

BOARD MEMBERS

Tina Certain
Robert P. Hyatt
Leannetta McNealy, Ph.D.
Gunnar F. Paulson, Ed.D.
Mildred Russell

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Carlee Simon, Ph.D.



District Office
620 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida
32601-5498

www.sbac.edu
(352) 955-7300

An 'A-rated' District

Mission Statement: We are committed to the success of every student!

NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Jackie Johnson/(352) 955-7545

For Immediate Release
November 9, 2021

School Board holding special meeting to discuss masking protocols

A special meeting of the School Board of Alachua County has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 10 at 3 p.m. in the Board meeting room at 620 E. University Avenue. The focus of the meeting is masking in the district's schools.

There will be an opportunity for public comment at the meeting. The Board will also be able to take a vote at the meeting if a majority of Board members choose to do so.

At its regular meeting on November 2, a majority of School Board members voted to maintain the district's current masking protocols for students. Under those protocols, students in high schools may be opted out of wearing masks by their parents. For students in elementary and middle schools, a waiver form must be signed by a qualifying medical professional. The protocols would remain in place through December 6. After that day, parents of all students could sign a waiver form for their child.

Since that vote, a challenge of a Florida Department of Health rule requiring that parents have sole discretion over whether their children wear masks in schools was dismissed by an administrative law judge. A hearing on a lawsuit regarding masks in schools is scheduled for next Wednesday, November 17 in circuit court, and the Florida Legislature will be holding a special session on this and other COVID-related issues beginning November 15.

#####