

Tonasket School District #404
“Focused on Learning, Linking Learning to Life”

Special School Board Meeting Minutes
Sunday, February 13, 2022
At 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sharron Cox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Ernesto Cerrillo, Jennie Wilson, and Lois Rhoads attending. Joyce Fancher joined the meeting remotely. Superintendent Steve McCullough and Janet Glanzer were present. Present remotely were Frank Andrus and Rich McBride. The board welcomed all others attending remotely.

BUSINESS

State Mask Mandate

Frank Andrus from Clear Risk addressed the board regarding liability issues if the mandate is lifted. Rich McBride also of Clear Risk agreed with the information provided by Frank Andrus.

A number of individuals attending the meeting remotely addressed concerns about masking and the effects on children.

Lois Rhoads read a personal statement regarding the policing of masking by school staff. Jennie Wilson also read a personal statement.

Frank Andrus of Clear Risk responded to a question about the liability for a student suicide because of masking. Frank commented that Clear Risk will do everything possible to provide a defense to the school board and superintendent. Adding that it's hard to say without a claim and investigation of allegation.

Frank Andrus also responded to a question about Covid claims against the school district. He remarked that, yes, people can bring a claim for anything.

Steve McCullough clarified that if a student refuses to comply, they are sent home. What has happened is, students are refusing to mask and parents are refusing to pick them up. This creates a management challenge at school. This is happening in school districts across the state.

If needed, Steve McCullough may recommend that we go to remote learning until the mask mandate is lifted.

After hearing comments from the public, the board held discussion about the masking mandate and about going remote. They discussed how to help staff and administrators handle the situation commenting that the State should provide assistance and training in how to manage the protesting of masking. Our staff has not been trained in this.

Board Action: Lois Rhoads moved to make a motion that staff and administration are no longer burdened nor will they police the masking of students and parents.

Motion has been withdrawn.

Board discussion and public comment continued. Steve McCullough commented that he is considering not having school on Monday so the staff can develop a plan to manage the protesting.

Minutes

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Board Action: Lois Rhoads moved to make a motion staff and administrator will no longer regulate mask use.

Vote by roll call:

Sharron Cox voted
Ernesto Cerrillo voted
Joyce Fancher voted
Jennie Wilson voted Yes
Lois Rhoads voted Yes


ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sharron Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Janet Glanzer
Assistant Secretary

The minutes of the February 13, 2022 special board meeting minutes (1 page) were approved at the February 23, 2022 meeting.



Secretary to the Board



Chair of the Board
Vice