Minutes of Special Meeting

The Board of Trustees
Leander Independent School District

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Leander Independent School District was held on Monday, August 23, 2021, beginning at 6:19 PM in the LEO Conference Center, 300 S. West Dr., Leander, TX 78641. The following members were present: Trish Bode, Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia, Elexis Grimes, Aaron Johnson, Jim MacKay, Christine Mauer and Anna Smith.

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**
2. **COVID Update**
3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

   Sixty-four citizens addressed the Board of Trustees.
4. **CLOSED SESSION**

   The Board of Trustees went into Closed Session at 9:32 PM after the Board President announced the right to do so under:

   A. Texas Government Code 551.071: consultation with attorney regarding, pending or contemplated litigation, and/or attorney client privileged matter

   The Board of Trustees returned to Open Session at 10:35 PM.
5. **DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

   A. COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols

   I move that the Board direct the Superintendent to rescind the mask mandate and to comply with Governor Abbott's executive order pending its ultimate legal resolution. This motion, made by Aaron Johnson and seconded by Elexis Grimes, failed with 2 in favor (Elexis Grimes, Aaron Johnson); 5 opposed (Trish Bode, Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia, Jim MacKay, Christine Mauer, Anna Smith).

   Motion made by Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia, seconded by Anna Smith. WHEREAS, the Leander Independent School District is charged with the primary responsibility of implementing the state's public education system; WHEREAS, the Board's Policy AE(LOCAL) includes an objective to provide safe, secure, and comfortable facilities conducive to productivity and learning for a rapidly growing student population; WHEREAS, students under age twelve are currently not eligible to receive vaccinations to protect them from COVID-19; WHEREAS, the Austin and Travis County area are experiencing significant numbers of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, and the local health authorities have communicated that there is rapid spread of the virus in our community and calls for the

highest level of safety measure locally in order to save lives and conserve finite medical resources; WHEREAS, increased cases of COVID-19 among our student population could lead to the need to quarantine widely or close school, which will negatively affect the ability of all students to participate in face-to-face learning; NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of the Leander Independent School District resolves that: 1) The Board of Trustees, as a function of their governance responsibilities and local control as a political subdivision, requests and hereby authorizes the Superintendent to implement health and safety measures to address the potential danger of COVID-19 in our schools including, but not limited to, masking requirements; 2) The Board of Trustees expects the District's Administration to take an approach informed by guidance from the CDC and local and State health authorities; 3) The Board of Trustees requests that the Administration provide information to the Board and to the Leander ISD community regularly around local health data and the impact of COVID-19 on Leander ISD schools for the purpose of continuing best efforts to respond effectively to the needs of our students, staff, and families during this unprecedented and ongoing health crisis. Approved this 23rd day of August 2021, by the Board of Trustees of the Leander Independent School District.

Motion to amend by Jim MacKay, seconded by Aaron Johnson: This resolution expires September 9, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. and the Board intends to include this topic in the agenda for the scheduled regular public meeting of the Board of Trustees for September 9 , 2021. The amendment, made by Jim McKay and seconded by Aaron Johnson, passed unanimously.

The amended motion passed with 5 in favor and 2 opposed (Elexis Grimes and Aaron Johnson).

B. Consider Approval of COVID Extended Leave for Staff

I move the Board adopt the resolution to approve the 8 days of COVID Extended Leave for all employees, as well as Teacher Fellows, retroactively from July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. This motion, made by Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia and seconded by Jim MacKay, passed unanimously.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, HAVING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, ADJOURNED THE MEETING.

Time: 11:07 PM

These minutes were read and approved by the Board of Trustees on the 30th day of September 2021.

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President Secretary

Copies of Board information referred to are attached to the official minutes or filed in the office indicated.