

AGENDA

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW GLARUS

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021

**HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER, ROOM 183 JOIN ZOOM MEETING USING
LINK**

**HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/81476805368?PWD=CHCWQMZKMYTJAULIEM4
YZURPSNPOUT09 OR BY PHONE USING 1-646-568-7788 MEETING ID 814 7680**

5368 & PASSWORD 765396

1701 2ND STREET

NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN 53574

7:15 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Agenda Published
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of Agenda and Revisions

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

- A. Review and Potential Action on Amendments to the New Glarus
School District 2021-22 Covid Protocols

2

Proposed Amendment to 2021-22 Covid-19 Protocols
For Board Consideration 8/23/21

1) Recommendation to Amend Protocols for “Masks” and “Metrics” to the following:

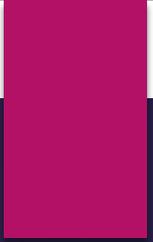
Masks and Metrics:

- Mask wearing is required on buses regardless of vaccination status per federal requirements.
- The Board President, District Administrator and School Nurse will continually monitor the COVID-19 rates in our area and make a determination each week, for the following week, whether masks will be required indoors (except to eat breakfast or lunch in a socially distanced setting).
 - Mask wearing will be required indoors for 4K-6th grade students, staff, and visitors/spectators when either of the following metrics is met, until 4K-6th grade students are able to be fully vaccinated:
 - When the number of positive cases and quarantines (our internal metric) reaches 5% in a building, mask wearing will be required in that building.
 - When the New Glarus School District Boundary metric is Orange or Red (>2 positive cases in 7 days out of the 4,789 people that live within the boundary limits) on the DHS website:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/data.htm#maps>.
 - Mask wearing will be required indoors for 7th-12th grade students, staff, and visitors/spectators when the following metric is met:
 - When the number of positive cases and quarantines (our internal metric) reaches 5% in a building, mask wearing will be required in that building.
 - The District will have discretion to require masks using other criteria if unforeseen situations arise.
- When mask wearing isn't required, it is still recommended.

2) Recommendation to Amend Protocols to Add a Definition for “Covid Symptoms”:

Definition of “Covid Symptoms”:

- One of the following symptoms will be considered as “symptomatic for Covid”, unless there is a doctor's diagnosis otherwise:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - New loss of taste or smell
- Two of the following symptoms will be considered as “symptomatic for Covid”, unless there is a doctor's diagnosis otherwise:
 - Fever of 100.4 or higher
 - Nausea/vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose



Proposed Amendments to 2021-22 Covid-19 Protocols

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING - 8/23/2021

Background Information

- ▶ The 2021-22 Covid-19 Protocols were written in mid-July to give the Board two weeks to review them prior to their August 2nd meeting. In mid-July, New Glarus, Green County, and Wisconsin had low rates of transmission, the CDC had backed off on many protocols and recommendations, and very few people were wearing masks, indoors or outdoors.
- ▶ In the original plan, masks were recommended until we hit a internal metric (which was the most useful metric of all the ones we used last year), and then we would require masks.
- ▶ Since mid-July the guidelines and recommendations have changed constantly for schools and it's become a polarized issue – require masks or don't.
- ▶ There are multiple angles to this issue and all are worth considering. I appreciate everyone who has reached out respectfully with their facts, articles, information, and opinions on all sides of issue.

Context from Last Year At This Time

- ▶ Many health organizations last year said the risk of getting Covid was too high to have students in school and students should learn virtually
 - ▶ Dane County made a county order that students had to learn virtually
 - ▶ Most of the rest of the state, including all of Green County, decided to have students in-person in a hybrid or fully in-person model
 - ▶ NG was in a hybrid model throughout the year, except 3 weeks when we switched to virtual instruction. We used metrics to decide when to switch to virtual instruction.

