

Approved September 20, 2021

Sebastian Charter Junior High Board of Directors

Minutes of Meeting

August 30, 2021

I. Call to Order/Determination of Quorum/Adoption of Agenda

- A. Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Amy Banov
- B. Board Members present: Amy Banov, Amy Speak, Kathryn Barton, David Puscher, and Muriel Ramos. Members absent: Amber Miller
- C. Requirements for meeting notice and quorum were met.
- D. Administration present: Principal Bill Dodds, Director Anita Taylor.
- E. Mrs. Banov explained the reason for the emergency meeting. Based on high community spread and the spread in our schools affecting students and staff, SDIRC has put in place a requirement for masks to be worn inside all schools and transportation by all staff and students until September 15, when they will re-evaluate the rule. In addition, at least one school has closed for a period of time due to covid.

II. Citizen Input – Four members of the public spoke on the agenda item. Citizen Input sheets are attached. Mrs. Banov Acknowledged for the record that many emails from parents as well as comments for SCJH staff had been received and distributed to the board members in advance of the meeting. Submitted comments are attached.

III. New Business

- A. SCJH Covid 19 mitigation policy. Dr. Dodds gave background information on covid protocols, positive covid tests (14-16 students and 2 staff members) and quarantine numbers (70-75 students affected). The health department has not been to the school, but Dr. Dodds has been using the methods that were used last year for contact tracing. Dr. Dodds and Director Taylor and board members each gave their input on the issue of requiring students and staff to wear masks.
Dodds: prefers seeing the students' faces; SDIRC went against the law with their requiring masks.
Taylor: hesitant to do anything that would jeopardize SCJH funding.
Speak: abstained from sharing opinion.
Ramos: impossible to please all sides; does not want mask requirement; decision should be made by parents.
Barton: we need to comply with the law; not convinced masks are effective in stopping spread; vaccines are effective; if masks are required, parents should have ability to opt out. Puscher: does not want to violate the Governor's order; decision should be made by parents Banov: we should follow CDC guidelines as last year, including masks, which are effective to thwart spread; not too much to ask to help prevent illness and quarantines; it also displays good citizenship and respect for others. Requested written comments be made part of record (attached).
Motion by Amy Banov to require all students, staff and visitors to SCJH to wear a proper face covering/mask while inside the buildings effective immediately and remain in place until a further action of the SCJH Board of Directors, who will review the issue at each future board meetings. Motion failed for lack of second.
Motion by David Puscher to keep the current policy of masks being optional and review policy at each Board of Directors meeting. Second by Amy Speak. Motion passed 4 votes (Puscher, Speak, Ramos, Barton) to 1 (Banov).
Motion by Amy Banov for administration to prepare students and staff with direction and equipment (computers, cameras, etc.) to implement remote education (as was in place last year)

if it becomes necessary. Second by David Puscher. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Dodds explained remote learning can be implemented easily and would be necessary if SDIRC shuts down transportation or food service. He estimated SCJH would need to shut down in person learning if staff or students were depleted by 50% due to covid protocols. Motion by Amy Speak to authorize Dr. Dodds to make that decision without requiring an emergency board meeting. Second by Muriel Ramos. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Amy Banov to recommend all eligible students, staff and their families to get covid vaccination. Second by Kathryn Barton. Motion failed 3 votes (Speak, Puscher, Ramos) to 2 (Banov, Barton).

It was suggested that the school look into the spray disinfecting equipment to augment sanitizing methods currently in place.

IV. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 5:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Banov for
Amy Speak, Secretary