

Mask requirement to stay in schools

State Superintendent said no vaccine mandate this year

■ KEVIN ROUNCE
Reporter

Masking in schools is likely to stick around until the end of the school year, that according to State Superintendent Chris Reykdal.

In a Thursday press conference, he also noted that it is unlikely they will mandate a COVID-19 vaccine for this school year.

"I suppose next school year we could be talking about this," Reykdal noted. "I don't want to truncate the process for the vaccine."

He says it needs to be fully approved by the FDA and then work through other health organizations

before any mandate would be considered.

Masks, however, will likely remain a requirement for the school year.

"This is constantly being re-examined based on the data," said Reykdal.

According to the Yakima Health District, there have been 138 students and staff with the Sunnyside School District that have tested positive for COVID-19. Only one is considered to have been exposed at school.

Communications Director for the Sunnyside School District Jessica Morgan says that a little under 12% of their staff received an exemption while the rest are fully vaccinated. Those with an exemption will need to use certain accommodations.

She also noted that they did not lose any employees over the mandate.

SHS Drama puts on Peter Pan prequel

Show runs over two weekends

■ KEVIN ROUNCE
Reporter

The Sunnyside High School Drama Club is putting on their first show of the school year, 'Peter and the Star Catcher.'

Advisor Corey Murphy says it's essentially a prequel to Peter Pan and sets up the story that so many people know.

"The veterans are very happy to be back on stage," said Murphy. "We have quite a few new people in the program, especially in the crew, but it is a small cast."

He noted that the past year has been particularly challenging with getting kids into the program, but that this year's performances will be in line with state guidance which will not require masks of the performers during the show.

"When I announced the mask change (to fall in line with sports and cheer) there were cheers and smiles!"

Since the pandemic began, the club has been recording shows and then releasing a digital copy, something Murphy says he's not as

familiar with.

"I work with live theatre, so it has been amazing to get back to nearly normal."

The shows are November 5-6, and 11-13 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Cast List:

Boy/Peter: MJ Johnson
Black Stache: Colton Morrow
Molly: Sara Waywell
Smee: Celeste Tlatelpa
Prentiss: Tayler Bonzi
Ted: Sami Jo Mendoza
Lord Aster: Patrick Wise
Mrs. Bumbrake: Alejandro Alviso-Gonzalez
Captain Scott: Michael Castro
Gremplin: Mike Sanchez
Slank: Gabriel Schenck
Alf: Samantha Huerta
Mack: Jj Ayala
Sanchez: Lissaundra Caridad
Fighting Prawn: Gabriel Schenck
Hawking Clam: Mike Sanchez
Teacher: Sara Waywell

Sailors/Mollusks:

Lissaundra Caridad
Vanessa Leon Guerrero
Isaac Cardenas
JJ Ayala-Santiago
Joselyn Tlatelpa
Melia Alvarez
Adri Solano



HALLOWEEN — Local trick or treaters took to the streets of Sunnyside on Sunday evening, October 31 to collect candy from neighbors. Pictured left to right are David Servin, Damian Saenz-Garcia, Alessandra Saenz, Myaisa Mena, and Anna Saenz.

Redistricting coming to Sunnyside schools

Not expected to make major impact on Board

■ KEVIN ROUNCE
Reporter

With the 2020 census numbers publicly available, redistricting is happening throughout the country, including at the Sunnyside School District.

Superintendent Kevin McKay says the first phase of the process is done, where a

data mining company looks at the existing districts and calculates how they changed, and whether there needs to be adjustments.

"The goal is to have equal distribution [of residents] in each district," according to McKay. "They also want to find ways to adjust the boundaries of the district without disrupting the board."

McKay said that involves moving the boundary lines to gain equal representation, but because the Board is elected,

see if it can be done without pushing someone out of their district.

There is expected to a proposed new district map at the November 22 meeting. "Then the Board by resolution will have to accept the recommended redistricting," said McKay.

In other action from Thursday's meeting, the School Board adopted a policy that would prohibit posters that are considered politically motivated in

nature in classrooms. That passed after discussion on whether classroom decorations should be limited in scope.

They also reviewed the results of a public survey regarding federal funding during the pandemic with the top issue being student supports, specifically mental health.

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Airport nearing installation of cameras

Expected to provide real-time video of conditions

■ KEVIN ROUNCE
Reporter

The Sunnyside airport will be getting a camera installed sometime in the next few months on their automated weather observing system

(AWOS).

City Public Works Director Shane Fisher says they researched several cameras and were pleasantly surprised that they could afford the one they chose.

"It will allow pilots to see conditions in real-time."

It's part of improvements that are coming to the airport that include a loaner vehicle

and updates to the hangar to attract a drone operating business.

Fisher says they are working on their 20-year master plan to make the airport more viable and a continued economic opportunity.

One step will be to conduct an aviation geographic information system, or GIS

survey which could allow pilots to land by instrumentation only, or if the city wants to extend the runway.

Fisher says the new cameras will be installed by an AWOS technician and then city staff will make sure it's up and running.

Eventually pilots will be able to view the camera on the airport's website.

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David, Amber, Madelyn and Juliette Humpherys

