

**BULLITT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1040 HIGHWAY 44 EAST
SHEPHERDSVILLE, KY 40165**

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BULLITT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**August 09, 2021
5:00 PM**

MINUTES OF RECORD

The Bullitt County Board of Education met at the Frank R. Hatfield Administrative Center, 1040 Highway 44 East, Shepherdsville, Kentucky, 40165, at 5:00 PM on August 9, 2021, with the following members present:

Attendance Taken at 4:53 PM:

(1) Ms. Linda Belcher (2) Mrs. Nita Neal (3) Mrs. Debby Atherton
(4) Mrs. Lisa Hodges (5) Mr. Darrell Coleman

CALL TO ORDER

The August 9, 2021, regular meeting of the Bullitt County Board of Education was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board Chairperson Debby Atherton.

ADOPT THE AGENDA

2021-130- Motion made by Nita Neal, seconded by Linda Belcher, to adopt the agenda with the following changes:

- a) Move GENERAL DISCUSSION and item (d.) School Opening Plan to immediately follow Consent Items.
- b) Move the remainder of GENERAL DISCUSSION - items (a.)(b.) and (c.) to follow Executive Session.
- c) Omit NEW BUSINESS - (a.) RESOLUTION - Quarantine Leave.

All members voted YES.

CONSENT ITEMS

2021-131- Motion made by Lisa Hodges, seconded by Darrell Coleman, to approve Consent Items as presented.

All members voted YES.

Travel

**All travel by commercial carrier is due to schedule/cost.*

<u>School</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Travel by:</u>	<u>TRIP#</u>
BCHS	Football	8/20/21	Warren Central	Bowling Green	-0-	Jefferson	11689/ 11797
BEHS	Football	8/13/21	Collins Scrimmage	Shelbyville	-0-	Miller / BOE Vans	11869
	Boys Soccer	8/17/21	PRP H.S.	Louisville	-0-	Miller Transportation	11892
		8/19/21	Nelson Co.	Bardstown			11893
		8/24/21	Shelby Co.	Shelbyville			11895

C.O.#6 – New OMES Construction Project, Stair S101

Presented was Change Order #6 for Redlee Construction and Development, LLC, to widen the Tornado Shelter stairwell and the layout of the exterior walls surrounding the stairwell on the New Old Mill Construction Project. The cost of the change order is \$8,840.43. This will change the construction contingency from \$1,372,440.99 to \$1,363,600.65.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

School Opening Plan

Superintendent Dr. Jesse Bacon shared his initial plan to open school without a mask mandate and allow parents to have individual choice of having their children wear or not wear a mask at school. In the last month, COVID-19 cases in the district and across the state have escalated. Due to those growing concerns, all five board members felt the right thing to do was for the district to enact a requirement for students and all staff in district buildings to wear a mask.

2021-132- Motion made by Debby Atherton, seconded by Darrell Coleman, to require masks for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, when inside a Bullitt County Public School Building, effective Tuesday, August 10, 2021. All members voted YES.

Subsequent to the Board vote, all five board members signed the following statement prepared by the Board Chair:

August 9, 2021

Dear BCPS Stakeholders:

Your Bullitt County Board of Education has the very important responsibility of making decisions that are in the best interest of all students. Despite each of us having our own personal opinions on all issues that require a vote, we must make decisions we feel are in the best interest of the whole. In the past week the status of the Covid-19 virus has put all but 22 of the 120 counties in Kentucky in the RED (an incidence rate greater than 25 cases per 100,000 people per 7-day period). Just two weeks ago, there were 9 red counties. Our own Bullitt County incidence rate of positive Covid test results has risen to 35.7, and we are seeing the effect of that in our number of positive cases (students and adults) within our BCPS system. According to our local Health Department the Bullitt County Case Count for people 0-18 years of age has increased over the past 4 weeks from 2 to 55. For these and other reasons, as of Tuesday, August 10, 2021, masks will be required for everyone, regardless of vaccinated status, when inside a Bullitt County Public School Building.

The most important job we have is to KEEP OUR STUDENTS IN SCHOOL. Will masks guarantee we stay in school -- of course not! But they will help stop the spread in our classrooms. University presidents across the Commonwealth have just joined forces to mandate masks in all campus buildings. After reviewing information released from the CDC, The Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and medical professionals our board feels a duty to mandate masks for all, inside our buildings. This isn't a popular decision. In fact, it is one of the most difficult decisions (along with setting tax rates) most of us have made. Our principals, teachers, staff, and students will have to work hard to make this happen. We need the support of all involved. As we watch the incidence/progression of this disease, and if the spike only lasts a few weeks, we will adjust. Our hope is that this will last a short time.

Our country has a reputation of doing what's best for the common good. As a fourth grader, I took the Salk Polio vaccine in the gym at my school. All students took that vaccine and ultimately polio was nearly eliminated, remaining today in only two areas of the world. Most of us over 60 years old have a smallpox scar on one of our upper arms due to a smallpox vaccination. Again, to rid our nation of smallpox for the common good.

We cannot speak to the decisions our students' parents make regarding vaccinations or masks in most locations. If you allow your children to attend an optional event, outside of school, without a mask, they are among other children whose parents chose for their children to also be there. Attending school is NOT optional. When your children enter a BCPS building, they impact every other student (and staff member) they encounter. That's why decisions like this one fall on us. It is not just about your child, your opinion nor our individual opinions.

As school board members, we are united on this decision. We recognize the timing is difficult, this close to the beginning of the school year, as we had hoped to avoid making this decision. As of Tuesday, August 10, 2021, all individuals entering a BCPS building will be required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. We hope you will support this decision!

Thank you,

Debby Atherton, Chair
Region 3

Darrell Coleman, Vice Chair
Region 5

Linda Belcher
Region 1

Nita Neal
Region 2

Lisa Hodges
Region 4

08/09/2021

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2021-133- Motion made by Darrell Coleman, seconded by Nita Neal, to recess regular session and enter executive session as authorized by KRS 156.557(6)(c) for preliminary discussions related to the evaluation of the Superintendent by the Board or between the Board and Superintendent prior to the summative evaluation. All members voted YES.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

2021-134- Motion made by Darrell Coleman, seconded by Linda Belcher, to exit executive session and resume regular session. All members voted YES. No action was taken in executive session.

GENERAL DISCUSSION - Continued

CASE Assessment Scores

Jan Stone, Director of Assessment, Data and Research, discussed the 2021-2021 CASE/ACT Assessment Results.

Bond Refinancing Information

Team members from R. W. Baird discussed existing bond issues, the Series 2021 Refunding Timeline, and the Projected Savings by Refinancing the Series 2013 Bonds.

Tax Rates & ESSER Plan/Spending

Finance Director Lisa Lewis talked about the Coronavirus Relief Funds and the current and potential tax rates.

ADJOURNMENT

2021-135- Motion made by Linda Belcher, seconded by Nita Neal, to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. All members voted YES.

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY