



Committee of the Whole Meeting September 13, 2021 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, September 13, 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, 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: 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. and welcomed the Community.

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) 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):

Meredith Dahl, 435 Winding Lane, New Holland, PA 17557

Dear Board- Thank your service to the community. Your volunteer time does not go unnoticed. I appreciate each of you.

I would like to pray for the Board and this meeting tonight.

Dear God,

I would like to lift up the ELANCO School District this evening. We know you are here tonight in this room. I ask for wisdom, guidance and patience for each person who is here.

We know that everyone is very passionate right now in our community. We ask for ways to come together. We seek unity. God, may there be wisdom for all on how to move forward together.

Thank you for always being willing to hear us and for loving us.

In your sons name,

Amen

Janice Maldonado, 220 E. Jackson St. New Holland PA 17557

Unmask our kids!! It's our right to make these decisions for our children and not the government or schools. WE KNOW WHATS BEST FOR THEM. It's our right! If parents are afraid of covid and want to mask their kids to keep them safe then thats their decision for their child and not trying to make every single child to the same. We should then decision to not mask our kids as well.

Emily Maldonado, 2 Lantern Lane, East Earl 17519

No mask! Especially accept exemptions for people with disabilities and don't let the school nurses be ignorant of a medical condition. Also the district should bring back hot ham and cheese on a pretzel roll ??

Hannah and Adam Reimers, 105 Windsock Way, New Holland, PA 17557

Please do not require our kids to wear face masks. We all need to be able to breathe fresh air and see each others faces. Also you need to realize that if you are forcing students to wear masks you will loose many kids and they will switch to cyber schools and cost the school even more money. We should not just accept whatever the governor or CDC says. Also remember we can choose to go against them - yes Wolf made a mandate but it is not a law! The last email the school sent to parents with the covid-19 statistics makes me wonder, are you also going to start sending statistics of depression and suicide? Those numbers are sadly at record highs since covid-19, mask-wearing and social distancing all started. So let's truly care about our children and let the parents do what is best for their children- make mask wearing optional. Thank you!

Randy Groff, 1275 N Church St, Narvon PA 17555

Why is a couple million dollars spent to renovate the high school locker rooms to accommodate a couple transgender students but, in-person learning is denied to students who don't want to wear a mask?? You are now segregating children from each other that choose not to wear a medical device that is unnecessary, just because they aren't "following the rules"?! But yet, if a couple students don't like the bathrooms, you'll make the decision to change it up, at tax payers expense, to maybe, avoid getting sued for discrimination? What about discrimination when it comes to students not wearing masks? Should the parents of those students threaten to sue? It all sounds a bit greedy to me. Bottom line, it's all about compliance and money. Not safety. This virus has over a 98% survival rate for students. What's the real agenda here!? Get back to what's most important. Our children's education. And leave parents to make medical decisions for THEIR children!

Dan and Lindsey Heisig, 1126 Village Circle, Denver, PA 17517

Members of the ELANCO School Board,

This letter is in reference to the 8/9/21 board meeting. Your abrupt vote on banning the BrainPop computer program was deeply disturbing. BrainPop, as you know, has a variety of videos that highlight the voices and shared experiences of the BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities, as well as other marginalized groups.

While not explicitly verbalized in the meeting, it is obvious what BrainPop content the Board members and fringe groups in the district are referring to: Any content regarding the Black Lives Matter movement, and current or historical events that attempt to give equal representation to Black Voices and Black perspective.

As I listened to the minutes of the board meeting, you all agreed with what you believed to have been legitimate reasons to censor and ultimately ban this specific program. I will tell you, you're not fooling anyone. Your action to censor this particular content is thinly veiled racism.

