

FALL RIVER JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TOWN HALL MEETING - SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

DATE: July 28, 2021
TIME: 5:00 PM
LOCATION: District Office – Multi-Purpose Room
20375 Tamarack Avenue
Burney, CA 96013

APPROVED MINUTES

Individuals wishing to address the Board should register prior to the start of the meeting.

1.	CALL TO ORDER by <u>T. Vigil @ 5:00 pm</u>
2.	ROLL CALL; ESTABLISH A QUORUM; SALUTE FLAG Dougherty: Present Estes: Present Hathaway: Present Venegas: Present Vigil: Present Others:
3.	PRESENTATION – Opening Address by Superintendent Dr. Merrill Grant M. Grant, Superintendent – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proud that we kept the district open for the 2020-2021 school year.• Looking to see what policies we need to put in place for the current year.• 160 students on Distance Learning for the 2020-2021 school year.• Students who will not wear masks can enroll into Ind. Study.• Staff members and students are required to mask.
4.	PUBLIC DISCUSSION – Topics/Initiatives in Focus/Public Comment/Q & A Marie Quinlan, Community Member – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will parents be allowed to volunteer at school for the 2021-2022 school year? M. Grant, Superintendent – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents will be allowed to volunteer as long as they wear a mask. Brett Casbier, Community Member – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coaches are being pressured to be vaccinated as well as students that participate in sports. J. Hathaway, Board Trustee – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other countries are requiring a certain population to be vaccinated. At this point vaccines are not required nor should it be. M. Grant, Superintendent – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optional vaccines for sport participants.• If a vaccinated students is exposed they do not have to quarantine. Nicole Oilar, Community Member – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Globally 99.7% survival rate.• Per the CDC, 95% of Covid deaths are from another medical reason.• PCR test is inaccurate.• Under 18 year olds are the population with the most adverse reactions to the vaccine.• 97% deaths from the Spanish flu died from bacteria from masks. Kristi Schultz, Community Member – Virtual

- Agree with Nicole Oilar.

Megan Hammock, Community Member –

- Have 3 children who are auto immune deficient.
- Being masked all day is causing more issues with her children.
- Will there be medical exemptions?

J. Hathaway, Board Trustee –

- Yes, it is already in the guidelines.
- The board appreciates all of the community input.

Holly Spainhour, Teacher –

- As a teacher, making sure students are wearing their masks takes away from instructional time.

Juana Avila, Community Member – Virtual

- Agree with Nicole Oilar and Holly Spainhour

Danielle, Community Member – Virtual

- I agree 100% with Holly.

Elaine Calzia, Teacher – Virtual

- I also agree with Holly's comments on the difficulty of keeping small children masked.
- The children who needed them last year because they were bus riders were unable to keep track of them.
- The children are little and not mature enough for that responsibility.

Ginny Casaurang, Teacher – Virtual

- I agree with Holly and Elaine.

Rachel Mercado, Community Member –

- Masks should be optional.
- People who want to wear them should. People who don't want to wear them, then don't.
- The same with vaccinations.

ZarynthGamer13, Community Member –

- Why isn't the district nurse answering questions?

M. Grant, Superintendent –

- Currently, there is no district nurse.

Kari Rose, Teacher –

- What does proximity mean to students?

M. Grant, Superintendent –

- When teachers are with students inside the classroom they need to wear a mask. Not outside.
- The district liability is immense.
- Have to go by the CDC guidelines
- We are one of very few school that stayed open when on one else (districts) stayed open.
- The district has spent 10's of thousands of dollars on PPE.
- Out of 180 school days, the district stayed open 170 days.
- Had many obstacles over the year.

Nicole Oilar, Community Member –

- There are lawsuits in California by parents who oppose the mask mandate.
- How will the district handle it?

Pam Bruce, Community Member – Virtual

- I also agree with Mrs. Oilar just for the record.

Breanna Covert, Community Member – Virtual

- I agree with Nicole Oilar as well for the record.

Brian Espinoza, Community Member –

- Economic burden – Who is paying for the masks?
- Does the district give students a new mask every day?

