendent, not follow him. She said the superintendent overstepped his authority. She mentioned a letter the superintendent and board president sent to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) requesting that they implement a mask policy. She said Rick Amos and Ashley Spaulding also sent emails to the BOCC to urge universal masking. She thanked Stephanie Makalous for never wavering from her stance on mask use. She asked the Board to consider allowing parents to seek mask exemptions like the Spring Hill School District.

Meredith Hetchler, Shawnee, asked the Board to reverse the mask mandate. She said the survival rate for children who get COVID is 99.997 percent. She said her daughter can't breathe or concentrate while wearing a mask. She said parents can't get medical exemptions from pediatricians anymore. She said the virus is going to turn endemic like the cold and flu viruses.

Lara Kennedy, Shawnee, thanked the Board for agreeing to the mask mandate. She said we can all agree that we want what is best for children. She stated that hospitals are critically low on ICU bed capacity. She said ICU beds for children are even less available.

Marti Huffman, Shawnee, said most people do not follow recommendations made by the CDC. She also said Elizabeth Holzschuh, Johnson County Epidemiologist, sent Superintendent Harwood an email asking how she could "weasel" her way into a school board meeting. She said current board members are posting information on social media promoting school board candidates and said if it is more of the same, incumbents will not get elected.

Scott Ainley, Shawnee, said he shared information in a previous board meeting on mental health issues students are having due to COVID protocols. He asked that the board take any education option other than in-person learning off the table. He said that in 2020 there were over 205 suicides under the age of 18. He said continuing to mask the least vulnerable population (children) was unnecessary. He said continuing to overlook mental health is disappointing and frustrating.

Kelley Emmons, Shawnee, thanked the school board for listening to medical and public health officials when it comes to protecting the health of children. He said his daughter recently had a medical health issue and had to wait ten hours to get a bed in ICU.

Kristy Millman, Olathe, said she is a substitute teacher and said the starting paraprofessional pay is \$12.75/hr. She said she and some other teachers were talking about some amazing paraprofessionals and could not believe a substitute paraprofessional makes more than a classroom paraprofessional. She said if board members have not been in a school where children were with their masks on they need to go and see what is happening. She said it is not good for students.

Amy Schwindt, Shawnee, showed a mask worn by her son. She said board members live in the real world too, and see people, thousands of people, in stadiums without masks. She said her kids are very bright. She said it was very difficult for her son in Spanish class to learn to speak the language with masks on. She said she would listen to both sides and masks have to be optional to please both sides.

Jesse Breen, Shawnee, said it is pathetic and sad that he has to drop his son off at school knowing he is going to have to be in a mask all day long. He said the masks are completely useless. He said it's funny that the Board says the Pledge of Allegiance which says "Liberty and Justice for All" and this is not liberty. He said there is no reason for kids to be masked, masks are doing more harm than good. He said if vaccines are going to be mandated he will pull his kids out of public school immediately. He said the district has educators, not doctors.

President Heikes asked board members if they had any changes for the Agenda/Consent Agenda. Bill Fletcher asked to remove check number 55942 from Consent Agenda item "E. Approve payment of bills and transfer of funds (if appropriate)" for approval separately. Superintendent Harwood asked to remove the De Soto High School Cross Country extended day trip from Consent Agenda item "N. Approve the following extended day trips".

Rick Amos asked Superintendent Harwood to have paraprofessional pay on the October agenda.

Mrs. Stephanie Makalous moved to adopt the Agenda and approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Mr. Rick Amos seconded.

Carried 7/0.

The following Consent Agenda items were approved:

1. Adoption of the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate Resolution.
2. The 2021-2022 USD 232 Budget.
3. Minutes of the August 2nd regular meeting.
4. Payment of bills and issuance of checks numbered 55888 – 55904, 55906 – 55941, 55943 - 56054 and 56059 – 56296.
5. Transfer of funds as follows:
 - a. \$11,927.98 from LOB (Fund 08) to Parents as Teachers (Fund 28).
6. Personnel recommendations as follows:

Resignations – Classified

Karen Brown, Student Nutrition Kitchen Manager, RE
Christine Goode, Center Based Paraprofessional, ME
Tammy Higgins, Lead Secretary, MCMS (*effective December 17, 2021*)
Jennifer Hiner, Student Nutrition Assistant, MCMS
Vicky Hogue, Student Nutrition Cashier, RE
Kristi Ester, Student Nutrition Assistant, PRE
Sarah Mangold, Early Childhood Paraprofessional, CTEC
Dayna Murphy, Paraprofessional, DHS
Susan Rice, Student Nutrition Assistant, PRE
Jennifer Wunder, Paraprofessional, CTEC

