

**NEVADA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020

HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY AT 1001 15TH STREET

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS: Tori Carsrud, Joe Anderson, Marty Chitty, Tom Maier. Board member Leanne Harter was present via Internet Stream.

STAFF: Steve Gray, Chris deNeui, Kristian Einsweiler, Dave Kroese, Dustin Smith, Tony Sneiderman, Travis Temple, Joe Wakeman, Brian Schaeffer.

1. Call to Order at noon.

2. Approval of Agenda Motion by Chitty, second by Anderson to approve agenda as presented. Motion Carried 4-0 (Harter had not yet arrived to the meeting).

3.1 Action Agenda: Consider Story County Face Covering Regulation On October 13, the Story County Board of Supervisors, due to the COVID-19 virus, passed Resolution 21-27 to approve the Story County Board of Health Face Covering Regulation which requires everyone in schools, as an “indoor public setting”, to wear a face covering. Dr. Gray noted that the Return to Learn (RTL) plan highly recommended face coverings. He had asked the Board to gather to consider the resolution approved at the county level. Chitty noted that the mandate can’t be enforced in the County as the Governor has not delegated the enforcement authority to local governments. He said the resolution was “politics” but he was not being dismissive of the current conditions. He said some people see masks as impediments.

Carsrud asked Mrs. deNeui how the Elementary School was handling masks. Mrs. deNeui said the masks are not significant as the students do what they are told. She said the Elementary would do whatever it takes to keep the students at school. Anderson asked if this placed any more of a burden on staff. Mr. Einsweiler said “no” and said the biggest issues at the High School were the “grumbles” and the impact on activities. Mr. Sneiderman said it was not an issue at the Middle School as less than half of the students don’t wear a mask which would require a change in student behavior. Anderson asked if there would be consequences for students not wearing a mask. The Administrative Team met on October 23 and decided that there would be no consequences. The students who don’t wish to wear a mask are given the option of on-line learning. Maier said the District got it right on the RTL plan which recommended face coverings. It was noted that the Story County Board of Health said “until you start making penalties, masks are a suggestion”. Maier said he was concerned about recent increases in COVID-19 cases.

Chitty asked about the requirements for indoor visitors to have masks. Mr. Smith said he would have a plan to the Board next week on visitors for activities. Chitty said he would have no qualms for re-visiting the mask regulation if the rate of infections change. Maier said the idea was to try to keep infections low. He said masks help this and he doesn’t want to “go backwards” with infections.

Harter said she believes masks have been successful and information from the Centers of Disease Control and the Iowa Department of Public Health shows the strength of using masks. She said masks are the right direction to go. Chitty asked administrators if education is best on-line or in person. The administrators said in person was best. Carsrud said that students should be kept in school with masks. Mrs. deNeui said it comes down to relationships and students want to do the right thing. Chitty said he wants it so students won’t leave the District due to masks being required.

Motion by Maier to amend the District mask policy to the Resolution from the Story County Board of

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Supervisors. Second by Anderson. Harter said it was important to be flexible to changes in what is known about COVID-19 currently. Carsrud said she wasn't negative to on-line coursework option and teachers were "working their tails off". She said she was grateful for the strong technology in the District. Motion Carried 4-1 (Chitty: nay).

4. Adjournment at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board President

Board Secretary