M. Grant, Superintendent –

- The district will pay for the masks like they did last year.

Brian Espinoza, Community Member –

- What about the emotional impact on the students?
- Will a child be able to get an exemption if a student is having emotional issues?
- As Americans we need to give people the option to wear a mask or vaccinate.

Daniel Schnieder, Community Member –

- What are the numbers of covid cases for non-masked students?

M. Estes, Board Trustee –

- Unmasked grades had 17 cases of Covid.
- Masked grades had 18 cases of Covid.
- Jr. High had 48 cases of Covid.

M. Grant, Superintendent –

- Enforcement for student mask wearing will be flexible.
- Very few medical exemptions last year.
- Case by case basis.
- Will work with families to be accommodating to students and families.

Darrell Schnieder, Community Member –

- Zero cases of students being hospitalized.

Karen Adams, Community Member – Virtual

- Can you speak to the vaccination/testing mandate for state workers?

M. Grant, Superintendent –

- There are no distancing requirements.
- People have asked if district employees will be required to be vaccinated?
- School district employees are not State employees.

Jennifer Berdilson, Community Member –

- Thanks the board.
- Daughter has a history of pneumonia.
- Became sick after wearing mask.
- Can students on Ind. Study play sports?

M. Grant, Superintendent –

- Students on Ind. Study (Comprehensive Schools) are eligible to play sports.

Diane Maupin, Community Member –

- Worried about the psychological issues for students.
- Don't want students being threatened by the principal regarding masks.
- Students are having panic attacks.
- We need to protect our children.

Robin Schnieder, Community Member –

- How does the district justify making K-12 students wear masks all day?
- Is TK masking?
- No mandate over the summer. Why now do kids have to wear masks in school?

M. Grant, Superintendent –

- TK will not be required to mask.

I. Venegas, Board Clerk –

- Want to hear from the community.
- Don't believe in the mask mandate.
- No one wants to hurt children.
- The board wants the best for all children.

T. Vigil, Board President –

- This should be an adversarial meeting.
- We all want wants best for students.

Jenna Kroshel, Community Member –

- Reading a letter for Emily Hendrix. Please unmask our children!!

Marie Quinlan, Community Member –

- The board needs to protect the district against liability.
- The Community and the board/district needs to work together.

Heather Corr, Community Member –

- Physician's Assistant at the hospital.
- Not for or against masks.
- Had a baby during Covid.
- Have watched people die from Covid.
- Wears a masks to protect others.
- Everyone is doing the best they can.
- Would like masks to be optional.

Angela Worthington, Community Member –

- Appreciates Iggy's stance on the mask mandate.

R. Dougherty, Board Trustee –

- Wants to hear from the community.
- There is a lot of information out there.
- Has a Science background.
- A lot of the information doesn't make sense.
- The number 1 consideration is the student's safety.
- Cannot be civilly disobedient and be a board member.
- The district is bound by laws.
- If you want to help the district you need to contact legislatures.
- The district doesn't feel comfortable ignoring the CDC guidelines.

T. Vigil, Board President –

- Contact congressman.
- Has been on the board for 24 years.
- Has raised four children in the district.
- The district worked hard to stay open for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Wanting to do what is best for all students.
- Wants everyone to be on the same side. Not be enemies.

Collin Corr, Community Member –

- Please explain the power that the board has?

T. Vigil, Board President –

- As board members we have to go by the CDC guidelines.
- The district has taken liberties in certain situations.

M. Grant, Superintendent –

- The district has to go by the CDC guidelines.
- We stretch local control.
- Will look into waivers.
- Will revisit the mask mandate by November.

M. Estes, Board Trustee –

- Trying to keep ears open since she is new to the board.
- Conscience tells her that masks should be optional.
- Appreciates everyone's opinions.
- Seems like everyone is passing the buck.

T. Vigil, Board President –

- The board has no individual power.
- We want all students back in school.
- Want kids to be emotionally healthy.
- Will gather information for what is best for students.

Andy Oilar, Community Member –

- Covid doesn't seem as bad as it was originally portrayed.
- Thanks the board for their work.

