MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1
Tuesday, August 24th, 2021
Administration Building – 400 North Elm Street

MINUTES

Emergency Board Meeting 5:00 PM

Attendance: **Absent:**
Sherri Wright, President, District C
Sheri Noyes, Vice President, District F
Tammy Hooten, Treasurer, Director, District E
Jack Schuenemeyer, Secretary, District B
Chris Flaherty, Director, District G
Stacey Hall, Director, District D
Cody Wells, Director, District A

1. **Call to Order**
   a. The meeting was called to order by President Sherri Wright at 5:04 PM.

2. **Pledge to Flag**
   a. The pledge to the American Flag was led by President Sherri Wright.

3. **Set the Agenda**
   a. A motion to set the agenda was made by Stacey Hall. The motion was seconded by Cody Wells.
   Aye: Flaherty, Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Schuenemeyer, Wells, and Wright Nay: None. Motion carried.

   President Wright read a statement and talked to the room briefly about professional meeting conduct. She informed visitors that we would use a ticket system for those wishing to speak and a 2 minute time limit would be allowed per person. Comments will only be allowed for 1 hour.

4. **Citizens Address the Board (Limited to 1 hour for this Meeting)**
   a. Thirty-one separate people addressed the Board asking them not to require masking for students. The comments came from a range of people that included, an M-CHS Student, several RE-1 parents and grandparents, a Dentist, a Speech Pathologist, former teachers and concerned community members. Some of the different reasons they cited for not wanting the students to wear masks were: * families should make the choice, not the schools *psychological effects *conflicting data or incorrect data *long-term effects are unknown * sensory problems in early speech learners *local suicide rates are currently higher than youth COVID deaths * panic attacks *this is reactionary/fear-based * masks are for bacteria prevention not virus prevention * Dolores Schools confirmed multiple false positive test results * mental health issues / depression * masks may cause more face touching/ wearing may cause secondary health problems *

Pulmonologist told the parents not to allow their student to mask * instructions on several mask brands say "not medical grade" * the effects of not hearing children laughing * the student's loss of once in a lifetime experiences of their childhood and school years * low percentages of death rates * most deaths reported had secondary health issues * no end goal * should we be promoting healthy habits instead * current suicide rates are also an emergency * parents will pull their students from RE-1 Schools * personal freedom of choice * trust the parents * which masks will the school mandate?/ who will police it/ what will the washing protocols be? * takes from teaching time and creates a babysitting environment in the classroom * Let our children build an immunity * there is no test for the variant * small children need to see facial expressions to learn * if children get sick they recover much faster * this is a control issue

b. Two parents addressed the Board asking them to vote to mandate the student wear masks. The first told about her experiences as a native family liaison in the ICU were she had to call for body bags for 30 year olds and couldn't contact families because so many members were also sick. She wanted to be there voice since this has effected native people and they were not represented at this meeting. She also suggested following the clear guidance from the CDC that is evidence-based. She cited that as more child vaccine data comes out the guidance may change. The second, a nurse, talked about the increase in cases locally and highlighted that we were talking about a hugely vulnerable group that is not approved yet for the vaccine. She said as a community we need to protect our elders and small children. She said that if her student got another student sick and that student died – it would matter; the actions she takes and her student takes do affect other people.

c. Re-1 Health Services Director Jaclyn Hall gave a report on the district's current COVID status. There are 221 students currently in quarantine. She explained that her position was based on keeping children in school. Quarantines are not meeting that goal. Re-1 uses the guidelines from CDPHE that come recommended from the CDC and currently there is a shift from quarantining to transmission mitigation strategy. She read the statement that CDPHE sent the district recommending the district reduce individual incidents through mitigation. Our county currently does not meet the matrix criteria to halt quarantines. Some of the criteria are: vaccination percentage (66% currently – must be 70% to meet criteria), last is number of cases in 7 days span (must be 35 per 100,000 and currently we are at 198 per 100,000), must have weekly screening in place (she has applied to the state for the screening packets but they are not available until September). This limits us to the individual protections – wearing masks. She repeated her goal of keeping students in school and pointed out that if there was not enough teachers due to the quarantines the students will not be able to go to school.

11. **Action Items:**
   a. **Recommendation to require masks for students during high COVID infection indecencies.**
      Director Flaherty made a motion to recommendation the district require students to wear masks during high COVID infection indecencies.

      The board followed the motion with a brief statement from each director about their personal thoughts on the matter. They appalled the high school senior that had spoken and emailed them in a professional manner and they thanked Jaclyn Hall for her report. One point that was agreed upon was that some parents do send their students into school sick.
       Aye: Hall, Hooten, Noyes, Wells, and Wright (5) Nay: Flaherty and Schuenemeyer (2). Motion fails.

The next Board of Education meeting is a regular session at 7:00 PM, on September 21st, in the Administration Building Board Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.

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Secretary, Board of Education

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President, Board of Education