

SOUHSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
4991 Southside Rd. Hollister, CA 95023
REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, November 10th, 2021
By virtual attendance via ZOOM

MINUTES

ITEM I – Call to Order: 5:30pm

- a. Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by Mr. Michael Ruth**

Roll Call:

Board Members Present:

- Michael Ruth
- Katie Evans
- Sarah Alford
- Laura Forth
- Aaron Kaelin

Board Members Absent:

- b. Comments from public - NONE**

- c. Recess to Closed Session**

ITEM II – Closed Session 5:30pm

Notice is hereby given that a closed session of the Board will be held under the general provisions listed as follows:

- a. Personnel – Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 & 54957.6(a)**
1. Conference with Labor Negotiator – Certificated “Sunshine Letters”

ITEM III

- a. Closed Session ended @6:01pm – NO ACTION TAKEN – The Board asked that Mr. Schilling to collect documents.**

- b. Roll Call – @6:02 p.m.**

Present:

Michael Ruth
Sarah Alford
Katie Evans
Laura Forth
Aaron Kaelin

Absent:

- c. Pledge of Allegiance -Was led by Mr. Schilling**
d. Approval of the Agenda – Sarah Alford made the motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Katie Evans and carried the following vote: Yes – 5; No/Absent/Abstain – 0

- e. **Comments from the public** – 12 Parents spoke regarding the Covid vaccine for students – 10 parent statements attached to minutes. Mrs. Otterlei and Mr. Partrea, both parents to students attending Southside School spoke about freedom of choice on vaccinating their children.

ITEM IV. – DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

a. Officers' Report

1. Superintendent/Principal –

- a. Mr. Schilling spoke to Board about the challenges regarding the road work in front of the school. It's been in a holding pattern. The project should resume at the end of the month.
 - b. Mr. Schilling gave an update on the End of Year Activities. He is coordinating with Mrs. Abercrombie and the Parent Club to bring back several events. Events on the list are, Play Day May 27th Honor Roll field trip May 31st and Promotion June 1st with June 2nd being the last day of school.
 - c. Mr. Schilling informed the Board that the classroom Smart Boards have been installed.
 - d. Mr. Schilling spoke to the Board about the Migrant Summer School. We are in the beginning stages of planning what the program will look like.
 - e. Mr. Schilling spoke a little on the vaccination mandate for children but stated he felt the parents' passion and energy during the public comment time.
2. Board Member comments – Sarah Alford, Katie Evans and Aaron Kaelin thanked the parents for speaking to the Board and believe in pro-choice.
3. President Comments – Thanked the parents for speaking today.
4. Parent Club—Kyle Waterman, Parent Club indicated to the Board that she appreciates the work the Board does. She indicated that the Halloween Parade was a success. She informed the Board that the Club has finalized the Apple Debrito / Taffy fundraiser and the Parent's Club Profit was over \$8000. She thanked Miriam Madrigal and Jennifer Rodriguez for organizing a Día de Los Muertos celebration for the students and staff. The next fundraiser will be the VI She Dance taking place January 22nd. The Parent Club will also be looking at doing other fundraisers throughout the year.

ITEM V – CONSENT ITEMS

These items are considered routine and may be enacted by the board in one motion. There is no discussion on these items prior to the motion unless a specific item is removed from the consent list.

- a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 6th, 2021, as presented
- b. Warrants report dated 10/1/21-10/29/21 through date range, as presented

Katie Evans made the motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 6th, 2021, with the correction to her name in ITEM III – d., and warrants report dated 10/1/21 – 10/29/21 and was seconded by Sarah Alford and carried the following vote: Yes –5; No/Absent/Abstain – 0

ITEM VI – DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

a. Educator Effectiveness Grant (DISCUSSION)

Recommendation: On October 21, 2021, the California Department of Education announced the California Educator Effectiveness Funds (EEF) 2021 Block Grant Program. A program that provides funding to provide learning and to promote educator effectiveness, quality, and equity. Funds may be expended during 2021-22 thru 2025-26 fiscal years. The district will develop a plan on how the funds will be used to support professional learning for teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and classified staff as described in Education Code Section 41480(b). This plan will be brought back in the December board meeting for approval.

Rationale: The plan must be presented to the board for review and questions prior to approval at the December meeting. The district will have until 2026 to spend the funds and the plan can be changed based upon the needs of the district.

