

**RIDGEWOOD LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.
Ridgewood Elementary School
225 W. Union Avenue, West Lafayette, Ohio 43845**

5:45 P.M. FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

All requirements of Section 121:22 of the Ohio Revised Code and Implementing Rules adopted by the Board were complied with for this meeting.

6:00 P.M. REGULAR BOARD AGENDA

PRESIDENT'S PROCEDURES - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Frank Mathews, Board of Education President. Present were: Mr. Folkert, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Mathews, Mrs. McCrea and Mr. Riebesell.

A moment of silence was held for long time education and community member Ed Hartstein.

1. ADDENDUM

TREASURER'S REPORT

Add/Modify to List

3. SCHOOLWIDE POOL FUND

➤ 001	to	598-9022	\$ 171,769.80
➤ 572-9022	to	598-9022	\$ 42,920.43
➤ 590-9022	to	598-9022	\$ 6,880.51

Add Item

8. THEN & NOW - The Treasurer recommends the Board of Education approve the following "Then and Now Certificate", as presented.

- Purchase Order #220414 in the amount of \$ 10,008.00 to Linq Inc.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Modify Item

1. 1. RESIGNATION – The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education approve the following letter of resignation ~~due to job abandonment~~, as presented.

- Danny Kinsey - effective July 2, 2021 (end of the day)

Motion to approve – Mr. Griffith

Seconded - Mrs. McCrea

Roll Call: Five Affirmative votes

2. MINUTES-

- Monday, Sept 20, 2021 at 5:45 p.m. Ridgewood Elementary School (Finance Meeting)
- Monday, Sept 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. - Ridgewood Elementary School (Regular Board Meeting)

Motion to approve – Mr. Mathews

Seconded - Mr. Folkert

Roll Call: Five Affirmative votes

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3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

1. Christopher Menapace – 21613 CR 124, West Lafayette - I want to thank the Superintendent for standing up and fighting for our kids and to the Board of Education for supporting the Superintendent with passing the Resolution to wear masks at the September board meeting. Here are some hard facts as of 2:00 p.m. today: Ohio is 4th highest in the country for transmission, Coshocton County is 2nd highest in the state in transmissions. We are 56% higher than the national average in transmissions. We are doing all we can as a family so our kids can come to school. Please continue to support the passing of the resolutions.

2. Melissa Harman - 21463 SR 93, West Lafayette (Handouts Attached) - Mr. Masloski, on Aug 4th you said no mask unless the Health Department enforces them. Over the past 24 days you have reported 16 cases. What are sneezes, coughs, congestion, running nose? These are all symptoms of allergies that are being portrayed as COVID. The masks you are requiring our children to wear a hindering their learning. The masks create an inability to hear and speak clearly. Here are the reported cases to the county Health Department: 9/23 – 8 new cases reported; 9/30 41 new cases reported; 10/7 5 new cases reported. These numbers don't add up to the past 24 days reported. I have one more question, do you all wear masks when you go out? I don't think so because here you are Mr. Masloski at Walmart walking around without a mask.

3. Richard Schworm- 324 Fairview St. Lot 80, West Lafayette - I have just one question to ask, when did it become the Board of Education's responsibility to make the decision for my kids that should be made by me as a parent?

4. Candis Palmer – 58448 Wolfe St., West Lafayette (Transcript Attached)

5. Heather Sturth – 52429 CR 425, Fresno - I would like to know that since you are requiring the kids to wear mask, are you also applying the same effort to make sure that the kids are washing their hands continually? Their dirty hands are also ways to spread viruses. This matter should be a decision made by a family and not the Board of Education.

6. Lester McCurdy – 416 S. Wall St., West Lafayette - I wear two hats in this district, as a teacher and as a parent. As a parent, I too worry about some of the same issues previously discussed. But I also worry about the social and emotional wellbeing of our kids. Those issues are issues that will be affected because we are not in school. The district is applying the rules that are being handed down from the county health department. Why are you here protesting to someone who has no control over the rules? Go and protest to the health department. I tell my student that problem solving in the classroom and problem solving in life are the same, take the rules, apply the principles and solve your problem. The district is trying and doing everything they can to keep our kids in the classroom to be taught.

