



## Committee of the Whole Meeting November 8, 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, November 8, 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, Paul Irvin, Kevin McCarroll, Bryan Naranjo, and Thomas Wentzel

**Board Members not in attendance were:** Jacqueline Geyer and Dina Maio

**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 7:02 p.m. and welcomed the Community. He noted that Mrs. Maio and Mrs. Geyer were absent.

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

President Wentzel led in a silent mediation 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):

Sue Harpel, 1161 Reading Rd Narvon PA

This evening I would like to speak about what a board member has done, not only to a parent, taxpayer and member of our community, but also how she has made Elanco look bad. This Board member took it upon herself to publicly ridicule Jennifer Jarvis for past crimes she had committed. Jennifer did her time and has moved forward with her life in a positive direction. She has never hid the fact that she had a past and if you would take the time to ask her, she would answer your questions. There was no need for this at all, especially from a board member. I noticed when Jennifer had emailed the school board as a group email, over the book, Lighter Than My Shadow, every board member who responded, responded to the group. After a while, the emails were coming directly from this board member, no other board members names were listed. Why is that? And for you to have the audacity to say, "Maybe if we make an example of this family and their actions, parents in the future will behave more responsibly." Are you serious? What are you going to do? Put me in time out? In those same emails, you acted as if you had the top authority to do whatever you wanted. You also stated, "It is so hard to decide what to keep anonymous and what parents have the right to know." Parents pay their taxes. We have the right to know what's going on in our schools! I would like nothing more than to put my 3 children back into Elanco, but with people like you running your mouth about parents and Elanco probably isn't going to do anything about your immature high school drama, I don't know that my children are safe from any of the adults there. I don't know if they act like you and that bothers me. I'm just curious since you're a teacher in another school district, do they know what you're doing and how you're acting with Elanco parents? If they don't, I wonder how they would feel about it?

Hazell Hurst, Earl Township

Subject: Mandates Violate the Constitution and Basic Human Rights

My name is Hazell Hurst, and I reside in Earl Township. According to tonight's agenda, policy 203- Immunizations and Communicable Diseases is up for review and discussion. I am writing to ask you to vote against all vaccine mandates. Vaccine mandates violate fundamental human rights, notably the right to prior, free and informed

consent for medical interventions. In a free society, everyone should have complete power and control over their own bodies. I urge you to do all in your power to ensure a return to the democratic principles upon which this country was founded.

Should employers/schools be able to mandate a medical procedure to their employees and then not pay for an injury should it happen? Though vaccines injure and fail in real-world conditions, legislation passed in 1986 left U.S. children and adults with a striking absence of legal protections from vaccine injury. Therefore, if any school or employer mandates vaccinations, citizens have no recourse to recoup lost wages or pay for medical bills. Why expect people to take on all of the risk of injury and lost wages when vaccine manufacturers don't back their products? And especially when the chances of survival from COVID is 98.23% for adults and even higher for children at 99.985%.

President Biden's announcement of coercive measures to vaccinate government workers and others including children was a red flag to all who value freedom. Not only is his plan a violation of our Constitution, it also violates the Nuremberg Code, designed to ensure informed consent for any medical procedure upon humans.

It's time to end the use of COVID-19 as a pretext for governmental coercion and mandates. The public is waking up to the cascading negative impacts upon society from elected officials wielding unprecedented power over the citizens of this country. As your constituent, I urge that you:

- Do not support any legislation or directive coercing people or mandating medical interventions--including vaccines
- Do not support any legislation or directive requiring people to wear masks
- Do not support any legislation or directive that deprives people of the right to congregate
- Do not support any legislation or directive establishing lockdowns
- Do not support any legislation where employers can enact coercive tactics to overrule a person's rights to body autonomy

Most importantly, I ask that you defend our Constitution as you swore under oath to do when you took office. President Biden said that 164 million American adults have received the COVID vaccine. With a U.S. population of 333 million, that means over 50% of people in America have not gotten the vaccine. This group is becoming a substantial voting block guaranteed to be paying attention to the actions of all elected officials.

