

RIVERSIDE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION



Special Meeting
Riverside High School
May 4, 2021
6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Opening Items

- A. Call to Order at 6:02 p.m.
Notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 0164B of the Riverside Local Board of Education which was adopted in accordance with Section 1.450 of the O.R.C. and the Ohio Administrative Procedures Act.
- B. Roll Call: Harden, Grassi, Hach, Krenisky, Miley
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Work Session

Mr. Hach opened the meeting by saying that he would like to discuss the face mask policy for this year and the start of next year. Mr. Ron Graham from the Lake County Health Department was also in attendance. Dr. Kalis said that in August, the state was under an order by the Ohio Department of Health that everyone has to wear a face mask in public. This was put into the policy for Riverside Schools. There are now only 22 days left of the school year. Students are no longer required to use desk shields or wear masks while eating in the cafeteria or outside at recess. They are still required to wear masks in the classroom as there are up to 25 kids in a smaller classroom space. He has not received many calls or emails from parents about the mask policy. Lake and Geauga county superintendents met and have not made any decisions about policies for next year. No other district is considering removing the mask mandate for the rest of this school year. Mr. Hach brought up two questions to gauge where we are potentially for this year and next: have masks had a positive impact on learning and can we ever get to a zero risk regarding coronavirus? He believes that masks have been detrimental to the learning environment and we will never get to zero risk. He shared statistics that show a minimal risk to the students' age group and the results of a study done by the University of Minnesota to test the transfer of the virus from student to teacher and teacher to student. The study was conducted in North Carolina, Norway and Sweden. In North Carolina, masks and social distancing were in place. In Sweden, no masks were worn, and Norway did not state whether or not protocols were in place. All three studies showed minimal transfer of the virus. Mr. Graham said they believe that face to