7. Antonia Rettos – 610 Plainfield Rd., West Lafayette, 43845 - I called the county health department and was told that you can only survive this virus, what a political statement. Ms. Rettos thanked Mr. Masloski and RLSD for working closely with her and her child to provide an education. However, the masks mandate is a cause for reduced learning. For the child who wears glasses, the mask cause fogging and reduce visibility. A mask hinders the student's ability to see/read facial expression and does not promote learning and growth. There is a lack of consistency with how the masks are to be worn. One teacher allows for only the mouth to be covered while the next teacher requires the mouth and nose to be covered. What about safety protocols, are the students allowed to change their masks? I believe that there are two sets of rules, one for academics and one for athletics.

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8. Melissa Bluck, 57393 TR 261, West Lafayette - I'm here supporting the use of mask in the district. I'm a teacher in a neighboring district and we don't require mask wearing. Today alone, I had 1/3 of my class out because of contact tracing. If we were wearing masks, those kids would have been in class. I am anticipating that when the students return, I'll have a different 1/3 of the class out due to contact tracing. Wearing a mask allows our kids to remain in the classroom.

9. Rusty Bluck, 57393 TR 261, West Lafayette - I am lucky that I get the opportunity to work with kids from three school district. Contact tracing is having a negative effect on the districts that are not requiring students to wear a mask. The contact tracing is shutting down educating our kids while the mask eliminates the contact tracing all together.

10. Rachel Stroup – 16264 TR 118, Kimbolton - Mask to save our kids from the virus? It sounds more like wear this mask so we don't have to contact trace....

I have a couple of stats: RLSD, who require mask wearing are at 5.3% of kids quarantined and Coshocton who do not require mask wearing are to 5.37% of kids quarantined. So we are quarantining our kids over .07%? My most important job is being a parent and raising my kids. I am worried about the long term health effects of the masks.

There is an open gym going on, how many of those kids are wearing a mask?

I have one more question and it's for you Mr. Folkert, Do you mask your employees?

Mr. Folkert responded, the health department does not recommend a mask, so No I don't require my employees to wear a mask. Do you think we want our kids to wear mask? We don't. We are not as far off from each other as some of you are thinking. I worry about our kids, especially the K-3 kids. We were able to have "Zoom Learning" last year and it not where we want to go again. Our older kids can push through this kind of learning but the young ones, I worry. If the mask allow for school and activities, then I will vote to keep the mask. Some are upset that we are still providing extracurricular activities; this is still part of learning and developing the social and emotional wellbeing of our kids. If I have to decide school or remote, I choosing school.

11. Rich Starkey – 20985 TR 164, Coshocton - I am not strongly for or against the mask policy. However, I believe that there needs to be some reassurances that the mask policy is about keeping our kids in school. If this is true, then I'd be for mask wearing. With that said, I'm not a fan of wearing a mask because if the mask is not a N95 the mask is not effective. I believe that mask wearing is 100% political. This needs to be a family choice and it is unfortunate that we are all in this situation.

12. Kevin Shaw – Address not provided - Are all the folks here wearing a mask also vaccinated? I believe in not wearing a mask or being vaccinated. If someone believes in wearing a mask or getting the vaccine then go ahead and do it but it should be an individual's choice.

13. Jennifer Shaw – Address not provided – Didn't speak

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14. Meggie Booth – 22022 Valleyview Drive, West Lafayette - Hello, I currently have 6 boys and this is the second year for us in the RLSD. We have home schooled our kids up to 2020 and did we pick a crazy year. After the September mask resolution, we withdrew our kids and began home schooling again. The bigger picture here is that we stand up for our rights and extracurricular activities might be lost because of it. It's coming; our rights are being taken away. I'm hearing stories in public education that a teacher is asking who has been vaccinated? It's none of the teachers or districts business! Choir teacher asked what pronouns do you want to be called! Mask wearing is a form of harassment. The first day after the initial mandate, one of our boys was in class and didn't have a mask on. He was given the option of putting the mask on or going to the office. He chose going to the office and then was sent home from school. At football practice that evening, the kids in his class told him that the teacher was so excited that she got a kid sent home. What kind of teacher is excited because they got a kid sent home from school? Parents do give in.

15. Ben Lafferty – 45375 SR 541, Coshocton - I have 2 boys in Kg. We open enrolled to RLSD because there wasn't a mask mandate at the beginning of the year. Since the mask mandated, my boys have begun to have breathing difficulty at night. We are now giving them breathing treatments before bedtime. If a doctor is required to change their mask every 90 minutes, why aren't we doing that for our kids? Anyone who has kids knows that they are probably the dirtiest people on earth, those mask need changing.

