



USD 232 BOARD OF EDUCATION
OFFICIAL MINUTES -- SPECIAL MEETING

USD 232 Administrative Office, 35200 W 91st Street, De Soto, KS

YouTube channel: <https://bitly.com/usd232youtube>

March 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by the President, Mrs. Danielle Heikes. A quorum of the Board was present. Board members and administrators present were as follows:

Board Members: Rick Amos (*participated via Zoom*)
Bill Fletcher (*participated via Zoom*)
John Gaignat (*participated via Zoom*)
Danielle Heikes (*participated via Zoom*)
Stephanie Makalous (*participated via Zoom*)
Ashley Spaulding (*participated via Zoom*)
Rachele Zade (*participated via Zoom*)

Administrators: Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative & Educational Services
Wendy Denham, Board Clerk/Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Dr. Frank Harwood, Superintendent

Superintendent Harwood shared the following information relating to spectators at athletic events and activities with the Board:

Background

From the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, USD 232 has limited the number of spectators allowed at all school events. For indoor events, spectators have been limited to two (2) per participant. In December and January, spectators were limited to two parents by the Kansas State High School Athletic Association (KSHSAA). Starting in February, KSHSAA began allowing up to four spectators per participant. For post season play, KSHSAA allows for up to 50% of the venue's capacity. For all regular season, as well as regional and sub state competitions, USD 232 has continued to limit spectators to two (2) per participant for indoor activities.

Unlike previous years where multiple teams gathered to compete at a common site, KSHSAA has decided to move the quarter finals of the State Basketball Tournament to school sites. KSHSAA allows spectators up to 50% of the venue capacity subject to county and school district restrictions. The De Soto High Schools Boys Basketball team will host a quarter final game against Pittsburg High School on Tuesday, March 9th at 6:00 PM. A request has been made to allow more spectators to attend the game than current USD 232 protocols allow.

The Mill Valley Boys Basketball team will also play in the quarter finals of the State Basketball Tournament. They will play at Kansas City's Washington High School. Spectator limits at the Mill Valley game will be determined by the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County.

Considerations and Recommendations

Per KSHSAA guidelines, spectator tickets must be equally accessible to both competing schools. De Soto High School has the gym marked for about 500 socially distanced seats. There are a total of 72 participants between the two schools.

In working with De Soto High School administration, it is recommended that USD 232 allow four (4) tickets per participant ($72 \times 4 = 288$) and the allocation of 100 additional tickets to each school. Total tickets allocated would be 488. All tickets would be purchased digitally through GoFan (KSHSAA's required vendor). Each school will be responsible for distributing its allotment of ticket codes. All tickets must be purchased in advance; no on-site ticket sales will be available.

This is the only indoor event hosted in USD 232 to which the recommend motion would apply. Regarding mask use, school administrators have authority to remove anyone who does not comply from the building.

Danielle Heikes said she is not in favor of making special arrangements for an individual activity, but would prefer to look at the big picture. Dr. Harwood said the administration is continuing to look at all other activities and some may choose to hold their events in larger areas than they normally would. He noted that larger gatherings coming up would be for Performing Arts and graduation. He said capacity of venues and number of participants would be a big part in determining how many spectators can be allowed.

Ashley Spaulding said she wants to keep kids in the classroom and feels like the district needs to do what it can to mitigate spread. She said if the Board considers allowing four guests per participant it is very generous. She supports allowing four tickets, but does not support offering the additional 100 tickets per team.

Rick Amos said he was in favor of increasing the number of guests allowed to attend the quarter final game. He noted that if this event was held in Emporia where it typically would have been the teams would have had more space.

Dr. Harwood pointed out that KSHAA moved quarter finals back to the schools to avoid having multiple teams on a single site.

Rick Amos and John Gagnat noted they would be in support of offering the additional tickets as long as the school can maintain social distance.

Rachele Zade said she has confidence in the DHS Administration following the rules.

Rick Amos moved to allow four (4) spectators per participant and additional tickets as determined by the administration for state tournament activities that take place at USD 232 venues.

John Gaignat seconded.

For the additional 100 tickets the school administration will determine how to distribute them. Dr. Harwood said the gymnasium should be under 25% capacity. The only exception to the 488 ticket holders would be those working on site.

Carried 6/1. Danielle Heikes dissented.

President Heikes adjourned the meeting at 8:41 a.m.

March 22, 2021
Date Approved

Wendy S. Denham
Clerk, Board of Education
Danielle Heikes
President, Board of Education