

10-18-2021 Minutes

McDonald County Commission—Minutes

October 18th, 2021

Present:

Bill Lant - Presiding Commissioner
Jamey Cope - Eastern Commissioner
Rick Lett - Western Commissioner
Kimberly Bell - County Clerk

General Business

Commission had a phone conference with Eric Kratzberg, McBride Lock & Associates, to discuss the county financial audit.

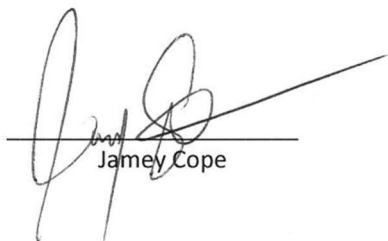
Commission met with members from the McDonald County School Board, Health Department, and Prosecuting Attorney. The main reason for the meeting was to discuss the DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) Quarantine guidance Option Four; Test to Stay. Option four would allow students who are close contacts with a COVID positive student or faculty to stay in school, as long as they are tested at least three times in seven days and before every extracurricular activity. The student must also wear their mask at all times while in school buildings and during extracurricular activities. If a parent or guardian does not want their child tested or to wear a mask at school if they are in close contact with a positive, they have the option of keeping their child at home during the quarantine time. Prosecuting Attorney Maleia Cheney stated the McDonald County Health Department was following CDC guidance and would continue to follow CDC guidance to ensure the safety of our school staff/faculty, children, and their families. Those present wanted to know why McDonald County Health Department was more stringent than Newton and Jasper County Health Departments. This was explained as misinformation. Jasper County Health Department made their recommendations based on CDC guidance, but Joplin Schools chose to go against those recommendations. Newton County Health Department has not followed CDC guidance. Paige Behm, McDonald County Health Department Director, stated the Health Department would agree with Option four if COVID positive cases in each individual school stays at or below 1% positivity rate. The 1% is of the total census of an individual school building within the district; not 1% of the entire district in order to determine when option four is available. At the point a school in any of the McDonald County locations or the High School went above 1% positivity rate, it would no longer be recommended by the Health Department to have Option four as an option until the school once again obtained a positivity rate at or below 1%. Those in attendance for this meeting were: McDonald County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Mark Stanton; Assistant Superintendents - Joy Hardridge and Will Gordon; McDonald County School Board members - Josh Banta, Chris Smith, and Bobby Parish; McDonald County Health Department RN, Erin Pagel; McDonald County Health Department Director, Paige Behm; and McDonald County Prosecuting Attorney, Maleia Cheney.

Commission conducted general business of the county.

ADJOURN

Commission will reconvene on October 20th, 2021

SIGNATURES



Jamey Cope



Bill Lant



Rick Lett

Approved

Wednesday October 20th, 2021

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