

# JANUARY 6, 2021 CONNEAUT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

1/6/2021 [7:00PM-9:00PM] @ Alice Schafer Annex Cafeteria

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## - CONNEAUT SCHOOL DIST PUBLIC WS AGENDA -

### 1. Call to Order

#### Minutes

Mrs. Luckock opened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

It is noted the following Board members were present;

Mr. Burnham Mr. Ellis Mr. Hall

Mr. Hornstein Mrs. Luckock Mrs. Klink

Mr. McGuirk Mr. McQuiston Mrs. Miller

Administrators present;

Mr. Sperry Mr. Mayle Mr. Joseph

Mrs. Kantz Mr. Kimmel Mr. Kelly

Principals present:

Mr. Parks Mr. Maskrey Mr. Burns Dr. Jardina Mr. Hans

#### a. Moment of Silence

##### Minutes

Conducted during the special voting meeting held prior to this meeting.

#### b. Salute the Flag Ceremony

### 2. VISITOR RECOGNITION

#### 1. Visitor Recognition \*

\*Per Policy 903 – Public Participation in Board Meetings

All visitors who are recognized during the Visitor Recognition are allotted a maximum of five (5) minutes to address matters of their concern, unless otherwise determined by the Board President. Visitor recognition is to be limited to thirty (30) minutes unless otherwise decided by the Board.

##### Minutes

No one approached the podium.

### 3. Discussion Items

#### a. School Director Recognition Month...Mr. Sperry

##### Minutes

Mr. Sperry and the Administrators acknowledged the Conneaut School District Board of Directors and PSBA School Director Month. In summary, the District is thankful to the Board dedication to the students, and District noting Pennsylvania Directors are all volunteers.

#### b. School and Extracurricular Update(s)...Mr. Sperry

##### Minutes

Mr. Sperry updated the Board for the three days students returned from the holidays. COVID case numbers are trending down which is promising but the Health Department fully expects a surge as early as this Friday and lasting for a few weeks. Much like after Thanksgiving and probably worse.

He is recommending staying hybrid until the end of this semester and starting extra-curricular tomorrow as long as everyone adheres to wearing masks, social distance and proper hygiene. He understands wearing masks during competition is very difficult but when athletes are not engaged in the sport masks need to be on, including on the bench. We even may encounter some districts where athletes have to wear during competition and we have to honor that or forfeit the game. He is recommending allowing 2 fans per home match and no away fans.

COVID managers have been a nice addition and early on in the fall they were really good. It was noted a number of teams not taking the COVID seriously but that has since changed. He feels we still need the COVID managers for home games but not away games or middle school. Although we can add them if needed. If we do shut down a building, depending on the circumstances the game/practices can still be in the building or move to another building. We did this with volleyball in the fall.

Mr. Sperry will continue to watch and monitor cases and the week before January 25 look at the numbers, with anticipation of going back full face to face the week of January 25. This is Mr. Sperry's recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Hall agreed. Mrs. Luckock asked for a consensus on the recommendation. Mrs. Klink thinks we should go back fully next Monday with classes and sports. Otherwise, between Monday and the 25th students are only in the building 3 times, she understands the numbers but with Martin Luther King Day off students only receive 3 days of in person instruction. If we can come back with sports every day then we can bring students back every day. She also suggested 4 days a week and Friday cyber but let the parents make the decision. Mr. Sperry reminded the Board that in the category we are in the Governor wants us full remote but he/Mr. Sperry does not agree with that.

Mr. McGuirk asked the Administrators; Mr. Maskrey would like the students back in the building but he also has eligibility concerns with coming back to sports. Mr. McGuirk asked Mrs. Golenberke her opinion; she declined comment. Mr. Sperry noted Meadville Medical Center has 106 patients with 2 available ICU beds. Mr. Ellis asked we are letting athletes wrestle but we cannot bring students back to school, this doesn't make sense. Mrs. Klink added if parents are not comfortable bringing students to school then stay ABABC or cyber, let parents decide. Mr. Sperry did not feel if we brought everyone back we could keep social distancing in the lunch rooms.

Mr. McGuirk is uncomfortable with filling cafeterias and gyms but Mrs. Klink felt there are ways to get around that, other classrooms. Mr. McQuiston agreed with Mrs. Klink.

Mrs. Klink felt there are options with the parents who are not comfortable with sending their children back, they can go cyber but students are struggling and we are doing them a disservice not getting them in school.

Mr. Hall noted everyone knows his choice, his children are at home in cyber but there are a lot of children doing very little, what are the rules we follow that we signed up when we opened per the Governor, he asked. Mr. Hall is really leaning on bringing them back.

Mr. Burnham is mixed on both directions, especially if there is a spike but would like to see if it happens. If we get an upsurge in cases then what does that look like when opening the building. The same with sports, we start competitions until we see if there is a spike in cases. The flip side there are issues with students who are already

struggling and falling way behind, there is no happy middle so he is very torn. He felt hold off sports until the middle of next week to see if there is a surge in cases.

Mr. Sperry noted the Governors Attestation the Board agreed to we agreed to 6 feet of social distancing. Mr. Joseph added in just so we know we are in the substantial risk category and the governor has given local schools the ability for the mode of instruction we are in but agreeing in the Attestation that we said we would abide by guidelines by the State. If COVID cases have to adhere to this, may require us to close school for certain amount of time. We can agree as a school board to go back to a different level of instruction but if we go into in a person to person instruction and experience cases we have to go back to remote for a time being. Mr. Joseph reiterated so the Board understands that. Mrs. Luckock thought the process at the time we only had half in the buildings and it would minimize instances. Mr. Sperry replied, there are not a lot of cases nor spread since in hybrid but Mr. Joseph is referring to the number of cases could result in full remote for period of days and during that time sports do not happen. Mr. Ellis felt this still doesn't help when parents do not make right decision.

Mr. Maskrey agrees with Mrs. Klink but in signing the attestation form we cannot stay 6 feet away, we would be setting us all up to be liable and he doesn't want to risk faculty or students. The reality of it is we cannot keep up with the Attestation part. Mr. McGuirk said if he sends his children for the four days but another parent only sends theirs 2 days they are there with it defeats the purpose.

Mr. Sperry suggested hold off until next Thursday and see what looks like. Mrs. Klink asked are we allowing sports, Mr. Sperry replied: yes.

Mrs. Luckock informed last Saturday was the first time staff was given the opportunity to get vaccine. She is really concerned and would love to have all back all four days but her concern over crowding at the moment. She would like to give more time, see if a surge happens. Unfortunately it is a personal decision but we are pleading with everyone to think of our students and help curtail in the county as a whole.

Mr. Ellis asked about a previous comment tonight- if CASH goes down/closed, do we take sports to another building? He didn't feel this made sense. Mr. Sperry replied, they never mingled with high school, the Pre-K section as an example).

Mrs. Miller noted she is in the same place as four weeks ago, we need to be in school, in sports, physical academic, etc. so we can get them back to real life.

Mr. McGuirk added if we go back to sports students playing should they already be eligible before practicing. He asks as some are spending weeks not committed to their school work and then all of sudden tomorrow they have to be eligible, this is crucial. Before they can be an athlete they need to be a student. Mrs. Miller felt kids need a goal, we kept kicking the can, if that was the student's motivation we took it away so we need to give them a moment to hold them responsible and going forward to be responsible.

Mrs. Luckock noted that given information and discussion at tonight's work session not a formal vote we authorize superintendent, make sure clear understanding of majority, she asked each Board member for their recommendation as follows;

Mr. Ellis- he feels we were misled in fall and possibly will be there again. He asked Mr. Thomas you and the other coaches have to make it work.

Mrs. Klink- she wants the students to go to school staring 11th and sports on 7th. If the Board stays hybrid she is ok with that.

Mr. McGuirk- he recommends staying hybrid and wait on sports to see where we are at with surge from holidays.

Mr. Burnham- wants to stay hybrid and by end of next week if no upswing we go back full time or 4 days a week, He wants to hold sports until the end of next week see the cases.

Mr. Hornstein- he is fine with hybrid and sports tomorrow but agrees with Mr. Ellis in putting a lot of trust in the coaches. Personally not been to a lot of games but has heard a lot of stories they are not following guidelines, so do your part. We are putting a lot of trust in the coaches so stay hybrid and revisit next week.

Mr. Hall feels we should play sports, but is nervous of what could affect due to attestation. He noted as well it is all on you coaches, AD, principals so the message has to be to everyone. Revisit next week if we stay hybrid or go 4 days.

Mr. McQuiston is in the same position as Mrs. Klink, bring them back to school, start sports tomorrow.  
Mrs. Miller- sports start on 7th all extracurricular and hybrid but really go back to school as soon as possible. We need to find a way if parents are calling find a way to get them in.

Mrs. Luckock- we should stay hybrid until through next Thursday, so Wednesday at the meeting we can revisit the case counts. She is ok with starting extracurricular and continually puts emphasizes to all members of public and students that your decisions every day, especially outside school impacts their opportunities.

Mr. Sperry recapped the consensus- extracurricular start tomorrow and continue hybrid through next week with possible full learning starting January 19th depending on case count.

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#### **c. Maintenance Updates...Mr. Kimmel**

##### **Minutes**

Mr. Kimmel updated the Board on a project from last summer and then went on to explain what his department does to disinfect the facilities. He explained they go through the weekend, starting Friday through Sunday cleaning 560,000 square feet and prepping it for school on Monday.

With the Board deciding to go start extracurricular activities tomorrow, this affects how many days his staff has to disinfect from three days to one day/Sunday. With more people in the buildings the more there is to disinfect, the more we fill the rooms the hard it is. Cyber Friday has helped get everything disinfected and fogged. He emphasized the need to keep everyone out of the buildings on Sundays to allow cleaning.

He fogs buildings by request and specific areas which includes anyone who feels ill, they fog the room. This has been a good plan for his department. The principals will send reminders that no one is to be in the buildings on Sundays.

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#### **d. Superintendent's Report...Mr. Sperry**

##### **Minutes**

Superintendent's Report: January 6, 2021 (Presented to Conneaut School Board)

1. The December CCCTC Superintendent meeting was held on the 8th. At this meeting we discussed: the possibility of new programs coming to the CCCTC and the release of the survey that was disseminated to students, parents, community and staff in regards to programs they would like to see offered at the
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- CCCTC. We also discussed the school calendar for 2021/2022 school year and also some personnel matters that the board would be discussing in December.
2. The IU5 Superintendent meeting was December 11th. A majority of the discussion was on the Legislative impacts both state and federal that maybe coming, PIAA (majority of the discussion) and COVID and mitigation efforts and instruction/scheduling in all the districts... Other topics included: Vaccine availability and distribution, Teacher evaluations for 2020/2021, Agenda Manager, and looming teacher shortages.
  3. The CCCTC Re-Organization and Board meeting was held December 18th. Tom Washington, Tim Glasspool, and I were in attendance. The new board was seated and Don Ellis was seated as President again with Kevin Merritt (CCSD) as Vice-President.
  4. I attended the Systems of Care budget meeting for the New Year Remotely on Tuesday, January 5th. Discussion centered on: FAS (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) awareness coming to Crawford County, Adding Mercer and Venango counties to our Systems of Care, Covid Updates by agency, and an hour long discussion with grant writer Stan Mrozowski concerning a SAMSA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services) grant for one million dollars a year for four years that the committee is attempting to secure.
  5. I also attended numerous remote meetings concerning: Covid Pandemic Coordinators, Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Committee, Ice Jam Training, CESPAs Negotiations, and County COVID 19 Coordinators Meeting.
  6. Tom, Tim, and I also worked with Philip Pandolph of Meadville Medical to coordinate a Vaccination POD (Point of Distribution) on January 2nd. Over 700 staff from the three districts received the vaccination.
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**e. PSBA Updates...Mrs. Klink**

- PSBA Legislative Report December 3, 2020
- PSBA Federal Focus December 7, 2020
- PSBA Liaison Insider December 7, 2020
- PSBA Federal Focus December 14, 2020
- PSBA Law School Information Exchange Vol. 57 No. 25
- PSBA Federal Focus December 21, 2020
- PSBA Federal Focus December 22, 2020

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**Minutes**

Mrs. Klink reminded the Board to contact our state representatives regarding any concerns.

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**f. Ethics Reminder...Mrs. Luckock**

**Minutes**

Mrs. Luckock noted it is that time again for the Ethics forms to be completed and a deadline of May 1, 2021. Completing this form is required by the State with penalties if not completed and turned in.

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**g. Agenda Review...Mrs. Luckock**

**Minutes**

The Board reviewed the draft voting meeting agenda.

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**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**5. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - to review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, might lead to disclosure of information protected by law, specifically to discuss personnel concerns.

  
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Dorothy Luckock, Board President

  
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Greg Mayle, Board Secretary