

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING,  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #225, COOK COUNTY,  
ILLINOIS, FEBRUARY 19, 2022**

A special emergency meeting of the Board of Education, School District No. 225 was held on Saturday, February 19, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at Glenbrook District Office Public Meeting Room 100A, pursuant to due notice of all members and the public.\*

**\*\* This meeting was conducted telemetrically using the Zoom webinar platform pursuant to [Executive Order in Response to COVID-19 No. 5](#)**

The Board president stated the reason for the special emergency meeting is because there have been erroneous reports in the media, as to the position the district is taking regarding the mask mandate, the reports have caused concern and confusion and this meeting is intended to set the record straight.

The president called the meeting to order. Upon calling of the roll, the following members answered present:

Doughty, Glowacki, Seguin, Shein, Sztainberg, Taub

Absent: O'Hara

Also present: Geallis, Gravel, Johns, Markey, Swanson, Williamson

**Approval of Agenda for this Meeting**

Motion by Mr. Glowacki, seconded by Dr. Sztainberg to approve the agenda with a modification to add a closed session to discuss the security of the schools during this time.

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Doughty, Glowacki, Seguin, Shein, Sztainberg, Taub

nay: none

Motion carried 6-0.

**Board and Superintendent Reports**

The Board president:

- Stated that the focus of this meeting is on the transition plan regarding masking
- Noted that civility and respect are crucial throughout this transition period
- Commented as an aside, though it's not a topic of this meeting there was an exchange at our last meeting that we, as the Board has issued a statement regarding the exchange there's also been an apology; also the district has received

2/19/22

threats and they are being addressed

### **Recognition of Community Visitors**

Approximately thirty-four minutes of community members' recorded comments were played.

Community members:

- Thanked the board for going mask optional, and shared the positive response from her children
- Shared frustration with the district's decision to abruptly change the mask policy without prior warning; shared stories of harassment at the school and believes the Board can still reinstitute the mask mandate
- Commented on:
  - The poor communication (message and timing);
  - Stated that issues need to be addressed and should have a plan in place before moving forward
  - This change needs to be done methodically and well planned out with a plan in place
- Asked that we maintain the mask-optional status and those who wish to wear them can continue to do so
- Shared there are a lot of people who support you and the hard work that you've been doing to keep our children and families safe and said thank you very much
- Addressed the decision to remove mitigation strategies and the Superintendent's email referring to our attorney's recommendations and stated that they feel that schools have the ability to enforce their own mitigation strategies, just not through the governor's order; suggested a slow transition to allow everybody time to adapt and time for the organization to prepare
- Want a mask mandate, to keep all students safe and healthy
- Questioned the reasoning for a special board meeting

Mr. O'Hara arrived.

- Shared concerns of our students' mental health crisis, anxiety, and depression
- Commented on the positive experience on Friday, some students were wearing masks and others were not and the same for teachers, but there was a lot of respect and overall great atmosphere, proved that the community is capable of collaborating and respecting each other
- That they have heard that teachers have threatened to quit if we go mask optional, if that is the case we need to have a plan
- Questioned if asking for public comment via voice mail was an Open Meetings Act violation as well as not being able to attend in person
- Requested online learning asap for those who have concerns with the mask-optional change

**Address the Impact of the Appellate Court Ruling on the Mask Mandate and the Staff Vaccination/Testing Mandate**

The administration:

- Shared the timeline for receiving information about the appellate court ruling and providing communication to all stakeholders
- Stated that we are working on plans to address safety concerns
- Asked to have a discussion in closed session with the board to address concerns about the safety and well being of staff and students in light of our need to have a district rule on masks in the district

The Board president asked for a vote to go into closed session.

**Motion to Move into Closed Session**

Motion by Mr. Glowacki, seconded by Dr. Sztainberg to move into closed session at approximately 11:11 a.m. to consider the security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. (Section 2(c) (8) of the Open Meeting Act).

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Doughty, Glowacki, O'Hara, Seguin, Shein, Sztainberg, Taub

nay: none

Motion carried 7-0.

**(Continued) Address the Impact of the Appellate Court Ruling on the Mask Mandate and the Staff Vaccination/Testing Mandate**

The administration:

- Recommend that the board of education, adopt a conditional “mask-recommended” plan effective Tuesday, February 22, 2022, with the following conditions and expectations:
  - Masks must be worn in the health offices and athletic training rooms;
  - Masks must be worn on buses and school transportation;
  - Mask wearing may be required, on a limited basis, to comply with student/staff ADA accommodations;
  - Mask wearing may be required as an added mitigation if there are future spikes in cases;
  - Mask wearing may be required in adherence to future executive, legislative or judicial orders; and
  - No student or staff member will be required to go mask-less.
  - The district will utilize normal disciplinary procedures to address teasing, bullying, and harassment of students and staff regarding mask-wearing

2/19/22

- Other mediations will continue to occur
- Explained the reasoning for the recommendation
- Stated that it was described incorrectly before going into closed; Legal point is the appellate court specifically held that it does not prevent school districts from acting independently, which means school districts can make their own rules regarding masking
- Discussed different options for a date on which to move to mask recommended and shared pros and cons

Board member(s):

- Thanked community members for their support
- Commented that our previous communication regarding statements that were attributed to our legal counsel and published by the administration was erroneous and do not represent the law firm's direction
- Believed that some of the conversations in closed could reasonably be held in open session; acknowledged that technically may accurately be construed as legal
- Concerned with the inaccurate and delayed communication from administration and the position that has put the Board in
- Want to move forward and focus on the children in the schools, health, and mental well being; encourage a smooth transition

### **Approval of Mask Recommended Plan**

Motion by Mr. Glowacki, seconded by Mr. O'Hara to adopt a conditional mask recommended plan effective Tuesday, February 22, 2022, with the following conditions:

- Masks must be worn in the health offices and athletic training rooms;
- Masks must be worn on buses and school transportation per federal law;
- Mask wearing may be required, on a limited basis, to comply with student/staff ADA accommodations;
- Mask wearing may be required as an added mitigation if there are future spikes in cases;
- Mask wearing may be required in adherence to future executive, legislative or judicial orders;
- No student or staff member will be required to go mask-less;
- The district will utilize normal disciplinary procedures to address teasing, bullying, and harassment of students or staff regarding mask-wearing; and
- All additional and current mitigation measures including testing after spring break will continue to be in effect

Upon calling of the roll:

aye: Doughty, Glowacki, O'Hara Seguin, Shein, Sztainberg, Taub

nay: none

**Motion carried 7-0.**

**Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Glowacki, seconded by Mr. O'Hara to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:26 p.m.

Upon the call for a vote on the motion, all present voted aye.\*

Motion carried 7-0.

\* Doughty, Glowacki, O'Hara Seguin, Shein, Sztainberg, Taub

CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT:

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PRESIDENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SECRETARY - BOARD OF EDUCATION