Budget Source: \$40,465

b. Developer fee Reporting and Developer fee Resolution #21-22-08 (ACTION)

Rationale: Southside school district has revoked the authorization of developer fee collection from the San Benito County Building and Planning Department on behalf of the district. Authorization has been granted to the San Benito Office of Education to collect fees on behalf of the district for an administrative fee of one percent (1%). Prior legislation and ongoing mandates relating to impact fees require school districts to do certain things to ensure proper compliance. Within 180 days of the fiscal year close the district is required to report the following:

- An indication of the fee uses for specific public improvements
- The amount of expenditure on each improvement.
- Estimated date when the construction will begin if sufficient funds are collected
- Description of each transfer or loan made to or from the funds
- The amount of refunds made that has remained unexpended and or uncommitted for 5 years or more

Recommended Motion: Approve the developer fee report and resolution for developer fees #21-22-08.

Sarah Alford made the motion to approve the Developer fee Report and the fee resolution #21-22-08 and was seconded by Aaron Kaelin and carried the following vote: Yes –5; No/Absent/Abstain – 0

VII. Closing Items

- a. The next Regular Meeting of the Board is Wednesday December 15th, 2021, at 6:00 pm.
- b. Adjournment

Sarah Alford made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm and was seconded by Laura Forth and carried the following vote: Yes –5; No/Absent/Abstain – 0

John Schilling, Superintendent/Principal
Southside School District

Michael Ruth, Board President
Southside School District, Board of Trustee

My name is Amber Matteson and I have 2 children that attend school here. I am the parent club vice president, a Registered Nurse, but tonight I come to you as a concerned parent. I would like to discuss the vaccine mandates to attend in person school, and I urge you not to require this for our students at Southside school.

I refuse to have my children injected with a so-called vaccine that is still under clinical trials until 2023. Pfizer reports side effects of the vaccine are still being studied, but serious and unexpected side effects may occur. The FDA reports adverse reactions of not only heart inflammation, but appendicitis, anaphylaxis, atrial fibrillation, depression, suicide attempts, respiratory arrest, and deaths. FDA states "Following authorization of the vaccine, use in large numbers may reveal additional or more serious adverse events not detected in the trial". They want our kids to be their guinea pigs.

The FDA's advisory committee endorsed Pfizer's 5-11 vaccine despite strong objections by multiple scientist and physicians. CDC data shows there have only been 143 deaths out of 1.8 million cases in the US in this age group. The death rate of 0.007% questions the need to vaccinate kids whose risk of dying from covid is almost Nil. Even the CDC director, Rochelle Walensky, admitted on a CNN interview that the vaccines do not prevent transmission. Isn't that why our governor is trying to force this on our kids?

Dr. Rose, a viral immunologist says tens of thousands of reports have been submitted to VAERS (Vaccine adverse event reporting system) for children 0-18 and in this age group, 60 children have died- 23 of them were less than 2 years old. Dr. Guetzko says expanding the Emergency Use Authorization to children is unnecessary, premature, and will do more harm than good. For every 18 child hospitalizations prevented, at least 43 will end up in the hospital for vaccine-related causes. Children infected with covid have a 99.99% survival rate. Their infection fatality rate of 0.0027% is so low that Pfizer's clinical trials did not detect any health benefit at all from their shots.

With my experience as a nurse, I have seen an increase in fetal deaths and pregnancy losses before 20 weeks. Most from women who have been vaccinated. What if this causes infertility in our children? Or Cancer? We have no studies for long term side effects.

When were we as parents removed from the equation? Why are we no longer allowed to make medical decisions for our children? A patient in the hospital has a right to refuse any medical treatment, even if it were to save their life. That is their right and we cannot force anything on anyone. But it is happening right in front of our eyes to our kids. I have pages of a petition with signatures from parents at our school, who agree that parents should have the right to choose for our children.

All of this just so my children can receive an in-person education. In California's education code Section 51101(b)(2) it states it is "the school's responsibility to provide a high quality curriculum and instruction program in a supportive and effective learning environment

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that enables all pupils to meet the academic expectations of the school”, and the Constitution requires that all kids be given equal educational opportunity”. We all know from distance learning that the alternative of independent study is not an equal educational opportunity.

When the mandate announcement was presented to the parent club, it was said that our school will have to follow the mandate. However I have compiled a list of 12 school districts, and 1 office of Education who have finalized resolutions against the mandates, and 4 more school districts who released statements of opposition. So, I don't believe Southside HAS to follow these mandates. Unless the school's hands are tied after receiving \$125,409 in covid relief funds through the CARES act according to edsources.com. From the July board meeting minutes, Mr.Schilling stated that the school could potentially lose funding for not following mandates, but I sure hope our children are worth more to you than the \$590 per student that was received.

