



Committee of the Whole Meeting July 13, 2020 Minutes

A Committee Meeting of the Eastern Lancaster County School Board of Directors, which was properly advertised in the LNP *Lancaster Newspaper*, was held on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., in Community Hall located at the Garden Spot High School and Middle Complex, 669 E. Main Street, New Holland, PA 17557.

Roll Call

Board Members in attendance were: Gary Buck, Brian Conroy, Jonathan Dahl, Jacqueline Geyer, Paul Irvin, Dina Maio, Kevin McCarroll, Bryan Naranjo, and Thomas Wentzel

Board Members not in attendance were:

Also in attendance were: Dr. Robert Hollister, Justin W. Johnson, Dr. Nadine Larkin and Keith Ramsey

Staff/Public in attendance were: Citizens of the community and staff members of the District

1. Welcome and Call to Order

President Wentzel opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

President Wentzel announced that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the meeting regarding a personnel matter for the Superintendent's Evaluation.

2. Moment of Silence/Reflection - Pledge of Allegiance

President Wentzel led in a silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens of the District Comments

The Board encourages citizens of the district to come before the Board to present their petitions, inquiries, or other communications of interest. The Board invites public (*Citizens of the District*) comment on any topic that is within the Board's jurisdiction. As outlined in Board Policy 903, the Board requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of this district.

Due to the virtual aspect of the Board meeting, the Board is requesting if you wish to provide public comment during the virtual board meeting, you should sign-up to do so by completing the online form prior to the meeting.

[PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP FORM](#) (Please use this form only if you are not attending the meeting in person.)

Public comments will be read aloud during the public comment section of the agenda.
Thank you.

SUBMITTED COMMENTS (VIA PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP FORM):

Meredith Dahl, New Holland PA 17557

Good Evening!

First, I would like to thank every School Board member for your service to the community. There are many people praying for you. I would also like to thank the ELANCO School District Administration, Staff and Faculty. Thank you for your time, energy and ideas during this challenging season.

I would like to offer a prayer for this meeting and for all of you.

Dear God,
Thank you for hearing us when we pray and for caring and loving each person in this room.

I want to lift up every School Board member at this time. I know this is a challenging job so I ask that each person would feel encouraged. I also ask for wisdom and clarity.

I also want to lift up the entire School District, the administration, teachers, students and parents. There are so many challenging decisions facing the District at this time. I pray for wisdom, health and especially unity as we enter this school year.

I also want to pray for this meeting. I ask for your presence to fill the room and for an abundance of wisdom, peace and strength.

In your name, Amen.

Thank you for the opportunity to pray with you and for you.

Michele Zook, 305 Cottonwood Lane, New Holland PA 17557

Hello. My remarks are regarding the upcoming school year and the CDC guidelines. As a

parent to an 8th and 9th grader, I am comfortable giving parents the choice as to whether or not the students wear a mask and stay away from their classmates. Typically, my two kids are not really excited about school, but with the events of this year thus far, they are looking forward to it and to their sports. I think they are simply craving some normalcy to which I can relate. I understand the dangers that come with living, but with a virus that has a 99.9% survival rate for those under the age of 70, again, I am comfortable sending my kids to school like it was before the general public knew about Covid. I would prefer they be in school, however, if they are required to wear a mask all day and stay away from their friends, I will be looking at alternatives. I will be responsible and keep my child home if they are sick and would hope that other parents do the same. I would even go as far as to say if anyone is feeling ill in my family, I will keep both of my children at home. While in school, I will ask them to be respectful of others who may wish to keep their distance. Last winter, there was a lot of sickness going around. I remember one teacher sharing with me that she had around 7 of her 22 students present that day. However, we did not close schools. I understand that you are in a tough spot one that I do not envy. Whatever the decision, I will trust that you have listened to us, considered our words, and prayerfully thought about it. Michele Zook

