The Rapid City Area School District Board of Education is considering a resolution to “ban COVID-19 testing or administering of vaccines at all Rapid City Area School District 51-4 schools, buildings, and properties.” The resolution is on the agenda for the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in Rapid City Council Chambers. The resolution asserts that “K-12 schools are a place of learning fundamental skills and obtaining knowledge” and that the district “is not a licensed healthcare facility.”

It also contends that “valuable instruction time which would be used educating K-12 schoolchildren is lost during COVID-19 testing or administering of vaccines and subsequent waiting periods.” That “the COVID-19 testing kits that RCAS have are not diagnostic tests” and that the current available COVID-19 vaccines to both age 5-17 year old children and adults have only been granted an FDA Experimental Use Authorization which is far lower standard than a FDA approved vaccine.”

Most South Dakotans favor history, culture classes, poll says

South Dakota education officials have struggled to revise social studies standards that include guidelines for teaching Native American history and culture, but a new poll suggests state residents are firm in their support for inclusion of these studies in public schools.

The poll of registered voters in October showed that 88% of respondents were very or somewhat supportive of teaching Native history and culture in South Dakota schools.

Gov. Noem says she’s running for re-election

Gov. Kristi Noem, who’s considered a rising star in the Republican Party, formally launched her re-election campaign on Friday.

Her campaign said in a statement that she has raised over $10 million since she announced three years ago. She has more than $4.5 million in cash on hand, the campaign said. She had already said she would seek re-election through challenging times but has also accomplished great things together,” Noem said in the statement. “We’ve embraced fiscal responsibility, protected the tranquility of our people, fought federal government intrusions, and invested in the next generation through education, health care, expanding broadband, and providing more career opportunities so our children can stay in South Dakota.”

Noem also announced who would be leading her campaign. Joe Difilippo will act as campaign manager; Chris Hupke as deputy campaign manager; and Joe Desilets will act as campaign manager.}

Joel Smallbone sings on a platform hung from a stage truss while the band For King & Country performs at Summit Arena in The Monument on Thursday in Rapid City. “We were so excited to be coming to The Monument, we brought a completely uniquely designed stage for [the Relate] tour, as well as curtains falling from the ceiling and elevator lifts rising up at different points and LED panels moving. It’s a whole different kettle of fish.”

The four-time Grammy award-winning duo For King & Country performs at Summit Arena. Heather Jasnoch, advertising strategist at The Monument, said their staff even feel like I’m not in Rapid City anymore, and so I think quote that I keep hearing from around town is it doesn’t matter. Jasnoch said. An estimated 6,000 people attended the concert. Our staff are so excited to see so many new faces in the building. “The quote that I’ve heard from around town is it doesn’t even feel like I’m in Rapid City anymore, and so I think we’re going to chalk that up as a win,” Jasnoch said. An estimated 6,000 people attended the concert.