



**READING BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD SESSION
October 29, 2021**

The Board of Education of the Reading Community City School District met in Regular Session at Reading Community City School, 810 East Columbia Ave at 5:30 p.m. and streamed via RCCSD YouTube channel.

The meeting was called to order by the President Beth Wernery at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present, Five. Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Absent. None.

In Attendance:

Mr. Jason Enix; Ms. Colette Lewis.

Motion 229-21 Approve Agenda

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes, Five. Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Nays. None.
The president declared the motion carried.

Board Discussion Items

Ohio Department of Health Revised Quarantine protocols for COVID-19 – Mr. Enix provided an update and over view of the announcement from the press conferences that occurred this week by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). ODH announced a new statewide quarantine option, Mask to Stay/Test to Play. This voluntary, alternative quarantine option is a result of growing national experience, local health departments, and Warren County Pilot Program. These new guidelines will allow our students to remain in school, in person and continue participating in extracurricular activities.

The new “Mask to Stay/Test to Play” guidelines were discussed to go into place on Saturday, October 29, 2021. Parents will receive a district survey asking them to indicate their choice to “opt-in” or “opt-out” of the new guidelines in the event that their child is identified as a Close Contact. This will assist district personnel in expediting communication to families.

The Mask to Stay/Test to Play quarantine guidelines will apply only to students and staff exposed to COVID-19 in a classroom setting or school-sponsored activity. A Close Contact is defined as being within 6 ft for 15 minutes (unmasked/unvaccinated) in a 2-day period. A student who is vaccinated and/or wearing a mask properly is NOT considered a Close Contact and would NOT be required to enter the Mask to Stay/Test to Play protocols. Students exposed to COVID-19 outside of school would continue to follow standard quarantine guidelines.

Mask to Stay

Under Mask to Stay guidelines, students identified as a close contact to a positive case of COVID-19 in a school setting or school-related activity can continue with in-person learning if they meet the following criteria:

- Wear a mask for 14 days after the last date of exposure
- Self-monitor and/or have a parent monitor for symptoms of COVID-19
- Isolate and get tested if a student or staff member start to experience symptoms associated with COVID-19, regardless of the severity of symptoms



Under Mask to Stay, if a student receives a negative test (PCR or antigen) between day 5-7 allows protocols to be discontinued on day 8 (no longer required to wear a mask); test must be proctored.

Test to Play

Under Test to Play guidelines, an asymptomatic student identified as a close contact to a positive case of COVID-19 may continue to participate in extracurricular activities if meet the following criteria:

- Wear a mask when able (on the sideline, transportation, locker room, not actively participating in the activity).
- Test on initial notification of exposure to a positive/probable case of COVID-19 within 24 hours. Failure to test within 24 hours will result in a student being ineligible to continue participating during the entire quarantine period.
- Students are allowed to continue to participate while awaiting results.
- A positive test result requires immediate isolation protocols to be followed (10 days from the onset of symptoms).
- Test again between days 5-7 following the initial exposure. If negative, discontinue protocol on day 8.

Failure to test between days 5-7 would result in exclusion from the activity until quarantine period ends.

Implications of Current Mask Requirements - In addition, the board discussed the current facial covering policy that is set to expire on Friday, November 5, 2021 and is the best practice of layering mitigation strategies.

Board Discussion:

Ms. Beth Wernery stated that the reason for the Special Board Meeting is because of the update to optional guidelines.

Ms. Alycia Bemmes believes this option is a fair option to consider and provides an option for the parents and is a step in the right direction.

Motion 260-21 – Approve the Mask to Stay/ Test to Play Quarantine Protocols

It is moved by Crystal Menner, seconded by Amy Thamann to approve the Mask to Stay/ Test to Play quarantine protocols effective immediately.

Roll Call: Ayes, Five. Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Nays. None.
The president declared the motion carried.

Motion 261-21 Rescind Facial Coverings / Approve Optional Facial Coverings

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Alycia Bemmes to rescind facial covering policy and approving an optional facial covering policy effective Monday, November 1, 2021.

Roll Call: Ayes, Five. Alycia Bemmes, Crystal Menner, Jim Perdue, Amy Thamann, Beth Wernery
Nays. None.
The president declared the motion carried.



Motion 262-21 Adjournment

It was moved by Jim Perdue, seconded by Crystal Menner to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. as there's no further business to come before the Board at this time.

President, Reading Board of Education

Attest: Treasurer, Board of Education