



## Statement following the May 20, 2021 - Cole R-I Russellville School Board Meeting

The Cole R-I Russellville School Board would like to thank the community who attended the meeting last night. We appreciate the outpouring of support shown, which is a true testament to the spirit of this community we love. We understand it can be frustrating to not hear the answers you want to hear. However, the board is not able to comment on the specifics regarding personnel matters pursuant to our policies. We can however, let you know that personnel decisions are not taken lightly and are not without deliberation.

We want to continue to improve and provide open and clear communication. Unfortunately, in regard to personnel matters and their confidential nature, we are limited. We did, however, want to clarify one of the concerns heard last night regarding the board's decision to move the order of the closed business. It is within the board's discretion to change the order of the agenda. After pulling the April agenda records for the last 11 years, it is important to note that previous boards have moved the order of closed business to the beginning of the meeting 7 times. This practice is not uncommon within our district nor with other school boards in Missouri. This practice allows the board's current members to complete business from the year before swearing in new members.

Our mission remains to educate all students and develop the foundation of tomorrow's community by expecting excellence today. We respect every staff member in our school district. We appreciate their hard work and dedication to ensure a prosperous future for our students. We also respect and value the input provided by the public to ensure our community's success. We have heard your concerns expressed last night and the last few weeks. We will continue to listen to your input and make improvements to help our school district be the best possible.

Respectfully,  
Cole R-I Russellville School Board

