

**BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 11, 2022**

**Call to Order**

The Burrell School District Board of Directors Agenda Meeting was held in the High School Boardroom and was called to order at 7:01 PM by President Key.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Key asked all present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Mrs. Gretchen V. Beveridge, Mr. Timothy J. Vinkovich, Ms. Tricia Shank, Mrs. Nikki Watson, Mrs. LeeAnn S. Guido, Mr. Rick Kaczor, Mr. Tom Deiseroth, Mrs. Jean Schager and Mrs. Pam Key

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Shannon L. Wagner, Superintendent, Dr. Gregory Egnor, Director of Student Services and Mrs. Jennifer S. Callahan, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Student Representatives Present: Dylan Selinger

**Executive Sessions**

January 11, 2022 Immediately following meeting - Personnel Agenda  
January 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM - Personnel Agenda

Mrs. Key announced the Board's Executive Sessions.

**Review of Agenda Items**

The Board reviewed items scheduled for the regular meeting to be held January 18, 2022.

**Approval of Minutes:** Reorganization Meeting and Regular Meeting December 7, 2021

**Treasurer Report:** November and December 2021

**Food Service Fund Report:** November and December 2021

**Student Activity Fund Reports:** November and December 2021

**Nurse Report:** November and December 2021

**Comments from the Public - Agenda Only**

None

## **Reports of Administration and Standing Committees**

### **SUPERINTENDENT - DR. WAGNER**

#### **Student/Staff Recognition and Reports**

#### **School Director Recognition**

#### **Approval of Pennsylvania School Boards Association Principles of Governance and Leadership**

Dr. Wagner stated that the Board adopted the principals last year. The new Board is being asked to consider adopting them again for the 2022 year. They are as follows:

1. Advocate Earnestly
2. Lead Responsibly
3. Govern Effectively
4. Plan Thoughtfully
5. Evaluate Continuously
6. Communicate Clearly
7. Act Ethically

#### **Permission to place a student teacher from Point Park University at Bon Air Elementary during the spring semester**

### **DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES - DR. EGNOR**

Dr. Egnor stated he had no items on agenda but announced that Kindergarten registration is open for 2022-2023. He explained the process has been digitized this year which makes it much easier.

Dr. Egnor announced Step Up Westmoreland monthly meeting to be held January 19th. He explained it is a network of people and anyone interested can access through WIU website or contact him.

#### **Personnel: Approval of Personnel Log**

#### **Northern Westmoreland Career & Technology Center Report - Mr. Kaczor/Mr. Vinkovich**

Mrs. Callahan stated that NWCTC Joint Area Board information was mailed to all Board members and should be completed and returned to the CTC.

#### **Westmoreland Intermediate Unit Report - Mrs. Watson**

Mrs. Watson stated there had been no meetings since her appointment.

Mrs. Beveridge announced the WIU is seeking a Financial Services Director for upcoming retirement.

#### **PSBA Liaison Report - Mr. Deiseroth**

## **BUSINESS - MRS. CALLAHAN**

### **Approval of budgetary transfers**

#### **Approval of Request to Establish Student Activity Account – Reading Team**

Mrs. Callahan reported: The High School and Middle School clubs and organizations are permitted to maintain a Student Activity Account for finances if they meet the criteria established by the state guidelines and District procedures. She indicated that there are currently two groups requesting to establish a student activity account - Reading Team and Dungeons and Dragons Club. Mrs. Callahan stated that Principal, Dr. Boylan approved the request and it is now for Board consideration.

#### **Approval of Request to Establish Student Activity Account – Dungeons and Dragons Club**

### **Permission to discard obsolete equipment**

Mrs. Callahan reported: Board Policy #706.1 established guidelines for disposal of equipment that is no longer of use to the District. Policy requires Board approval of disposal, but there are various methods permitted such as discard, donate, scrap, or sell. Mr. D'Angelo, Athletic Director, pulled all of the old uniforms that were in various storage locations throughout the District and is recommending them for discard. He recommends donating them to the respective booster organization to either sell, give away, or dispose of. Mr. D'Angelo said that he has the current uniforms plus prior set for each of these teams, so these items are in poor shape and/or no longer of use to the District.

#### **Acknowledgement of Election of Melissa Baronie as Tax Collector of Upper Burrell Township and Approval of Appointment of Joyce Ewing as Deputy Tax Collector**

Mrs. Callahan reported: Joyce Ewing was the tax collector of Upper Burrell for many years and she did not seek re-election. Melissa Baronie ran and won the election, so the Board is asked to acknowledge the election. Additionally, the tax collection law requires the tax collector to name a deputy to act on her behalf if needed, so that is something that the Board must approve. Mrs. Baronie has provided information requesting approval of the prior tax collector as deputy. The tax collector and deputy are both bonded.

### **Budget 2022-2023 Tentative Timeline Review**

Mrs. Callahan reported: Board members have been provided with the budget timeline worksheet which shows the progression of the 2022-2023 budget process. The majority of the work in the District is done between December and March, and then Board and Administration continue to work on the details April through June. We will have a public board meeting to review the first draft of the budget probably early in April and then in May and June, the Board will review the budget revisions and will be asked to adopt the Proposed Final Budget and the Final Budget in June as required by school code.

#### **Approval of Resolution Limiting Tax Increase to Adjusted Index for fiscal year 2022-2023**

Mrs. Callahan reported: The first step in the budget process is usually reviewing the Act 1 index. Act 1 of 2006 implemented restrictions on how much school districts can raise taxes each year. The base index is calculated and then school districts index is adjusted upward based on district market value/personal income aid ratio.

In November, Mrs. Callahan reported that the Adjusted Index for Burrell for 2022-23 was set at 4.4% which equates to about 4.5 mills of real estate taxes. Act 1 indicates that the District is required by state law to either pass a preliminary budget at this time or to approve a resolution indicating that the District will not increase taxes above this amount for 2022-23.

It is recommended that the Board approve the resolution which will require us to develop a budget within this restriction.

## **Communications**

### **Requests for Use of Buildings**

### **Payment of Bills**

### **Comments from the Public**

*Craig Canfield, Prospect Circle*

- *Vaccine Clinic – requesting info on status*
- *Objects to using school property for vaccine clinic*

Dr. Wagner explained that UPMC requested to hold clinic at the school and our Health and Safety Plan indicates we will. She stated that she is still waiting on UPMC to get back to us on dates requested.

Mrs. Key stated that Board members can discuss this item.

Mrs. Watson agreed with Mr. Canfield and believes many people feel that way. She believes there should be some discussion about risks and benefits of having it on school property. There is enough availability for people to access the vaccine. She has done research and questions if it is just UPMC asking for the space or Department of Health. She believes there are more risks than benefits because it is different than other vaccines since it is still in emergency use authorization status. She does not believe it should be happening on school property and would like to change the Health and Safety Plan to exclude clinics.

Ms. Shank asked why UPMC is approaching schools.

Dr. Wagner explained that the Department of Health and Department of Education stated schools should make ourselves available since this is a common place where people go. She stated that there are families who have signed up and want the clinic because it is convenient for them.

Mr. Vinkovich stated it is the parents' choice, not ours.

Dr. Wagner stated approximately 62 doses have been requested but we have not been provided a time of when they will be given.

Mrs. Watson expressed concerns with non-transparency of UPMC to distribute vaccines. She also stated that we should not mix school and pharmacy.

Mr. Vinkovich replied that we are not mixing. It is a community service and we are simply allowing them to use the facilities.

Mrs. Schager stated that our school is a public facility that we are letting them use. She also stated that if you called child's pediatrician, they would say go to a clinic, so if you cannot get your child to a place, and they are having one at school, it is much easier for parents. She stated that she decided to wait for school date so she did not have to take off of work.

Mr. Kaczor stated it is difficult to get appointments and at an appropriate time so having it available at the school is convenient for some parents.

General discussion among Board members ensued regarding appointments for getting vaccines.

*Craig Canfield, Prospect Circle*

- *Asked about the legal liability of holding vaccine clinic*
- *Asked if safe opioid injection sites would be ok at the school*

Mr. Kaczor stated that legal liability is a question for the solicitor.

Mr. Vinkovich stated that Narcan is available in schools.

Mrs. Guido agreed and stated that the District has Narcan on site and it would be administered if needed.

Mrs. Key asked Mrs. Watson to explain her issue with UPMC.

Mrs. Watson stated that UPMC is not giving informed consent. There are risks and they are not providing the information. She does not believe it is fair to the public. She understands it is parents' choice, but thinks this is misleading.

Mrs. Key stated that it is similar to vaccination of younger children. I read the information given to me by the pediatrician office and made the decision based on that. When I received the Covid vaccine, I received those papers as well. Mrs. Key questioned if UPMC is providing that information to parents at these clinics.