Similarities in Context this Year

- ▶ At this time, many health organizations are saying the risk of getting Covid is too high and schools should require everyone to wear a mask.
 - ▶ Dane County made a county order that everyone is required to mask indoors.
 - ▶ Most of the rest of the state, including all of Green County, has decided to recommend, but not require masks at this time.
 - ▶ NG is recommending to have metrics to determine when to require masks indoors.

Is there a different way to look at the mask debate?

- ▶ Instead of debating “require masks” or “don’t require masks”, we are instead asking the question “When do the educational risks outweigh the health risks, and vice versa?”
- ▶ What are the possible health risks?
 - ▶ Even with our high vaccination rates, students or staff could get Covid.
 - ▶ Even with our high vaccination rates, students or staff could get Covid and pass it along to other people.
- ▶ What are the possible educational risks?
 - ▶ Masks may interfere with learning. For example, students can’t see teachers faces to see expressions or word formation.
 - ▶ Masks may cause anxiety or other social/emotional harm to students.

Recommendations:

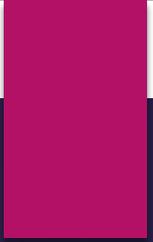
- ▶ From the many emails and calls I've received about the mask issue, it's clear that we all see the amount of risk differently, and I respect and understand the different perspectives.
- ▶ Based on my assessment of the risks, the first proposed amendment recommends adding another metric for 4K-6 since they cannot be vaccinated yet. As I said at the August 2nd Board meeting, I completely understand if the Board decides on a different metric, or decides to make a blanket statement to "require masks" or "recommend masks." As an Admin Team we understand there are many different perspectives, and will support and implement whatever the Board decides.
- ▶ After reviewing the original plan, we realized Covid symptoms were not defined, therefore, a second proposed amendment defines Covid symptoms. The proposal is to have the definitions be the same as last year.

Proposed Amendment #1 – Masks and Metrics

- ▶ Mask wearing is required on buses regardless of vaccination status per federal requirements.
- ▶ The Board President, District Administrator and School Nurse will continually monitor the COVID-19 rates in our area and make a determination each week, for the following week, whether masks will be required indoors (except to eat breakfast or lunch in a socially distanced setting).
 - ▶ Mask wearing will be required indoors for 4K-6th grade students, staff, and visitors/spectators when either of the following metrics is met, until 4K-6th grade students are able to be fully vaccinated:
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 - ▶ Mask wearing will be required indoors for 7th-12th grade students, staff, and visitors/spectators when the following metric is met:
 - ▶ When the number of positive cases and quarantines (our internal metric) reaches 5% in a building.
 - ▶ The District will have discretion to require masks using other criteria if unforeseen situations arise.
- ▶ When mask wearing isn't required, it is still recommended.

Proposed Amendment #2 – Definition for “Covid Symptoms”

- ▶ One of the following symptoms will be considered as “symptomatic for Covid”, unless there is a doctor’s diagnosis otherwise:
 - ▶ Cough
 - ▶ Shortness of breath
 - ▶ New loss of taste or smell
- ▶ Two of the following symptoms will be considered as “symptomatic for Covid”, unless there is a doctor’s diagnosis otherwise:
 - ▶ Fever of 100.4 or higher
 - ▶ Nausea/vomiting
 - ▶ Diarrhea
 - ▶ Fatigue
 - ▶ Muscle or body aches
 - ▶ Headache
 - ▶ Sore throat
 - ▶ Congestion or runny nose



Board Discussion and Possible Action

IV. ADJOURN

PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE LAW, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A QUORUM OR A MAJORITY OF THE NEW GLARUS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING. INFORMATION PRESENTED AT THIS MEETING MAY HELP FORM THE RATIONALE BEHIND FUTURE ACTIONS THAT MY BE TAKEN BY THE NEW GLARUS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD.

UPON REQUEST TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE, SUBMITTED TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS IN ADVANCE, THE DISTRICT SHALL MAKE REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL IN AN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT FOR A DISABLED PERSON TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.