To wrap this up, I am urging this school board to take this matter to a vote, and vote no against the mandates. If not, my family, along with many others, will be forced to withdraw our kids from Southside. Although I love working with the staff and parents to make this school exciting and memorable for our children, I will be forced to resign as vice president of the parent club. If nothing else comes from this, I at least need to be able to tell my children that I did not stay silent, and that I fought for them and their rights.

Let me leave you with one more statistic: In San Benito County, we have 58% of people fully vaccinated, 6.5% partially vaccinated, and another 11.9% with natural immunity, adding up to 76.8% of our population. We are never going to reach 100%, but injecting our kids is not the answer. Thank you.

November 10, 2021

To: The Southside School Board of Directors

My name is Kristie Baptiste. I am an active member in the Southside community, including the current Treasurer for the Parent Club. This is my third year serving as a Parent Club Board member. I have been instrumental in planning and facilitating various successful fundraisers for the school. I am the parent to Brandon Baptiste, a third grader at Southside. I come before you today to state that I am not in favor of the vaccination mandate for children in order to attend school. I believe this should be the parent's choice, not for anyone else to decide. Whether or not my child has a certain shot should not keep them from having an education inside a school facility. I respect we are in the midst of a pandemic. I respect those who have already been vaccinated. I am not a parent against children receiving their childhood vaccinations, but again this was all my choice to make for them. My family has indeed received the flu vaccine in the past, but not every year – again our choice. Brandon has severe allergies and asthma, which leads to respiratory issues at times. He takes an inhaler regularly as well as a nebulizer. I do not need any more complications for him. I feel so passionately for standing against this mandate and have been quite emotional about it. We currently live in San Juan Bautista, which means we are intra-district transferred in order to attend Southside. Before we moved to this area, I toured Southside, met with Mr. Schilling and Mrs. Rocha and did thorough research, knowing that I desperately wanted my children attending such a prestigious school. We are happy here, love the teachers, love the staff. I would be devastated to think that my family wouldn't be part of this wonderful community any longer.

I beg you to consider to NOT allow kids to be mandated to take this vaccine. Please let the parents choose. A mandate is not a law. Southside is such a small school and the record of exposure has been minimal. We have all taken our part to be diligent in trying not to spread this virus. Southside being such a small school, and the only school within it's own district should be able to make it's own rules and NOT have to abide by this mandate.

I humbly thank you.

~Kristie & Aaron Baptiste

Sylvia Rocha

From: Kylee Waterman <kyleewaterman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 10:01 PM
To: Sylvia Rocha
Subject: Re:

Syliva,

Here is pretty much what I said at the last school board meeting:

Good evening Board Members, Mr. Schilling, Southside School Staff, and fellow Parents.

My name is Kylee Waterman. I am a mother of a 4th grader, a 7th grader, and a recent graduate of Southside School. I am also the Parent Club President this year, and I am speaking to you all tonight to ask all parties to stand in solidarity AGAINST the proposed vaccine mandate. I ask all parties to stand in solidarity for ALL students and ALL Bulldog families at Southside School. I ask all parties to stand in solidarity for the freedom of medical choice.

I will not go into research on the various COVID 19 vaccines; I will not speak to their efficacy (or lack thereof) because I recognize that this proposed mandate comes from the governor of California and not from our county educational leaders or district leaders. However, I also recognize that there are school boards throughout the state who have voted to refuse the implementation of Governor Newsom's vaccine mandate.

I know it is alleged that our district may stand to lose funds if they refuse this mandate. But our school will surely lose ADA funds when many parents refuse to vaccinate their child or children and decide to homeschool.

My heart has been greatly conflicted this last month. I struggle when I miss out on cherished family time to work on Parent Club events, activities, or meetings for a school that may not give two thoughts about losing my children as students. It is heartbreaking. But know this: I will resign from my position, and I will pull my students from Southside School should the board choose to NOT stand up against this mandate.

I would also appreciate it if there is a protocol for School Board Members to respond to parent emails that it be shared.

- Kylee

Thank you for your time.

On Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:27 PM Sylvia Rocha <srocha@sbcoe.k12.ca.us> wrote:

Sylvia Rocha

From: Nicholas & Jessica <neromeir@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:03 PM
To: Sylvia Rocha
Subject: Re:

Here you go:

Good evening, my name is Jessica Bawdon and I have a 5th and 1st grader at Southside School. I'm here tonight to say that I am opposed to the enforcement of the covid vaccine mandate for students at Southside. Regardless of how any one person feels about the vaccine, I believe the decision to vaccinate or not vaccinate a child should be something that is discussed and determined by the parents. This should not be something that is determined by any local, state, or federal government, and many schools around the nation are choosing not to enforce similar mandates. Mandates aren't law, and I hope that the number of parents here tonight shows the Southside School Board that many of us feel strongly against this and you will all agree with fellow parents and choose not to enforce this mandate. Otherwise, I fear that many of us here will feel compelled to find alternative means of education for our children. Thank you.