Employment – Classified

Lauren Anderson, Substitute Nurse, Districtwide
Jennifer Ayers, Assistive Technology Assistant, LTMS
Jacquelyn Bogdan, Center Based Paraprofessional, ME
Macy Brooks, Student Nutrition Assistant, RE
Stephanie Cahill, Lunchroom Aide, PRE
Tammie Calkins, Student Nutrition Assistant, CCE
Megan Chuma, Student Nutrition Cashier, PRE
Lauren Cummins, Student Nutrition Assistant, DHS
Anahit Dilkes, Rule 10 Assistant Boys Soccer Coach, MVHS
Alisha Fleet, Early Childhood Paraprofessional, CTEC
Lindsey Folendore, Paraprofessional, HE
Kelsey Gomez, Student Nutrition Substitute, Districtwide

Jalyn Greenhalgh, Center Based Paraprofessional, BE
Ben Hanson, Rule 10 Assistant Football Coach, MVHS
Amelia Hedge, Paraprofessional, SE
Lynda Heinen, Student Nutrition Assistant, MTMS
Christina Hernandez, Center Based Paraprofessional, DHS
Tara Hovey, Paraprofessional, HE
Connie Jackson, Student Nutrition Assistant, MCMS
Ryan Keim, Paraprofessional, The Bridge
Audrey King, Rule 10 8th Grade Assistant Volleyball Coach, LTMS
Gary Lamoreux, Center Based Paraprofessional, DHS
Samaria Larbi, Lunchroom Aide, HE
Kayla Marshall, Paraprofessional, DHS
Kenneth Moore, Substitute Custodian, Districtwide
Chase Murphy, Substitute Paraprofessional, Districtwide
Michael Pasquale, Evening Custodian, PRE
Kimberly Pew, Early Childhood Paraprofessional, CTEC
Riley Pfeifer, Substitute Paraprofessional, Districtwide
Katie Pratt, Early Childhood Paraprofessional, CTEC
Elizabeth Ross, Paraprofessional, PRE
Sophia Straight, Center Based Paraprofessional, BE
Brian Sullivan, Lead Custodian, MVHS
Chaya Sumpter, Early Childhood Paraprofessional, CTEC
Brian Tate, Rule 10 Assistant Volleyball Coach, DHS
Rebecca Williams, Reading Aide, ME
Paula Woleben, Speech Language Pathologist Assistant, CTEC

Resignation – Certified *(At the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year.)*

Eric Starnes, Band Director, MCMS

Termination – Certified

Hannah Betten, Special Education Teacher, BE

Employment – Certified

Madison Lopez, 3rd Grade Teacher, SE

Jennifer Whyte, Assistant Band Director, MVHS

Employment – Supplemental

Sarah Amos, Assistant Dance Coach, MVHS

Jared Baugh, Assistant Robotics Coach, MVHS

Larry Benson, Assistant Football Coach, MTMS

Tom Byers, Assistant Track Coach, DHS

Cameron Carlson, Head Debate Coach, Assistant Drama Coach, Assistant Musical Director, MVHS

Justin Crawford, Assistant Boys Soccer Coach, MVHS

Megan Glenn, Head 7th Grade Volleyball Coach, LTMS

Elizabeth Goodman, Assistant Scholar Bowl, MVHS

Chase Kilgore, Assistant Football Coach, DHS

Tom Kuhn, Drumline Instructor, Rocket Club Sponsor, DHS
Emily Parr, Assistant Girls Tennis Coach, LTMS
Jesse Smith, Assistant Wrestling Coach, LTMS
Jamie Talbott, Assistant 7th Grade Volleyball Coach, LTMS

7. The 2021-22 Classified Employee Handbook with proposed revisions.
8. The 2021-22 Related Services Employee Handbook with proposed revisions.
9. A Memorandum of Understanding between USD 232 and the De Soto Teacher's Association relating to the sick leave policy.
10. Addition of Unified Bowling as a sport in USD232.
11. Start-up of a Tabletop Roleplaying Game Club (TTRPGC) for students at Mill Valley High School.
12. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from an individual who wishes to remain anonymous to Belmont Elementary School.
13. The following extended day trips:
 - De Soto High School Cross Country, Grades 9-12, Chile Pepper Cross Country Festival, University of Arkansas Fairgrounds, Fayetteville, AR, October 1-2, 2021.
 - De Soto High School & Mill Valley High School Thespian Troupes, Grades 10-12, State Thespian Conference, Wichita, KS, January 6-8, 2022.
 - Mill Valley High School Silver Stars Dance Team, Grades 9-12, compete at the National Dance Alliance Nationals, Orlando, FL, March 2-7, 2022.

Bill Fletcher declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Rick Amos moved to approve payment to Kansas Land Management, LLC in the amount of \$14,269.80 with check number 55942.

Mr. John Gaignat seconded.

Carried 6/0.

Bill Fletcher returned to the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS.

Instrumental Music RFP. Brian Schwanz introduced Deb Steiner, Instrumental Music Teacher at Mill Valley High School, and Matt Bradford, Instrumental Music Teacher at DHS. Mrs. Steiner explained that they would like to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to help identify a preferred music vendor within the Kansas City Metro Area that could partner with the school district to offer parents quality band instruments, repair services and other resources associated with a successful instrumental music program. Mr. Bradford said it is very confusing when students are stepping into a world they aren't familiar with and said this is one way to support parents. Having a preferred music vendor does not

obligate a family to use its services. Families may select a music vendor of their choice for instrument rental, purchase and/or service.

Bill Fletcher said the Board has dealt with an issue relating to a vendor in the district feeling like they weren't getting the district's business in the past and said he would not be in support of an RFP.

President Heikes said she did want to make sure the district is providing fair opportunity to all businesses.

Mrs. Steiner said the plan is to send the RFP to all vendors in the Kansas City area. She said they are looking for repair services, step-up processes, rental contracts, services where vendors can help the teachers by coming into the buildings and answering questions/giving professional guidance or professional development. She said they are looking for a vendor to partner with, but parents would not be obligated to utilize the vendor.

Stephanie Makalous asked why the teachers couldn't gather information and share it with parents. Mrs. Steiner said music stores change a lot, even with owners, and it would be hard for them to maintain accurate information.

Superintendent Harwood said the Board is being asked to consider approving the RFP. The purpose of the RFP is to get information on what vendors are willing to provide to families and schools. He said having a preferred music vendor does not obligate a family to use its services. Families may choose their own music vendor for instrument rental, purchase and/or service.

Rick Amos said he heard that the staff want to get the most comprehensive proposal.

Ashley Spaulding said it seems more unbiased to gather the data and then give everybody the opportunity to come present at band night. She said an RFP seems very formal.

Danielle Heikes suggested the staff send out a Request for Information (RFI). Superintendent Harwood said the staff could make a recommendation from an RFI or go out with an RFP after learning more.

Brian Schwanz said he could adjust the RFP to make it work as an RFI.

Superintendent Harwood said a motion would not be needed to do an RFI. He said the staff would bring back more information for the Board to consider.

Communicable Disease Mitigation Protocols. Superintendent Harwood presented the Board with the following information:

- Current Protocols
 - Masks – Barrier face masks are required inside USD 322 schools with some exceptions.
 - Testing – The school district, through the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) will offer voluntary COVID-19 testing.
 - Hand Hygiene – Individuals are encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.