I feel that this is a breach in our freedom and it is being slowly taken away. Stand up and voted no in extending the mask mandate. Please find a better solution.

16. Marilyn DeLawder – 15983 TR 1390, Frazeyburg - People who got vaccinated are still getting COVID. This is political and communistic. Our freedoms are being taken away.

17. Jen White – 52411 CR 425 Fresno, 43824 - My son was the 21st case in the world to be diagnosed with COVID. He has 29 different doctors plus 2 at John Hopkins. His doctors have told us not to get the vaccine or to wear a mask. How many kids are getting respiratory infections because of wearing a mask? Kids can't learn as effectively, they are unable to see facial expressions and mouth formations to pronounce words and letters. I will not bow down to anyone.

18. Bo Booth – 22022 Valleyview Drive, West Lafayette, 43845 - I have 6 boys and a baby on the way. I'm the biggest sports fan there is and I don't want to see anything cancelled. I made a choice to allow my older boys to play football, but I had to sign a waiver. Where is my waiver to sign for my kids to wear a mask?

Mr. Folkert stated, you are willing to take a chance with your son possibly getting a head injury but you don't want him to wear a mask.

Mr. Masloski responded that he is working with the health department towards finding some closure to the mask situation. He stated that tracking by the district begins when RLSD is notified. That notification could be either a single case or multiple cases within that one notice. Mr. Masloski apologized to Mrs. Palmer, stating he didn't remember seeing an email from her husband. I told the audience that if they had questions to email or phone him.

Griffith stated he had just gotten over COVID and he tested positive on a Friday and it wasn't until the following Tuesday before the first symptom started. This is a tricky thing to track.

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4. ADMINISTRATOR PRESENTATION –

- Mike Masloski reminded everyone that Friday is the end of the 9 weeks. He thanked the entire RLSD staff for covering where needed and making sure our kids are in session. He stated that his responsibility was to keep kids in the classroom and to educate our kids.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Jay Tingle, Treasurer

1. FINANCE REPORT - for the month of September
2. BILL PAYMENTS - for the month of September

3. SCHOOLWIDE POOL FUND - At the recommendation of the Treasurer, the Board of Education approved the following transfers to the Schoolwide Pool Fund:

- 001 to 598-9022 \$ 171,769.80
- 572-9022 to 598-9022 \$ 42,920.43
- 590-9022 to 598-9022 \$ 6,880.51

4. PURCHASE ORDERS EXCEEDING \$15,000 - At the recommendation of the Treasurer, the Board of Education approved the following purchase orders, as presented.

- Purchase Order #220400 in the amount to \$20,000.00 to Pepple & Waggoner.

5. STALE DATED CHECKS - At the recommendation of the Treasurer, the Board of Education approved the following transfers of stale dated checks, as presented

- 022-916C to 001 \$919.36

6. DONATIONS/GRANTS - At the recommendation of the Treasurer, the Board of Education approved the following donation, as presented.

From	To	Donation
Mental Health & Recovery Board	RLSD - RES	Drinking Cups (Est value \$200)

7. AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS/ESTIMATED REVENUES - At the recommendation of the Treasurer, the Board of Education approved FY2022 amended appropriations and estimated revenues as presented.

	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>
➤ 516 IDEA	\$ 70,586.87	\$ 96,444.12
➤ 572 Title I	\$ 19,085.47	\$ 19,085.47
➤ 587 IDEA – ECSE	\$ 5,013.13	\$ 5,013.13

8. THEN & NOW - The Treasurer recommends the Board of Education approve the following “Then and Now Certificate”, as presented.

- Purchase Order #220414 in the amount of \$ 10,008.00 to Linq Inc.

Motion to approve item(s) 1-6 & 8 – Mr. Folkert
Roll Call: Five Affirmative votes

Seconded – Mr. Griffith

Motion to approve item(s) 7 – Mr. Mathews
Roll Call: Five Affirmative votes

Seconded – Mr. Folkert

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Mike Masloski, Superintendent

PERSONNEL ACTIONS: It is recommended the Board approve personnel actions as follows:

(All new hires are pending successful FBI and BCI background reports, drug screening and proper certification)

1. **RESIGNATION** – At the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approved the following letter of resignation, as presented.
 - Danny Kinsey - effective the end of day July 2, 2021

