



## School Board of Directors Meeting August 16, 2021 Minutes

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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, August 16, 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, Jonathan Dahl, Brian Conroy, 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:** Several citizens of the community, 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.

### **2. Moment of Silence/Reflection - Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Buck 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. Naranjo. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

#### 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):

Rochelle Keller, 1175 Rose Ave East Earl, PA 17519

As a parent and school nurse I have 2 questions regarding the updated health and safety plan. In section E the sentence reads: If a learner or staff test positive for Covid 19, they should quarantine for the number of days based on their Drs recommendations. My question is regarding the word should. We will not be able to enforce the quarantine so you could technically have a person who tests positive return to school within a day or 2 of a positive test because they have no fever and minimal symptoms but are contagious until day 10. Also section F, it says learners and staff sent home with Covid 19 symptoms will be strongly encouraged to seek medical attention. If they don't seek medical attention who says when they may come back to school? They also could come back the next day if they haven't had a fever and be contagious with Covid. There are many families who will not seek medical attention or get a Covid test done. Essentially what this plan does is risk exposing a lot of students/staff because of minimal guidelines. We must protect ALL staff and students. It's our job! Respectfully submitted, and Thank you!

Karen Sauder, 443 Linden Road, East Earl, PA 17519

Thank you members of the board for your service to our community. I'm writing to you regarding the health and safety plan you plan to vote on tonight. As a nurse practitioner who has children in elementary school and also cares for many children in the district, I cannot ignore the inadequacies present in the current plan. First, optional masking is far less effective than uniform masking in regards to covid virus transmission. Yet, somehow this has become an acceptable option to you. Secondly, the amendments made to the proposed health and safety plan further reduce the ability of our children to remain safe and healthy in school. Per the

plan, testing and quarantine will be at the discretion of parents. A note to return to school from a licensed healthcare provider will not be required. This effectively means, that a child with covid could be sent home, choose not to be tested, and return in 2-3 days if they have minimal symptoms. This is NOT safe or appropriate. While many universities are returning with a vaccine requirement or covid test, here we are returning with everything optional. Our elementary children aren't even eligible for a vaccine, so they are completely defenseless in this pandemic. If we want our children to remain healthy in person at school, we absolutely need to institute more safety measures to accomplish that.

**COMMENTS (IN-PERSON):**

President Wentzel made a statement regarding public comment procedures.

Pastor Titus Kauffman, 208 S. Yund Avenue, New Holland, PA

Mr. Kauffman thanked the Board for being allowed to speak, thanked Dr. Hollister for his years of service, and said a prayer.

Faith Pickel, 1612 Main Street, Goodville, PA 17528

Ms. Pickel thanked the Board members and Dr. Hollister. She presented her concerns and comments regarding critical race theory.

Sam Trago, 230 Soever Drive, New Holland, PA 17557

Mr. Trago presented her concerns and comments regarding voting booth machines and County clerk's office.

Sean Reese, 348 E. Main Street, New Holland, PA 17557

Mr. Reese presented his concerns and comments about not masking in the School District for the upcoming school year.

Diane Boone, 729 Pleasant Drive, New Holland, PA

Ms. Boone presented her concerns and comments regarding critical race theory.

Robyn Spirito, 250 Locust Street, New Holland, PA

Ms. Spirito presented her concerns and comments regarding masking in the School District for the upcoming school year.

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Rosanna Martin, 985 Sunset Avenue, New Holland, PA

Ms. Martin presented her concerns and comments regarding masking in the School District for the upcoming school year.

Julie Brown, Kramer Mill, Denver, PA

Ms. Brown presented her concerns and comments regarding masking in the School District for the upcoming school year.

Hazel Hurst, East Earl Township, New Holland, PA

Ms. Hurst presented her concerns and comments regarding masking in the School District for the upcoming school year.

Michael Lewis, 100 Bridle Path

Mr. Lewis presented his concerns and comments regarding learners quarantining and online learning.

Rachel Zimmerman, 1350 Harvest Drive, Denver, PA

Ms. Zimmerman presented her concerns and comments regarding masking in the School District for the upcoming school year.

Priscilla Eberly, Stevens, PA

Ms. Eberly presented her concerns and comments regarding school becoming vaccine clinics.

Audrey Perez, Twin Country Road, Brecknock Township

Ms. Perez presented her concerns and comments regarding masking in the School District for the upcoming school year.

Jordan Shenk, 395 N. Railroad Avenue, New Holland, PA

Ms. Shenk presented her concerns and comments regarding masking in the School District for the upcoming school year and the support of students with mental health issues..

Rhonda Salaper, New Holland, PA

Ms. Salaper presented her concerns and comment regarding masking in the School District for the upcoming school year.

Ryan Dougherty, New Holland, PA

Mr. Dougherty presented his concerns and comments regarding masking in the School District for the upcoming school year.

Dr. Hollister thanked the Community for their comments and thanked Pastor Titus Kauffman for his services to the Community.

The Board and Administration discussed the provisions provided to learners in need of emotional support.

## **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. Dianne D'Souza, Assistant Director Special Education and Gifted Services introduced Nicole LeVan-Miller, Learning Support Teacher at Garden Spot High School starting the 2021-2022 school year.

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

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve the consent agenda report. It was seconded by Mr. Buck. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

- 5.a. Approve Personnel Report**
- 5.b. Treasurer's Report**
- 5.c. Approval of Minutes**
- 5.d. Investments**
- 5.e. Cafeteria Fund Treasurer's Report**
- 5.f. Bills Paid**
- 5.g. Approve Budgetary Transfers**
- 5.h. Student Activity Account**

**5.i. Action Item - Authorize the Chief of Finance and Operations to sign the Non Public Transportation Contracts for 2021-22**

The cost per student will increase by 1.4% based on the cost index. The total cost may vary depending on number of students transported.

**5.j. Action Item - Approval of Bus Drivers (Public and Nonpublic) and Bus Assistants for the 2021-22 School Year**

## **6. Action Items**

Items Removed from Consent Agenda for Separate Consideration.

**6.a. Approve the IU 13 Superintendent Search Service to assist the School Board in finding a new Superintendent**

Mr. Conroy made a motion to Approve the IU 13 Superintendent Search Service to assist the School Board in finding a new Superintendent. It was seconded by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

**6.b. Approval of Revised Eastern Lancaster County School District ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan 21- 22 SY**

Mr. Gary Buck reviewed with the Board the process for approving each recommended change by the Sub-Committee for the Eastern Lancaster County School District Health and Safety Plan.

Mr. Gary Buck read the first change to the Health and Safety Plan: Eastern Lancaster County School District will follow CDC and PA DOH recommendations *to the extent practicable* as to the use of masks and the correct wearing of masks in/on all District properties. Change #1 *“The District recommends masks on secondary school buses.”*

The Board and Administration discuss the language of the first section prior to Change #1.

Mr. Naranjo made a motion to change the word *“follows”* to *“consider”* in the sentence of Section A: Eastern Lancaster County School District will follow CDC and PA DOH recommendations to the extent practicable as to the use of masks and the correct wearing of masks in/on all District properties. It was seconded by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

The Board and Administration discussed Change #1 and Change #2 regarding masking on bus transportation and the indication of social distancing as a mitigation strategy on one but not the other.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve Change #1 in the Health and Safety Plan in Section A: *“The District recommends masks on secondary school buses.”* It was seconded by Mr. Conroy. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve Change #2 in the Health and Safety Plan in Section A: *“and require masks on elementary buses due to the inability to layer mitigating strategies on the bus such as social distancing”*. It was seconded by Mr. Conroy.

Mr. Naranjo made a motion to strike the language regarding social distancing. No Second.

Mr. Irvin made a Motion to change the language in Change #2 *“and required”* to *“highly recommends”*. No Second.

Mr. Irvin **striked** his motion to approve Change #2 in the Health and Safety Plan in Section A: *“and require masks on elementary buses due to the inability to layer mitigating strategies on the bus such as social distancing.”*

The Board and Administration discussed the language of Change #2.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve Change #2 in the Health and Safety Plan in Section A with the following language update *“and highly recommends masks on elementary buses due to the inability to layer mitigating strategies on the bus such as social distancing.”* It was seconded by Mr. Conroy. **The motion was approved. (8-1)**

Mr. Gary Buck read Change #3 to the Health and Safety Plan in Section A: *“The District will make masks optional in all school buildings due to the ability to layer mitigating strategies in the classroom and hallways such as cohorting. The District will continue to monitor positivity levels of COVID-19 in our community to help determine any need for changes for mask wearing or/in our Health and Safety Plan.”*

The Board and Administration discussed the language of the Change #3 and the procedure for making changes to the Health and Safety Plan in the future.

Mr. Wentzel made a motion to approve Change #3 to the Health and Safety Plan in Section A: *“The District will make masks optional in all school buildings due to the ability to layer mitigating strategies in the classroom and hallways such as cohorting. The District will continue to monitor positivity levels of COVID-19 in our community to help determine any need for changes for mask wearing or/in our Health and Safety Plan.”*. It was seconded by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

Mr. Gary Buck read Change #4 to the Health and Safety Plan in Section E: *“Learners and staff will be sent home if they present with severe symptoms, as assessed by the school nurses, that are closely associated with COVID-19. The nurse will strongly recommend learners or staff be tested for COVID-19 based on the nature of the symptoms. If a learner or staff test positive for COVID-19, they should quarantine for the number of days based on their doctor's recommendation. Learners and staff within 6' for 15 minutes or more of a positive case will be notified of their exposure through contact tracing in the school. A school-based team will meet regularly to review case counts and analyze cases to determine if there is a need for further action.”*

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve Change #4 in the Health and Safety Plan in Section E: *“Learners and staff will be sent home if they present with severe symptoms, as assessed by the school nurses, that are closely associated with COVID-19. The nurse will strongly recommend learners or staff be tested for COVID-19 based on the nature of the symptoms. If a learner or staff test positive for COVID-19, they should quarantine for the number of days based on their doctor's recommendation. Learners and staff within 6' for 15 minutes or more of a positive case will be notified of their exposure through contact tracing in the school. A school-based team will meet regularly to review case counts and analyze cases to determine if there is a need for further action.”* It was seconded by Mr. McCarroll.

The Board and Administration discussed procedures for contact tracing and quarantining in schools for learners and staff.

Mr. Irvin **striked** motion to approve Change #4 in the Health and Safety Plan in Section E: *“Learners and staff will be sent home if they present with severe symptoms, as assessed by the school nurses, that are closely associated with COVID-19. The nurse will strongly recommend learners or staff be tested for COVID-19 based on the nature of the symptoms. If a learner or staff test positive for COVID-19, they should quarantine for the number of days based on their doctor's recommendation. Learners and staff within 6' for 15 minutes or more of a positive case will be notified of their exposure through contact tracing in the school. A school-based team will meet regularly to review case counts and analyze cases to determine if there is a need for further action.”*

Mr. Conroy made a motion to approve Change #4.1 in the Health and Safety Plan in Section E with the following language: *“Learners and staff will be sent home if they present with severe symptoms, as assessed by the school nurses, that are closely associated with COVID-19. The nurse will strongly recommend learners or staff be tested for COVID-19 based on the nature of the symptoms. Learners and staff within 6' for 15 minutes or more of a positive case will be notified of their exposure through contact tracing in the school.”* It was seconded by Mr. Naranjo.



The Board and Administration discussed procedures for contact tracing and quarantining in Athletics.

Mr. Conroy made a motion to approve Change #4.2 in the Health and Safety Plan in Section E: *“If a learner or staff test positive for COVID-19, they should quarantine for the number of days based on their doctor's recommendation. A school-based team will meet regularly to review case counts and analyze cases to determine if there is a need for further action.”* It was seconded by Mr. Irvin.

The Board and Administration discussed language of Change #4.2 in the Health and Safety Plan in Section E and procedures of quarantining.

Mr. Conroy **amended** Motion to approve updated language for Change #4.2 in the Health and Safety Plan in Section E: *“If a learner or staff test positive for COVID-19, they will quarantine for the number of days based on their doctor's recommendation. If a learner or staff cannot or do not go to a doctor for testing, the isolation or quarantine will follow the standard recommendation of our district doctor. A school-based team will meet regularly to review case counts and analyze cases to determine if there is a need for further action.”* It was seconded by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

Mr. Gary Buck read the change to the Health and Safety Plan in Section F with removed language: *“Learners and staff sent home with COVID-19 symptoms will be strongly encouraged to seek medical attention.”*

The Board and Administration discussed information received regarding Covid-19 testing in the School District.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve the change in the Health and Safety Plan in Section F with removed language: *“Learners and staff sent home with COVID-19 symptoms will be strongly encouraged to seek medical attention.”* It was seconded by Mr. Naranjo. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

Mr. Gary Buck read the change to the Health and Safety Plan in Section I with removed language: *“At present, the Superintendent, HR Director, and Lead School Nurse meet weekly with our local DOH liaison to receive updates as information COVID continues to evolve. Our school nurses are in contact with PA DOH, answering health questions school nurses may have with learners. We expect to continue this contact as needed during the 21-22 school year.”*

The Board and Administration discussed language of the change to the Health and Safety Plan in Section I.

Mr. Conroy made a motion to approve the change in the Health and Safety Plan in Section I with updated language: *“At present, the Superintendent, HR Director, and Lead School Nurse meet as necessary with our local DOH liaison to receive updates as information COVID continues to evolve. Our school nurses are in contact with PA DOH, answering health questions school nurses may have with learners. We expect to continue this contact as needed during the 21-22 school year.”* It was seconded by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

Mr. Irvin made a motion to Approve Revised Eastern Lancaster County School District ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan 21- 22 School Year. It was seconded by Mr. Buck. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

## **7. Reports**

### **7.a. Lancaster County Tax Collection Bureau**

No Report. Mr. Ramsey indicated that there was no meeting. The next meeting would occur on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **7.b. Lancaster-Lebanon IU13**

Mr. Irvin indicated that the Lancaster-Lebanon Board did not have a meeting in July but had an extended meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Irvin shared several highlights from the August 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting report: He reported that the IU13 Board approved \$22,347,287.20 in disbursements and approved new or addition to service contracts for Business Services, Early Childhood & Special Education Services, Instructional/Technology Services and Human Resource Services. He noted that there were two hundred, One hundred, fifty-seven (157) new hires, fifty-seven (57) resignations, twenty (20) terminations, fifty-eight (58) changes in position or salaries, and five (5) leaves of absences. Mr. Irvin reported that the IU approved the IU13 Health and Safety Plan and noted that he distributed to the Board and Administration copies of the Helping Districts, Helping Students newsletters.

### **7.c. Lancaster CTC**

No Report. Mrs. Maio indicated that did not have a meeting. The next meeting would occur on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **7.d. Legislative**

Mr. Wentzel reported that the Legislative was currently on summer recess.

## **8. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Hollister informed the Board that the District was gearing up for the start of the school year with new teacher induction, teacher in-service days, noting that the first day of school was Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Hollister acknowledged all the staff for their hard work the previous year to make it successful.

Dr. Hollister noted that he was cancelling his opening day breakfast for all staff.

## 9. Announcements

Mr. Wentzel thanked the Board for the input during discussions throughout the meeting.

Mr. Dahl thanked the community members and teachers for completing the survey that the Board had distributed regarding the health and safety plan.

## 10. Adjournment

Mr. Irvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. with a second by Mr. Naranjo. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

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Justin W. Johnson  
School Board Secretary  
August 16, 2021