

**SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING
Sioux City Community School District
Educational Service Center
Minutes – September 15, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.**

I.	Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance	1
II.	Roll Call of Members	1
III.	Approval of Agenda	1
IV.	Items of Presentation, Discussion, and/or Action	1-4
	A. Consideration of Mask Mandate and COVID Mitigation Measures	
V.	Adjourn	4

SPECIAL MEETING
Sioux City Community School District
Educational Service Center
Minutes – September 15, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

President Alarcon-Flory called the regular meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call of Members

Present: Directors Alarcon-Flory, Albert (phone), Goodwin, Greenwell (phone), Saint and Scarlett

Absent: Director Colling

III. Approval of Agenda

Director Scarlett moved and Director Goodvin seconded the motion to approve the agenda.

Directors Greenwell and Scarlett questioned the addition of *COVID Mitigation Measures* to the agenda.

Director Greenwell moved and Director Scarlett seconded the motion to amend the agenda and change the recommendation to: *That the Board of Directors considers mandating masks.* After a roll call vote, the motion to amend the agenda carried 6-0.

Director Saint requested voting by roll call since two Board members were on the phone.

Director Saint moved and Director Scarlett seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. After a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0.

IV. Items of Presentation, Discussion, and/or Action

A. Consideration of Mask Mandate – President Alarcon-Flory

President Alarcon-Flory stated the rules for the meeting in respect to public comment.

- Cindy Waitt (via phone), 3421 Court Street, commented in favor of a mask mandate.
- Eric Blumberg (via phone), 3421 Court Street, commented in favor of a mask mandate.
- Elisha Schmeckpeper, 32795 K18S, commented against a mask mandate.
- Jolene Vasquez, 2201 Bryan St., commented against a mask mandate.
- Meagan Larson, 701 Wright Ave., commented against a mask mandate.
- Stacey Alex (via phone), 3121 Orleans Ave., commented in favor of a mask mandate.
- Jeremy Dumkrieger (via phone), 3101 Nebraska Street, commented in favor of a mask mandate.
- Tosha Cowan, 2100 Villa Ave., commented against a mask mandate.
- Amanda Gibson, 3609 Virginia St., commented in favor of a mask mandate.
- Dan Youngblade, 11 Red Fox Run, commented against a mask mandate.
- Dustin Johnson (via phone), 4401 Natalia Way, commented against a mask mandate.
- Kim Lauer, 3300 S. Cypress St., spoke on behalf of a number of teachers from Nodland Elementary School, against a mask mandate.
- Joshua Potter, 1614 34th St., commented against a mask mandate.
- Jason Geary, 3316 5th Ave., commented against a mask mandate.
- Derek Winkel, 1160 46th St., commented against a mask mandate.
- Matt Jaminet, 1100 St. Mary's, commented against a mask mandate.
- Peter Sieben, 416 Kings Hwy, commented against a mask mandate.
- Bernie Scolaro, 940 Logan St., commented in favor of a mask mandate.
- Mike Bushby, 2331 Seneca Way, commented in favor of a mask mandate.
- Diana Navarro, 3807 Floyd Blvd., commented against a mask mandate.

- Anna Fischer, 3502 Lafayette St., commented against a mask mandate.
- Crystal Angerman, 2640 S. Palmetto, commented against a mask mandate.
- Bev Lessman, 2540 Castles Gate, commented against a mask mandate.

Director Greenwell appreciates all the speakers for and against masks. Last year, he voted for masks when the majority of the community wanted masks and some level of security. Now, with the vaccination rate, the majority of the people do not want masks. He read a statement from Jessica Davis that weighed heavy on him. He will not support a mask mandate at this time.

Director Saint asked if the Board adopts a mask mandate, do we have enough masks available and will those supplies be covered under the present ESSER fund budget?

Dr. Buryanek stated the District currently has 10,000 masks available. If they place an order today, they will receive it by this Friday or next Monday.

Director Goodvin stated that he has had conversations with school nurses, teachers, parents, etc. The SCEA has said they are not going to take a stance. He observed that the decorum today has been disrespectful. He will listen to our staff and students and although he personally believes that masks will help save lives, he will vote no.

Director Albert responded to comments made about the Board having already made up their minds prior to the meeting. She has also heard from parents and teachers, and ran for School Board for the parents, students and teachers. She is disappointed that SCEA has not made a stance one way or another. Over the past year, the Board has listened to teachers over and over about not feeling safe, and she is disappointed that now they are not in favor of masks. She wants to support our parents and faculty and will not support a mask mandate.

Director Scarlett thanked everyone for their different avenues of communication with their perspectives. She believes some of the communications and comments were disrespectful. She tries to respond to all emails and will continue to respond to them. Her perspective has not changed on why she believes a mask mandate is necessary. The community and our dynamics have changed. The personal attacks on the Board show a lack of respect. This Board spends countless hours volunteering their time. She did not run for School Board for any political platform, but ran because she believes our District has a lot of potential for growth and development. The most precious commodity in our District is our children. It has been scientifically proven that wearing masks reduces the spread. Last year, we came together as a nation in the heart of the pandemic and we need to do what is best for our students. Regardless of what happens, we will work together; it is okay to disagree.

Director Saint questioned what is out there as a guide?

Dr. Buryanek stated that currently when any building hits a 10% illness (attendance) rate, we have to report that to the Department of Public Health.

Director Greenwell stated and Dr. Buryanek confirmed that last week there were roughly 20 students (14,500) and 9 (1,500-1,600) staff members out with COVID.

Director Greenwell would like to continue to review the results and that the Board may change their minds later.

Director Albert asked if they could agree on a benchmark at which point the Board would come together to reconsider a mask mandate.

Director Gausman clarified that the number of students is above 14,800 and the number of staff is above 2,400.

Director Albert asked what would that benchmark be.

Director Saint suggested the District monitor the data and provide guidance to the community.

Director Scarlett shared why the Board needed to hold this at 3 p.m.

Director Scarlett moved that all students, staff, and visitors be mandated to wear a mask in the District buildings. This includes audience members of extra-curricular activities and as participants of any meetings held in District buildings. Motion failed for lack of a second.

V. Adjourn

Director Goodvin moved and Director Scarlett seconded the motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion carried 6-0, and the regular meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Perla Alarcon-Flory, President
SCCSD Board of Directors

Cynthia A. Lloyd, Secretary
SCCSD Board of Directors