Your narratives of being concerned that the content was too "heavy" or that "children aren't equipped to handle these topics on their own" are originating from your own personal biases. Perhaps some of these concerns are coming from parents, in which case I suspect it is really the parent's projections rather than actual observations. You also posited that BrainPop is presenting concepts on a collegiate level because you saw parallels to Critical Race Theory. That is ridiculous. If you were truly concerned with how the nature of the material affected children, you would've consulted the only qualified people in the room, your superintendent and assistant superintendent, when the motion was opened up for discussion. They could've provided you with studied, academic input as to the way children learn and interpret information based on their age and academic level. Furthermore, when you concluded that the BrainPop content is not appropriate, you prioritized the needs of white children over the needs of children of color because children of color deal with racism every day. Even in your own Elanco school district.

If you disagree or can't comprehend the statement that you are prioritizing the needs of white children, perhaps as an all white Board of Directors, you were robbed of this type of education in school, too. Consequently, in your lack of social awareness, you violated your own Resolution supporting the development of an anti-racist school climate signed and dated July 20, 2020. Please review the email attachment of the 2020 Resolution in full text.

Children must be given context, language and tools to ask questions and hold conversations about race and racism. You intentionally blocked that from happening. BrainPop has excellent content for children to help them understand the realities of the world they live in. My question to you is: Why does this content offend you?

It is our sincere hope that all of you will reflect on your actions and seek to fulfill the resolution you brought forth as written.

We hope you will broaden your world view by listening and learning from Black voices. A good start would be to read an assortment of books written by some excellent Black authors. Here are a few:

[The autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X](#)

[The Black Friend: On Being A Better White Person by Frederick Joseph](#)

Stamped from the Beginning: A Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America by Ibram X. Kendi

The Nickel Boys: A Novel by Colson Whitehead

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson

The Watsons Go To Birmingham 1963 By Christopher Paul Curtis

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

We request that members of the Board either re-instate all BrainPop content or develop another supplemental learning program to replace what the children of Elanco are being deprived of. We request that members of the Board consult those with a higher degree of education on issues relating children's developmental and academic needs. We request that members of the Board enroll in diversity, inclusivity, and anti-racist training. Most importantly, we request that Elanco Board members seek to engage with a diverse group of individuals to better understand the needs of the entire community you represent.

Lastly, we would like to end with a quote from BrainPop: "At BrainPOP, we believe the emotional and physical health of all children is paramount. And representation makes a real impact: When kids see successful, positive role models whose experiences reflect their own, they feel less isolated and more hopeful about the future. And when kids encounter people whose experiences differ from themselves, it expands their worldview and deepens their empathy."

We couldn't agree more.

Valerie McDowell, 1367 Clearview Dr, Denver PA

My family and I moved to this area in December 2019, from right outside Philadelphia. We were so happy to be living in a more conservative area where our views would be more aligned with our surrounding community. We were especially glad to be here when covid hit, as our old school district did not have in person learning at all last year. We love the area, and the school, and would hate to have to leave and find a different option. We were so pleased with the optional mask wearing, as they have been proven not to work, and are a hindrance to our children properly learning. I have heard so many stories about kids going to the emergency room, having mental breakdowns ect from the masks. If kids can play a sport, or wait 2 weeks, or go anywhere else in public without a mask, surely they can sit in a classroom with other children, without a mask. There are other districts in Pa and around the Country that are looking out for the students best interests and letting the parents choose what is best for their own child. I pray that we will become one of them. For a virus that has killed less than 1 percent of the people who have had it, we will take our chances with that, rather than the vaccine. As

far as the vaccine goes, if our schools are ones that start vaccinating our kids without the parents permission, my kids will never see the inside of another garden spot school. That is beyond anything that I can imagine. Nobody knows what the long term effects of these vaccines will be, and I am certainly not going to have my child be a test subject. Please do what is right . Please be a voice for our children. You DO have a choice. You DO have the right to say no. A mandate is not a law. Don't think about money. Think about our future, our children's future. Your future leaders. They need to be educated, and healthy, and alive, in order to lead. They need to see good examples of people standing up for what is right, standing against people who are trying to change the very core our country. Please be those examples now, when we need you the most. Thank you

Amanda Colodonato, 2304 Laurel Top Circle, Narvon, PA 17555

I'd like to start off by thanking the School Board Members & the community for the opportunity to share my concerns.

First, I'd like to ask : Has anyone here making decisions for our children considered asking our children how they feel? Has the School District, Governor Wolf or The Secretary of Health personally talked to our children? At this point, parents are the only people advocating for these children.

Many of our children express that they can not breathe in masks. Has anyone thought to consider why? In case you didn't know, our fresh country air isn't so fresh. Per the American Lung Association, Lancaster County consistently has some of the worst air quality in our nation. The more air pollution you're exposed to, the more damaged your lungs become. Our children have been exposed to this everyday of their lives. If they say they can't breathe in a mask, they can't breathe. We have environmental factors in Lancaster County that most other areas in Pennsylvania do not have to consider.

Parents are ridiculed when they state that masks exacerbate their children's mental health conditions. Why do masks exacerbate mental health conditions? I don't have the answer, nor do the experts "yet have conclusive data on that", but it certainly is real. Why is no one listening to our children and taking their mental health concerns seriously?

I am most concerned with Eastern Lancaster County School District's Universal Face Covering Order Exemption Request/Consent to Disclose Records form. Asking for access to our children's medical history, verbal or written, to prove a medical condition for a mask exemption is a violation of medical privacy.

When I expressed concern, I was told that school nurses have always had privileges to our children's medical information without parents authorization. While this is true, it's a privilege that exists solely to provide care for students and assist the school nurse to administer the students medication while at school. The district attempting to normalize the use of this

privilege as a routine procedure is alarming. Per pa.health.gov “There has been concern from healthcare providers in providing information to schools without parent/guardian permission.”

The School Nurse and Physician relationship exists for the School Nurse to assist in care for the student, not for the nurse to make medical decisions for the student.

To further complicate matters, LGH/Penn Medicine has stated that they are “not making or considering exemptions regardless of medical condition”. Numerous medical practices in the area have made similar statements. LGH New Holland, which a large amount of our district uses as a family practice, has stated they will not be making recommendations to a school nurse.

If our community health care providers won't consider any medical exemptions, nor will they make recommendations, it becomes solely the school nurses responsibility to make a medical decision for a student.

The current “mask order” states an exception: “If wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability.”

In the case that a student's medical condition IS exacerbated by wearing a mask, but the school nurse made a decision that the child would not be considered exempt, who is held liable? I implore other concerned parents to seek that answer.

I'd also like to note, nowhere on the order does it say a physician's exemption & signature is required. It is “recommended” that any exception be in accordance with eligibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA.

The process to acquire a simple mask exemption has become so overly complicated that it's nearly impossible. It shouldn't be this hard to keep our kids in school. At this point, it feels discriminatory of a child with a medical condition.

I'd like to end by mentioning this: Our teachers have one of the strongest unions in the state to defend them. A union that spent more than \$1 million in support of Governor Wolf in his 2018 re-election. Who do we have taking a stand and defending our children's best interests?

Michelle Brullo, 345 Orchard Rd. Mohnton PA, 19540

Thank you to the board for your service to the community. You are in a tough spot and I acknowledge that as we all are during these difficult times. One thing we can find common ground on is our love for our children & wanting what's best for them. Those who know me well know that I do not like conflict but recently feel like it is time to take a stand. I do so respectfully and wish I could be there in person but am currently at one of my kiddos sporting events here on campus. I was very happy with the boards decision on the mask issue at the

beginning of school to keep it optional. I personally feel like it is a win win for both sides regarding the mask issue and I strongly disagree with the statement that those who don't choose to wear them are not caring or loving towards others. That statement is manipulative and controlling. However, due to the recent change by the Governor we are up against this again. In school we teach bullying of any kind will not be tolerated but it seems like bullying at a different level is already happening. When do our school leaders stand up and say enough is enough our district does not support a mask mandate. When do you help us by representing what we want? Know one wants our children to be sick and see them hurting but sickness doesn't only come in the form of Covid it also comes in the form of mental health issues... our children are suffering.....which one do we wanna sacrifice for the other??? I say neither...let our children be children and let the parents make the choice of what's best for our families. Lets do life together out of respect for each other. I support a No Mask Mandate! Thank you!

