

MGSD Board of Education
July 25, 2021, Called Emergency Meeting Minutes

**MGSD Board of Education
Called Emergency Meeting Minutes, Sunday, July 25, 2021, 5:00 p.m.**

The Board of Education of the Mooresville Graded School District met during a duly noticed called emergency meeting on Sunday, July 25, 2021, in the Performing Arts Center at Mooresville High School, 659 E. Center Avenue, Mooresville, NC 28115.

Board Members Present: Mr. Roger Hyatt, Chairman; Mr. Greg Whitfield, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Leon Pridgen, II; Dr. Debbie Marsh; and Mrs. Kerry Pennell were present.

Dr. Stephen Mauney, Superintendent, was present.

Dr. Ingrid Medlock, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mrs. Tanae McLean, Chief Communications Officer and Title IX Coordinator; and Mrs. Sylvia Martinez, Board Clerk were present.

Media Representative: *Kate Stevens - Mooresville Tribune*

Mr. Hyatt called the meeting to order and shared the quote: “Together we aspire, and together we achieve.” He held a moment of silence and led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval to Hold Public Comment Session: Dr. Hyatt requested a board motion to hold the public comment session according to the **Board Policy 2310, Public Comment** which reads in part: Each month, a portion of at least one regularly scheduled board meeting will be set aside for citizens to address the board through public comment. Each speaker will receive 3 minutes to present comments; however, the public comment session will not exceed 30 minutes total except by majority vote of the board. **On a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Pridgen, the board voted unanimously to approve Holding the Public Comment Session as presented.**

Approval to Adjust the Public Comment Time Limit: Dr. Mauney requested board approval to adjust the public comment time limit for each speaker to 2 minutes in lieu of 3 minutes in order to accommodate the large number of speakers signed up to address the board during the thirty-minute public comment session. **On a motion by Mr. Pridgen, seconded by Mr. Whitfield, the board voted unanimously to approve Adjusting the Public Comment Time Limit to 2 minutes in lieu of 3 minutes as presented.**

Public Comments: The following citizens and district stakeholders addressed the board during the public comment session. They shared their thoughts and opinions regarding the return to school plans and mask wearing. The majority of the speakers support parents choosing whether to have their children wear masks to school and to return children to in-person learning.

MGSD Board of Education
July 25, 2021, Called Emergency Meeting Minutes

Carissa Abraham, 810 Deer Path Place, Mooresville, NC; Laketha Bobish, 152 Wylie Trail, Statesville, NC; Tyler Lee, P. O Box 91245, Charlotte, NC; Ashley Bogard, 127 Miller Drive, Mooresville, NC; Jay Goodman, 104 Fontanelle Dr., Mooresville, NC; John Taylor, 175 Rustwood Dr., Mooresville, NC; Brian D'Amico, 117 Snow Fountain Ln, Mooresville, NC; Jenna Robinson, 277 Linwood Rd., Mooresville, NC; Kelli Harris, 127 Corona Circle, Mooresville, NC; Lynn Shea, 28 Lake Mist Dr., Mooresville, NC; Kelly Supek, 155 Pendill Run Lane; Kacee Thompson, 178 Blackwelder Farm Dr., Mooresville, NC; Tim Woods, 144 Gage Dr., Mooresville, NC; Ed Fisher, 130 Forest Walk WY, Mooresville, NC; Bryan Neckameyer, 227 Golden Valley Drive, Mooresville, NC; Reverend Curtis Johnson, 140 Civil Lanyard Rd, Mooresville, NC; Stephanie Sossaman, 19530 Oak Street, Mooresville, NC; Joann Nix, 187 Golden Valley Dr., Mooresville, NC; Paula Mimucogle, Stony Point, NC; Calley Conrad, 122 Triple Oak Lane, Statesville, NC; Dana Cox, 130 Davie Dr., Troutman, NC; Tom Engelson, 212 Bluffton Rd, Mooresville, NC; Tamara Parker, 120 Delany Lane, Mooresville, NC; Heather Stanley, 142 Rougemont Ln, Mooresville, NC; Joy Mauney, 126 Ginger Lane, Mooresville, NC; Jared Washington, 157 Rustic Rd., Mooresville, NC; Jennifer Meler-Kupp, 113 Walnut Hill Court, Mooresville, NC; Tim Baskin, 137 Farmers Folly Dr., Mooresville, NC.

Approval to Extend the Public Comment Session: Board members unanimously approved to extend the 30-minute public comment session time limit, providing an additional 15 minutes allowing each of the remaining speakers on the public comment sign-up sheet one minute each to address the board.

On a motion by Mrs. Pennell, seconded by Mr. Pridgen, the board voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

Board Discussion of Revised NC Toolkit and Masks: Dr. Mauney led the discussion on the revised NCDHHS StrongSchools Toolkit and Governor Roy Cooper's recent press conference on July 21, 2021. Governor Cooper announced that he would not extend the statewide mask mandate set to expire at the end of this month. Dr. Mauney presented and explained the MGSD return to school plan proposals, #1 and #2 regarding mask requirements and shared the positives and negatives for each of the proposals.

Proposal #1: Follow the NCDHHS StrongSchool Toolkit recommendations requiring all staff and students in grades K-8 to wear masks, all staff and students in grades K-12 are required to wear a mask on school buses, and all staff and students in grades 9-12 who have not been vaccinated are required to wear masks. **Proposal #2:** Masks will be optional but strongly encouraged for all students and staff in grades K-12, masks will be required by federal order on school buses however, if Iredell County moves to substantial or critical impact under the NCDHHS system, MGSD will require masks until numbers subside, and we revert to the "significant impact" or lower.

The Board of Education members Mr. Hyatt, Mr. Whitfield, Mr. Pridgen, Dr. Marsh, and Mrs. Pennell each shared their opinions and concerns regarding the two proposals presented to them and shared their reasoning for supporting the return to school plans proposal #2, making face masks optional to start the school year with thresholds in place if needed.

Approval of Return to School Plans: Dr. Mauney gave his recommendation to return to school under proposal #2, and requested board approval of the return to school plans proposal #2, where masks will be optional but strongly encouraged for all students and staff in grades K-12, masks will be required by federal order on school buses however, and if Iredell County moves to substantial or critical impact under the NCDHHS system, MGSD will require masks until numbers subside, and we revert to the “significant impact” or lower. **On a motion by Mr. Whitfield, seconded by Mrs. Pennell, the board voted unanimously to approve the Return to School Plan Proposal #2, leaving face masks optional for the upcoming 2021-22 school year with thresholds in place and as long as Iredell County remains a “yellow” county as categorized in the state’s NC Covid County Alert System and as presented.**

There being no further business, on a motion by Dr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Whitfield, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mr. Roger Hyatt, Chairman
Board of Education

Dr. Stephen A. Mauney, Secretary
Board of Education

MGSD Board of Education
July 25, 2021, Called Emergency Meeting Minutes