- Health Screenings – Individuals are encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms of illness and stay home if ill.
 - Exclusions – Individuals who are considered contagious with a communicable disease will be excluded from school. Individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 and are recommended for quarantine by the Johnson County Department of Health & Environment (JCDHE) will be excluded from school.
 - Vaccinations – USD 232 will continue to collect vaccination information from families that volunteer the information and may partner with outside agencies to provide space for voluntary vaccination clinics. Superintendent Harwood said the district is looking at ways to make a third dose available to staff members that want it. He said there is not conversation about a requirement of vaccination for students at any level.
 - Remote Learning – Remote learning designed to approximate regular classroom learning will be limited.
 - Rentals – Groups that rent USD 232 facilities will be expected to follow relevant state, county and local mitigation protocols.
- 2020-21 Gating Criteria – A review of district data for the Kansas Schools Gating Criteria at the end of May 2021. This is the criteria used by the school district during the 2020-21 school year to determine if student instruction would be full in-person, hybrid or remote. Superintendent Harwood said that if applying the gating criteria to this year the district would still be in the green for absenteeism, yellow for percent positivity, red for two week cumulative county incidence rate, yellow for one week county incidence rate trend, and yellow for regional hospitals/ICU bed capacity, with an overall score of 9 which is in the green.
 - Student Attendance – The Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for the month of August in 2020 and 2021. Historically, USD 232's annual ADA has been between 96%-97%. For this school year the ADA was 96.7% the week of August 16th, 95.5% the week of August 23rd, and 94.2% the week of August 30th.
 - Johnson County COVID-19 Case Rates – Case data was taken from the KDHE COVID-19 dashboard on September 9th. It shows the number of cases per 100,000 residents by week since May 30th. After peaking on August 1st, the number of cases has started to decline.
 - Johnson County COVID-19 Percent Positive Rates – Percentive Positive data was taken from the KDHE COVID-19 dashboard on September 9th. It shows the percent of tested individuals that have tested positive since May 30th. After peaking on August 1st, the percentage has started to decline.
 - Hospital Capacity – Adult ICU bed availability data that was taken from the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Kansas City Region Area COVID-19 Data Hub on September 9th.
 - Johnson County COVID-19 Vaccination – Data was taken from the JCDHE COVID-19 Dashboard on September 9th. It shows vaccine progress for all eligible population broken down by zip code. Zip code 66018 is at 64.6%, zip code 66227 is at 88.8%, zip code 66226 is at 62.9%, and zip code 66218 is at 72.3%.
 - Johnson County COVID-19 12-17 year old Vaccination – Data was provided by JCDHE for September 8th. It shows vaccine progress for 12-17 year olds broken down by zip code. Zip code 66018 is at 44.4%, zip code 66227 is at 71.0%, zip code 66226 is at 45.9%, and zip code 66218 is at 84.3%.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Community Transmission – Data was taken from the CDC COVID Data Tracker, COVID-19 Integrated County View on September 9th. It is a 7-day rolling average and shows community transmission as high.
- USD 232 Exclusions – Weekly information provided on the USD 232 COVID-19 Dashboard. Superintendent Harwood shared the number of Exclusions for recommended Isolation and Exclusions for recommended Quarantine for staff and students for the weeks of August 16th, August 23rd and August 30th.
- USD 232 Exclusions by Level – Weekly information provided on the USD 232 COVID-19 Dashboard. Superintendent Harwood shared the cumulative exclusions for students and staff broken down by elementary (118 total), middle school (38 total) and high school (35 total).
- USD 232 Exclusions by Building – The number of student exclusions for recommended isolation and quarantine for the past three weeks broken down by school building. The district total over the three week period is 187.

Superintendent Harwood asked the Board if they had any questions.

President Heikes asked if the information by school building would be added to the district website. Superintendent Harwood said it would.

Bill Fletcher asked if the Epidemiologist asked how to “weasel” her way into a board meeting. President Heikes said she asked Superintendent Harwood to invite her to a board meeting. Superintendent Harwood said he had multiple email exchanges with Elizabeth Holzschuh and didn’t recall the exact exchanges. President Heikes said she did sign a letter in the summer of 2020 that was drafted by the Shawnee Mission School District to the BOCC asking that they take action so districts could keep children in school by masking. Ashley Spaulding and Rick Amos said they did write letters to the BOCC asking that they adopt a mask mandate. Mr. Fletcher asked that Superintendent Harwood send him a copy of the email that Ms. Holzschuh sent asking to “weasel” into a board meeting.

Ashley Spaulding asked how the exclusion numbers compared to last year. Superintendent Harwood said he could find out and share at a later date.

- Student Exclusions – Comparison – Garder Edgerton USD 231. Data was taken from the USD 231 website on September 9th.
- Student Exclusions – Comparison – Maize USD 266 – Data was taken from the USD 266 website on September 9th.

Stephanie Makalous asked if Superintendent Harwood could find out vaccination statistics in Maize. He said he would check.

- Testing
 - Voluntary Diagnostic Testing – PCR Testing currently available for symptomatic individuals.
 - Test after Exposure – Limited availability for PCR testing to shorten exclusion time period for recommended quarantine.

- Test to Stay – KDHE program for antigen testing to allow individuals recommended for quarantine to continue coming to school with daily testing, awaiting final KDHE approval.
- Administrative Guidelines – At the July and August Board of Education meetings a table of administrative guidelines was presented. The table was developed when barrier face masks were optional. With barrier face masks required, many of the guidelines are not necessary. For the most part, school has started with few additional restrictions.
 - Increased ventilation and enhanced cleaning procedures are still in effect.
 - Lunch – students are distanced to the greatest extent possible.
 - Visitors to the buildings are allowed in some cases. They are not allowed during lunch.
 - Field trip requests are reviewed.
 - Overnight travel is being evaluated.
 - Other restrictions and guidelines are determined on a case-by-case basis.

