

Minutes for Feb. 2, 2022
School Board Work Session
Holdingsford Public School

Chair Feia called the Work Session of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:00 PM in the High School meeting room.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Elissa Ebnet, Ed Feia, Lori Opatz, Robert Knettel, and Pat Meier.

Absent: Sarah Binek

Also attending was Superintendent Chris Swenson, Secondary Principal Angela Safran, Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka and School Nurse Kristen Bruns

Superintendent Swenson summarized the migration of finance software platforms. He explained the advantages to using the same platform for both student records and finance. Superintendent Swenson had consulted with Tech Director Feia and they recommend moving forward with transitioning the finance side back to Skyward giving SMART their required 90 day termination notice. The consensus of the Board is to move forward with the switch back to Skyward.

The Board reviewed their committee assignments and filled those vacated by outgoing Board members. The assignments will be approved at the next regular board meeting.

Superintendent Swenson presented the process to revise the COVID guidelines considering the new CDC guidance. Feia asked for state requirements, Nurse Bruns explained that the verbiage from MDH is using “recommended” not “required”. The Board started with setting the following goals: Keep as much COVID out of the school as possible; Keep in-person learning; Keep students and staff healthy.

The consensus of the Board for staff who test positive, they stay home 5 calendar days and then if they are feeling healthy they may return masking for days 6-10. If they are not feeling healthy or choose not to mask they stay home days 6-10.

The consensus of the Board for students who test positive, they stay home for 10 calendar days.

A lengthy discussion took place on household contacts for vaccinated and unvaccinated staff. The consensus is staff may come to work but must test each morning in the Nurse’s office prior to starting their day for 5 calendar days. Staff return to normal on day 6 providing they are symptom free. Staff members choosing not to test must stay out for 5 calendar days from last exposure returning on day 6 if symptom free.

Students with a household contact and are vaccinated may remain in school and monitor symptoms. Unvaccinated students quarantine for 5 calendar days and return to school on day 6 providing they are symptom free.

Superintendent Swenson explained the current contact tracing notification to parents process and explained this is not required and it takes up a tremendous amount of the nurses day. The consensus of the Board is to discontinue the notifications but give parents the option if they choose to remain on the notification list they will be notified.

Superintendent Swenson will present the new guidelines in his Friday update and they will go into effect starting Monday.

The agenda was completed at 8:52 PM with a motion to adjourn by Knettel, second by Meier. Motion carried. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by
Patrick Meier, Clerk