No healthy adult or child should be injured or die from a vaccine imposed upon them by their government and/or school.

Thank you.

Beth Ann Zueno, 414 S Railroad Ave, New Holland, PA

Good evening. As I am unable to be there this evening I feel compelled to write you in regards to the disgusting, pornographic book that was discussed at last month's meeting. I want to thank Mr. Conroy for taking this matter seriously. Although you took a lot of flack from some people sitting at the table with you I personally appreciate how personally you took this matter. You behaved like a parent who cares about what their child may be exposed to. I've been attending school board meetings for awhile now and a few times heard the superintendent and others on the board get upset and not use their best behavior more than once with little said about their behavior. You yourself have graciously tried to defend some of the rude comments made. Explaining they got upset because they care. Well thank you for caring! This is a subject that needs people to get upset about, not just sit there and do nothing. I read that at least one school board member saw that filthy book. Was disturbed by it and just closed it. I find this so disturbing. There is no excuse for books like this being published, let alone being available to children in a school. I have to say it was refreshing to have someone other than irate parents be outraged by this. It was so sad when most of the people at the table either said nothing or tried to defend the book explaining it may have a purpose with a therapist.

I've sat through so many meetings listening to the children be referred to as revenue. Thank you, Mr. Conroy for treating our children as children. I pray that all the members of the school board would remember that yes the school is a business but the children's well being is so much more than the money each one brings to the district. I pray you all do what is right and above all make your decisions as if they were for your child or grandchild

Sincerely,  
Beth Zueno

#### **COMMENTS (IN-PERSON):**

Dr. Hollister made a statement regarding the public concerns of a library book with mature themes that was brought to the Board's attention at the previous Board meeting. He noted that the book was no longer available for circulation and presented the Board and Community with the new procedure for vetting library books for the future.

Mr. Buck made a statement clarifying his role regarding the concerns with the library book found with mature themes.

Diane Boone, 729 Pleasant Drive, New Holland, PA

Ms. Boone presented her concerns and comments regarding BrainPOP and other district digital resource apps.

Peggy Buhalo, East Earl, PA

Ms. Buhalo thanked Dr. Hollister for his statement and Mr. Conroy for his public concerns regarding the library book with mature themes and presented her concerns and comments regarding the conduct of Board members.

Dave Horst, 1156 East Earl Road, East Earl, PA

Mr. Horst presented his concerns and comments regarding the District's Strategic Direction Plan.

James Pottbiger, 2 Running Avenue, New Holland, PA

Mr. Pottbiger presented his concerns and comments regarding the possibility of a vaccine mandate.

Nancy Hooper, 255 Stoeven Drive, New Holland, PA

Ms. Hooper presented a statement regarding the library book that was brought before the Board regarding mature themes. She explained to the Board the importance of the book to her and her granddaughter as it presented themes that were currently effecting children.

Tony Bellini, Denver, Pa

Mr. Bellini presented her concerns and comments regarding library book with mature themes and the Covid-19 vaccine.

Steven Hurst, 209 Jared Way, New Holland, PA

Mr. Hurst presented his concerns regarding the possibility of a vaccine mandate.

Chris Buck, 1181 Sheep Hill Road, New Holland, PA

Mr. Buck thanked Dr. Hollister for his years of service and thanked the Board for their services to the Community. He said a prayer.

#### **4. Approve Personnel Report**

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve the personnel report. It was seconded by Mr. Conroy.  
**The motion was approved. (7-0; 2 absent)**

#### **5. Property and Services**

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

**5.a.a. Action Item - Approval of the snow removal contract to Usner Excavating for 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24**

Mr. Ramsey requested the Board to approve the snow removal contract with Usner Excavating for the next three years. He noted that Usner presented the lowest rate for these services.