Motion to approve item(s) 1 – Mr. Mathews

Seconded – Mr. Griffith

Roll Call: Five Affirmative votes

2. **OVERNIGHT STUDENT TRIP**- At the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approved the overnight trip to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN from Oct 27 – Oct 30, as presented.
 - Ridgewood Vo-Ag (Mr. Pyers and Mrs. Davis)
3. **CLASSIFIED STAFF** – At the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approved the following individual as RES utility position, as presented.
 - Scott McPherson – effective 9-30-2021
4. **RESIGNATIONS** – At the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approved the following resignations, as presented.
 - Scott McPherson – RES Utility Person (end of day 10/4/21)
5. **VOLUNTEER** - At the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approved the following volunteers for Ridgewood Local School District, as presented.
 - Margaret Darr – RES Classroom
6. **SUPPLEMENTAL** – At the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approved the following supplemental for the 2021-2022, as presented.
 - Michelle Miller – RES Yearbook

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7. POLICY READING – At the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approved the first reading for changes to Board Policy, as presented.

New-Revised-Deleted-Replaced	Policy #	Title
Revised	2271	College Credit Plus
Revised	5111	Eligible of Resident / Non-Resident Students
Revised	5111.02	Educational Opportunity for Military Children
Revised	5200	Attendance
Revised	5350	Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
Revised	5464	Early High School Graduation
Revised	5516	Student Hazing
Revised	5630.01	PBIS and Limit Use of Seclusion and Restraint
Revised	6114	Cost Principals: Spending Federal Funds
Revised	7300	Disposition of Real Property / Personal Property
Revised	8330	Student Records
Revised	8400	School Safety
Revised	8462	Student Abuse and Neglect
Revised	8600	Transportation
Revised	8651	Non-Routine Use of School Buses

Motion to approve item(s) 2-7 – Mrs. McCrea

Seconded - Mr. Folkert

Roll Call: Four Affirmative votes

8. CORAS - At the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approved district participation into Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools (CORAS) advocacy investment to promote, identify, research, lobby and advocate for State and Local resources. (FY22 & FY23 - Total Investment \$10,000).

Motion to approve item(s) 8 – Mr. Griffith

Seconded - Mr. Folkert

Roll Call: Five Affirmative votes

9. RESOLUTION - At the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approved the resolution of temporarily requiring students to wear face coverages “mask” Monday November 29, 2021, as presented.

Motion to approve item(s) 9 – Mr. Griffith

Seconded - Mrs. McCrea

The Board held a discussion regarding the Resolution and the comments made during the open public participation segment of the Board Meeting. Upon the conclusion of the discussion, the Resolution was amended to state that the mask mandate could be lifted earlier should the Coshocton County Health Department revise/amend their guideline/restrictions that would allow and/or provide the RLSD with alternative means that would allow its students to remain in school. The Board of Education authorized Mr. Masloski to determine the date and any acceptable modification in lifting the mask mandate with the Board of Education taking action at its next regular scheduled Board Meeting.

Roll Call: Five Affirmative votes

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10. **RESOLUTION** - At the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approved the resolution of temporarily requiring all employees, volunteers, board members, parents/guardians, community members, contractors, businesses, groups renting district facilities, persons attending board meetings, and persons attending extracurricular activities to wear face coverages “mask” Monday November 29, 2021, as presented.

Motion to approve item(s) 10 – Mr. Folkert

Seconded - Mr. Griffith

The Board held a discussion regarding the Resolution and the comments made during the open public participation segment of the Board Meeting. Upon the conclusion of the discussion, the Resolution was amended to state that the mask mandate could be lifted earlier should the Coshocton County Health Department revise/amend their guideline/restrictions that would allow and/or provide the RLSD with alternative means that would allow the public to attend meetings/extracurricular activities. The Board of Education authorized Mr. Masloski to determine the date and any acceptable modification in lifting the mask mandate with the Board of Education taking action at its next regular scheduled Board Meeting.

Roll Call: Five Affirmative votes

LEGISLATIVE:

BOARD ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS:

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING:

DATE: ~~Friday, November 19, 2021~~

TIME: Regular Board Meeting ~~7:00 A.M.~~

PLACE: ~~Ridgewood High School~~

Monday, November 15, 2021

Regular Board Meeting 6:00 P.M.

Ridgewood Elementary School

ADJOURNMENT –

Motion to Adjourn @ 7:53 p.m. – Mr. Griffith

Roll Call: Five Affirmative votes

Seconded – McCrea

Mr. Jay Tingle, Treasurer

Mr. John Riebesell, Board President