

MINUTES

Board of Education for the County of Mingo

110 Cinderella Road

Williamson, West Virginia 25661

Special Emergency Meeting

September 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: This emergency meeting has been called to address current conditions that impact the health and safety of our students and staff members.

I. Call to Order

President James Baisden called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

All Board Members present: President, James Baisden; Sabrina Grace, Tom Slone, and Machel McCormick. Vice President, John Preece, attended by phone. Superintendent Dr. Johnny Branch was in attendance.

Members of the Press in attendance: Bruce Justice of the Mingo Messenger; Dylan Vidovich of the Williamson Daily News; Andrew Colegrove of WSAZ TV news

District Office staff in attendance:

Beth Daniels, CSBO / Treasurer; (Chief School Business Officer)

Kay Maynard, Director Child Nutrition & Wellness

Virginia Taylor-Mounts, Technology Integration Facilitator

Tonya Hagy, RN, BSN, Lead School Nurse

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Grace led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Delegation(s)*

***Delegation topics are limited to the items under consideration for this special emergency meeting.**

There were no delegates.

IV. General Considerations

a. Discussion and possible action: possible revision of COVID safety protocols in the 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan (Re-entry)

Dr. Branch addressed the Board. The last time the protocols for COVID were addressed there was a parent option for face coverings. The state had released new guidance. The governor listed us in his address as one of four counties in our state that did not have a masking mandate. The Board President of the State Board of Education tasked the Assistant Superintendent to find out why counties had not adopted a Universal Masking Policy.

Mrs. Hagy and Mrs. Maynard addressed the board stating what mask mandates would look like if there was a universal masking policy. There had been several cases since school started. Today was the worse day (with school age student cases) than there had been - nine (9) new cases on this day. As of now, over 250 students

Nancy Slone

Executive Secretary to
Superintendent
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45 had been quarantined as contacts. Keith Blankenship of the Health Department also added information to
46 the update. It was suggested we support a universal mask policy for our schools. If a child had medical
47 reasons, that child would not have to wear a mask. Mrs. Dempsey addressed the Board with attendance
48 numbers in the county. There were handouts; Mask Guidelines, and Request for Face Covering Exemption.
49

50 We plan to put a daily tracker on the web site that would track the numbers by schools.
51

52 Mr. Slone made a motion to adopt the Mingo County Schools Mask Guidelines that was presented, with
53 consideration of the Health Department color map of red, orange, gold that was listed in the guidelines. Ms.
54 McCormick seconded that motion. The motion carried with a vote of 4/1. Mrs. Grace voted no. She agreed
55 with the Mask Guidelines but did not agree with pulling the numbers down into the gold coloring of the
56 DHHR map.
57

58 **V. Adjournment**

59 Mr. Slone made the motion to adjourn. Ms. McCormick seconded that motion. The motion carried with a
60 vote of 5/0.
61

62 The time was 6:16 p.m.
63
64

65 ***Next Regular Meeting***

66 September 21, 2021