

**Vista School Board Meeting
November 11, 2020 Minutes**

Location: 585 East Center, Ivins, UT 84738 (virtually via zoom)

<https://zonos.zoom.us/j/88096969024?pwd=MzZ2TEMwVVpvTDR5bHpKdkdHeVhsdz09>

Board members present: Josh Aikens, Jacqueline Powell, Michelle Walter, Eli Milne

Others present: Sam Gibbs (Director), Troy Bradshaw (Tech & Finance Director), Britni Armstrong (Board Secretary), Marie Ehlers (School Counselor) Hillary Osness, Emily Caplin, Kelly Geary (VP)

5:05 PM- CALL TO ORDER: Welcome and Introductions- Josh Aikens,

5:07 PM- APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

none

5:07 PM- PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

5:07 PM- COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

none

5:07 PM - DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- COVID related changes/actions

Sam wanted to give the Board our current standing on COVID cases and quarantines. Sam is concerned with a few things that are starting to happen. As of Sunday, we were looking at 186 quarantine cases from the last 2 weeks. We are now at 79 cases. He was also getting contact from neighboring schools about how they will manage some things from the governor's mandate. There's a lot of discussion going on that he would like to talk about. We currently have 7 active cases- 3 adult and 4 students and 13 total cases so far. With all but 1 of the 13 cases, Sam has been able to contact trace them to outside of the school. One case is not sure where it was contracted. Sam has changed policies that dance & PE & recess are mandated for masks at least temporarily. 112 of the 186 quarantines were from PE & Dance because of the unmasked exposure. Of the 79 quarantines, 28 have nothing to do with school (i.e a parent tested positive or a family member had symptoms). 41 are currently school based quarantines. Josh asks what Sam would do if we had a large number of students on quarantine again. Sam said it just has to be looked at case by case. Some students are doing well working at home while others are not. His overall goal is to keep the school open and provide services. Root-cause analysis was from not wearing masks. Sam talked with Dr. Blodgett and in some situations, you can declare a person as essential and manage their symptoms and cases while at work- he could do that with lunch workers, but probably wouldn't do it with the custodians, for example. Sam proposes that we change our policy in regards to PE and dance wearing masks, and even recess, until Thanksgiving. Josh feels that the possibility of wearing masks after school in the extracurricular activities is a better option than sending kids home. Sam agrees. Michelle feels that- as a board member- we have to do what we have to do to keep the school open. She is worried about what will happen after Thanksgiving. Sam feels that PE and recess can gradually be brought back to the original policy with some more community education. Michelle notes that the district has added 3 more teacher work days and asks if Sam is planning on doing the same. Sam explains that the district teachers are teaching both in school classes and online classes. Vista hired a few part time teachers to manage the online classes so our teachers do not need that extra work time. A school closure day could be for a buffer for the time between exposure and being contagious. We would want to strategize that very carefully for that reason. Josh asks how Sam feels about buffering the days after Thanksgiving and if he thinks it will work. Sam says he is only guessing if that will work. Parents still need to go to work Monday and that may cause more incidents of exposure. Sam asks for input from everyone in the meeting. Troy agrees there is no right answer, but it does seem like a viable

option to take that Monday off in case kids are sick. Troy wonders if it may also give kids an extra day to just go and get exposed by friends and other family. Kelly feels like it will only work if families will help us out with the quarantine situation. She feels strongly that every day with the kids in school is a gift and we are making a lot of progress in catching kids up from the spring. If one day off will help to keep them all here for 2 extra weeks in December, it will be worth it. Sam notes that it does help us to align with the district and help families out. Josh feels like large amounts of exposure over the holidays is going to happen anyway. He suggests keeping the PE and dance mandate in place after Thanksgiving to avoid a larger quarantine. Sam agrees and said that unmasked exposure is 30-40 students for 2 weeks, masked exposure is 10 students for a week. Jacqueline doesn't feel like one day will make a difference because there are still large family gatherings happenings. Sam is definitely extending the mask mandate in all classes beyond Thanksgiving. Jacqueline, Josh and Michelle agree that maybe Monday off with more community education and extended mask mandate would be best. Josh has another question about the staff members with active cases and what we are doing for them. Buying them dinner? Sending them flowers? How are we reaching out to support them? Sam says he talks with them each day while they are out. They are being well supported and Sam has tried to just give moral support. Cards have been given also. Josh suggests gift cards or flowers or something be given. Sam says he will go ahead with the Monday after Thanksgiving off, more community education and the extended mask mandate.

MISC COMMENTS

TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

5:46 PM – ADJOURN

Eli moves to adjourn, Josh seconds. Eli says "Aye.", Josh says "Aye.", Jacqueline says "Aye.", Michelle says "Aye." Unanimously approved.

CLOSED SESSION

To discuss the character or competence of an individual. Requires Roll call vote.