

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL VOTING MEETING**  
March 1, 2022, 6:30 PM  
**Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/dqs-baqp-mwz>**

**1. Call to order – 6:3\_ p.m.**

**2. Opening Matters**

- Pledge of Allegiance - **Flag**
- **Attendance:**
  - Dan Rufo (President – Presiding),
  - Monica Reynolds (Secretary),
  - Elizabeth Falcone (Vice-President);
  - ~~Shawn Glick (Treasurer),~~ **Not present**
  - Anthony Bragoli,
  - Greg Scott,
  - Greg Queen,
  - Mark Greiner,
  - Sujaya Narahari,
  - Yvan Francois;
  - G. Anne Waskiewicz;
  - Gwendolyn Supplee;
  - Seyi Akinfenwa
- **Administration:**
  - Dr. Gina Guarino-Buli,
  - David Cosme, Jr.,
  - Harold Smith;
  - Jordan Miller
  - Michelle Boyd;
  - ~~Carol Schaeffer;~~
  - Heather Rinker;
  - Kendra Gruber;
- Opening statements – D.Rufo
  - Process for New Business - please submit public comment to email - [publiccomment@rak12.org](mailto:publiccomment@rak12.org)
  - Executive Session to discuss RE and Student Behavior
  - Overview for tonight’s meeting
  - Comment on discussion being held on public forums (FB, etc.) caution that discussions are informational but likely not complete, and Board and Admin do not actively monitor or respond. Reminder to please direct concerns, questions through existing channels for communication of concerns, questions, etc.

**3. Update to Health and Safety Plan –**

- Dr. Buli provided summary. At February voting meeting the Board asked for metrics and a plan to be put in place that would allow for an update to RA’s mask protocols, as proposed by the Health and Safety Committee which is to allow for

optional for transmission rates of 5% or less or less than 100 cases new cases reported in a week. Last week CDC put out new guidance on masking and COVID protocols: using different metrics based on number of hospitalizations and deaths as opposed to new cases or transmission rates. School buses will no longer require mandatory masking. Pandemic team has not met since that new guidance was published.

#### **4. Public Comment – Masking**

Emailed Public Comment -

- L.Taphorn – Favors making masks optional immediately for students and staff.
- B.Carre –Father of two RA students. Appreciates leadership RA has shown and supports ending mandatory masking for students.
- M.Smith – Fully supports RA moving to mask option.
- L.Gamarak – supporting of universal masking while Chester County is still in substantial range.
- K.Donnely –Voiced concern over immune compromised students and families. Wants consideration for required masking for un-vaccinated students.
- M.Mayo – believes masks should continued to be required.

Public Comment Live -

- Mr. Siso – Has Kinder student at RA. Appreciates the Board’s attention to process, but favors mask optional policy. His child feels masking outside and during rest periods is difficult. At least, if ongoing masks going to be required, consider option for outdoor unmasking.
- L.West. – Follows the science and asks that the Board do the same.
- D. Schmitt – agrees with Mr. Carrey’s letter and would not like a different masking requirement for unvaccinated students. Supports allowing masking to be optional. Long day makes compliance difficult.
- C.York – supports Mr. Carrey’s letter. Feels that fear and uncertainty can now be addressed through science. Has Experience with immunocompromised son and can confirm that In sum, he is in favor of mask optional
- S.Scott – speaking as immunocompromised individual. Also in favor of mask optional. Prior to pandemic, there were no requirements at school to account for his condition and doesn’t want the excuse of immunocompromised families to be a reason to keep mandatory masks in place.

#### **5. Board Comments/Questions – Discussion was held**

- Greg Scott moves to modify the H&S plan to follow the CDC guidance issued on February 25, 2022. Seconded by M. Reynolds.

Dan Rufo, Y  
Monica Reynolds, Y  
Elizabeth Falcone; N  
Anthony Bragoli, N  
Greg Scott, Y  
Greg Queen, Y  
Mark Greiner, N  
Sujaya Narahari, N  
Yvan Francois; N

G. Anne Waskiewicz; N  
Gwendolyn Supplee; N  
Seyi Akinfenwa N

**4 yes – 8 no. Motion does not pass.**

- **E.Falcone** –Moves to amend the H&S Plan to allow for optional masking once when the CDC reports a medium or low community level for Chester County and move to mandatory masking when the CDC reports a community level for Chester County as High, with the determination of community level for the following week being made and announced the preceding Friday.

Dan Rufo, Y  
Monica Reynolds, Y  
Elizabeth Falcone; Y  
Anthony Bragoli, Y  
Greg Scott, Y  
Greg Queen, Y  
Mark Greiner, Y  
Sujaya Narahari, Y  
Yvan Francois; Y  
G. Anne Waskiewicz; Y  
Gwendolyn Supplee; Y  
Seyi Akinfenwa Y

All in favor and none opposed, the motion passes. **The H&S Plan shall be amended to allow for optional masking once when the CDC reports a medium or low Community Level for Chester County and shall require mandatory masking when the CDC reports a Community Level for Chester County as High, with the determination of Community Level for the following week being made and announced the preceding Friday.**

#### **6. Public Comment – General**

- D.Booth – email and live. Concerned regarding the bullying/racism in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Daughter has experienced physical and cyber bullying. Substantial reason for choosing RA was the zero tolerance policy for bullying. Believes there is systematic bullying which is unacceptable. Understands staff storage is a challenge but believes repeat offenders are not being dealt with. Requests enforcement of current rules or updated rules. Reports that she has spoken with numerous parents and would like this to be addressed as soon as possible.
- M.Zargoza, - also joined the concern raised by Ms. Booth regarding bullying and asked for input on what the staff and administration would be doing.
- C.Ervin – wanted to join Ms. Booth and Ms. Zargoza and state that this has been one of the worst years for bullying. Her student in 4<sup>th</sup> grade has had experienced repeated physical & name calling. Concerned that kids are deeply affected and that discipline needs return to strict enforcement.
- J.Work – she and her husband are dealing with children’s mental health declining and lowered grades. Feels that middle school behavior is out of control.

- L.Gombarick – has middle school student who has reported seeing bullying on a daily basis and that it is the same repeat offenders. Offered to help. One of a group of concerned parents that wants to avoid the trauma to their children.

7. **Adjournment** Motion to adjourn made by E. Falcone. Seconded by A.Bragoli. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes. **The meeting was ADJOURNED at 8:54 p.m.**



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Monica Mathews Reynolds, Trustee and Recording Secretary