Faith Pickel, 1612 Main St., Goodville, PA 17528

Hello School Board Members, I commend you for taking the time to make sure the students are not injured while participating in their sport. To do away with the old surface of grass and replace with a material that helps them compete well and safely. For the sake of the children I ask that the old curriculum of "Common Core" and now "Empowering Learners as Global Thinkers and Producers" be replaced with a Judeo-Christian based curriculum for the well being of their hearts, souls, and minds. You all have received the information that shows how the current curriculum is corrupt, based on the occult and the agenda of Alice Bailey to make the students "agents of change" to remove upright values and morals in our nation. If you think it is impossible to have a Judeo-Christian curriculum that is false as it is not written in the constitution but was in fact a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to keep the government out of the church not God out of the schools. God says in Proverbs 16:30 He who shuts his eyes to devise perverse things and who compresses his lips (as if in concealment) brings evil to pass. and in Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. Thank you for your consideration in this.

Yvette Lee, 110 Robin Rd. New Holland, PA 17557

Hello Superintendent Hollister, Dr. Larkin, and School Board Members, I have no doubt the sincerity of the persons who wrote, support, and desire to implement the proposed Elanco curriculum, "Empowering Learners As Global Thinkers and Producers". I equally believe those like Illuminist Alice Bailey and her followers genuinely believe they too know what is best for our students and world. However, in 1932 Alice started an organization called World Goodwill- an official non-government organization within the UN that is Luciferian and behind a new age spiritual agenda that has capitalized on the apathetic, naïve, uneducated and

educated alike. The New Age strategy which began as a 50-year plan started with, in Alice's words, "going for the children, especially children under ten years and below". She believed in using children as agents of change in a nation. Each of us has most likely been a victim of the ideas & the deceptions of this prophetess of the New Age especially if we were educated within the public-school system & continued our education. The UN which itself has fallen victim to the New Age Movement has been working with the National Education Association to carry out its agendas which are consequently New Aged influenced. The UN plans called "Goals 2000", No Child Left Behind, Common Core, and now "Empowering Learners As Global Thinkers and Producers" are all Luciferian at their core and are meant to indoctrinate our children to false belief systems, irrationality, and wrong thinking. Though seemingly harmless & at surface level appear helpful and altruistic these ideas will lead to a One World Government, Economic System, and Religion & ultimate destruction of our nation if we continue this path. Today the strategy almost in its entirety has been adopted by the UN & today a lot of it is already law in many nations. See for yourselves: THE STRATEGY- The 10 -Point Charter 1. TAKE GOD AND PRAYER OUT OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM 2. REDUCE PARENTAL AUTHORITY OVER THE CHILDREN 3. DESTROY THE JUDEO-CHRISTION FAMILY STRUCTURE 4. IF SEX IS FREE, THEN MAKE ABORTION LEGAL & MAKE IT EASY 5. MAKE DIVORCE EASY & LEGAL, FREE PEOPLE FROM THE CONCEPT OF MARRIAGE FOR LIFE 6. MAKE HOMOSEXUALITY AN ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE 7. DEBASE ART, MAKE IT RUN MAD 8. USE MEDIA TO PROMOTE & CHANGE MINDSET 9. CREATE AN INTERFAITH MOVEMENT 10. GET GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE ALL THESE LAW & GET THE CHURCH TO ENDORSE THESE CHANGES. "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves & pray & seek my face & turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, & I will forgive their sin & will heal their land." The Bible 11 Chronicles 7:14. I am asking you to follow God's own words & ask for His help to develop & implement another curriculum. God is our only source of help & refuge in these times, Yours Truly, Yvette Lee Source: Bailey, Alice (1922), Initiation, human & solar, Lucifer Pub. Co., OCLC 18882542 The Lucis Trust is the official publisher of Alice Bailey's books.

Jordan Shenk, 395 N Railroad Ave, New Holland, PA 17557

For the parents who do want to send their children to school if face masks must be worn, what other options will the district have? Also, how do those options address FAPE?

