

**CLIMAX-SCOTTS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING**

**Date:** August 23, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Jr/Sr High Cafetorium

**1. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Board President, Sue Reichert, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

**Members Present**

Ms. Jackle Longman  
Mrs. Lori Bagwell  
Mr. Trent Piper (left at 6:45 p.m., returned at 7:30 p.m.)  
Mrs. Susan Reichert  
Mrs. Terri VandeGiessen  
Mr. Steve Wurtzel

**Member's Absent**

**Other School Personnel Present**

Mr. Doug Newington, Superintendent  
Mrs. Teri Peters, Elementary Principal  
Mr. Brent Cole, Jr./Sr. High School Principal  
Mrs. Darcy Soule, Board Recording Secretary

**3. Health Department Mask Order**

The current Kalamazoo County Health Department order 333.2451 states that children in grades K-6 wear a mask while indoors for school. This order is effective immediately and remains in effect until six weeks past the date the COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and available to persons aged five years through eleven years. If the rates decline, KCHD said they will resend the order.

**4. Public Forum**

Parents and community members are concerned about the emotional and social development of children. They were also concerned with the children being able to read, speak, and form sounds correctly. Most parents and community members that attended were asking the board to keep masks optional and let parents choose. Many schools of choice families showed up and expressed that they chose C-S because they felt C-S did what is best for the children. Some parents and community members asked that the school stay with the mandate due to family medical issues and the only way they could see each other was if they wore masks everywhere.

**5. Agenda Modifications**

None

**6. Items for Action or Discussion**

**a. KCHD Mask Order 08-18-2021**

- i. The board discussed how they need to support the community and do what is best for the children. The governor is not doing or following a mask mandate right now and neither should we. We are different, we are small, we need to support our community, and our kids. The board also discussed how they could lose the governmental immunity and any liability insurance if they oppose the mandate, or if anything happens to a child due to COVID. The teachers could file a grievance for a hazardous work environment. The board continued to look at both sides.

## APPROVED MINUTES

They want to keep the kids safe but also give them the best education they can. The board mentioned, if optional we will still recommend them to wear a mask

Mr. Steve Wurtzel moved, supported by Mrs. Lori Bagwell, that we the Climax-Scotts Board of Education approve to not implement the Kalamazoo County Health Department mandate 333.2451 as written for grades K-6, and follow the July 19, 2021 motion which states masks are recommended but not required and allow masks to be optional, if conditions change the board will have a special meeting to adjust. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### Adjournment

At 7:43 p.m., Mrs. Terri VandeGlessen moved, supported by Ms. Jackie Longman, to adjourn the August 23, 2021 special meeting of the Climax-Scotts Board of Education. **Motion carried 6-0.**



Susan Reichert, C-S Board President



C-S Board Secretary/Treasurer