Lisa Heckman, East Earl Township- New Holland Pa 17557

We were so excited for a new school year after a normal summer for our family. We were maskless and enjoying life while staying healthy. Optional masks was simply the best direction to go- you wear one if you want, you don't wear one if you don't want to. Your choice. End of story.

We do NOT parent with Governor Wolf. We do NOT parent by getting a doctors signature on an exemption form approving or not approving what is best for our child. How does this even make sense. Think about it: Long term affects will NOT show up in the doctors file right now. Wearing masks day after day, week after week, month after month, and NOW year after year!!!! It is quite frightening to imagine what our precious children have gone through and will continue to go through if this does NOT stop now!

We simply know what is best for OUR children. We know what will come next if we let this major problem roll right out of our hands: vaccines will be the next thing they force on our children.

We do not need your help protecting our sweet children from Covid- but we do NEED your help and courage protecting our children from the Wolf Administration. Our bodies are made to fight off viruses instead of relying on a mask. We want our children to stay in ELANCO, so we are believing in Dr Hollister and our school board in directing and listening to EACH family in our community.

The state has no recourse of punishment for the district if you, ELANCO, do not accept the mask directive. The state has absolutely no power to discipline a district for non compliance of the mask directive.

Thank you for listening.

Sean Reese, 348 E Main St, New Holland, PA 17557

I'm unable to attend tonight's meeting because it's my daughter's birthday, but I wanted to briefly address two topics.

First, I wanted to let the board know what an amazing job the ELANCO teachers have been doing to start the year. I was able to meet some of my children's teachers at New Holland's Popsicles in the Parks event in August, as well as at New Holland Back to School Night last Thursday and was so impressed by the jobs they are doing. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated teaching staff in our district.

Second, I saw in LNP on Friday that ELANCO had the highest number of COVID cases in the county last week, above all other school districts. I am concerned that optional quarantining and a large number of families seeking mask exemptions could be driving this. I encourage the board to consider strengthening the health and safety plan to prevent future outbreaks.

Jeff & Amanda Leaman, 1302 Martin St., East Earl, PA 17519

Good evening, first I would like to say thank you to all the board members for serving the ELANCO community, I'm sure this has been a rough couple years and no one thought we would be dealing with the current issues going on today.

I am not able to be at the meeting tonight, but do want to express our concerns on the "requirement" of masks for our students. As a family we strongly believe that masks do not protect our children from getting Covid or spreading to others. Unfortunately the media is trying to scare us into believing that they do. Look at how often children touch their face to adjust their masks, itch their nose, etc. They are more than likely touching their face more often with a mask on, then without one. Masks dehumanize us and erase our unique identities, they serve as a constant reminder that we should be afraid. They have become a cruel device on children everywhere, young children covered by masks, struggling to understand social expressions of their peers. To me, this is extremely sad, children need to see their teachers/peers smile and laugh. To know that their teacher is proud of them, a smile can change a person's day, especially a child when you don't know what they may be facing when they leave that classroom. Face coverings cause harm to the American psyche, they provide little to no medical benefit.

Please let me be clear, I am not criticizing anyone who would like to wear a mask, it should be a totally optional CHOICE, we have relayed this to our children as well. This is a free country, and that is one of the reasons we are so fortunate to live in the USA, but pushing a mandate like this on our children is unacceptable.

We will continue to pray for guidance for all the people having to make decisions on this mandate.

Karen Sauder, 443 Linden Road East Earl, PA 17519

Dear school board members, Dr Hollister, & Dr Larkin,

Thank you for your continued service through this difficult pandemic and the many decisions that you continue to face daily. I have 3 children at Blue Ball Elementary school and also serve as a nurse practitioner in the local community. I want to commend you for your hard work since this pandemic started, and for the mitigation strategies that you employed last school year that allowed our children to remain in school in person, while many others were not so lucky. Those strategies were very effective in allowing our community to continue to retain a sense of normalcy through a challenging time. During all of this, the virus has hit highs and lows, but we are again incurring a surge in cases with the much more contagious delta variant of COVID-19. Therefore, while we continue to desire in person learning, the same strategies that we employed previously will be necessary to allow us to successfully remain in school. Universal mask wearing, social distancing, and frequent handwashing are all basic, simple strategies that are not harmful to children, and will allow them the benefits of remaining in school.

It has already become evident that with Elanco's initial 'safety plan' COVID started to spread. And, once the mask mandate was announced, a grace period was offered to students and parents to allow time to procure appropriate exemptions. Since you may not bear witness to the effects of the 'grace period', I want to ensure that you are aware that the grace period has essentially meant that masks continue to be optional until exemptions are due at the end of this week. Therefore, we can expect cases to continue to rise given minimal mitigation strategies. Even more disappointing is hearing from students in the community that "my teacher doesn't wear a mask, so why should I?". I can't adequately express my disappointment with such behavior. While I know there are many teachers that have set an excellent example with routine masking, we need all of our teachers and leaders to be role models in this effort, and show our students that we care for their wellbeing.

Furthermore, I understand that many will make claims that 'children are not dying from this virus'. First, that is an exceptionally low bar to set, and I truly hope we all aim higher. And second, that is actually incorrect, but apparently not at a rate high enough to alarm some. So, for those that might feel that way, I must ask you to look outside of you and your child's personal needs, and consider the teacher who has asthma, or the custodian with multiple comorbidities over age 65, and even the MDS student with a compromised immune system. We need to employ universal masking to protect ALL of the members of our school community. The effects of our choices are far reaching. It is no secret that substitute teachers have become scarce in the past year, creating many challenges for classrooms to remain adequately managed through the pandemic. Based on the survey data done at the start of the year, indications were clear that staff preferred masking within the schools. Therefore, if mitigation strategies continue to be insufficient, you may find that teachers will find employment in districts that offer a safer environment.

I understand that you will continue to be urged to continue to allow masks to be optional. The following are six realities that need to be considered as you make decisions for this school year: Children under 12 are not approved for the COVID vaccine yet, so they are susceptible to COVID and all of the impacts that come with an infection; including multisystem inflammatory syndrome and Long covid.

The number of children who are eligible to receive a COVID vaccine who have received one is well below the threshold to prevent the spread in schools.

The Delta variant — the most contagious strain of COVID yet — is the most common in the United States and will pose a “significant threat” to students and staff, as without preventative strategies Delta will move very efficiently through schools and cause illness, school closures, and death;

Other respiratory viruses with similar symptoms to COVID have emerged this summer and, once they enter schools, they will exacerbate problems created by COVID and further disrupt education;

If masking is left to individual choice, it is likely that if masking is not a firm expectation of schools, even children who intend to wear masks will not do so and will undoubtedly cause negative psychological impacts for those who are, or are not, wearing masks, like bullying or other types of harassment; and

Children with COVID can pass it to family members who may be more susceptible to severe illness causing hospitalization and death, and with the Delta variant more children are in need of hospitalization as well.

Lastly, I want to leave you with some words from Paul Offitt, director of the Vaccine Education Center at CHOP and an internationally recognized expert in the fields of virology and immunology. “With respect to children, parents do not have carte blanche. At one time, children were the property of their fathers, but that is no longer the case. Children are “persons” under the Constitution, and as the ruling in Prince v. Massachusetts held, parents do not have a constitutional right to make martyrs of their children. Parents have an obligation to protect their children's health and life, which means that the school district mandates that reduce the risk of death to children should be enforceable, period.”

Thank you for your time and consideration.

COMMENTS (IN-PERSON):

[President Wentzel read a statement from himself and Vice President Mr. Buck.](#)

[Jennifer Jarvis Rosado, 335 Broad Street, East Earl, PA 17519](#)

[Ms. Rosado presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.](#)

[Caytlyn Weiland, Narvon, PA](#)

[Ms. Weiland presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.](#)

Nikki Shirk, 1064 E. Main Street, New Holland, PA

Ms. Shirk presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam and the District's mask exemption form.

Mrs. Geyer made a Motion to recess board meeting. It was seconded by Mrs. Maio.

Mrs. Geyer withdrew her motion to recess board meeting.

Janelle Musselman, 371 State Street, New Holland, PA

Ms. Musselman thanked the Board for efforts and decisions regarding the new Athletic facilities. She also presented concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Michele Zook, 305 Cottonwood Lane, New Holland, PA

Ms. Zook presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam. She read a statement from the Lancaster County Sheriff's office.

Vicky Fryer, New Holland, PA

Ms. Fryer presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Joyce King, 1280 Reading Road, Denver, PA

Ms. King said a prayer and presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Andy Tibbins, 113 W. Broad Street, New Holland, PA

Mr. Tibbins presented his concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Tony Bellini, 124 Shalom Drive, Denver, PA

Ms. Bellini presented his concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Amalia Bellini, 124 Shalom Drive, Denver, PA

Ms. Bellini presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Eno Bellini, 124 Shalom Drive, Denver, PA

Mr. Bellini presented his concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Jolene Nolt, 1276 Poplar Street, East Earl, PA

Ms. Nolt presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Rosanna Martin, 985 Sunset Avenue, New Holland, PA

Ms. Martin presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Kathy Chambers, 710 Stonecrest Drive, New Holland, PA

Ms. Chambers presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam. She read a statement from State Representative Barbara Gleim.

Priscilla Eberly, 1174 E. Pieffer Hill Road, Stevens, PA

Ms. Eberly presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Aaron Keen, New Holland, PA

Mr. Keen presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Julie Zimmerman, 318 Heritage Drive, New Holland, PA

Ms. Zimmerman presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Marc Hames, 102 Dogwood Drive, Narvon, PA

Mr. Hames thanked the Community for their comments, presented several scriptures, and said a prayer.

Diane Boone, 729 Pleasant Drive, New Holland, PA

Ms. Boone presented comments from another Board member from the another school district regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

Chris Rojahr, 2301 Valley View Road, Narvon, PA

Ms. Rosado presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam and said a prayer.

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

Mr. Horst presented her concerns and comments regarding the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

The Board discussed Policy 903 and the procedures for public comments.

President Wentzel thanked the Community for their public comments.

4. Approve Personnel Report

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

5. Property and Services

5.a. Action Items:

5.a.a. Approval of the HVAC Retrofit Project at New Holland Elementary School

Mr. Ramsey requested the Board to approve the HVAC retrofit project at New Holland Elementary School. He noted that this was part of the District's capital improvement plan and would hopefully start the upcoming summer.

5.a.b. Approval of the updated list of Bus Drivers and Assistants for the 2021-22 school year

Mr. Ramsey requested the Board to approve the final list of Bus Driver and Assistants for the 2021-2022 school year.

5.b. Information Items: None.

6. Program

6.a. Action Items:

6.a.a. Approval of Affidavits of Guardianship

Dr. Larkin requested the Board to approve Affidavits of Guardianship.

6.a.b. Approve Partial Waiver for Special Education Services

Dr. Larkin requested the Board to approve the Partial Waiver for Special Education Services. She noted that this waiver was for families who have chosen ELANCOline Virtual Academy for their learners and due to the virtual aspect of learning, some services in their IEPs were not able to be met.

6.b. Information Items:

6.b.a. Policy 109- Resources and Materials

Dr. Larkin updated the Board on Policy 109, noting that the District's tech integrators and librarians were developing a system for curating resources both software programs, and building library materials. She indicated that she would present the policy in October.