Jaclyn Kulp, Hill Road, New Holland, PA 17557

What is being put into place for the children in special Ed classes? Will mask be required for children in AS classes? Will services such as speech therapy and ot and Pt still take place? How will the district make up for all the lost hours of services these children did not receive?

COMMENTS (IN-PERSON):

Hazel Hurst, Hill Road, New Holland, PA 17557

Ms. Hurst asked the Board how the District would handle learners with medical exceptions with the reopening of school.

Pamelah Wenger, 668 Lauschtown Road, Denver, PA 17517

Mrs. Wenger presented her concerns and opinions on the reopening of school for the 2020-2021 school year. She read her letter to the Board:

I know and understand that these times are difficult for everyone. I can't imagine the amount of pressure that is put on you, in regards to decisions that are being made for this upcoming school year. I currently have two children that will be coming to Brecknock Elementary this year, one is just starting Kindergarten and the other will be entering 3rd grade. I am reaching out to you for the first time in regards to the mask wearing debate. It has been on my mind for some time now, and I finally made the decision to start with a letter to you. First, I understand that you are probably flooded with emails regarding this topic, and I appreciate you taking the time to read through what I have to say. My children have NOT been forced to wear a mask, by myself or husband, in public since COVID has started. If my children become ill or show signs of COVID, I plan to KEEP THEM HOME. At first, when I chose not to wear a mask in public it was more for a stance of what I believe in. However, being faced with the decision of possibly sending my children back to school with a mask for a full day has caused me to research more on this topic. My children, along with many others, are looking forward to returning to school, to be with friends they have not seen for some time now. My Kindergartener has been looking forward to starting school since LAST YEAR! She is pretty excited:) So, please understand that this decision is not something I take lightly. Nor is it a decision that I want to make based on MY beliefs, instead of what is best for my children. Which is why I decided to research more on children wearing masks.

Looking further into the scientific research done on children wearing masks was hard to find. There is actually not many studies done on children. When I started my research, I really wanted to be able to attach multiple articles on this topic as proof. Attached below you will find a chart from the PA department of health regarding mask wearing. I encourage you to look at the column marked as "homemade mask or paper mask," because that is what most children will be wearing if they are required to wear a mask in school. At the very bottom it states..."Should not be worn damp or when wet from spit or mucus." Now, I have three children, and I don't know what your thoughts are when you read that. However, when I read it my thought is "Hmmmmm, these are elementary school students...I can't imagine how this will go." I personally was a Kindergarten teacher in a private daycare, and I KNOW that teachers WILL have a difficult time keeping these masks on children and assuring they remain clean. Also, not to mention the distraction this will cause for many children. Also, attached is a CDC frequently ask questions article. I direct you to specifically look at the section under children titled "Should children wear face coverings?" The last sentence states that "Children younger than 2 years of age are listed as an exception as well as anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering

without assistance." Can you guarantee, that if my child states it is difficult for them to breathe, that their face covering will be allowed to be removed? I can say this, without a doubt, my children will state, "I can't breathe," within 5 minutes of having their mask on.

Again, I understand that this is a tough decision for you to make. I also understand that with the recent order made by Dr. Levine states that "masks are mandatory in schools." However, it is NOT a law. I encourage you to look further into ways that allow parents to decide what is best for their children. I appreciate you taking the time to read through this. Please understand that I do NOT write this with the intention of insulting anyone, I truly do want what is best for my children.

Thank you!
Pamelah Wenger

4. Approve Personnel Report

Dr. Larkin informed the Board of several new hires listed on the personnel report and reported that all professional staff positions had been filled.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve the personnel report. It was seconded by Mr. Naranjo. **The motion was approved. (8-0; 1 abstain)** (*Mr. Gary Buck abstained from voting due to having a relation on the personnel report.*)

5. Property and Services

a. Action Item - Approval of the Change orders that were executed for the HS/MS Locker Room and HVAC Project, as follows:

General Contractor - ECI Construction

GC-06 \$503 Deduct - Credit to delete a W8X28 column that was to replace a previously removed column

Architect's comment on GC-06 - There is an existing column that the structural engineer thought had been removed during a previous renovation that we call for in the drawings to be replaced with a new column. During demolition, it was discovered that in fact that column was never removed and could remain. Therefore, we don't need the new column per the drawings.

GC-07 \$2,723 Add - Modifications to existing roof framing at Roof Top Unit (RTU) locations

Architect's comment on GC-07 - The background behind this is revisions to the roof framing reinforcing and unit locations RTU-2 and RTU-7 needed to occur as a result of the existing framing not matching the existing drawings. More specifically, the roof framing was found to actually frame in the opposite direction.

GC-08 \$2,600 Add - Transformer room steel revisions

Architect's comment on GC-08 - The background behind this is that in the existing transformer room, there is a significant amount of work taking place from all trades. It was discovered that there was not enough space to properly run everything, and modifications to the design needed to occur. One of the modifications was to lower the two beams below the existing conduit and re-set accordingly. We selected to go this route because relocating the existing conduit and wiring inside would have been a significantly larger cost to the district, and more time-consuming.

EC-01 \$535 Add - Change to fire-rated pathways at select location

Architect's comment on EC-01 - The background behind this is there are a couple of locations where the electrical engineer calls out for the electrical pathways to be smoke-rated as they pass through walls. Those walls though, as per our code drawings, are fire-rated, not smoke-rated. So, there is additional cost to upgrade the pathways to be fire-rated.

Mr. Ramsey presented the action item to approve the change orders that were executed for the HS/MS Locker Room and HVAC Project to be approved at the upcoming Board meeting. He introduced Mr. Chris Barnhart of Crabtree, Rohrbaugh, & Associates who explained each of the change orders to the Board. Mr. Ramsey informed the Board the total cost of change orders was currently \$10,248, only 2.6% of the contingency.

Dr. Hollister thanked Crabtree, Rohrbaugh, & Associates.

b. Information Item - Turf Options and Track

Mr. Ramsey introduced Mr. Jim Hocker of Derck & Edson Associates to update the Board with the artificial turf options and track reconstruction proposals. Mr. Hocker reviewed the 4 options for the artificial turf field that were presented previously and then presented a 5th option for dual fields located on Tower Road. He noted that this option would remove a softball field which would have to be relocated and would cost \$200,000. Mr. Hocker also informed the Board that this option would cost between \$5.6-5.9 million and would impact parking.

Dr. Hollister updated the Community on previous discussions of the artificial turf field options that the Board were considering. He informed the Board that the Administration was recommending that the Board approve for the installation of one turf field and then in another 5 year have another turf field installed to help stagger the maintenance and replacement cost of those fields. Dr. Hollister also informed the Board that the Administration was recommending the approval to replace the main field to turf as this was the least expensive option.

The Board and Administration discussed the pros and cons of the various turf field options and the timeline for the installation of fields.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve Artificial Turf Field option 2 of the proposal with a second by Mr. Conroy. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

The Board and Administration discussed the track reconstruction.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve the reconstruction of the track with a second by Mr. Dahl. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

c. Information Item - Gym Floor

Mr. Chris Barnhart of Crabtree, Rohrbaugh, & Associates presented the Board with the returned bid options and proposals for the replacement of the gym floor. He noted that the testing that was completed on the floor came back with a force reduction at 15-20% with the recommended force reduction between 53-60%. Mr. Barnhart presented the Board with the two proposed systems for the replacement of the floor: Scissor-loc and Power-loc. He presented the Board with the difference between the two options, indicating that the Scissor-loc system was a floating floor and the Power-loc system was fixed. He noted that the Power-loc system was more expensive, but had more force reduction at 60%, for more ball control. Mr. Barnhart also presented the Board with the option of a Power Vent Airflow system that would help with moisture under the floor which would be an additional cost. He noted the cost of the Scissor-loc system was \$322,000, the Power-loc system was \$359,000 and the Power Vent Airflow would be an additional \$10,000. He also noted that if the project was added as sub under the current contractor, ECI, then there would be 5% cost as well.

Mr. Ramsey noted that the bids came in \$79,000 below the estimated costs.

The Board and Administration discussed gym floor replacement options and timing of construction.

Mr. Brian Conroy made a motion to approve the replacement of the gym floor with the Power-loc System with the Power Vent Airflow system with a second by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

d. Information Item - Property Auction

Scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Mr. Ramsey informed the Board that the auction for the sale of property was set for July 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

6. Program

a. Action Item: Approval of Eastern Lancaster County School District Health & Safety Plan

Dr. Hollister presented the Board with the District Reopening plan, noting that with the constant changes with Covid-19, the plan could be out of date by the next day. He presented the 6 principles that the District was following with the reopening of school buildings:

- 1) “Cohort” theory applies.
- 2) Mask wearing reduces the spread of COVID-19.
- 3) “Social Distancing” reduces the spread of COVID-19.
- 4) Handwashing and disinfecting are paramount.
- 5) Changing conditions are expected: Flexibility and adaptation are required.
- 6) The traditional, face-to-face, social aspects commonly associated with and a part of pedagogy are diminished, it is unavoidable, but not replaceable.

Dr. Hollister explained each principle and how each would apply to the daily operations of the school day at elementary and secondary. He noted that the District was planning on reopening on schedule face-to-face and explained to the Board of what classroom and learning would look like. He also informed the Board that the District would simultaneously operating a virtual online option for learners which would be a more enhanced virtual learning experience and would look differently from the learning at the end of the previous school year. Dr. Hollister informed the Board that a B schedule was also being worked on where half of the students would be in attendance at one time.

Dr. Hollister informed that Board the District was required by the State to have a Board approved plan, noting that the plan would probably need to be updated frequently after its approval.

Dr. Larkin informed the Board that a team worked on the plan with the help of teachers from the Association using the guidelines from the CDC and Health Department as well as the survey that was sent home to parents. She explained the health and safety plans that were being put in place with regard to transportation for both general population and learners with special needs and medical conditions.

The Board and Administration discussed the District Health & Safety Plan with the Board posing clarifying questions and suggestions to the Administration.

The Board requested the Administration to re-survey the parents.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve the Eastern Lancaster County School District Health & Safety Plan with a second by Mr. Naranjo. **The motion was approved. (7-2)**

b. Action Item: Approval of a Settlement Agreement for a Learner with Special Needs.

Dr. Larkin requested the Board approve a Settlement Agreement for a Learner with Special Needs, indicating that the information had been discussed at the Executive Session last month.

c. Information Item: Parent Survey

Dr. Larkin presented the results of the Parent Survey that was sent out in June. The Board and Administration discussed the results.

d. Information Item: Policy 137 Home Education

Dr. Larkin presented the Board with Policy 137 Home Education for review indicating that there were changes from the State with regard to the procedures for homeschool learners.

The Board and Administration discussed special education learners and their access to Occupational and Physical Therapy services.

7. Management

a. Action Item: Resolution supporting the development of an anti-racist school climate by the Board of Directors of Eastern Lancaster County...

Resolution supporting the development of an anti-racist school climate by the Board of Directors of Eastern Lancaster County School District

Dr. Hollister requested the Board to approve the Resolution supporting the development of an anti-racist school climate that was issued through PSBA.

8. Announcements

President Wentzel asked the Board if there needed to be an additional executive session to continue the evaluation of the Superintendent. There was a consensus that another executive session was not needed.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Irvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. with a second by Mr. Naranjo. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

Justin W. Johnson
School Board Secretary
July 13, 2020