



Arizona School for the Arts
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting: 892 9014 8734 Passcode: 262121

Attendance (voting Members in bold)					
Dr. Anthony (Tony) Dietz, President	P	Dr. David Garcia, Vice President	P	Betty Hum, Secretary/Treasurer	P
Dr. Javier Cárdenas, Past President	P	John Snider	A	Leah Fregulia, Head of School/CEO	P

Agenda Items
<p>Discussion Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellness Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New CDC COVID-19 Guidelines ○ Update of School and County Conditions in the Face of the Omicron Variant ○ Review of the ASA COVID-19 School Mitigation Plan and the ASA COVID-19 Face Covering Policy
<p>Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification of the Current COVID-19 School Mitigation Plan OR Approval of Any Revisions or Updates made therein. • Ratification of the Current COVID-19 Face Covering Policy OR Approval of Any Revisions or Updates made therein.
<p>The Executive Committee may vote to hold an executive session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Board's attorney on any matter listed on the agenda pursuant to: ARS §38-431.03 (A)(3) Legal Advice</p>

Minutes

The meeting began at 12:04 p.m.

Board President Dr. Tony Dietz explained that this was an unscheduled meeting of the Board Executive Committee to consider the school's COVID-19 Mitigation Plan and COVID-19 Student Mask Policy in light of the Omicron variant and the new Center for Disease Control (CDC) isolation guidelines. Any decisions made the Executive Committee would be ratified by the full Board of Directors at the January 31st meeting. As this was an Executive Committee meeting, there would be no Call to the Public, but attending parents and faculty were welcome to observe and listen to the discussion.

The ASA Health and Wellness Council (HWC) met yesterday morning and Dr. Javier Cárdenas presented the Council's recommendations as an advisory group made up of healthcare professionals, school administration and faculty representatives focused solely on the physical and mental wellness of the school's students, faculty, and staff.

- The CDC has revised the isolation guidelines for those who become infected with COVID-19 and reduced the isolation period to five (5) days after a positive test result, returning to work or school wearing a mask for a further five (5) days as long as the person is fever-free for 24 hours prior to return without the use of fever reducing medication and has receding symptoms. Further, the CDC no longer recommends requiring a negative test result as a condition for return to work or school, but if a test is required by an employer or school, they recommend the Antigen Test which detects active virus rather than a PCR Test which will show viral particles even after a person is no longer contagious. The quarantine period for unvaccinated individuals with close contact (within 3 feet masked and within 6 feet unmasked) with a COVID-positive person remains five (5) days.
 - The Health and Wellness Council recommends changing the ASA isolation requirement to match the new CDC guidelines with a negative Antigen Test as a condition of return, if

possible. The HWC recognizes Antigen Tests are becoming hard to get, and should not be a bar to students returning to school if they cannot acquire one from the school or by private means.

- o Leah Fregulia shared the results of a poll provided to the faculty and staff the previous day; 75% of respondents supported changing to the new CDC guidelines with testing before return.
- o At this time Tony asked for a motion to change the current ASA COVID-19 Mitigation Plan to reflect the new isolation recommendation.

Dr. Javier Cárdenas made a motion to reduce the isolation period to five (5) days after positive COVID-19 test result, returning to school wearing a mask, regardless of waiver status, for a further five (5) days as long as the person is fever-free for 24 hours prior to return without the use of fever reducing medicine, has receding symptoms and a negative Antigen Test, if available. The motion was seconded by Betty Hum and passed unanimously without further discussion. [Dietz, Garcia, Hum and Cárdenas voting in favor.]

- The Omicron variant, while not as deadly as the original form of COVID-19, is more infectious. The CDC recommends surgical masks as the most effective against infecting others and KN95/N95 masks as the most effective against getting infected.
 - o As with the last discussion about masks in August, the Health and Wellness Council recommends a mask mandate as mandates are effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19.
 - o Tony said that the Board adopted the current mask policy – masks are required except for those with a notarized waiver – because of the legal and financial impact it may have had on the school to defy Governor Ducey's Executive Order at the time and asked Leah for an update. Leah explained that the Arizona Supreme Court ruled that prohibiting a mask mandate is not legal, but as of now the Governor could still withhold up to \$400,000 in discretionary COVID-19 mitigation funds if ASA adopts a mask mandate. There is some dispute between the Treasury and the Governor's office if that will happen.
 - o Principal Sara Maline Bohn then shared that currently, only 14 students have a waiver on file at the school.
 - o As the school has very good compliance, the Executive Committee decided to make no changes to the ASA COVID-19 Student Face Covering Policy at this time.
- Sara shared that, according to the survey, faculty has concerns about the higher-than-average absenteeism among students, averaging 18% rather than the usual 5% since the return to campus on Monday.
 - o Dr. David Garcia asked if the HWC discussed moving to remote learning. Javier responded that the bar for going to remote learning is very high and that right now the goal is to keep students in school.
 - o Leah shared that 95% of faculty support a 5-day "cool down" to get case numbers back under control should the school need to as was done in the Fall with the 5th and 6th grades. David asked if that would be an Administration or a Board decision and Leah let him know that if it is targeted to a few specific grade levels it would be an Administration decision, but if it were to be the entire school, that would be a Board decision.

Tony summarized that the Executive Committee did make an adjustment to the Mitigation Plan but the Face Covering Policy will remain unchanged at this time. He then thanked the Health and Wellness Council for their careful consideration of these matters, the faculty and staff for their care of the school and students, and the students and families for working to keep each other healthy. He and Leah also thanked Board Member Dr. Heidi Jannenga for donating 200 KN95 masks to the faculty during the course of the meeting.

The meeting ended at 12:55 p.m.