



Board:

Mark R. Elam, Chairman
Jim P. Creel, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Charles M. Joye, II, P.E., Secretary
J.B. (Sonny) Kinney

Seema Shrivastava-Patel
Richard V. Lee, Jr.
Morris E. Brown, III, MD, FAAFP
Robert R. Morgan, Jr., MD, MBA

**Minutes of the August 20, 2021, meeting of the
South Carolina Board of Health and Environmental Control**

The South Carolina Board of Health and Environmental Control met on Friday, August 20, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in the Boardroom (#3420) at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina. (Attachment 0-1)

The following members were in attendance virtually:

Mark Elam, Chairman
Jim P. Creel, Jr., Vice-Chairman, 7th District
J.B. (Sonny) Kinney, 1st District
Seema Shrivastava-Patel, 2nd District
Charles M. Joye, II, P.E., 3rd District
Robert Morgan, MD, 4th District
Richard V. Lee, Jr., 5th District
Morris E. Brown, III, MD, 6th District

Also, in attendance were Dr. Edward Simmer, Director; W. Marshall Taylor, General Counsel; M. Denise Crawford, Clerk; Department staff; and members of the public. The meeting was also available via Livestream.

Chairman Elam called the meeting to order and stated notice of this meeting had been provided to all persons, organizations, and news media, which have requested notification, as required by Section 30-4-80(e) of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Item 1: COVID-19 Update (Attachment 1-1)

Dr. Edward Simmer, Director, presented this item to the Board. Dr. Simmer introduced Dr. Brannon Traxler and Dr. Linda Bell to provide an update on COVID-19. Drs. Traxler and Bell presented information on the effectiveness and safety of wearing masks in school.

Mr. Kinney made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session pursuant to SC Code Section 30-4-70 to obtain legal advice related to COVID-19. Ms. Shrivastava-Patel seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

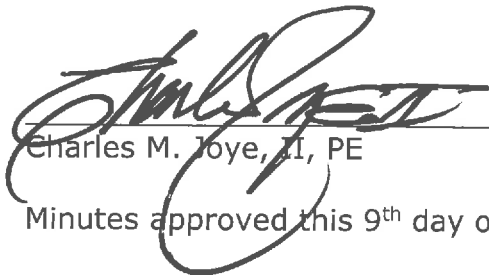
Chairman Elam stated the Board was back in public session and while in Executive Session no actions were taken.

After discussion, **Dr. Morgan moved, seconded by Ms. Shrivastava-Patel, that in light of the data received and reviewed today by DHEC, that the Chair and Director of DHEC contact leadership of the SC House and Senate, urging them to consider providing local decision-making authority regarding mask mandates in schools. The Board voted and Motion carried unanimously.**

Being no further business, Chairman Elam adjourned the meeting.

All referenced attachments are made a permanent part of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles M. Joye, II, PE

Minutes approved this 9th day of September 2021.

ATTEST:



Mark R. Elam, Chairman

Attachments

- 0-1 Agenda
- 0-2 Sign in Sheet
- 1-1 The Science on Mask Use in K-12 Schools