Mrs. Watson stated that there is a form that is provided but she believes that UPMC is not being forthright with information about the vaccine.

*Craig Canfield, Prospect Circle*

- *Expressed belief of significant long-term effects of vaccine*
- *Objects to vaccine clinics being held at school*

Mrs. Watson suggested that the Board consider a motion to edit Health and Safety Plan next week indicating that the Board has to review and vote on each vaccine clinic request.

Mrs. Key agreed to add the Health and Safety Plan to the agenda to discuss and consider further.

### **Adjournment at 7:43**

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor  
Roll Call: All in Favor

Seconded by: Mr. Vinkovich  
Motion Carried



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Jennifer S. Callahan  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

JSC/mls

**BURRELL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 18, 2022**

**Call to Order**

The Burrell School District Board of Directors Board Meeting was held in the High School Board Room and was called to order at 7:32 PM by President Key.

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Mrs. Gretchen V. Beveridge, Mr. Timothy J. Vinkovich, Mrs. Nikki Watson, Mrs. LeeAnn S. Guido, Mr. Rick Kaczor, Mr. Tom Deiseroth, Mrs. Jean Schager and Mrs. Pam Key

Board Members Absent: Ms. Tricia Shank

Others Present: Dr. Shannon L. Wagner, Superintendent, Dr. Gregory Egnor, Director of Student Services, Mrs. Jennifer S. Callahan, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Solicitor Mr. Lee Price

Student Representatives Present: Dylan Selinger

**Executive Sessions**

January 11, 2022 Immediately following meeting - Personnel Agenda  
January 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM - Personnel Agenda

Mrs. Key announced the Board's Executive Sessions.

**Review of Agenda Items**

**Approval of Minutes:** Reorganization Meeting and Regular Meeting December 7, 2021

**Treasurer Report:** November and December 2021 (**Attachment 1-1**)

**Food Service Fund Report:** November and December 2021 (**Attachment 1-2**)

**Student Activity Fund Reports:** November and December 2021 (**Attachment 1-3**)

**Nurse Report:** November and December 2021 (**Attachment 1-4**)

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor

Seconded by: Mr. Vinkovich

Roll Call: All in Favor

Motion Carried

**Comments from the Public - Agenda Only**

Mrs. Key asked public to please hold questions and comments in regards to the Health and Safety Plan until that item.

None

## **Reports of Administration and Standing Committees**

### **SUPERINTENDENT - DR. WAGNER**

#### **Student/Staff Recognition and Reports**

Dr. Wagner recognized:

- Dr. Autumn Turk – published article regarding Personalized Learning – Stimulating a Gradual and Progressive Shift to Personalize Learning of All: There is Magic in the Middle

Dr. Wagner announced musicals

- Middle School - *Aladdin* - February 17-19, 2022
- High School - *The Drowsy Chaperone* - March 10-12, 2022

#### **School Director Recognition**

Dr. Wagner thanked Board members for their voluntary work. She stated being a School Director is a thankless job and that we appreciate the time and talents of our School Board and their efforts to support the work we do each day.

Dr. Wagner reported:

- Shared public school district board member statistics from PSBA
- January is school director recognition month
- Vital part of District leadership team by making informed decisions and providing opportunities to help students succeed
- Pandemic has probably been the most difficult thing to have to handle as Board members
- Provided members with a token of appreciation
- Awarded each member certificate of appreciation
- Awarded each member certificate of Board member training

#### **Approval of Pennsylvania School Boards Association Principles for Governance and Leadership (Attachment 1-5)**

Dr. Wagner stated the Principals for Governance and Leadership:

1. Advocate Earnestly
2. Lead Responsibly
3. Govern Effectively
4. Plan Thoughtfully
5. Evaluate Continuously
6. Communicate Clearly
7. Act Ethically

Motion by: Mr. Vinkovich  
Roll Call: All in Favor

Seconded by: Mrs. Schager  
Motion Carried

Dr. Wagner thanked the Board members for being a team that puts education first.

#### **Permission to place a student teacher from Point Park University at Bon Air Elementary during the spring semester**

Motion by: Mrs. Guido  
Roll Call: All in Favor

Seconded by: Mrs. Beveridge  
Motion Carried

## **School Health and Safety Plan**

Dr. Wagner reported: Last week Mrs. Watson asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. The related discussion last week was regarding the UPMC Vaccination Clinic.

Dr. Wagner stated that UPMC has requested clinics to be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 from 5:00pm-7:00pm at the High School. She stated this will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccination clinic and approximately 60 families who have signed up hope to get their child vaccinated. She is recommending no change to the Health and Safety Plan.