7. Management

7.a. Action Items:

7.a.a. PSBA Officer Elections. Board will need to discuss and vote on candidates for various leadership positions at PSBA.

<https://www.psba.org/psba-officer-elections/>

Dr. Hollister informed the Board that they would need to discuss and vote on the elections of the PSBA officers.

Mr. Irvin indicated that he would get the recommendation from the local officer of the IU13.

7.a.b. Change to 2021-2022 school calendar to make Friday, October 1, 2021, an Early Dismissal Day.

Dr. Hollister requested the Board to approve the change to the District school calendar adding an early dismissal day on Friday, October 1, 2021.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve the change to 2021-2022 school calendar to make Friday, October 1, 2021, an Early Dismissal Day. It was seconded by Mr. Dahl. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

7.b. Information Items:

7.b.a. Review Health and Safety Plan

Mr. Conroy read a statement regarding his concerns with the language in the mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam.

The Board and Administration discussed the current District's exemption form that was in place.

Mr. Conroy made a motion that we continue to use the already Board approved ELANCO Health and Safety Plan as is with no modifications. It was seconded by Mr. Naranjo.

The Board discussed the language in mask mandate issued by Governor Wolf and the acting Health Secretary Beam, a new exception form that allowed parents to decide whether they wanted their learners to wear a mask.

Dr. Hollister noted that he disagreed with the comments made by the Board and recommended that all students wear masks for the health and safety of everyone.

The Board discussed the language of the exception form and the procedure for submitting the form.

Mr. Conroy **rescinded** his motion that we continue to use the already Board approved ELANCO Health and Safety Plan as is with no modifications.

Mr. Conroy made a motion that the exception letter should read simply: “I believe that a face covering would cause my son or daughter a medical condition and therefore will not be wearing face covering at school” Signed by the parents and submitted to the Administration of their school and everything would be fine.” It was seconded by Mr. Irvin.

The Board and Administration discussed the procedure for the exception form.

Mr. Conroy **rescinded** his motion that the exception letter should read simply: “I believe that a face covering would cause my son or daughter a medical condition and therefore will not be wearing face covering at school” Signed by the parents and submitted to the Administration of their school and everything would be fine.”

Mr. Conroy made a motion that we continue to use the preapproved Health and Safety Plan with making certain modifications to allow for an exception permission slip be granted by parents. It was seconded by Mr. Irvin.

The Board discussed the process for the new exception permission slip.

Mr. Conroy **rescinded** his motion that we continue to use the preapproved Health and Safety Plan with making certain modifications to allow for an exception permission slip be granted by parents. It was seconded by Mr. Irvin.

Mr. Conroy made a motion that we continue to use the already preapproved and voted on ELANCO Health and Safety Plan with no modifications. It was seconded by Mr. Naranjo. **A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was not approved. (4-5)**

Mr. Dahl made a motion to allow a parent signature to exempt them from the mask mandate and this applies to anyone on the property. It was seconded by Mr. Irvin.

The Board discussed the clarification of the made motion and how the exemption applied others in the building including sporting events.

Mr. Dahl **rescinded** his motion to allow a parent signature to exempt them from the mask mandate and this applies to anyone on the property.

Mr. Naranjo made a motion that in an attempt to continue to abide by the exceptions that are allowed within the Department of Health mandate, that we give parents the ability to sign off on or make requests under their signature alone whether or not their learner needs an exception to the mandate. It was seconded by Mr. Dahl. **A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved. (9-0)**

8. Announcements

President Wentzel announced that an executive session was going to be held after the meeting to discuss a legal matter.

President Wentzel announced that an executive session was held on Monday, September 6, 2021, to discuss a legal matter.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Irvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m. with a second by Mr. Conroy. **The motion was approved. (9-0)**

Justin W. Johnson
School Board Secretary
September 13, 2021