

The Fredonia Unified School District #484 Governing Board met on Monday, February 21, 2022 in special session at the Fredonia Junior/Senior High at 916 Robinson Street in Fredonia, Kansas.

Board Members present: President Miranda Dinkel, Vice-President Adam Kiblinger, Tim Appelhans, Feyn Baker, Jill Gillett, Dr. Jennifer McKenny and Merlyn Ramsey.

Others present were Brian Smith, Superintendent of Schools; Charletta Gustin, Board Clerk; Jamie Camacho, Principal; Aaron Chard, Director of 21st Century Learning; Brian Houghton, Assistant Principal; Tasha Markham, Assistant Principal, Tim Woodcock, Principal, Jorlan & Kate Shinkle, Patrons; Colby & Billy Allen, Patrons; Grace & Dustin Bracken, Patrons; Shelly Appelhans, Patron; Andy & Patty Miller, Patrons; Bobby Houdashelt, Patron; Seth & Angela Fox, Patrons; Bill & Cindy Hauser, Patrons; Teresa Apollo, Patron; Jessica Evans, Patron; Lacey Spohn, Patron; Diane Hight, Patron; Kristin Grogg, District Technology Director; Don & Jessica Couch, Patrons; Cammie Helton, Patron; John Gillett, Patron; Akul Patel, Patron; Curtis & Allison Strasburg, Patrons; and Ann Dutton, Patron.

Call to Order

At 7:00 pm President Miranda Dinkel called the meeting to order with seven board members present.

Welcome

Board President Miranda Dinkel welcomed everyone in attendance and read a brief statement about the plan for the meeting.

Approve Agenda

Jill Gillett made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Dr. Jennifer McKenney. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Forum

Board President Miranda Dinkel recognized Seth Fox and Jorlan Shinkle. Each gentleman spoke to the board about their concerns with the district's COVID protocols.

New Business – COVID Protocols

Superintendent Brian Smith was asked to present his team's recommendation for the boards' consideration. Superintendent Smith presented three options with the pros/cons of each option.

Option 1

Maintain our current plan that was approved in January.

Option 2

Eliminate our current plan.

Option 3

Take elements from both options and blend them together to bring our plan closer to the CDC & KDHE recommendations.

Superintendent Smith shared with the board his recommendation that was discussed at length with our district nurses and building administrators. It was composed by listening to parental concerns, board ideas and what we felt is best for all USD 484 students and staff.

Superintendent Smith informed the board his recommendation will be to eliminate the Safe Return to School (i.e.: gaiting/reopening) plan, to reduce the number of daily antigen testing to six to allow students returning from isolation to participate in activities with parental permission and to allow the board leadership and superintendent to require masking if the data shows we are in another surge. He also recommended anything that was approved this evening, the Board would not revisit again until school is dismissed for the summer.

After questions and clarification from the Board to Superintendent Smith, Dr. Jennifer McKenny made the motion to accept the recommendation of Option 3 as presented.

Before a second was offered, Vice President Adam Kiblinger, offered an amendment to the motion. He requested to modify the language to require anyone, regardless of their vaccination status or prior infection, that are deemed a close contact, will be placed into the testing program.

Jill Gillett seconded both Dr. Jennifer McKenny's original motion and Adam Kiblinger's amendment.

After a lengthy discussion, the board voted 4-3 to adopt the amendment presented by Vice President Adam Kiblinger to add the language to require anyone deemed a close contact be placed into the testing program.

Dr. Jennifer McKenny made a motion to amend the motion by inserting the words those fully vaccinated and close contacts will be required to only mask through day six. Motion seconded by President Miranda Dinkel. Motion carried 6-1.

Superintendent Smith reviewed the amended motion which was on the table to be voted on by the Board:

- Eliminate the USD 484 Return to School Plan (i.e.: gaiting/reopening)
- Allow the Board Leadership team and the Superintendent to require masks if the real time data suggests we are in another surge.
- Reduce the daily antigen test from 10 to 6 days. Masks will continue to be required while in the testing program. Masks will also be recommended through day ten.
- All students & staff that have been deemed to be a close contact are required to wear a mask through day six, regardless of their vaccination status or prior infection. Those that are not fully vaccinated based off CDC guidelines will have the option of being in the testing program or staying home.
- Students returning from isolation with a negative antigen test from an approved lab on day six or later may return to practice and activities with parental permission.

President Miranda Dinkel called for a vote to approve the amended motion as presented. Motion carried 6-1.

Adjournment

Board president Miranda Dinkel declared the special session of the Fredonia Unified School District #484 Governing Board meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Miranda Dinkel, Board President

Charletta Gustin, Board Clerk

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE Fredonia Unified School District #484 Governing Board will be Monday, March 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Office located at 300 North 6th Street, Fredonia, Kansas.