Mrs. Watson stated she would like to share information. She indicated that she believes members will agree and disagree on items. She shared her perspective last week and represents people in the community and the information is not necessarily her opinion. She thinks her job is to provide the information and debate and discuss the information. She hopes that it could be done respectfully because she felt personally attacked previously. She is committed to debating and discussing respectfully. She will not tolerate anything else from anyone or to anyone.

Mrs. Watson suggested to amend the Health and Safety Plan part about providing space to provide vaccine to staff and family when asked by provider.

Solicitor Lee Price explained the parliamentary procedure process:

Make a motion, Get a second, Have discussion, Vote.

Mrs. Watson questioned if it needs a second.

Solicitor Lee Price responded yes, but permitted her to explain her information first.

Mrs. Watson explained she wants to amend Health and Safety Plan to require Board members to vote publicly for approval of any vaccine clinic. She stated there are concerns that families have. She asked if there a financial gain from use of space?

Dr. Wagner responded no financial gain.

Mrs. Watson asked are they paying for janitorial fee to clean up after?

Dr. Wagner responded no.

Mrs. Watson asked do you know if they have a financial gain to have clinic here?

Dr. Wagner responded she does not know.

Mrs. Watson stated the Pennsylvania Department of Education encourages providers to coordinate clinics with schools. She stated that the vaccine clinic hosting guide tells schools how to do this. She stated her knowledge of the governmental funding for the vaccines. Mrs. Watson stated that the District plan states that if we are asked to host a clinic, we will. However, the presentation of this from Pennsylvania Department of Education is that the providers are directed to make every accommodation they can in order to provide the clinic for those districts that want.

Dr. Wagner added that originally, the District staff members wanted the vaccine so the District reached out looking for it and UPMC was the one who responded and was able to do so. The first clinic was held in May 2021 and the second clinic was held in October 2021 and this would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> clinic.



Mr. Vinkovich asked if any there were problems with clean up or anything else for previous clinics.

Dr. Wagner responded no.

Mrs. Schager asked if the process was started under the proper chain as Mrs. Watson explained from Pennsylvania Department of Education website.

Dr. Wagner responded yes.

Mrs. Watson continued reading from Department of Education website the recommendations for how to host a clinic. She asked about the Partnership Agreement and what does it look like. She indicated that she was told we are just giving them a space but this says "partnership".

Dr. Wagner responded we are not doing a Partnership Agreement.

Mrs. Watson asked is there a contract or anything signed by the District or UPMC?

Dr. Wagner responded not that she is aware of.

Mrs. Watson stated when we have people use the property, they have to agree to our guidelines. She suggested clarifying roles and believes that partnership and agreement is important.

Mr. Kaczor reviewed the parental consent that was sent out for parent signatures.

Mr. Vinkovich asked Solicitor Lee Price do we need anything like that?

Solicitor Lee Price stated there are no guidelines requiring it. He added that the District holds other clinics such as flu shots and eye exams.

Mrs. Watson stated this is something different because it is controversial.

Dr. Wagner reminded everyone that there are parents who want this vaccine so the District is providing the service.

Mrs. Watson stated she is not talking about parental choice. The Knead Café is hosting a clinic partnered with UPMC on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00 pm so that is another point of availability. She stated that she is not trying to take parental choice, but believes that use of facility for clinic should be Board decision. She understands the clinic is a service to the community. UPMC has a flier about partnering with Knead Café. Mrs. Watson also indicated that it is a new product and under emergency authorization. She asked if the clinic is open to the community.

Dr. Wagner explained it is for District students and staff only.

Mrs. Watson reported she saw the UPMC flier from a clinic at another school district. She wants to know if UPMC will market our clinic in same way. She believes it is important to take this into consideration.

Dr. Wagner responded she does not believe so.

Mrs. Watson stated other schools are not hosting clinics. Mrs. Watson suggested modifying the Health and Safety Plan section 3g.

General discussion regarding parental choice and difference of opinions.

Mrs. Watson reiterated that her point is about bringing it to the Board for a vote. She mentioned parents she spoke to regarding this subject and how people feel about it.

Mrs. Guido stated that she believes we have been hearing the public and the concerns and have made the decisions based on that information. There were several meetings prior to adopting the Health and Safety Plan. There is no cost to host the clinic as confirmed by Dr. Wagner. We changed the wording on the clinic notice sent to parents based on your recommendation as a public member attending the Board meetings to make it clear we were not promoting the vaccine. We requested the information and found that 67 people want the vaccine. She stated that she believes Board members have been listening to what the public wants and that the Board has already taken a vote and approved that clinics will be available. She stated that it is her right to make her motion to proceed.

