

MINUTES OF THE LEWISTON-ALTURA SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ISD #857
August 17, 2021

A special meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #857 was held on August 17, 2021. The Board members met in the High School Library and the public was able to be present or access the meeting via ZOOM due to COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions. Members Brummer, Koverman, Pringle, Maki, Meisch, Meyer, and Sommer were present.

Brummer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Superintendent Carman presented information, recommendations, and options for the 2021-22 Return to School Safe Learning Plan.

Motion by Maki, second by Meisch to approve Resolution for Health and Safety Measures for the 2021-22 School Year:

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.09 vests the care, management, and control of independent districts in the school board; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Independent School District #857 [hereinafter the “Superintendent”] is responsible for the management of the schools, the administration of all School District policies, and is directly accountable to the School Board; and

WHEREAS, when responsibilities are not specifically prescribed nor School District policy applicable, the Superintendent shall use personal and professional judgment, subject to review by the School Board, pursuant to School District Policy 302, *Superintendent*; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) have determined that the COVID-19 pandemic is currently ongoing and may remain ongoing for an unknown time; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education (“MDE”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on educational issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the MDH has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on public health issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding COVID-19 health and safety measures, the current CDC, MDE, and MDH requirements for each, and other relevant information; and

WHEREAS, based upon the collective consideration of these factors, the Superintendent has recommended to the School Board that:

Prevention Strategies:

All staff, students, and visitors within Independent School District 857 buildings, regardless of vaccination status, are recommended to follow the strategies of physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfection, contact tracing, screening testing, and staying home when sick as defined in the [“CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools.”](#)

Masking:

Students within Independent School District 857 buildings that are between PK- Grade 6 must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, as specified in the [“CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools;”](#)

PK-6 staff working with PK-6 students must wear a mask, or if fully vaccinated may wear a face shield;

PK-12 staff working directly with medically fragile students must wear a face mask;

All staff and visitors within Independent School District 857 buildings, who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask as specified in the “[CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#);”

All other Grade 7-12 staff and students within Independent School District 857 buildings are recommended to wear a mask;

be implemented at the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 857 as follows:

Section 1: The Superintendent is hereby directed to implement the health and safety measures to open the 2021-2022 school year as proposed by the Superintendent.

Section 2: The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement different health and safety measures for the School District or any specific school buildings without School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of different health and safety measures is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation. The health and safety measures selected and implemented by the Superintendent shall continue in effect unless and until the School Board, in consultation with the Superintendent and appropriate school district staff and public health officials, deems it in the best interest of the School District and its students to implement different health and safety measures.

Section 3: The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District’s efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Meyer, Koverman, Maki, Meisch, Sommer. Nays: Brummer, Pringle. Motion passed 5-2.

Motion by Sommer, seconded by Meyer to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 pm. MCU.

Melissa Meisch, Clerk