



School Board of Directors Meeting July 19, 2021 Minutes

A Regular Meeting of the Eastern Lancaster County School Board of Directors, which was properly advertised in the *LNP Lancaster Newspaper*, was held on Monday, July 19, 2021 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. The meeting was broadcasted via live video feed as well.

Roll Call

Board Members in attendance were: Gary Buck, Jacqueline Geyer, Paul Irvin, Dina Maio, Kevin McCarroll, and Thomas Wentzel

Board Members not in attendance were: Jonathan Dahl, Brian Conroy, and Bryan Naranjo

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

Staff/Public in attendance were: Several citizens of the community and staff members of the District and a member of the media.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

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

President Wentzel announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting regarding a personnel matter.

President Wentzel noted that Mr. Dahl, Mr. Conroy, and Mr. Naranjo were not in attendance.

2. Moment of Silence/Reflection - Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Agenda Modification/Approval of Agenda

Requests by board members to remove an item for separate consideration.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Buck. **The motion was approved. (6-0; 3 absent)**

4. 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) to 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):

Hazell Hurst, 209 Jared Way, New Holland, PA 17557

Hello thank you for taking the time to read my question and concerns this evening. My first question is pertaining to the curriculum this coming school year. Will it include any aspect of CRT or SEL?

I am in extreme opposition of this having any part in my child's education. I would like to hear and understand where ELANCO stands on this subject.

As for my 2nd question, at the end of the year parents received a letter stating that school should return back to normal with no masking or social distancing, etc. I understand that you have applied for the ARP ESSER funds, once you have accepted them will you be obligated to follow what the CDC recommends and enforce your health and safety plan by mandating masks, social distancing, etc. or will parent and students have a choice?

Thank you!

COMMENTS (IN-PERSON):

Lee Schaffer, 1362 Woodland Circle, Denver, PA 17519

Mr. Schaffer updated the Board on his children all who graduated from Garden Spot High School. Mr. Schaffer said a prayer.

Joshua Hicks, 1304 Reading Road, Denver, PA 17517

Mr. Hicks inquired on the protocols regarding the CDC recommendations and how would that affect the upcoming school year.

Dianne Boone, 729 Pleasant Drive, New Holland, PA 17557

Ms. Boone inquired about the District curriculum for the 2021-2022 school year and presented her concerns regarding SEL, CRT, and BrainPOP.

Dave Horst, 1186 East Earl Road, East Earl, PA 17519

Mr. Horst presented his concerns regarding lessons being taught in the classroom.

Dr. Hollister commented on the current protocols for the upcoming school year indicating that at that time, learners would not be mandated to wear masks in the building, but they would need to on transportation. He also commented on ESSR funding and the CDC recommendations noting that currently they were not being enforced. Dr. Hollister noted that the District would continue to monitor as information and the COVID case number in the County evolved.

Dr. Hollister indicated that the Administration would provide access to the District curriculum and indicated that the District did not teach socialism.

5. Consent Agenda

Items listed under the Consent Agenda section of our Board Meeting Agenda are considered to be routine and are acted on by the Board in one motion. There is no Board discussion of these items individually prior to the Board vote unless a member of the Board requests that a specific item be removed from the Consent Agenda. Requests to remove an item from the Consent Agenda will be accepted at agenda section 3. Agenda Modification/Approval of Agenda. (Requests to remove an item for separate consideration). Items Removed from the Consent Agenda will be moved to agenda section "Action Items."

Mrs. Kara Martin, Director Special Education and Gifted Services introduced Jennifer Lakatos, Learning Support Teacher at Blue Ball Elementary starting the 2021-2022 school year.

Mrs. Heather Schrantz, Principal at Blue Ball Elementary introduced Lisa Kehm, Administrative Assistant at Blue Ball Elementary starting the 2021-2022 school year.

Mrs. Jenna Louderback, Assistant Principal at Blue Ball Elementary introduced Christina Esh, Kindergarten Teacher at Blue Ball Elementary starting the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Hollister welcomed the new team members to the District.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve the consent agenda report. It was seconded by Mr. Buck. **The motion was approved. (6-0; 3 absent)**

5.a. Approval of Minutes

5.b. Treasurer's Report

5.c. Approve Personnel Report

5.d. Bills Paid

5.e. Cafeteria Fund Treasurer's Report

5.f. Investments

5.g. Student Activity Account

5.h. Approve Budgetary Transfers

6. Property and Services

6.a. Action Items

6.a.a. Motion to extend the Addendum to the Business and Human Resource Services Agreement to June 30, 2026

This addendum provides services by the ELANCO Business Office Staff with regard to accounts payable and human resource duties that were previously performed by direct employees of CBSD. The initial term of the addendum was for one year. This extension allows the addendum to be on the same term as the Business and Human Resources Agreement. The total cost for 2021-22 is \$30,900 and will increase each year based in the Act 1 base index.

Mr. Ramsey requested the Board to approve the Motion to extend the Addendum to the Business and Human Resource Services Agreement to June 30, 2026. He updated the Board on the District's partnership with Columbia Borough School District indicating that the initial term of the addendum regarding the services of the business staff was one year. He also noted that the total cost would increase each year based on the Index.

Mr. Irvin made a Motion to extend the Addendum to the Business and Human Resource Services Agreement to June 30, 2026. It was seconded by Mrs. Geyer. **The motion was approved. (6-0; 3 absent)**

6.b. Information Items - None.

7. Program

7.a. Action Items - None.

7.b. Information Items

7.b.a. EOL Open House

Dr. Larkin informed the Board that the District would be hosting four open houses for their ELANCOOnline Virtual Academy program for families who may be interested since the District was not having in-person remote as a learning option. She noted that two sessions would be virtual zoom sessions on July 28th and in-person meeting sessions on August 3rd.

Dr. Larkin also informed the Board that herself and Greg Frederick, Director of Elementary Instruction met with the Program Committee to discuss revising the process of reviewing curriculum and how the District could monitor online programs that change more often. She noted that a process would be put in place to review these items each year.

The Board and Administration discussed the process for Curriculum review.

8. Management

8.a. Action Items - None.

8.b. Information Items

8.b.a. Senate Bill 554 Act 65 of 2021: Discuss updated rules for Board Agenda Development and Board Meeting Operations.

Dr. Hollister reminded the Board of the update regarding board meeting operations. He noted that the new Act deterred new topics of major discussions being introduced without being placed on the agenda and not properly advertised.

8.b.b. Need to hire support staff members as there is a large number of vacancies.

Dr. Hollister informed the Board that the District needed support staff members for classrooms.

9. Action Items

Items Removed from Consent Agenda for Separate Consideration.

10. Reports

10.a. Lancaster County Tax Collection Bureau

No Report. Mr. Ramsey indicated that there was no meeting. The next meeting would occur on September 9th.

10.b. Lancaster-Lebanon IU13

No Report. Mr. Irvin indicated that there was no IU Board meeting in July.

10.c. Lancaster CTC

Mrs. Maio reported that the Lancaster County CTC JOC June meeting. She indicated that the Board would return to rotating JOC meetings to the different campuses. She also reported on the award Workforce grant, LCCTC summer projects, and the upcoming in-person Back to School night. Mrs. Maio also reported that the LCCTC was currently offering other school districts equipment and technology that was being replaced.

10.d. Legislative

Mr. Ramsey commented on the State Budget, indicating that the final Budget has been passed with an increase in Basic and Special Education funding. He noted that the District would receive an increase of \$260,000 in Basic Education funding and \$13,000 in Special Education funding.

Mr. Wentzel reported on an article from the Lancaster Newspaper regarding key issues awaiting the General Assembly on their return. He also reported on election reform, relief funding of various agencies, and cannabis legislation.

11. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hollister updated the Board on the film that was being produced about former faculty and community member, Stan Deen. He informed the Board that he had toured the Garden Spot Secondary Campus with the Director for shooting locations and was looking forward to working with the company.

Dr. Hollister informed the Board of the upcoming Administrator Retreat that week as the official start of the new school year as the Administration begins to look at procedures and processes.

Dr. Hollister informed the Board that progress was coming along with the artificial turf field.

Dr. Hollister read a statement regarding his retirement:

As we settle in after an astonishing and unprecedented year and look forward to the rebirth that comes with each new school year, I wish to reflect briefly. It was a daunting year in so many ways, but it also demonstrated this Districts' resilience, agility, and fortitude. The same should be said about our learners who were not kept down despite constantly shifting rules, disappointment after disappointment, and a less than ideal learning environment. Now, all indicator lights are green...we can resume course with earnest toward our goal: "multiple pathways to family thriving careers" for each and every graduate. Despite the distractions of the pandemic, the district inched closer and closer toward serving each learner in a more customized and personalized fashion. With what we pray is the worst behind us regarding the pandemic, hopes are again high. A new school year is a mere six weeks away and as always filled with renewed aspirations, opportunities, and optimism for learners and adults alike.

And so, it is with sincere humility, that I announce my retirement. A difficult decision, but the time is right. Despite the desire to see a few more projects "across the finish line", other demands seek my attention. The "Passing of the mantle" can be a transition challenge for organizations, but it is also an opportunity. A new generation of hungry, energetic administrators awaits the challenges afforded by top-level public-school leadership and so I am confident that the good reputation of this District will find that person either from within or from abroad.

Over the years I enjoyed watching the administrative team, teachers, and support staff members grow and make this district premier: steady progress on achievement, conducted in a safe, inventive, learner-centered system was an inspiration to see... all while maintaining long-term financial security and appropriately balancing the needs of our tax supporting public (ranked 422 out of 500 school districts for tax effort, while still performing within the top 100 high schools in the Commonwealth per the most recent US News and World Report ranking). The District was prepared for the challenges going into the pandemic as we were flush with cutting-edge technologies, fiscally sound, and strategically flexible as a system. Our team rallied with each member doing their best in whatever role they serve in the ELANCO family.

With a heavy, but satisfied heart, I share a retirement date early in the new calendar year of 2022 which provides the Board at least six months-notice from this evening with an outside departure date no later than March 11, 2022. This will provide ample time to seek and secure a new leader who can carry on the great works of this District on behalf of this community,

the Commonwealth, our beloved Country, and the shrinking world community of which we all are apart.

I am deeply grateful for the incredible support that I received from our school community and community at large for nearly 16 years...over 13 years as Superintendent. The number of servant-minded, passionate, competent individuals whom I have had the pleasure to know, serve alongside, and simply stand back and admire are too numerous to mention here. We are truly blessed by those who serve here. My gift from the district is the life-long friends I take with me.

As always, I appreciate your kind attention and look forward to assisting the new leader in the transition to higher achievement and more noble aspirations! With all due respect. Thank you.

12. Announcements

No Announcements.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Irvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. with a second by Mr. Buck.
The motion was approved. (6-0; 3 absent)

Justin W. Johnson
School Board Secretary
July 19, 2021