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Minutes of a Special Board Meeting of the Governing Board

Office of the Board
Maricopa County, Arizona
April 21, 2021
5:00 p.m.

1. Opening Items - 5:00 pm

1.01 Roll Call

Barb Mozdzen, Board President; Jason Olive, Board Vice President; Lara Bruner, Lindsay Love, and Joel Wirth, Board Members, participated virtually.

Dr. Camille Casteel, Superintendent; Lana Berry, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Craig Gilbert, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education; Dr. Wendy Nance, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Frank Narducci, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Larry Rother, Senior Executive Director of PK-12 Educational Services and Discipline; and Terry Locke, Director of Community Relations.

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

2. Comments

2.01 Citizen Comments

Terry Locke, Director of Community Relations, presented the public comments submitted online from 290 people.

3. Action

3.01 Discuss Governor Ducey's Executive Order 2021-10

Dr. Casteel acknowledged this was a no win situation, no matter what the board decides, people will be unhappy. She assured the public that they have read all the emails, received all the messages from phone calls and one thing is for sure - we are divided and do not have consensus. She shared 3 options available, based on input from the community, including the rationale and perspectives presented:

1. Maintain the current mask mandate
2. Make masks optional for staff and students
3. A compromise to require masks indoors and make them optional when outdoors

Board members discussed their perspectives and concerns about requiring masks inside versus outside, changing directions for families, and the fact that school districts, as a political subdivision, have the authority for their buildings and can make rules as they feel necessary.

Modify the current mask policy beginning Monday, April 26, 2021, to require masks indoors and allow mask wearing to be optional when outdoors for PreK-6 grades and grades 7-12 when supervised in PE outdoors (masks are required for PE indoors). Effective May 31, 2021, if CUSD infection rate remains low, masks would become optional moving forward beginning with Summer School. The Superintendent will have the authority to make adjustments as needed.

3. Action (cont'd)

3.01 Discuss Governor Ducey's Executive Order 2021-10 (cont'd)

Lara Bruner and Lindsay Love expressed concern regarding making decisions for summer school and requested that a decision not be made at this point, rather data be reviewed again before summer school. Lindsay also requested the decision should come back to the board, not just the superintendent. Barb Mozdzen reminded that in the Resolution adopted by the board several months ago, authority was already given to the superintendent to implement protocols and regulations with input from the board, thus the meeting tonight. Dr. Casteel has shown that trust and will continue to involve the board when there are changes. Mrs. Mozdzen is comfortable with the motion as stated and called for a vote.

Motion by Jason R Olive, second by Joel H Wirth.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Aye: Barb R Mozdzen, Jason R Olive

Nay: Lara E Bruner, Lindsay A Love, Joel H Wirth

Joel Wirth wanted to modify the motion to reflect that masks for elementary students were not mandatory inside, when socially distanced. Barb Mozdzen believes that elementary students should wear a mask. They have adapted well, it has been part of the mitigation strategies that has worked extremely well, and there are only 24 school days remaining. She would not support having elementary students without masks. After discussion, Joel agreed to reconsider the original motion.

Modify the current mask policy beginning Monday, April 26, 2021, to require masks indoors and allow mask wearing to be optional when outdoors for PreK-6 grades and grades 7-12 when supervised in PE outdoors (masks are required for PE indoors). Effective May 31, 2021, if CUSD infection rate remains low, masks would become optional moving forward beginning with Summer School. The Superintendent will have the authority to make adjustments as needed.

Motion by Jason R Olive, second by Joel H Wirth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Barb R Mozdzen, Jason R Olive, Joel H Wirth

Nay: Lara E Bruner, Lindsay A Love

Lara Bruner and Lindsay Love shared they supported everything except making a decision at this point for the future, specifically summer school. Barb Mozdzen directed the administration to disseminate this information to families and schools.

4. Adjournment

4.01 Adjourn the Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.