

Nick Middleton Community Comment from 11-10-21 **IN BLACK**  
QUESTIONS ANSWERED PER BOARD DIRECTION **IN RED**

Oct. 1 sec dept. Education Cardona refuses to say parents are primary stakeholders  
<https://rumble.com/vn5uml-doeed-sec-cardona-refuses-to-agree-the-primary-stakeholders-of-a-kids-educat.html>

Does the school board agree with the SecOfEd?

Cardona acknowledges in his statement that “parents are important stakeholders” and further that he believes “educators have a role in determining educational programming.” Based on this statement, taken in full context, the district agrees. Education is and must remain a partnership in order for any student to benefit to the fullest level. If one side or the other does not participate, the student most likely suffers. While the headline appears to be deceptive, going through the full context of the comments was helpful in validating the Secretary of Education.

Is the school refusing any religious or health exceptions for mandated vaccination? If so, based in what criteria?

We have not refused any religious or health exceptions to the Covid vaccination mandate up to this point. Everyone who has followed all of the Oregon Health Authority required steps is still working in the district. It is mandatory to follow all of the required steps to be granted an exception. We are happy to assist anyone who does confused about the process. This is another area where the district can, and will try to, be a partner to our families.

Of any exceptions granted, is it true that those individuals have to double mask?

NO - Our current practices include the use of KN95 masks along with extra mitigation efforts. Mitigation measures can include face shields, social distancing requirements to the extent possible, eating and drinking in a separate space, transporting separately and other typical practices.

Is the school board aware the CDC director in an interview with CNN already claimed that vaccination doesn't stop transmission? <https://rumble.com/vn90j8-finally-cdc-director-admits.html>  
If the request is for an actual survey of the board then this would need follow up. However, after viewing the second link provided and reviewing all of the material for context, we found the following quote from the CDC director.

“Our vaccines are working exceptionally well. They continue to work well for Delta, with regards to severe illness and death, they prevent it. But what they can’t do anymore is prevent transmission. So if you are going home to somebody who is not vaccinated, to somebody who can’t get vaccinated, somebody who might be immunosuppressed or is a little bit frail, somebody who has co-morbidities that put them at high risk, I would suggest you wear a mask in public indoor settings.”

This is a very clear statement from the CDC Director who is cautioning that while the vaccination works well in preventing severe illness and death, it is not 100% effective in mitigating virus transmission. Since vaccination cannot prevent all transmission, she cautions it is best to wear a mask while in an indoor public setting to avoid transmitting to a medically frail individual you may come in contact with.

If vaccination doesn't stop transmission, what are 2 masks supposed to do?

It seems you might be asking this question with an assumption about 2 masks from your question above. If there is more that we don’t understand please don’t hesitate to reach out. We do not require 2 masks.

Students who receive quarantine due to possible exposure do not have enough support while at home. If anyone other than asymptomatic people are going to be quarantined, then we need full on distance learning implemented to support students during this time.

The district does not see a need for this to be a requirement at this time. Administration has witnessed the stress distance learning caused last year for our teachers and staff and realize there is a danger that some may leave the profession if pushed to do so again. With the difficulty recruiting and retaining trained and dedicated professionals, this is currently not the best solution for our staff and students.

However, we are working on other mechanisms that will fill some needs in this area. Teachers who wish to take on the extra work load may do so. Not everyone can handle the extra burden so this will be a teacher led decision and the district will support it. It will likely be a case-by-case decision and not a unilateral decision.

Several days ago, the AG decided to direct FBI involvement in the board meetings at the behest of the NSBA. Does the board agree with this action?

Fortunately, we were not in a position to require the FBI to assist us but are aware that at least one neighboring school district experienced a credible threat of harm and the FBI was involved. If they had a reason to take the action, then we can support it. If they withdrew, then we can support that as well. The safety of our students, staff and volunteers is of the highest importance. We appreciate the compassionate nature of our community and their support during these difficult times.

\*\*\*UPDATED \*\*\* NSBA has issued an apology, however the AG has not. Does the school board agree or disagree with the AG actions?

We do not maintain a position on the actions of the AG. It does not seem to directly affect our work as the Reedsport School Board.

Has the schoolboard done anything in regards making comments either in favor of or rejection of, any of these topics, to either the NSBA, FBI, Governor, Health Dept. Dept. Of Education, etc.? If so, what? If not, why?

At the school board level, no actions have been taken. As a board, we are involved in working for our district schools. Members of our board have written to the Governor as individuals but did not do so as a board nor on behalf of the Reedsport School District. We do not carry political opinion in the course of our work.

These are difficult times in education and attempting to scrutinize everyone else's work tends to distract our attention from the important work of directing and caring for our students and staff here in Reedsport. The National School Board Association and Attorney General did not ask our permission to make the decisions, nor did they notify us that they had taken these actions. We were made aware through media coverage. However, it would seem to be within the course and scope of their work and does not appear to be anything we can, or need to, try to control.

The FDA has approval plans in the works for vaccination of young children. Will the school board be mandating children to vaccination?

NO.

If the governor decided that schools must mandate vaccines, will the school do it?

YES - if it is mandated then we are required by the state to follow the mandate. However, regarding a theoretical vaccination mandate, our most updated understanding is that the Governor does not plan to mandate Covid vaccination for students as was done for employees. Most likely, any vaccine requirements would become part of the required annual series that students/families complete along with measles and mumps and there are exemption procedures available to families during that process. It has been made abundantly clear to us that mandates carry the force of law and we have

a fiduciary responsibility to follow state mandates. We will need to wait and see the outcome of any decisions in the future but the school board is legally required to adopt state mandates.

If so, Will the schools be making online schooling available to students, or risk losing students to other online accredited programs?

We already have and use an online platform for families who choose online programs. School offices and the District Office have this information.

How many applicants applied for the open school board position? **ONE**

Did all applicants get equal scrutiny and opportunity in the application process?

**YES - this was conducted in open public session at the October school board meeting.**

Has the board, or would they be willing to, asked these questions formally to the superintendent and principals? If so, what was their response? If not, will you? If you will not, then why?

**YES – The Superintendent actively works with these matters and responded to these questions per the board's instructions.**

**NO – these responsibilities do not fall under the purview of our principals. Information is shared with them but they are not required to respond. They manage the daily operations of the buildings within the budget we provide, with the staff that we hire, and under the policies that we establish.**