

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SESSER-VALIER COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 196  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021  
6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A special meeting of the Board of Education of Sesser-Valier Community Unit School District No. 196 was held in the Sesser-Valier High School Library at 6:00 PM on Thursday, September 23, 2021. The meeting was called to order by President Megan Rounds.

**ROLL CALL**

District Secretary Zimbrow called the roll with the following result:

Members Present: Acosta, Barry, Menser, Rounds, Sample, Spence, Stacey

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: J. Henry, K. Jones, N. Page, L. Zimbrow, R. Payne, S. Garner, C. Dennison, P. Ruffino, G. Wingo, N. Wingo, A. VanZandt, D. Laur

Visitors Present: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE**

President Rounds asked for any public comment.

Shane Garner acknowledged the obstacles the board has been facing during the COVID-19 pandemic and thanked them for the way they have handled each situation. He requested his public comment to not be taken as a religious or rebellious stance, but rather the board consider/respect his personal decision to not be vaccinated or be required to test weekly.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:06 PM, a motion was made by Stacey and seconded by Menser to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing the following exceptions to the Open Meetings Act:

- a. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-57)
- b. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning the salary schedule for one or more classes of employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2))

- c. The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10))
- d. Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11))
- e. The establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, if otherwise the disposition of a claim or potential claim might be prejudiced, or the review or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the District or any intergovernmental risk management association or self-insurance pool of which the District is a member (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12))

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Barry, Menser, Rounds, Sample, Spence, Stacey, Acosta

Nays: None

There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion was carried.

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION: At 7:04 PM, a motion was made by Menser and seconded by Stacey to reconvene from closed session.

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

AUTHORIZATION(S) FOR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT: A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Spence to authorize the district superintendent to acknowledge, on an interim/temporary basis, employee assertions of COVID-19 vaccination and testing exemptions and/or objections under the Illinois Health Care Right of Conscience Act.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Rounds, Sample, Spence, Stacey, Acosta, Barry, Menser

Nays: None

There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Menser to authorize the district superintendent to prioritize in-person instruction.

Roll call voting was as follows:

Yeas: Sample, Spence, Stacey, Acosta, Barry, Menser, Rounds

Nays: None

There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Stacey to authorize implementation of on-site, employee-only COVID-19 testing, subject to availability.

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

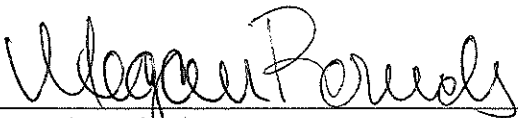
**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Acosta and seconded by Stacey to adjourn.

Voting was as follows: All voted yea. There being seven (7) yeas and zero (0) nays, the president declared that the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

**CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES**

The above-listed account of the special meeting of the Board of Education of Sesser-Valier Community Unit School District No. 196, held on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 6:00 PM, is, to the best of my knowledge, a true and accurate account of the aforementioned meeting.

  
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Board President

  
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Board Secretary