**5.b. Information Items:**

**5.b.a. Information Item - 2022-23 Budget Update**

Mr. Ramsey informed the Board that the 2022-2023 budget index was set at 3.4% and he recommended that the District forgo the early budget and submit a budget resolution to not exceed the index.

## **6. Program**

**6.a. Information Items:**

**6.a.a. Information Item - School Board Policy 109 - Resource Materials - First Read**

Dr. Larkin presented the Board with School Board Policy 109 – Resource Materials with updates and changes to better align with state regulations and PSBA recommendations.

**6.a.b. Information Item - School Board Policy 109 Administrative Regulations**

Dr. Larkin presented the Board with the Administrative Regulations to accompany the School Board policy regarding the processes and guardrails for reviewing school resource materials including both library materials and digital resources.

The Administration and Board discussed the Administration Regulations and the attached forms for their review.

Dr. Hollister thanked Dr. Larkin and her team and asked the Board and Community for their feedback.

**6.b. Action Items:**

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

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

**6.b.b. Information Item - Approval use of Brain Pop as an Instructional Resource**

Dr. Larkin introduced the District Tech Integrator K-12, Adam Geiman, who presented to the Board the process the District took to review BrainPOP and BrainPOP Junior and their filtering capabilities.

The Board and Administration discussed the possibility and concerns with reactivating BrainPOP for teachers to utilize.

The Board and Administration discussed the process for reviewing digital resources and subscriptions.

The Administration recommended that the Board continue to discuss BrainPOP at this time.

## 7. Management

### 7.a. Action Items:

#### 7.a.a. Action Item - School Board Policy 903 - Public Participation in Board Meetings - Second Reading

Dr. Hollister presented School Board Policy 903- Public Participation in Board Meetings for its second and final reading for approval.

### 7.b. Information Items:

#### 7.b.a. Information Item - 2022-2023 Academic School Calendar

Dr. Hollister presented the draft 2022-2023 Academic School Calendar for the Board to review.

#### 7.b.b. Information Item - School Board Meeting Calendar Schedule 2022-2023

Dr. Hollister presented the School Board Meeting Calendar Schedule for 2022-2023 for the Board to review.

#### 7.b.c. Information Item - School Board Policy 003 - Functions for Review and Discussion

Mr. Conroy made a motion to discuss - School Board Policy 003 - Functions for Review and Discussion. It was seconded by Mr. Dahl. **The motion was approved. (7-0; 2 absent)**

Mr. Conroy presented some recommendations for School Policy 003 regarding School Board member visits to school buildings.

Mr. Conroy made a motion to review modifications of School Board Policy 003 - Functions for Review and Discussion. It was seconded by Mr. Irvin. **The motion was approved. (7-0; 2 absent)**

Dr. Hollister noted that he was take the modified language and present to the District's solicitor and administration for review.

**7.b.d. Information Item - School Board Policy 203 - Immunizations and Communicable Diseases for Review and Discussion**

Mr. Conroy made a motion to discuss - School Board Policy 203 - Immunizations and Communicable Diseases for Review and Discussion. It was seconded by Mr. Dahl. **The motion was approved. (7-0; 2 absent)**

Mr. Conroy recommended language regarding exemptions to immunizations to include moral and ethical convictions to align with school code.

Mr. Conroy made a motion to place School Board Policy 003 - Functions for Review and Discussion up for review and discussion. It was seconded by Mr. Buck. **The motion was approved. (7-0; 2 absent)**

## **8. Announcements**

Mr. Wentzel informed that Board that he and Dr. Hollister had visited each of the school buildings to meet and greet teachers.

Mr. Wentzel announced that an executive session would occur after the Board meeting to discuss a land matter and personnel matter.

Dr. Hollister informed the Board that he would not be present at the upcoming Board meeting. He would be out of the District all day.

## **9. Adjournment**

Mr. Irvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. with a second by Mr. Dahl. **The motion was approved. (7-0; 2 absent)**

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Justin W. Johnson



School Board Secretary  
November 8, 2021