



BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

MEETING 9/29/2021 5:19PM

Present: Brett Parrott, President
Shubham Pandey, Superintendent
Victoria White, Board Member
Brian Hogan, Board Member
Sonya Gracy, HR
Betty Hastings, Principal Royse City

I. Meeting called to order at 5:19pm

1. Ms. Hastings volunteered to take minutes for the meeting.

II. Approval of last Board Meeting minutes. By the board

III. Executive Session Superintendent

1. COVID updates - School started Wednesday, Aug 18th and summer ended. The biggest mandates that we are working with are the masks updates on a daily basis. Masks Mandates we are addressing a couple hours a day. We said that we are not requiring masks based on the executive order from the governor. The next day there was a Dallas County ruling which required masks in Dallas county. Therefore, we went with all our school in Dallas County are required to wear masks only. Then a few days later there was a supreme court ruling which did not require the mask. We stopped after that for a while. Until we started seeing a lot of cases coming on our campuses, for example our Fate campus there is no onsite session this whole week. We had 8 cases, that is not a lot, however with 22% absenteeism and one or two symptoms. A lot of the parents are not going in to be tested at this point. There is truly no way to know what the best answer is. What we have done is went with the number 22% to 25% of absenteeism for this time. The parents have a choice to not wear masks and sign the wavier or wear the masks and sign no wavier. We are equipped to have virtual session as needed if we need to go that route. However, right now there is no funding for virtual session except 20 days in a year. Students can use this as virtual conferencing and not virtual learning.

There is a lot complications attached to the virtual learning. We are planning to make up any hours that we missed.

2. Brett, wanted to know, are there any teachers who have come down with the virus. Mr. Pandey, stated that two teachers came down with COVID and today one more teacher came down with COVID. This is after being shut down for two days. Sonya Gracy interjected that we cannot mention names, but we do have a couple of administrators and nine staff members with COVID as well within the last five days. Brett, asked if anyone was in the hospital. Sonya, responded saying everyone is at home at this time. Ms. White asked since the students are without classes at the Fate Campus this week, then we will re-evaluate at a later time to whether we add days or not. Mr. Pandey, stated that they are learning, teachers created packets and handed them out to the students. What Mr. Pandey, was saying, this may not count and they may have to make up these hours. Sonya, stated that right now Mr. Pandey, has put into place at the Fate Campus asynchronous learning model because the whole school is out. It is a challenge to do synchronous learning right now and TEA is saying we have to do synchronous model not asynchronous but we also want are students to be educated. We went ahead and did packets but if they come back and say, we can retroactive those days and do asynchronous learning for those days then we are good but if they say, no, we have already built into the calendar two bad weather days and any other minutes will be tacked onto the end of the year. Administrator and campus is fully aware. There is no wavier in place like what we had last year.

IV. Discussion Items

A.COVID Updates –

1. The learning is going well with the students. Scope and sequences are still being meet on a weekly basis. We are trying to bridge some gaps. Last year and a half we are seeing students coming into our schools with a lot of gaps. The beginning year assessments are to be completed by September 15th, this will give us a good gage on where are students are.
2. There is also House Bill 4545 requires all students who have not passed the STAAR Test go to tutoring before or after school for the students to catch up. We have every campus actively working on the House Bill 4545 and it is being implemented. We should have a report by next board meeting about what is happening with House Bill 4545 on each campus.

B. Construction Updates

1. Brent Hogan has been helping move furniture into the Fate Campus. We had our final walk through today. There were some punch review items that were given to us. Teachers are setting up their rooms. We should have the punch list done by next week.
2. Greenville is still going through the process targeting on the November time frame for their building to finish. That should finish the construction on the campuses. We do have two elementary campuses that we need to work on next.

C. ESSER II Grant Discussion

2. We did get ESSER III, however, ESSER II came later than ESSER III. ESSER II gets spent on tutoring and after school programs for bridging the gaps. We will be receiving about 400,000 for our district. Also has some pre-cost with it. Like extra COVID cleaning and we should be able to get reimbursed.
3. Class closures and campus closures as needed requirement that came from legal because the wavers are changing due to any out-break at a class level or campus level. We will continue doing our best in keeping the school open but if it is beyond our control we will continue to close them as needed

V. Action Items

1. **ESSER II Letter approval-** The board accepts and approves the ESSER II Letter confirming the funds for bridging the gaps and accept all the requirements now and future
2. **Class Closures and Campus Closures as needed -** was approved by the board. The Fate Campus had to close prior to this meeting because of the number of the cases and the number of absenteeism

VI. General/Public Comment – The town meeting that took place this past Friday, Mr. Pandey did an amazing job explaining to some very passionate people. When the meeting was over they left there with a better feeling of the situation we are in. Mr. Pandey, said it lasted almost three hours, we had 28 individual parents on the zoom session, close to 32 parents on site, there were definitely two sides, one who were passionate and those who were passionate on the other side. Our main goal was to provide clarity on where we are, how we cannot be the legal guardian. We need to have a legal mandate and we will follow it. When there is no clarity it is hard for us to decipher on what we need to do. We did change the word from highly recommend to required. We still are giving our parents choices by signing the wavier or not to sign the waiver. We are waiting for the supreme court resolution to come out on this, it will give clarity to many school districts so, we can get back to teaching. We have an admin who quite because she did not want to deal with the mask questions a 100 times a day and tired of the whole process. We are working with her, this is taken a toll on the people in the front line because there is no happy medium.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 5:42pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Betty Hastings, M. ED