

MINUTES OF THE CONTINUED DISCUSSION/REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MT. LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT

December 16, 2020

The Continued Discussion/Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors was held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, via a Zoom web meeting.

Mr. Wyland called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Hugh Beal, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci, Dr. Aviva Diamond, Ms. Valerie Fleisher, Mr. Andrew Freeman, Dr. Justin Hackett, Ms. Sarah Olbrich, Dr. Stephen Strotmeyer, Mr. Jacob Wyland,
Absent: None

ATTENDING:

Dr. Timothy Steinhauer, Superintendent
Thomas Peterson, Solicitor
Administrative Staff: Ms. Cissy Bowman, Dr. Ronald Davis, Ms. Heather Doyle, Mr. Robert Geletko, Dr. Marybeth Irvin, Mr. Richard Marciniak, Ms. Tenecia Ross, Mr. Christopher Stengel

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Thirty-five (35) residents spoke before the Board about the following:

Commit to plan
Vote to approve resolutions on agenda
Prioritize outcomes of process
Wants in-person learning
District failed the majority of children
Get kids back in school
Criticized December 14 board meeting
Repeated sexism by Board and name calling by community
People need to change behaviors
Two days not enough time for parents to review plan
Pass resolution to get students back in school
Consider students who are struggling
Plan is a choice for those who want hybrid and those who want remote
The Open Our Schools Group will not stop until students are back in school
Put aside personal feelings
Can't turn your back on students who don't do well in remote
Stop wavering—vote to get students back in school
Vote for resolutions and proceed with in-person school
Make up for lost learning
Listen to guidance on sports and allow sports to continue
COVID not spread in school
Teachers should not be afraid
Please reinstate athletics
Re-examine hybrid program for kindergarten
Schools are not on the governor's list for closures, schools can be open
Great students turning into poor students

Questioned what instruction is given to staff if they travel over the holiday
Teachers and principals are the best thing about the District
School Board should stick to their decisions
Superintendent should make decisions
Let students have some consistency
Questioned what the District doing for those who need help
Learning loss by students
Other districts leaving us in the dust
Get the students back to school five days a week
Resumption of winter sports on January 4
Athletic safety plan is effective
Unfair to limit students in Mt. Lebanon
Other schools have different rules
Suspending sports affecting students
Imagine being a student through a pandemic
Look at peer review articles by respected experts
Keeping students home is doing the opposite of what is thought
Align with state guidelines to resume sports on January 4
Students are not doing well mentally-do better in hybrid learning
Anxiety and depression skyrocketing
Allow sports to resume on January 4
Do a risk assessment of efficiency after sports resume on January 4
Reopen no contact sports on January 4-save the winter season
Remote learning no long compatible for special needs child
This is about lowering community spread
Adhere to PDE recommendations
County in substantial category-move to remote learning
Health and Safety Plan should be based on sciences
Entitlement in community strong
Cases are surging and people are dying
Where is the sense of community?
Use data provided by state to determine modality of education
Schools should remain fully remote
Mental issues have been going up for years—stay home to save a life
This is a once in a lifetime pandemic
Pull together, social distance, mask up—vaccines will take care of this
Recognize that this is a moment to rely on technology and move to remote learning
It is safe in our community to go to school full-time

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Hackett and seconded by Strotmeyer that the Board approves the Health and Safety Plan 3.0, the Revised Reopening Education Plan, and the Revised Athletics & Activities Health and Safety Plan 4.0, all dated December 16, 2020, in substantially the form presented, with adjustments and modifications as deemed necessary by the Superintendent. (Copy in official minutes)

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Freeman, Hackett,
Olbrich, Strotmeyer, Wyland
Against: None
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was moved by Olbrich and seconded by Strotmeyer that the District resumes the Hybrid (Blended) Mode of Instruction as described in the Revised Reopening Education Plan on a staggered basis, with elementary students resuming Hybrid Instruction on January 11, 2021 and

secondary students resuming Hybrid instruction on January 21, 2021; prior findings and approvals by the Board are only rescinded to the extent they are inconsistent with this resolution.

ROLL CALL: For: Beal, Cappucci, Diamond, Fleisher, Freeman, Hackett,
Olbrich, Wyland
Against: Strotmeyer
MOTION APPROVED

It was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Hackett that District athletic activities resume on January 4, 2021.

ROLL CALL: For: Cappucci, Fleisher, Freeman, Hackett, Olbrich,
Strotmeyer, Wyland
Against: Beal, Diamond
MOTION APPROVED

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

Thirteen (13) residents spoke before the Board about the following;

Questioned why sabbaticals are being approved during the pandemic
Clarify how USC has been in school 4 days a week and Mt. Lebanon is not
Kindergarten instruction
District dragging feet on live streaming for elementary
Get the students in school full time
Thanked the Board for moving to a January 11 start
Can't understand why sports is returning soon
Disappointed about sports returning on January 4
Thanked the Board for making decision without fear
Disappointed that the Student Outcomes Report is delayed again
Disappointed in the amount of time spent on discussion sports
Thanked the Board—good work done this evening
Clear resolutions on opening and athletics
Not a word about student activities other than sports—would like to hear more
When will students go back to school 5 days a week
Let students return 5 days a week
Students need to get back to school 5 days a week
Anger in community is because school has been delayed
Get students back to school

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Strotmeyer and seconded by Beal to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Cecile D. Bowman; Secretary
Board of School Directors

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