

Anderson School District #41
Regular School Board Meeting
February 23, 2022

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees, Anderson School District #41 was held via google meet, February 23, 2022, for considering business to come before the Board of Trustees.
Board Chair Warren Bauder called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Trustees Present Warren Bauder, Brandon Atkins, Mary Burrows, Jaime June and Kerri Norick

Trustees Absent

Staff Present Kristi Jacobs: Superintendent; Tanya Roberts: Business Manager

Visitors Present Google meet attendees

Correspondence Correspondence included in Board Packet.

Public Participation on

Non-Agenda Items **Trustee Warren Bauder reminded those in attendance that to avoid violations of individual rights of privacy, a member of the public wishing to address the Board during this time will not be allowed to make comments about any student, staff member, or member of the general public during his/her designated time to speak. In addition, the Board will not hear comments on contested cases or other adjudicative proceedings.**
There was none.

New Business

Action

Covid-19 Emergency
Measure Policy 1905
Revision (Student,
Staff, and Community
Health and Safety)

Superintendent Jacobs stated she wanted to start by thanking the community for their involvement and focus during this unprecedented time. Since the beginning of the pandemic Anderson School has worked hard to solicit public input and make choices that are correct for us. I view our handling and approach to the pandemic as a success.

As COVID 19 cases decline across the valley and with the access to vaccines for ages five and up the board requested for me to survey our students and staff on their opinion of having Anderson School become mask optional.

If Anderson is mask optional students and staff would have the choice as to whether or not they want to wear a mask and at what times they want to wear a mask depending on their personal comfort level. It is important to note that masks would still be required on school buses due to the federal mandate. The survey results can be found in your board packet to view. With 163 responses, 78.5% of parents supported the idea of being mask optional and 21.5% saying they did not support it. The 31 responses in the staff survey had similar results with 83.9% in favor of mask optional and 16.1% not supporting it at this time.

As part of being mask optional we would no longer conduct contact tracing due to the difficulty determining who was masked or not and the distances students are apart. However, we will still implement other COVID mitigation strategies

including our cohort model, assigned seating in the cafeteria, and notifying cohorts when there is a positive case much like we do with other communicable diseases. Taking all of this into consideration I am recommending the board approve this revision to our policy and have Anderson School become mask optional effective tomorrow February 24. I believe that we are at a stage where we need to move towards a more endemic response. Moving to mask optional will be the first step in this process.

Chair Bauder opened it up for Trustee Discussion.

Trustee Burrows stated she thought the survey was a good way to gage public sentiment and was impressed by the thoughtful staff comments. She would support the policy revision to lift the mask mandate.

Trustee Norick said that she is seeing the mask mandates lifted in other public schools she works in and agrees with doing the same at Anderson. Many students are still wearing masks and she wants the community to be supportive of personal choice.

Trustee Atkins said he agrees with the policy change and thinks it is time to let parents make the choice.

Trustee June said that she too agrees with the policy change at this time given the lower county transmission rates.

Trustee Bauder believes the county numbers support a policy change. He appreciated the survey results and comments to help make this decision.

Public Comment: There was none.

Motion to approve policy 1905 revision as presented:

Motion: Trustee Atkins

Seconded: Trustee Burrows—passed unanimously.

Personnel

Consideration of
School Nurse contract
revision

Superintendent Jacobs reported this contract revision is brought on by the grant from DPHHS. Julie Ruff's hours are increasing to 14 hours per week as of mid-January. We are able to increase her salary, thanks to the grant and we are using the grant to back pay her at this rate for the school year. The addition of the school nurses at Anderson has been incredibly helpful and we are grateful for the commitment to Anderson.

Motion to revise Nurse Julie Ruff's contract as recommended:

Motion: Trustee Norick

Seconded: Trustee Atkins—passed unanimously.

Adjournment

No objection to adjournment of meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
District Clerk

Board Chair Date