Bill Fletcher asked if there has been COVID spread in the schools. Superintendent Harwood said there was one student that was positive and other students were exposed to this student at school. Mr. Fletcher asked if there was spread at any Johnson County school. Superintendent Harwood said he did not know that information.

President Heikes said that total exclusions were at 61, with 11 related to exposure in the school building. Superintendent Harwood said a kindergarten class was excluded due to a student not wearing a mask, or wearing it incorrectly.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Superintendent Harwood said the administration does not recommend any changes to the Communicable Disease Mitigation Protocols at this time.

Rick Amos asked Superintendent Harwood if buildings were handling P.E./sports differently. He said he wants to understand when kids are wearing masks in activities. Superintendent Harwood said masks aren't required during activities. He said P.E. is a course during the school day so masks would be required when students are indoors for the course, but not when they are outside.

Stephanie Makalous asked if there were any studies about when it would make sense to unmask. Superintendent Harwood said he has asked that question at different times of public health officials and there is not one number they will recommend. He said Derby Schools and the Catholic Diocese in Wichita are setting up policies that masks would be required if quarantines and isolations were six percent or higher.

Rachele Zade asked if any Johnson County entities have mask requirements. Superintendent Harwood said the City of Shawnee is requiring them in all city buildings.

Rick Amos asked if any other districts are allowing parents to sign a mask exemption waiver and how many parents have done this. Superintendent Harwood said that in Johnson County Spring Hill is the only district allowing this. He said he hasn't seen any official numbers of parents that have asked for a waiver in Spring Hill.

Superintendent Harwood said with the vaccination rate in the district being really high, especially between 12-17 year olds, he could support moving forward with making masks optional for high school level students.

Rick Amos said he was very much in favor of looking at removing the mask mandate for high school students in October.

Superintendent Harwood said he will look at other districts to see if they have a gating criteria about when masks are required or not. He added that the vaccination rate could have impact on the number of students recommended for quarantine.

Rachele Zade said a patron mentioned that 85% of people wearing masks contracted COVID. She said what is being done to help kids struggling mentally with wearing masks.

Bill Fletcher said science says masks are not stopping spread of COVID.

President Heikes declared a five minute break at 8:33 p.m.

The Board returned to open session and President Heikes called the meeting back to order at 8:38 p.m.

Rachele Zade said she is not convinced that masking is the answer.

President Heikes asked if Mrs. Zade and Mr. Fletcher were suggesting the board remove the mask mandate with the county mandate in place. She said several months ago the board was asking why the county commission wouldn't do anything and wanted them to take it off the school board's plate. Mrs. Zade said we've had the masks and are now experiencing the mental health aspect. Mr. Fletcher said students in P.E. have to wear masks while students in volleyball and basketball don't.

Ashley Spaulding said activities are optional for students, but they have to be in school. She said she would like to maintain the mask mandate.

Rick Amos said he would like to see a plan put into place to start with removing masks for high school students, then working down to middle school and eventually talking about elementary students.

President Heikes said there would be no motion needed to leave things as they are.

ALERT. The following report was included in the packet for this board meeting with notice that it will require future action by the Board of Education: 1. Employee Voluntary Retirement Benefits Program for 403(b) and 47 (b) plans.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Attorney/Client Privilege.

President Heikes moved to go into executive session at 8:50 p.m. for a period of twenty-five minutes with Frank Harwood, Alvie Cater, Brian Schwanz, Carrie Handy and Mike Norris to discuss potential litigation with the school district's legal counsel under the KOMA exception for matters which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship and return to open session at 9:15 p.m. at this location.

Mrs. Ashley Spaulding seconded.

Carried 7/0.

The Board returned to open session and President Heikes called the meeting back to order at 9:15 p.m.

Non-Elected Personnel.

President Heikes moved to go into executive session at 9:16 for a period of fifteen minutes with Frank Harwood, Brian Schwanz and Carrie Handy to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and return to open session at 9:31 p.m. at this location.

Stephanie Makalous seconded.

Carried 7/0.

The Board returned to open session and President Heikes called the meeting back to order at 9:32 p.m.

President Heikes adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

October 4, 2021

Date Approved

Wendy S. Denham

Clerk, Board of Education

David Heikes

President, Board of Education