

River Valley School District
Wednesday, September 22, 2021
Special Meeting
Middle School Library
6:00 p.m.

Present: Nelson, Jennings, Young, Bettinger, Iausly, Maier, Cates, Minich

Absent: Carstensen

Admin: Glasbrenner, Blakley

Others: Lynn White, Malissa Dischler, Kasey Maxwell, Melissa Hohneke, Denise Melanowski, Vicki Limmex, John Litviak, Paula Wedige (Administrative Assistant)

President Jennings opened the meeting. She noted that the meeting had been properly posted and notice had been provided to the appropriate media and each School Board Member. Maier moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

Iausly moved to approve the agenda. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Modifying Instructional Model for the 2021-22 School Year

The 2021-22 Instructional Model approved by the Board, which includes masking thresholds, is currently being applied during the instructional day but not for after school activities. WIAA is not mandating masks but deferring to schools. Glasbrenner noted that other schools are extending masking to after school activities, and we are getting questions from visiting teams when they come here to compete.

Administration is recommending that when a building threshold is met, the masking requirement will apply to all indoor activities for that building for 10 days, during or after school hours. Administration is also recommending that when a building threshold is met, the masking requirement will apply to all students and staff from that building to mask at other sites for 10 days.

Jennings asked if this mandate should include fans. Blakley said up for consideration but feels students should mask after school when threshold has been met. He noted that guests to the high school during the day currently mask since the high school has met the threshold. Nelson assumed that if there is a mask mandate at a building, that it would be 24 hours a day. Blakley feels to only apply thresholds to the instructional day is a fragmented approach.

Iausly thinks if there is a mask mandate in a building, then it should apply to all for 10 days during the day and evening. Jennings doesn't feel the mandate needs to extend to fans and thinks vaccinated adults could choose to mask or not. Nelson noted vaccinated persons can get the Delta variant and can be contagious without symptoms. Blakley noted there will be many fans in the gym this week for Homecoming events. Thursday's pep rally will be outside as well as Saturday's dance.

Jennings noted that administration seems to be in favor of extending masks to 24 hours per day when a building threshold is met. Maier doesn't feel after school sports should include masks since that demographic is eligible to be vaccinated. He noted that Dr. Furukawa stated that

unless you are wearing an N95 mask, you are not protected. His niece in California has a mask mandate in school and public buildings and 35% of her high school is positive for COVID. He doesn't feel cloth masks stop spread. When asked about positive statistics at districts near us that mask, Glasbrenner said he doesn't think the statistics are going down with masks. Nelson feels that cloth masks do slow down the spread.

Blakley noted we are seeing some positive cases even though vaccinated or wearing a mask. Minich assumed masking 24 hours a day if the mask mandate is in place at a building and wants to follow the rules we put in place.

Iausly moved to follow the administrative mask recommendation for all indoor activities 24 hours a day 7 days a week for anyone who enters the building if a building has met the masking threshold. Cates seconded.

For the motion: Nelson, Cates, Minich, Iausly, Young

Against the motion: Jennings, Bettinger, Maier

Motion carried 5-3 with 1 absent.

Consideration & Action to Allow District Administrator to Make Decisions Regarding Applying Masking Thresholds

There was discussion on whether to allow the district administrator to make decisions regarding applying masking thresholds instead of holding a special Board meeting, like this evening. Some points made were wanting to avoid this added responsibility on administration and the need to have thorough discussion by the Board in making these decisions since this is a heated topic with two distinct sides on masking issues.

No motion. No action.

Iausly moved to adjourn at 6:29 p.m. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

_____ Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk