

**JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

211 North Church Street ♦ Mountain City, TN 37683

(423) 727-2640 ♦ FAX (423) 727-2663

www.jocoed.net**DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS**

Dr. Mischelle Simcox

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Howard Carlton, Chair

Mike Payne, Vice-Chair

Kevin Long

Jo Ann Reece

Gary Matheson

The Johnson County Board of Education

July 29, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Johnson County Board of Education

Central Office Building/Special Called Meeting

1. Discuss and approve the opening plan protocols for the 2021-2022 school year due to COVID-19

The Johnson County Board of Education met in a Special Called Meeting on Thursday, July 29, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at the Johnson County Schools Board Room/Central Office. The special called meeting was called to order by Mr. Carlton, Chairman at 5:30 p. m., Pledge was led by Dr. Simcox, roll call: Mr. Long-yes, Mr. Matheson-not present, Mr. Payne-yes, Ms. Reece-yes and Mr. Carlton-yes

Action taken on Agenda Items:

1. Discuss and approve the opening plan protocols for the 2021-2022 school year due to COVID-19, after discussing the Opening Plan Protocols for fall 2021 and Mr. Kevin Long reading letter from the House of Representatives State of Tennessee, both documentations are attached in the minutes A motion was made by Mr. Long and seconded by Mr. Payne and carried by unanimous roll call to approve the opening plan protocols for the 2021-2022 school year due to COVID-19 The work session/called meeting ended at 5:45 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Reece to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Carlton

Director of Schools
(Dr. Mischelle Simcox)

Chairman
(Howard Carlton)

Member
(Kevin Long)

Member
(Jo Ann Reece)

Vice Chairman
(Mike Payne)

Member
(Gary Matheson)

The Johnson County School System does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the programs and activities which it operates pursuant to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336. If you need provisions to attend this Board of Education meeting, please notify Dr. Mischelle Simcox, Director of Schools, at (423) 727-2640.



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Opening Plan Protocols Fall 2021

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- ✔ 1. All school buildings will open at 7:30am to students.
- ✔ 2. We have no plans to issue a mask mandate for schools and/or buses for the upcoming school year. Students and staff may wear a mask if they so desire, but it will not be a requirement. We do encourage masks for those who are not vaccinated.
- ✔ 3. We continue to encourage staff and students to be vaccinated, but we are not requiring vaccinations.
- ✔ 4. Students will have assigned seats on the bus. There will be no changing of buses at any of our schools.
- ✔ 5. We ask parents to closely monitor the health condition of their children. Please don't send children to school if they have a fever or are experiencing some other type of legitimate health issue.
- ✔ 6. We are not planning on contact tracing, rather dealing specifically with positive cases. Contact tracing will come through the health department. It is important to note that if students are in close contact with an active case and are not wearing a mask or have not been vaccinated, they can be quarantined.

Students who test positive will be required to stay at home for a length of time that will be provided by the health department. Public Health officials will contact families and provide the return back-to-school date for each person.
- ✔ 7. The Tennessee Department of health will tell our unvaccinated employees who are deemed to be close contacts to remain home during any mandatory quarantine period. The FFCRA is no longer available to our employees therefore anyone who has to be quarantined will have to use either sick leave or unpaid leave.
- ✔ 8. Social distancing of 3 feet is recommended whenever possible.
- ✔ 9. We will return to eating in the cafeteria as we have done in the past, serving both breakfast and lunch free to all students. However, our food service staff will serve items on the line instead of allowing students to reach in and take specific items from the lunch line.



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- ✔ 10. We will allow students to attend field trips and participate in class/school club experiences this year.
 - ✔ 11. We will not have restrictions on the number of spectators at athletic events this year. Spectators will not be required to wear a mask at athletic events.
 - ✔ 12. We will not require parents/guardians to wear masks when meeting with school officials. However, school officials will wear a mask if parents/guardians request that we do so during a meeting.
 - ✔ 13. We will continue our efforts to sanitize the classrooms, furniture, and buses to keep staff/students safe. We will also continue our efforts to have students maintain safe/healthy hygiene habits such as washing hands, coughing into the elbows, not sharing personal items, etc. We are currently installing UV lights in every HVAC unit across the district as an extra health measure with air filtration.
 - ✔ 14. Standard water fountains will remain closed. Students may bring their own water bottles to school. Students will be able to refill their water bottles at refilling stations.
 - ✔ 15. Virtual Learning Options – Our virtual learning option is our JOCO Online school provided through Pearson. This is a fully online, comprehensive program that requires at least a one semester commitment. Students must be signed up by prior to August 24th, 2021. There will not be a virtual option provided by our local teachers as was the case last year.
 - ✔ 16. **It is important to note this is all subject to change if state and/or federal requirements mandate certain changes.*
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Bruce Griffey
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
75th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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COMMITTEES:
CIVIL JUSTICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
EDUCATION INSTRUCTION

DISTRICT ADDRESS:
140 PAUL DRIVE
PARIS, TN 38242

House of Representatives State of Tennessee

NASHVILLE

July 27, 2021

Dear Tennessee School Boards, Special School Districts and Directors:

As the 2021-2022 academic year is fast approaching, Tennessee families are anticipating whether or not masks will be required in our Tennessee public schools. For many, this is a contentious issue and one that crosses a wide spectrum of policy areas such as public health, parental rights, the role of government, and the constitutional rights of every citizen.

While we do acknowledge that there is a legitimate state interest in the safety of all Tennesseans, as legislators and elected officials, we must ensure that we continue to maintain the public trust in our government by above all else upholding the laws of our state. Citizens should rightfully expect that our state government will not exceed its authority by making rules that have no basis in state law or in our Tennessee Constitution.

On April 30, 2021, a Williamson County Chancery Court issued an order in *Citizens v Golden* (Case No. 20CV-49753) which carried an alternative ruling on the merits of the case indicating that requirements for face-coverings in schools have no basis in state law. The ruling stated, "The Court cannot find, as a matter of law, Defendants have acted within the authority given to them by the legislature when enacting face-covering requirements," and, "...continued enforcement of face-covering requirements is not viable."

Additionally, House Bill 13 was passed this year adding a new section to our Tennessee Code Annotated in Title 68, Chapter 5, Part 1 stating the following:

The governor shall not issue an executive order, a state agency or department shall not promulgate a rule, and a political subdivision of this state shall not promulgate, adopt, or enforce an ordinance or resolution, that requires a person to receive an immunization, vaccination, or injection for the SARS-CoV-2 virus or any variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

As this has now been signed into law by Governor Bill Lee and made effective as of May 25, 2021, a vaccine, immunization, or injection for COVID-19 may not be required by any public school in the state of Tennessee for students or staff. Regardless of any recommendations or

guidelines set forth by the CDC, WHO, or any health official, it must be understood that state law now prohibits a vaccine for COVID-19 to be mandated by the state, a county, a municipality, or any state agency in Tennessee.

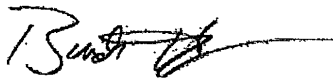
To be clear, the legislature has not granted any authority to local school boards or superintendents to require face-coverings or promulgate any rules related to healthcare or the prevention of communicable diseases. As such, any attempts to create alternate learning environments for *unvaccinated* students, segregate such students, or treat them any differently would be potentially unlawful in the state of Tennessee.

We value our educators, and we value our students. Last year was hard on everyone. But our students suffered most of all. This year, let us focus on our students and ensure that they are our priority by providing them with the kind of education they so richly deserve. In this year's special legislative session, we passed legislation that focused on those goals and provided increased resources to educators with the tools they need for a successful school year. Let's lead the nation this year in putting our students and families first. We are the Volunteer State.

Sincere Regards,



Representative Bruce Griffey
District 75



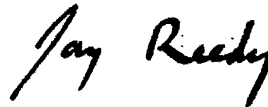
Representative Bud Hulsey



Representative Tim Rudd



Representative Jerry Sexton



Representative Jay Reedy



Representative Rick Eldridge



Representative Terri Lynn Weaver