

Special Meeting

Monday, August 30, 2021 5:30 PM

R-P Schools Auditorium, 1000 Pine Meadows Lane, Rushford, Minnesota 55971

1. Call to Order

PLEASE NOTE: Public comments will not be heard at this meeting. The School Board and Administration would like to thank everyone for their input at the regular meeting on August 16th as well as by phone or email and encourages our families to reach out to board members with any additional comments.

Chris Grindland, Chairperson

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Joyce Iverson, Vice-Chairperson

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Matt Helgemoe, Clerk

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Jeff Michel, Director

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Bonnie Prinsen, Director

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2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

4. Adoption of Agenda

5. Discussion on the 2021-2022 COVID Back-to-School Plan.

6. INFORMATION:

Regular Monthly Meeting - September 20th, 5:30
p.m. in the Forum Room

7. ADJOURNMENT

Rushford-Peterson School
Board Special Meeting
August 30, 2021
Information

A couple areas where there seemed to be a clear consensus -

- Everyone wants our students in the building.
- Students/staff who have symptoms or are feeling ill should stay home

Vaccination Privacy - One item that was presented to the Board during the public comments portion of our regular meeting was the feeling that their child's vaccination status should NOT be considered for decisions on masks or quarantine periods.

This belief runs contrary to CDC guidance, but did seem to weigh heavily on the perspective of these parents as they considered quarantine periods.

Positive COVID - Students/Staff with a positive COVID-19 case - CDC recommendations would indicate that a positive case should remain home 10 ten days after onset of symptoms or positive test, and are fever free for 24 hours without medicine.

Symptoms While at School - students will be isolated and evaluated. Decision tree will help determine if a student should go home. Staff would be sent home. Testing would be recommended. No return to school until symptoms have ended. [MDH Decision Tree](#) Common symptoms vs. more concerning symptoms

Quarantine -

CDC guidance provides that people who are fully vaccinated, or have had a positive COVID test in the last 90 days, and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine, but should get tested after an exposure to someone with COVID-19.

Mask wearing is recommended in CDC guidance.

MDH - Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. - (Per 8/11 Update on "Recommendations for Handling a Confirmed COVID-19 Case)

CDC recommends a 14 day quarantine after exposure as the best method to prevent spread. The CDC does include provisions to shorten this quarantine. Our school allowed a 7th day return after a negative test following day 5 and no symptoms. *(last spring considered vaccine status)*

OPTIONS

- 1) Follow guidance as we did last year - 7th day return after a negative test and no symptoms. (Vaccination status is part of CDC recommendation) (K-12 masks would eliminate quarantine)
- 2) Close contact quarantined out of school for 7 days only if no symptoms
- 3) Close contacts quarantined for 7 days and if no symptoms are present then can remain at school if wearing a mask (no consideration for vaccination status)
 - Options 1 - 3 would be for PK-12 students and staff
- 4) Close contact PK-5 students, with no option for a vaccination, would remain home for 7 days, MS and HS age students could return if wearing a mask in school for 7 days.
- 5) Students or staff who test positive should remain at home for 10 ten days after onset of symptoms or positive test, and are fever free for 24 hours without medicine.
- 6) Scaled Approach For Determinations - following the scaled plan from last year but add an extra layer. We utilized 5% last year to make determinations by grade level, grade cluster and building. Could we utilize 7% or 10% to require a greater level of protection. (Move from a mask recommendation to masks required, move to online, etc.)
- 7) Do we consider Positive Case Exposure at home differently, or not?

OTHER NOTES

- Testing would be recommended and offered at school but not required.
- The seven days (quarantine without negative test) listed in options above is not in CDC guidance. However, guidance did allow close contacts who tested negative after 5 days to return on the 7th day. This option eliminates the testing requirement and relies on symptoms, or no symptoms, to be the determining factor.
- Families who are considering online, homeschooling or open enrollment may reconsider based on our decision. Other families may consider these options if we mandate masks.
- Masks on school buses is a Federal requirement.