On Nov 16, 2021, at 2:28 PM, Sylvia Rocha <srocha@sbcoe.k12.ca.us> wrote:

<image001.gif>

Good afternoon,

Can you please provide me a copy of the statement you gave at our Board Meeting on 11/10/21? I would like to complete my minutes before the next Board Meeting.

Thank you

*Sylvia Rocha
Office Manager
Southside School District
4991 Southside Road
Hollister, Ca 95023
831-637-4439 x100
"Be Happy, it Makes others Happy" 😊*

Sylvia Rocha

From: Bailey Castello <baileycastle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 1:08 PM
To: Sylvia Rocha
Subject: Statement

Hi Mrs. Rocha,

Hope this helps.

Bailey Rianda here, parent of two Southside bulldogs, and proud to be a part of the bulldog family. We are very proud to share the campus with such great staff and faculty and feel very blessed.

If this purposed vaccine mandate for ages 5-12 passes, we will be filling our affidavit with the state in October, and homeschool. I plead and ask that our school board members and staff, have our backs and fight for our right to CHOOSE.

Sincerely,
Bailey Rianda

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Sylvia Rocha

From: Griselda Zendejas <grzendejas@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Sylvia Rocha
Subject: Re:

Hello, my name is Griselda Zendejas. I have a child attending 8th grade at Southside School. I am opposed to the forced experimental vaccine mandate. It is well known that these experimental vaccines do not provide full immunity and potential side effects is something I do not want to unnecessarily expose my son to. Please vote against this mandate and don't enforce it upon our children. If this mandate comes into effect at this school, I may be forced to withdraw my son from this school and seek alternate means of education. Thank you!

On Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:29 PM Sylvia Rocha <srocha@sbcoe.k12.ca.us> wrote:

I'd first like to thank all the parents, teachers, and staff who have reached out in one way or another to ask questions, express concerns, and offer support with respect to the state's proposed student vaccination mandate. I deeply believe that the success of a school and its students are directly proportionate to the amount of attention and involvement given by its teachers, staff, and parents.

Like every parent of a student within San Benito County, I received the notice regarding the proposed mandate from our local educational leaders. It contained no new information and did little to address my concerns. To be frank, my interpretation of the letter was simply, 'don't blame us, we can't help'. After directing parents to contact the California Department of Public Health and/or our state representatives with our questions or complaints, we were offered 5 points for "clarity", 4 of which I will attempt to unpack.

Point 1: The mandate for students to be vaccinated is not in effect. The mandate cannot go into effect until the vaccine has full FDA approval for specific age groups of students.

Full FDA approval is inevitable particularly in light of the adult formulation having already gotten its rubber stamp. With that, it is also likely to be swift. On average, 'full approval' requires a minimum 4 months after completion of trial phase 3. For most parents, it is not the lack of approval that causes hesitancy, but rather the lack of time taken which is indicative of the rigorousness in testing we should expect and require when being asked to put something into our children's bodies.

According to an infographic published on the CDC website titled, "The Journey of Your Child's Vaccine" (CDC, January 2018): "Before a new vaccine is ever given to people, extensive lab testing is done that can take several years. Once testing in people begins, it can take several more years before clinical studies are complete and the vaccine is licensed."

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) reported scientists began Phase 1 trials of an experimental vaccine for COVID-19 in mid-March 2020. There are 3 trial phases. The vaccine became available under emergency use authorization that December. That's only 9 months from outset. We all understand that the current circumstances justified the urgency with which these vaccines were rolled out. However, children are not overwhelming the healthcare system and have never been considered a high-risk group. A fact substantiated by kids being the last to receive approval for vaccination. As of today, November 10, according to San Benito County Public Health Services site, there have been zero Covid deaths among people 20 and under. Even further, no recorded deaths among residents under the age of 30.

Point 2: Current immunization requirements were approved through a legislative process.

Here again, we are offered solace in the idea that it hasn't happened YET. Vaccination has been mandated and this all but guarantees legislation will be written and passed.

Points 3 and 4: TK-12 educational leaders are currently being told that exemptions will be available for families who do not wish to have their children vaccinated and it's anticipated these exemptions may include medical and personal beliefs.

