

**Beaver Dam Unified School District
Board of Education Proceedings**

August 16, 2021

A special meeting of the Beaver Dam Unified School District Board of Education was held on the above date at the Educational Service Center. President, Chad Prieve, called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. Board members present: Bev Beal-Loeck (arrived at 5:37 pm), Marge Jorgensen, Tony Klatt, John Kraus, Jr, Mary Kuntz, Lisa Panzer, Chad Prieve, Gary Spielman, and Joanne Tyjeski. Board members absent: None.

Mr. Prieve led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Prieve thanked those in attendance, those who attended the regular board meeting last week, those who are watching, and those who reached out to board members to share their opinions and positions on the topic to be discussed. He said the board appreciates the feedback and comments. He explained that a decision has to be made and people will continue to have different perspectives, He asked, as a point of order, that people remain cordial and respectful of the process during the special session. He stated that people have had multiple opportunities to be heard and it is important to maintain the integrity of the special meeting proceedings. He thanked everyone in advance for their understanding.

Mr. DiStefano, Superintendent, provided an update on current community metrics, including COVID-19 monitoring, confirmed and probable case data, weekly new case averages, and CDC indicators and thresholds for community transmission. He explained that the guidance from the American Academy for Pediatrics, the Wisconsin Department of Health, and CDC has not changed. He recommended face coverings/masking for students and staff and reserving the right to require masks at any point if deemed necessary to respond to local activity/transmission, maintain operations, or otherwise mandated. He requested, if masking is required to begin the school year, that requirements be reviewed at the October Board of Education meeting and, if before that time the CDC transmission rates for Dodge County fall into the lower transmission bands, the Superintendent would have the ability to adjust masking requirements prior to that date. He reviewed mask metric guidelines for context that could be used, in addition to other information, for the district to make masking decisions.

Board members thanked those who reached out through email and other forms of communication.

Tyjeski moved, Kraus seconded, that the board approve the Return to Learn Plan as presented in the face mask policy stipulating, at this point, face masks are recommended but not required and that the superintendent has the right and responsibility to update the plan as necessary.

The motion failed by the following vote: Aye – Kraus, Prieve, and Tyjeski. No – Jorgensen, Klatt, Kuntz, Panzer, Spielman, and Beal-Loeck.

Jorgensen moved, Spielman seconded, that the board require masking to begin the school year and masking requirements be reviewed at the October board meeting and anytime that the CDC transmission rates for Dodge County fall into the low transmission band.

Mr. DiStefano requested a point of clarity if the motion is for low or lower transmission bands.

Jorgensen moved to amend the motion from low transmission bands to lower transmission bands.

Mr. Prieve asked Mr. DiStefano how he would interpret the motion.

Mr. DiStefano stated that he will use this as guiding context along with case numbers in schools, impact on operations, and other transmission.

Mr. Prieve summarized that Ms. Jorgensen is requesting that masking is required at the start of the school year, but the superintendent has the flexibility to change it at any point based on guidance from the CDC and any other metrics that he feels appropriate.

Ms. Jorgensen stated this is correct.

Mr. Prieve clarified that referenced CDC graph is anything lower than high transmission and any other metric that the superintendent felt necessary.

The motion did not receive a second, therefore the motion failed.

Prieve moved the board of education in alignment with current guidance from the CDC, AAP, and public health, universal face covering/masking is required for students and staff in schools. The district reserves the right to amend that requirement at any point if deemed necessary to respond to local activity/transmission levels.

Prieve amended the motion to start at the beginning of the school year.

Prieve clarified his amended motion is the board will require masking at the start of the school year for students and staff in schools with the district reserving the right to amend that decision at any point to respond to local activity/transmission rates.

Spielman seconded the motion.

Mr. Prieve requested the motion to be read.

The motion was read as follows: The board of education, in alignment with current guidance from the CDC, AAP, and public health, universal face coverings/masking is required for students and staff in all schools at the beginning of the school year. The district reserves the right to amend the decision at any point to respond to local activity/transmission rates.

The motion was adopted by the following vote: Aye – Kuntz, Panzer, Spielman, Beal-Loeck, Jorgensen, and Klatt. No – Kraus, Prieve, and Tyjeski.

Kraus moved, Jorgensen seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was adopted by unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

/s/ _____
Chad Prieve, President

/s/ _____
Marge Jorgensen, Clerk