



## **Committee of the Whole Meeting October 11, 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, October 11, 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, Bryan Naranjo, and Thomas Wentzel **Note:** *Mr. Naranjo was joining via videocam.*

**Board Members not in attendance were:** Kevin McCarroll

**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 several members of the media.

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

President Wentzel opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed the Community. He noted that Mr. Naranjo was joining the meeting via videocam.

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

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

### **3. Approve Personnel Report**

Mr. Timothy Moll, Principal of Brecknock Elementary introduced the newly hired Assistant Principal for Brecknock Elementary, Laura Calder.

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

Dr. Hollister welcomed Mrs. Calder and noted to the Board that the District was now fully administratively staffed.

#### 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):

Justin Nolt, 404 Campbell Lane New Holland PA

Good Evening School Board Members,

As parents of three children in ELANCO – 2 in high school and 1 in middle school, I would like you to be aware of our districts policy that students are being quarantined for up to 10 days after only 'being exposed to a positive COVID-19 case'. I must have missed the ELANCO communication, but after talking to the school nurse Friday October 1, she noted this policy was changed in late September to the five options from the district office. The nursing staff seemed frazzled by all the unnecessary tracking of close contacts of students.

I had listened to school board meetings online prior to the school year and recalled our district not quarantining this year for close contact, which I thought was great. There are other public schools in the county that only quarantine COVID POSITIVE students, and DO NOT Quarantine and Exclude students after only being exposed. Would the ELANCO school board reconsider this apparent change from late September?

I am unavailable tonight due to a work obligation and I stressed my concern to the board via email on October 3. I would appreciate the school board discussing this matter this evening.

Thank-you,

Justin & Chandra Nolt  
New Holland, PA

Danielle Covert, 106 E Broad St, New Holland, PA

3 questions -

1. What information is available for building health improvements made in response to COVID?  
- Increased filtration etc.? Has any significant spend been approved for these types of items district wide?
2. Are ESSER funds still available to upgrade schools in response to question 1?
3. Can the district or board comment on the uptick in positive COVID cases in the district? Will we be reviewing or discussing mitigation efforts - i.e. Masking?

Thanks for your time!

Marlene Leinbach, 226 Boulder Hill Rd Mohnton PA

Hi I'm just voicing my concern over the dress code we have in the district children are not allowed to be wearing certain clothing example yes short shorts and so on..but yet staff comes with short short dresses that when they bend over you see things you rather not see..so tell me where I'm wrong our kids have to dress properly and staff and principals can be walking around looking and dressing like that ....very concerned that this is allowed what is that teaching our children thanks Marlene

Karen S, East Earl PA 17519

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

Thank you for your continued service during tenuous times. I have three children in elementary school and work as a nurse practitioner. I continue to submit my comments online, due to the lack of mitigation efforts present at meetings, as in requesting all attendees to wear masks. My concerns today are similar to my previous concerns. It is quite obvious with ELANCO school district exhibiting the highest case counts in the surrounding schools that your health and safety plan is completely inadequate. In case it hasn't become obvious to you yet, masks, social distancing, and mitigation efforts are necessary and effective.

I could recite more facts and studies, but these details are readily available to anyone interested in the truth at this point. We have reached a point in the pandemic that it doesn't seem anyone's opinion will change, which is a shame considering that you are experimenting with the health of our children. As the ONLY district in the county that took the actions that you did in allowing parents to sign exception forms, our case numbers clearly display the lack of mitigation efforts. What was most shocking was the fact that even when the two major surrounding health systems, Wellspan Health and Penn Medicine, took a stand in only signing exception forms for appropriate cases, you ignored them. And then you also ignored the mask mandate from the PA Acting Health Secretary as well as recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics. You didn't even have a healthcare

professional on the committee to formulate the health and safety plan. You have a district physician who would have advised you, but instead you proceeded as though you are your own health experts. Consider the example you have set to our students and community. Our students are watching your actions and the actions of the adults in this room; let's be role models, not rebels.

The definition of "school" is a place for teaching and learning. When seeking to teach our students, do we not look for accurate, evidence-based materials? Is that what you relied on when you made this plan? It certainly doesn't seem like it. Furthermore, you have not reflected the values of our school. Our elementary school encourages the goal that if each person just did a "little extra", everyone would benefit. Masking and mitigations efforts are just that - a little extra. It's not too much to ask, it's not harmful, and it's not too late. Our elementary students are not yet able to be vaccinated, therefore they have little defense against this virus. Your plan has essentially made it 'every person for themselves'; there is no effort to encourage our community to care for others in this 'safety plan'. Once case numbers drop and everyone has had the opportunity to have the vaccine, we can safely move forward.

You also express support for your nursing staff and healthcare personnel. To say we are tired, is putting it lightly at this point. If you truly want to support your school nurses and your healthcare community, take action. Stand up and show our community that you aren't scared to do what's right. The plan Elanco is following is allowing COVID to spread like wildfire. Therefore, it is no surprise that our urgent care centers and Emergency Rooms are full, and sometimes on divert sending patients to neighboring facilities because they are too full. You may feel like this is not your problem, but we are all connected as a community, and the actions you take have an impact on the entire community.

Moreover, we have been warned of school closures because our lack of mitigation strategies causes substitute teachers to choose to work at neighboring districts where they feel safe, and less at risk for COVID exposure. You have also heard from the teachers union representative requesting you to act on behalf of your staff, and enforce appropriate mitigation strategies. It has already been evident in each of my children's classrooms, that when substitutes are needed, they are not available. Therefore, the staff that is working at our schools are being stretched very thin, and at times we are combining classes which leads to an even greater risk of exposure.

You may think that the plan you set forth is fair, and allows parents to choose what is right for their family, but in reality it has encouraged selfishness, increased virus spread and exhaustion on the part of our wonderful administration, educators and staff. Pretending that the pandemic doesn't exist does not make life easier for anyone, it simply makes the work harder for those of us who are working in it day to day.

In conclusion, I want to end on a high note, thanking our awesome administration, teachers, school nurses, custodians, lunch workers, bus drivers, secretaries, recess monitors and anyone I may have missed. Thank you for showing up daily, for caring for our children, helping them

learn and grow. Please know that we truly appreciate all of your efforts and we recognize how difficult it is to put on a smile some days, because even through the mask, our children see it in your eyes. Thank you!

**COMMENTS (IN-PERSON):**

Neal Martin, 17 S. Whisper Lane, New Holland, PA

Mr. Martin thanked for the Board and said a prayer.

Jennifer Jarvis, Broad Street, East Earl, PA

Ms. Jarvis commended the Board for allowing the exception forms from parents and informed the Board about a donation drive the community was hosted for both the elementary schools and bus drivers.

Julie Brown, Kramer Mill, Denver, PA

Ms. Brown presented her concerns and comments regarding the District's IPR, In-Person Remote, option.

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

Mr. Reese praised the teachers in Eastern Lancaster County School District and presented his concerns regarding the District's quarantine/exclusion protocol.

Michele Zook, 305 Cottonwood Lane, New Holland, PA

Ms. Zook presented her concerns and comments regarding the District's quarantine/exclusion protocol.

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

Mr. Horst presented several comments regarding the masking mandate, abortion, and the Board's representation of the community.

## **5. Property and Services**

### **5.a. Action Items:**

#### **5.a.a. Action Item - Approval of the Revision to Policy # 334 for Sick Leave**

Mr. Ramsey requested the Board to approve the revision of Policy # 334 for Sick Leave. He noted that the proposed change would allow new employees to use future sick days if they become disabled during the first 90 days of their employment. He was recommending that the Board approve the policy at the upcoming Board meeting.

**5.a.b. Action Item - Approval of the Change Order for the Synthetic Turf and Track Project**

**Change Order # 2 - \$2,924.90 ADD:** This is to supply and install erosion control matting and seed the slope with a blend that will give quick coverage here this Fall as well as a permanent low-grow turfgrass stabilizing the slope.

Mr. Ramsey requested the Board to approve the Change Order for the Synthetic Turf and Track Project regarding the initial seed mixture that was planted on the hill on Grandview Drive.

**5.b. Information Items:**

**5.b.a. Information Item - 2021-22 Act 1 Index - 3.4%**

Mr. Ramsey informed the Board that the Act 1 Index for 2021-2022 was set at 3.4%.

**6. Program**

**6.a. Action Items:**

**6.a.a. Action Item- Approval of Affidavits of Guardianship**

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

**6.a.b. Action Item - Approve a Settlement Agreement for Education Expenses for a Learner with Special Needs**

Dr. Larkin requested the Board to approve a Settlement Agreement for Education Expenses for a Learner with Special Needs. The Board and Administration discussed the need for the settlement to be approved that evening.

Mr. Naranjo made a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement for Education Expenses for a Learner with Special Needs. It was seconded by Mr. Buck. **The motion was approved. (6-2; 1 absent)**

**6.b. Information Items: None.**

**7. Management**

**7.a. Action Items:**

**7.a.a. Action Item - Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Teacher Association (ELCEA) Regarding Livestreaming & Camera Use**

Dr. Hollister presented the Board with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Teacher Association (ELCEA) Regarding Livestreaming & Camera Use for their approval.

He noted that the District was currently operating under this MOU so that classroom could begin to use cameras.

**7.a.b. Action Item - Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Teacher Association (ELCEA) Regarding Absences due to Covid-19 & Teleworking**

Dr. Hollister presented the Board with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Teacher Association (ELCEA) Regarding Absences due to Covid-19 & Teleworking for their approval. He indicated that this would allow teachers to telework from home if they were quarantined. He also noted an incentive of additional 10 days for staff who were vaccinated and were quarantined with Covid-19.

The Board and Administration discussed the 10 additional sick days incentive language of Section 3 Absences from Work Due to Covid-19 in the MOU.

**7.a.c. Action Item - Approval of the Agriculture Department Ag Advisory Board for the 2021-2022 school year to comply with PDE Requirement.**

Approval of the Agriculture Department Ag Advisory Board for the 2021-2022 school year to comply with PDE Requirement:

Cliff Horning  
Erin Varley  
Jim Shirk  
Kevin Stoltzfus  
Larry Shirk  
Michael Miller  
Sheldon Hoover  
Scott Bailey

Dr. Hollister requested the Board to approve the Agriculture Department Ag Advisory Board for the 2021-2022 school year to comply with PDE Requirement.

**7.b. Information Items:**

**7.b.a. Information Item - District 2021-2022 Covid-19 Health & Safety Plan Update and/or Clarifications**

The Board and Administration discussed the quarantining/exclusion protocol that was currently in place and the language of the Health & Safety Plan regarding exclusions.

The Board and Administration discussed making changes to the language of the Health & Safety Plan to clarify the exclusions protocol.

The Administration recommended the Healthy & Safety Plan be placed on the Board agenda at the upcoming meeting as action items to discuss these subjects: antibody testing, home covid-19 testing, and exclusion protocol.

**7.b.b. Information Item - Policy 906 – Public Participation in Board Meetings**

Dr. Hollister presented the Board with Board Policy 906 Public Participation in Board meeting with updated language to allow parents of contract students from other school districts to speak before the Board.

7.b.c. Dr. Hollister also informed the Board that the District would be reviewing compensation for support staff members to make sure that support staff were being compensated appropriately. He noted that the Administration would bring more information to the Board in December or January.

**8. Announcements**

Mr. Naranjo commended Mr. Schaffer, Athletic Director and Mr. Walsh, Director of Facilities, for all of the work on the turf field and implementing its use after the completion of the installation.

Mr. Buck publicly thanked the nurses for all their hard work and requested that Board representatives meet with them to help the Board with determine the appropriate protocols for the Health & Safety Plan.

**9. Adjournment**

Mr. Irvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. with a second by Mr. Buck. **The motion was approved. (8-0; 1 absent)**

---

Justin W. Johnson  
School Board Secretary  
October 11, 2021



