



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 6, 2021 – Lake Wales High School (Media Center)
2:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87114293822?pwd=R0VZSUM4ZWJLbFBndWxaSTV5dTBtUT09>

Meeting ID: 871 1429 3822

Passcode: u55nma

- I. CALL TO ORDER** **Dr. Andy Oguntola, Chair**
The meeting was called to order at 2:14pm.
- II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** **Dr. Greg Hall, Trustee**
The Invocation and Pledge were done by Dr. Hall.
- III. SHADE MEETING – BOARD OF TRUSTEES** **Robin Gibson, Attorney**
Board of Trustees go into a “Shade” private meeting – litigation discussion. Shade meeting ended at 4:00pm. The regular meeting continued at 4:07pm.
- IV. SCHEDULED PERSON’S ADDRESSING THE BOARD**
Dean Billings shared his thoughts that a mask should be left up to the parents and families to determine what’s best for them and not outside people. The safest thing is to keep our kids at home.
Dr. Christopher Maslenka shared his thoughts on the mask mandate (parent of a 1st grader) – please re-address the face covering policy. We felt safe with the mask and will send my daughter to school masked to keep her and others around her safer.
Charlie Warren shared his thoughts on the mask policy and the bad things that mask will do etc. per experts with the N95 only. I hope we will not do a mask mandate.
Shannon Klause is a senior at LW High School – shared her thoughts on not wearing a mask due to her recent diagnosis with fibromyalgia who also have a medical mask exemption.
Lindsey Seay shared her thoughts on the mask policy and standing up for what she believes in. She is also opting out of the onsite Covid testing for her child.
Tiffany McCracken (daughter attend LWHS) shared her thoughts that she feels a mask mandate is a complete over-reach of authority. She shared her thoughts regarding the mask and the sick policy for students etc.
Citizen: Shared her thoughts on the mask regarding infections etc., as it pertains to the mask per the wording on the mask box.
Savannah – student from Hillcrest: I want the mask to be a personal choice. Thank you.
Emily Steffie advised she did not sign up to speak but she shared her thoughts on the cleanliness of the mask and it only makes people feel like they are doing something. We are powerless and fearful and have a false sense of security.
Irene Campbell shared her thoughts on the bacterial pneumonia that can be caused with the mask. Please consider other factors that can happen to our children.

V. COVID 19 – SCHOOL OPERATIONAL PROTOCOLS

Mr. Alricky Smith, Superintendent

Request Board approval – Covid 19 School Operational Protocols as discussed at the Board Meeting on August 6, 2021. Superintendent Smith shared his thoughts regarding us operating the school safely. If we cannot safely operate the schools we will adjust our protocols as needed. You have the proposal for the face coverings to be optional and for the parents to decide but highly recommend folks take precautionary measures and be safe. We do not want to lose any students and staff. We respect all opinions and we have 4,000+ parents that are not here today. At this time, we will let their parents decide face coverings or not. We do not have a mandatory vaccination policy but we are recommending that our staff be vaccinated. This might reduce the fatality rate, and we do not want to lose anyone in our system to Covid 19. Any action that we can take to save a life is what we need to take. This proposal you have is a very balanced approach and this policy will be very fluid. We made some adjustments to the quarantine time based on CDC guidelines. We do not have a virtual platform that we are offering when school opens on Tuesday. Marcia Rose – LWCS Medical Director: Shared that she has been working with the LW Health Department regarding the cases we have had since July. We have had a few report to the hospital but no overnight stay.

Trustee Kirby: So, has the numbers increased since July?

Marcia Rose: We do not have a number but I can give you an estimate, around 4,500.

Chair Oguntola: Can you please share the contact tracing difference from last year to this year?

Marcia Rose: This is probably the biggest change. She shared the number of days, the contact tracing etc., regarding how to deal with the positive cases in our schools. Last year K-3 - no contact tracing the entire class went out. This year if they are positive, we ask that they continue to come to school with a face covering during the quarantine period.

Chair Oguntola: What about the teachers?

Marcia Rose: Same for teachers, they can come to work during quarantine and wear a mask to school.

Trustee Fisher: Does the vaccination status change the time they have to be out of school?

Marcia Rose: CDC said if you are vaccinated, you do not have to quarantine, and we are tracking these folks.

Trustee Kirby: If the school has to shut down, what is the educational alternative?

Alricky Smith: We do have a good sense of learning. It can be for Covid 19 or hurricane etc. Last year we had a virtual component, and this year, we have not been offered that option from the Governor's Office. Any symptoms, self-isolate and not participate in class.

Marcia Rose: If we have 5 linked cases we have to report this to CDC and then the CDC will advise us. If 10% of school has Covid at the same time, they consider that an outbreak. They will use this to gain better knowledge if needed.

Marcus Kirby: Distance learning means packets etc. Last year we had complaints about the kids missing school and being held back.

Chair Oguntola: Have we worked out a substitute list if needed or is that pool still weak? Do we need to be working with Kelly Service etc.?

Alricky Smith: We had substitute shortage before this, and we will do the best we can with the quarantine protocols to keep folks safe. We will evaluate every two weeks to keep everyone safe.

Motion to approve was made by Trustee David Fisher and seconded by Trustee Greg Hall. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Alricky Smith, Superintendent

A. BOARD OF TRUSTEES SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2021-2022

Request Board approval for the Board of Trustees School assignments for 2021-2022 as discussed in our Board of Trustees Meeting. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Marcus Kirby and seconded by Trustee David Fisher. Motion approved unanimously.

B. NEXT BOARD WORK SESSION/FINANCE MEETING AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The August Board of Trustee Work Session/Finance Meeting is **Thursday, August 19, 2021 at Lake Wales High School at 8:00am**. The August Board of Trustees Meeting will be on **Monday, August 23, 2021 at Lake Wales High School at 3:00pm**.

VII. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Dr. Andy Oguntola, Chair

Thanks to all who came today to share your thoughts and opinions. My goal is to always to do what’s best for LWCS for our students and staff. In these crucial conversations, we will always do what’s right. My job is to always side with the kids to keep them safe. Thanks to our Superintendent, who has filled this role and we appreciate what he has done. Thanks to our Nurse Mrs. Rose. To our Principals and Assistant Principals – we will offer the best education possible, and please keep yourselves safe to keep our schools going.

VIII. TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Outing: I teach kindergarten, so I fully understand where you are coming from and I can see both sides. I know several family and friends that have contracted Covid and passed away. I choose to wear my mask as my personal choice but I have to support the Superintendent and the health director protocols based on the CDC guidelines.

Trustee Hall: Those of you who helped plan and prepare Dr. Damien Moses Homegoing services, what a wonderful day that was, a real credit to all involved and for the community to experience. The next Superintendent Search Meeting is August 16, 2021 at 1:00pm. August 26th we will have community forums and our consultants will be with us that day. We will start interviews in October, finalist in November and selection by end of November and in place by January of next year.

Trustee Stewart: The key words - the mask policy is fluid and should be visited as the number changes. Trustee Kirby: I have three boys and my wife that works in the Charter System. Do what’s best for your family and children.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

None

X. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

Respectfully Submitted, Marie Cherrington-Gray - Corporate Secretary