T. Vigil, Board President –

- The board cares for the students!!

J. Hathaway, Board Trustee –

- We can't limit the liability for the district.
- Don't know if passing a resolution will decrease liability.
- It might make the district more liable.

T. Vigil, Board President –

- We take everyone's comments seriously.

M. Estes, Board Trustee –

- We appreciate the process.
- Can't be flippant with our choices.

Ashely Kohnhorst, Community Member – Virtual

- For employees, if we are required to quarantine again will there be any Covid-19 leave available this year?
- I also agree with Holly and Elaine.

Renee Wimer, Community Member – Virtual

- If the school must resort to full time distance learning, what program will the district be using? Will the vaccinated students be able to continue full time in school or could there be a situation where they too would have to go to distance learning?
- It is an easy and simple consideration to wear masks in order to err on the side of caution and consideration for each other.
- Being in a small community does not lessen how we are or not affected.
- We all travel or are around others that do.
- Showing basic safety recommendations is not a hardship.

ZarynthGamer13, Community Member –

- Agree Renee!

Jacque Stewart, Community Member – Virtual

- What are the consequences for a child if they don't wear a mask?
- Are they going to be excluded from on-site learning?

Rachel Mercado, Community Member – Virtual

- And getting citations/recess/privileges taken away for the children who forget their masks is not right.
- Stressing everyone out because children are still somewhat un-responsible of their belongings.
- Some mornings I'm not there to make sure they have everything.
- Then hearing later they got in trouble because they forgot their masks at home.
- Our drive to school is 15-20 minutes.

ZarynthGamer13, Community Member –

- I don't think our kids, given the choice, have a hard time doing what is asked of them especially when some of their peers could be jeopardized.
- Covid is still spreading throughout our communities as well as the country.
- I am sorry Rachel if that happened. I know Fall River Elementary and High had masks for our students who may have forgotten theirs.

Hugo Castro, Teacher – Virtual

- Have any updates come from the state concerning students who participate in music?
- Will students be able to play instruments, sing, and participate in plays and musicals?

Lavissa (Charlene) Marks, Community Member – Virtual

- I think the biggest thing in this whole situation regardless of which side you support is to be a positive light in your child's life.
- Speak kindly about the situation.
- Let's not send our children to school with anything by positive vibes!
- You as parents set the tone

Breanna Covert, Community Member – Virtual

- You have options if your child's health is compromised.
- By all means parents protect your children.
- Have them wear a mask, vaccinate them, keep them home on distance learning, etc.
- As a parent of healthy children I feel that I need to try my best to protect their health as well in this case against mask wearing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have too many negative side effects on our kiddo's health wise, socially, mentally, etc. <p>Heidi Greer, Community Member – Virtual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Jr. High and High School student have access to the locker rooms and be able to dress down for PE?
5.	NEW BUSINESS
	<p>5.1 Consider for Approval Resolution 2-2020/2021: Local Control for Facial Coverings in Non-Urban K-12 Schools</p> <p>Motion to Approve Resolution #2 – 2021-2022: Local Control for Facial Coverings in Non-Urban K-12 School Districts by <u>I. Venegas</u> /2nd by <u>R. Dougherty</u></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Roll Call Vote:</p> <p>Dougherty: Aye Estes: Aye Hathaway: No Venegas: Aye Vigil: Aye</p> <p>Ayes: 4 Noes: 1 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
6.	ADJOURNMENT by <u>T. Vigil</u> @ <u>7:00 pm</u>

Copies of the agenda, complete with backup materials, may be reviewed at the District Office. A schedule of the regular meetings, agenda and minutes can be reviewed on the District's website: www.frjusd.org

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY

Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in a meeting, may request assistance by contacting the Fall River Joint Unified School District, 20375 Tamarack Ave. Burney, CA 96013; telephone 530-335-4538; fax 530-335-3115

September 8, 2021

Respectfully submitted,



 Superintendent

Adopted and ordered entered into the records of the proceedings of the District.



 Clerk of the Board

_____ Date