

**BEALS SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Beals, Maine
September 20, 2021

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

A meeting of the Beals School Committee was held on Monday, September 20, 2021, with members present as follows: Debbie Kelley, Adam Merchant and Mariner Bunker. Also present was Principal Chris Crowley and Superintendent of Schools Lewis Collins.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Bunker.

1. Approval of the Minutes of September 1, 2021

The School Committee voted (3-0) to approve the minutes of September 1, 2021.

2. Reopening Plan Discussion

There was a motion and second that the Board direct the Superintendent to amend the School Reopening Plan dated August 17, 2021 to include a provision for the wearing of masks by all staff, students and visitors to our schools while indoors. It was further motioned that the Board review the masking requirement monthly to determine if the number of active COVID cases continues to warrant the need for masking.

There was discussion among community and Board members about masking and COVID cases at the school. One parent stressed that she wanted all students masked because she has a child with health needs. Another parent asked why their sons could not participate in soccer practice while the school was shut down last week. Superintendent Collins stated that this was the first he had heard that and he'd look into it. Their sons were both vaccinated and they thought that meant they could still participate. Principal Crowley was not sure why that happened or who gave that directive but he would look into it as well. There were several questions about pooled testing and the requirements were reviewed by Superintendent Collins. Over 50% of all students have been given consent for pooled testing by their parents.

The School Committee voted (2-0-1) to approve the revisions to the Reopening Plan.

3. Adjournment

The School Committee voted (3-0) to adjourn at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Lewis Collins
Superintendent of Schools