This is a half-truth. First, the vast majority of children will not qualify for a medical exemption. Next, on August 13, 2021, Bishop Daniel Garcia of the Catholic Diocese of Monterey issued a statement that read in part: "I will not issue, and I have directed our clergy not to issue, any Letters of Religious exemption..." Pope Francis is also in support of this and with that, door number 2 has been slammed shut for Catholics. It's not a stretch to think other faith leaders may reach the same conclusion. As for a personal belief exemption, under senate bill 277 authored by California state senator Richard Pan, personal belief exemptions were completely removed for *mandated vaccinations*. It's important to note, senator Pan has made his career specifically authoring legislation tightening regulations on vaccine exemptions in education. The moment the Governor mandated Covid vaccinations, personal belief exemptions were off the table.

And that's it. So for families like mine, we are simply running the clock out. There will be no in-person instruction available if and when this mandate takes effect. Our choice is no choice. After 2 years of medical experts constantly changing course, it is not unreasonable to ask questions. The possibility is not ZERO that there won't be unforeseen, long-term, negative outcomes to the vaccine. For those who have been victims of severe reaction, doctors and scientists have no answers to give as to why it happened and certainly cannot warn away those who may be headed for a similar fate.

To be clear, this is not a statement against vaccination. This is a plea from a parent who has done EVERYTHING asked of her for the last 2 years. I took the vaccine, I quarantined, I masked myself and my family, I tested, we socially distanced, I kept my kids home from school, and I supported any one in every way I was asked. Now I'm the one asking for my children to not be punished for a decision made by bureaucrats who bear no repercussion if my child is harmed by this vaccine as a result of this mandate.

Sources

<https://www.ksbw.com/article/central-coast-catholic-church-wont-issue-religious-exemptions-for-covid-19-vaccine/37306366#>

<https://calmatters.org/education/k-12-education/2021/10/student-covid-vaccination-loophole/>

<https://www.capradio.org/articles/2021/07/24/no-california-does-not-have-a-personal-belief-exemption-for-covid-19-vaccines-for-kids/>

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/California-Becomes-First-State-in-Nation-to-Announce-COVID-19-Vaccine-to-List-of-Required-School-Vaccinations.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/infographics/journey-of-child-vaccine.html>

<https://hhsa.cosb.us/public-health/covid-19/>

Sylvia Rocha

From: Brian DeCarli <bdecarli@sbhds.k12.ca.us>
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 3:15 PM
To: Sylvia Rocha
Subject: Re:

Hi Sylvia,

I did not have anything written down, but I spoke on my desire for choice when it comes to the vaccine and not a mandate. I asked the school board, if they believed in choice for the covid vaccine, to release an official statement saying as much. I also let the board know that I am fully ready and will be moving my family if the vaccine is required of them for school.

Thanks for reaching out...hope you are well!

This message is confidential and is intended only for use by the party/parties included in the address lines. Forwarding or other copying and distributing of this message is prohibited without specific permission. If you have received this message in error, please reply immediately informing me of same, and delete all reference from your computer.

Brian DeCarli
San Benito HS
Graduation Coordinator
Department Chair: Physical Education

On Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 2:29 PM Sylvia Rocha <srocha@sbcoe.k12.ca.us> wrote:

Sylvia Rocha

From: Danielle Roberts <danielle_roberts1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 7:09 PM
To: Sylvia Rocha
Subject: Board Meeting Comments

*Hi Sylvia,
My comments made during the meeting are below.*

Thank you!

Mr. Schilling and Southside School Board Members:

I will be brief, but I feel compelled to express my support for the parents who are against a vaccine mandate for students to attend school in person.

We trust you implicitly with our children every single day and I would simply ask you to trust your students' parents to make educated decisions made with their children's best interest in mind. Southside Elementary has cultivated a special environment of family and inclusion and I would ask that you support your entire bulldog family.

*Respectfully,
Danielle Roberts*

*Danielle Roberts
209.535.2707
danielle_roberts1@yahoo.com*

Sylvia Rocha

From: Terry & Isis Bailey <baileys831@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 7:50 PM
To: Sylvia Rocha
Subject: School board meeting

Hi Sylvia,

Our statement to the school board was we were very much against the forced vaccine mandate. Isis and I are both vaccinated, but I am not comfortable with vaccinating my children without having a better understanding of the possible side effects. We feel that the risks to our kids from the virus are too low to justify injecting them with different chemicals that we don't know the long term effects of.

We feel it should be the parents choice, not the government's.

Respectfully,

Terry and Isis Bailey

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows