



## Committee of the Whole Meeting August 9, 2021 Minutes

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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, August 9, 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, and Thomas Wentzel

**Board Members not in attendance were:** Bryan Naranjo

**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 and a member of the media.

### **1. Welcome and Call to Order**

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

President Wentzel made an announcement regarding public comment procedures.

President Wentzel made a statement regarding Critical Race Theory:

“The District continues to state that it does not teach that curriculum. It is a curriculum designed to provoke in upper-level University courses, not k-12 public schools. The District does not have it, has not purchased it, has not downloaded it for free. It is not a part of the written curriculum. As always, if a teacher conducts a questionable activity or makes a questionable statement that information should be shared with the Building Principal immediately so that it can be properly investigated and evaluated just like it has always been”.

Vice President Buck made a statement regarding the District’s curriculum:

“While I believe that teachers have a level of autonomy to teach within their approved curriculum, and they have a right to talk about current cultural issues such as CRT, there is a

difference between teaching about them as world view, and teaching any of them as the proper and true worldview. It is not the job of our district to indoctrinate any children into a specific worldview. We don't force students to join a specific religion, and so we should not set ourselves up to be an institution of double standards. Our learners must be educated, but they must be free-thinkers to choose their own paths. They should not be shoved onto paths, but I do believe they should be shown them so they can make informed decisions for themselves. My encouragement to educators would be that they not teach CRT, or any other worldview, as an absolute truth in the classroom.”

Mr. Wentzel announced several modifications to the agenda moving the Approval of the Personnel Report prior to Citizens Comments.

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

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

## **3. Special Presentation - Superintendent Search Services, Lancaster-Lebanon IU13, Brian Barnhart, Executive Director & Flip Steinour, Assistant to the Executive Director – COO**

Dr. Brian Barnhart, Executive Director of Lancaster Lebanon IU13 and Dr. Matt Stem, Assistant Director presented the IU13's Superintendent Search Services to the Board. Dr. Mr. Barnhart thanked the Administration and thanked Mr. Irvin for serving on the IU13 Board. Dr. Barnhart reviewed the services that the IU13 provided to school district's in their Superintendent Search and proposed a schedule for a January 2022 appointment for a start in March or July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **4. Approve Personnel Report**

Mrs. Heather Schrantz, Principal of Blue Ball Elementary introduced Jennica Zook as the new Elementary Teacher at Blue Ball Elementary for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mr. Timothy Moll, Principal of Brecknock Elementary introduced Nash Helsel as the incoming Elementary Music Teacher at Brecknock for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve the personnel report. It was seconded by Mr. Conroy. **The motion was approved. (8-0; 1 absent)**

Dr. Hollister congratulated and welcomed the new teachers.

## 5. 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):

Ashley Stoltzfus, 160 Skyline Drive New Holland Pa 17557

Good evening. Thank you for your service to our community and school. Question for you all. Do you know when your child is having a good day, is extra tired, or a little stressed? If I spent a day with your child I couldn't pick up on those little signs because I do not know your child. Nor do you know mine. We as parents are given the job of raising our children and are their BEST advocates. The Government was put in place to govern the people NOT raise our children. Its August of 2021 cases are down and we are seeing that children are not the prime target for this virus. We have family at a private school and they did not social distance and did not mask. Their attendance for this past year was higher than it has been in the past 3 years. Something is not adding up. If Covid is as bad as they say. This should not be the case. We are robbing our children of a normal school year. A case study involving 25,000 students was done in Germany of students wearing masks. 68% of the students had some kind of physical or psychological issue. 53 % had headaches 50% had trouble concentrating %37 increased drowsiness 42% malaise 1/3 had shortness of breath and 1/4 dizziness. My child struggles with mild asthma and she gets belly aches and struggles to breathe while wearing a mask. These statistics should show us the mask is causing other issues that are more troublesome. I am somewhat of a germaphobe and seeing someone touch their mask while out and about grosses me out... i think of all those germs he is spreading. Our children are for sure touching their masks ALL the time. How many MORE germs are we actually spreading with the mask. A group in Florida did a study on the bacteria on a mask that was worn for 5 to 8 hours. The analysis detected 11 alarmingly dangerous pathogens. Including pneumonia, tuberculosis, meningitis,

lyme, and diphtheria to name a few. Following CDCs guidelines this spring my children were required to " mask up" during OUTDOOR soccer games. This felt like child abuse to me!!! Can we please stand up for our children! IF you are a teacher and want to wear a mask. OK. If you are a parent and want your child to wear a mask. OK. If Myself as a parent choose not to mask my child. OK. Freedom of choice is what our country has been founded on. I am asking that the mask mandate be lifted for our school and let the parents choose what is BEST for their child. I am asking for a normal school year where our children can live, thrive and learn. The Government has NO place in our family decisions!!! Thank you for your time and service to the next generation!

**COMMENTS (IN-PERSON):**

[Chris Buck, 1181 Sheep Hill Road, East Earl, PA](#)

Mr. Buck thanked the Board for their statements regarding Critical Race Theory and presented his comments and concerns regarding Critical Race Theory. He also presented his concerns about the development of the Health and Safety plan. He thanked the Board.

[Rhonda Noel, 105 Dogwood Drive, Narvon, PA 17555](#)

Ms. Noel presented her concerns regarding Critical Race Theory curriculum and with masking of children.

[Priscilla Eberly, 1174 E. Pieffer Hill Road, Stevens, PA 17578](#)

Ms. Eberly presented her concerns with masking wearing and an issue with a comment made by a teacher the previous year. She also commented on the Health and Safety plan regarding the CDC recommendations.

[Dave Horst, 1186 East Earl Road, East Earl, PA](#)

Mr. Horst commented on the statistics of COVID-19 virus and also presented his concerns about a comment made by a teacher in a class the previous year.

[Jacinda Martin, 170 S. Paul Forge Road, Narvon, PA 17555](#)

Ms. Martin commented on the ESSR Health and Safety Plan, the CDC masking recommendations and her concerns with mask wearing on bus transportation. She also presented her concerns regarding only cold water being available in the classrooms for handwashing, the provided wipes having mold on them, the isolation and mental health issues with quarantining of children.

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

Ms. Boone reviewed and read the Sunshine Law regarding public participation and read the oath of the School Board members. She requested the Board to have a parent forum for parents to be able to ask question of the Board.

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

Mr. Horst presented his concerns with mask wearing on school buses and buildings and contract tracing.

Mike Bojako, 569 Red Run Road, East Earl, PA 17519

Mr. Bojako presented his concerns regarding mask wearing and vaccinations.

Carter Bojako, 569 Red Run Road, East Earl, PA

Mr. Bojako presented his concern regarding mask wearing and requested masks be optional for the upcoming school year.

Bryant Glick, 213 Sycamore Lane, New Holland 17557

Mr. Glick said a prayer.

Paula Matter, 472 Daisy Drive, New Holland, PA 17557

Mrs. Matters thanked the Board and provided comments regarding the Superintendent search and thanked Dr. Hollister for all that he had done for the District. She also commented on Critical Race Theory and presented concerns about mask wearing.

Tony Bellini, 124 Shalom Drive, Denver, PA 17517

Mr. Bellini commented on Critical Race Theory and presented his concerns with mask wearing.

Jeremy Weaver, 720 Walnut Street, New Holland, PA

Mr. Weaver requested the Board to not mandate mask wearing for the upcoming school year and thanked the Board for all that they do.

## 6. Property and Services

### 6.a. Action Items:

#### 6.a.a. Action Item - Approval of Bus Drivers (Public and Nonpublic) and Bus Assistants for the 2021-22 School Year

The list will be provided at the August 16th Board Meeting

Mr. Ramsey requested the Board to approve the Bus Drivers (Public and Nonpublic) and Bus Assistants for the 2021-22 School Year at the upcoming Board meeting. He noted that the finalized list of drivers would be provided with the agenda at the upcoming meeting.

#### 6.a.b. 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.

Mr. Ramsey requested the Board to approve the authorization of him, the Chief of Finance and Operations to sign the Non-Public Transportation Contracts for 2021-22 at the upcoming Board meeting. He noted that the increase cost per student was based on the 1.4% increase of the cost index.

### 6.b. Information Items:

#### 6.b.a. Track and Turf Project Update

Mr. Ramsey updated the Board on the track and turf field project, indicating that the turf for the field was to be shipped on Friday and deliver on Monday. He also indicated that even with the adjustments needed for the track, they had already put down the asphalt as indicated on the bid.

Mr. Ramsey updated the Board regarding the replacement of the perimeter fence around the track and field, noting that the District would like to move ahead with the project. He also noted that the cost was \$20,000 with a 10-week lead time which would have the project completed later in the fall.

## 7. Program

### 7.a. Action Items:

#### 7.a.a. Action Item - Approval of Revised Eastern Lancaster County School District ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan 21- 22 SY

Dr. Larkin presented the Board with a revised ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan for the 2021-2022 school year based upon the concerns of the community and discussions from the Board. She noted the plan now specified that masked would be required on school busses because they were considered public transportation and the District would be unable to have mitigation strategies in place. She also indicated that mask wearing would be optional in the buildings. Dr. Larkin noted that the District would continue to monitor local statistics and to help mitigation efforts.

The Board and Administration discussed the lunch protocol for the upcoming school year.

The Board and Administration discussed masking on busses and whether or not mask-wearing should be required on busses. They also discussed whether or not contract tracking procedures should be put in place for the upcoming school year.

The Board and Administration discussed the process for updating the Health and Safety Plan, surveying the Community, and clarification of responsibility for bus transportation protocols.

Mr. Conroy made a motion to modify Section E., contract tracing, be removed from the Health and Safety plan so that the Board could vote on the plan at next week's Board meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Buck. **The motion was rescinded.**

The Board and Administration discussed the need for including the contract tracing and bus mask wearing on the Community survey and discussed creating a subcommittee that would review the survey results and Health and Safety Plans and come back to the Board with recommendations. Mr. Conroy, Mr. Buck, and Mr. Wentzel would be on the subcommittee.

**7.b. Information Items:**

**8. Management**

**8.a. Action Items: None**

**8.b. Information Items: None**

Dr. Hollister commented that he was very pleased with the transition of Mr. Walsh and Mr. White and thanked Mr. Walsh for his commitment to the District and what he is doing for the District.

## 9. Announcements

President Wentzel made an announcement that the Board would hold an executive session after the Board meeting regarding a personnel matter.

Mr. Brian Conroy thanked Dr. Larkin for the follow-up specifically to BrainPOP and resources like that and the plan that the District was putting in place to evaluate systems and programs that change over time. He noted that those procedures are currently part of the Board policies and making sure they are communicated to teachers (Board Policies 119, 107, 109, 111) He reviewed the guidelines in Board Policy 119, Current Events.

The Board and Administration discussed the resource BrainPOP used by teachers as supplement to curriculum, process for parents being informed of programs approved by the District, and a process for filtering for resources.

Mr. Conroy made a motion to suspend the use of BrainPOP for the 2021-2022 school year until the 2022-2023 school year. It was seconded by Mrs. Geyer.

Mr. Conroy amended his motion to suspend the use of BrainPOP until the filtering evaluations have been finished by the Technology Integrators. **The motion was approved as amended. (8-0; 1 absent)**

## 10. Adjournment

Mr. Conroy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. with a second by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved. (8-0; 1 absent)**

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Justin W. Johnson  
School Board Secretary  
August 9, 2021