General Board discussion ensued about clinic and time spent on determining if District has clinic or not.

General Board discussion ensued about this item taking up so much of the District's time.

Mrs. Beveridge stated she is concerned that Mrs. Watson is asking Board to stop the clinic here. She added that people who have requested and signed up may not be able to get it elsewhere.

Mrs. Key stated this subject has been discussed to the point of making a motion or moving on.

Mrs. Watson made a motion involving Covid-19 that all immunizations come to the Board for a vote each time as follows:

**Change District Health and Safety Plan to say "In order to approve vaccine providers using District facilities to administer Covid-19 vaccine, the request must be brought to Board for a public vote".**

Motion by: Mrs. Watson      Seconded by: NONE  
Motion FAILED

#### **DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES - DR. EGNOR**

Dr. Egnor reported Kindergarten registration has started and the information and instructions are posted on the District website on how to enroll. He added that questions should be directed to Erin Pruitt.

#### **PERSONNEL: Approval of Personnel Log (Attached)**

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor      Seconded by: Mr. Deiseroth  
Roll Call: All in Favor      Motion Carried

#### **Northern Westmoreland Career & Technology Center Report - Mr. Kaczor/Mr. Vinkovich**

Mr. Kaczor reported information from NWCTC December meeting:

- Accepted audit report
- Accepted payment of bills
- Approved first reading of policy revision
- Approved school year club advisors
- Special meeting held in January for personnel matter
- Next meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in February

**Westmoreland Intermediate Unit Report - Mrs. Watson**

No report.

**PSBA Liaison Report - Mr. Deiseroth**

Mr. Deiseroth reported:

- Governor Wolf’s February 8<sup>th</sup> budget presentation - \$1.5 billion surplus and additional pandemic funding so expected to increase education funding
- Increase in school meal reimbursement amount

**BUSINESS - MRS. CALLAHAN**

**Approval of budgetary transfers (Attachment 1-6)**

Mrs. Callahan reported: Board was presented with the budgetary transfer list for approval with a few additional items since last week including the transfer to cover the Varsity football uniforms. The District generally rotates which sport will have new uniforms purchased each year, although sometimes there are other circumstances that determinate the need and/or which sport is next in rotation such as participants, condition of uniform, etc. The current football uniforms are 7 years old, so they are due for replacement in the next budget year 2022-23. Normally we would include the uniform purchase in the bid and budget process for the fiscal year and purchase them July 1. However, football uniforms take longer to arrive so they would not be here for the season if we follow the normal timeline. Mr. D’Angelo can explain some of the other factors relating to number of players and positions if needed, but it is being recommended to proceed with the purchase earlier. Since football is the most expensive uniform purchase, it would cause a large increase in the athletic budget for supplies for next year, so if you approve the budgetary transfer we can use funds available in this fiscal year to avoid that increase. The funds are available from the budgeted amounts for insurance elections for new hires not known at the time of budgeting and resulting in lower costs.

Motion by: Mr. Vinkovich	Seconded by: Mr. Deiseroth
Roll Call: All in Favor	Motion Carried

Mr. Kaczor asked if the uniforms are ordered now, when will they arrive?

Mr. D’Angelo responded they will arrive in July.

**Approval of Request to Establish Student Activity Account – Reading Team**

Mrs. Callahan stated that she explained the student activity account request procedure last week.

Motion by: Mr. Deiseroth	Seconded by: Mrs. Schager
Roll Call: All in Favor	Motion Carried

**Approval of Request to Establish Student Activity Account – Dungeons and Dragons Club**

Motion by: Mrs. Schager	Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor
Roll Call: All in Favor	Motion Carried

### **Permission to discard obsolete equipment**

Mrs. Callahan reported that she explained the policy on discarding obsolete equipment last week and Mr. D'Angelo's recommendation to donate the old uniforms to the booster organizations.

Motion by: Mrs. Guido  
Roll Call: All in Favor

Seconded by: Mr. Kaczor  
Motion Carried

### **Acknowledgement of Election of Melissa Baronie as Tax Collector of Upper Burrell Township and Approval of Appointment of Joyce Ewing as Deputy Tax Collector**

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor  
Roll Call: All in Favor

Seconded by: Mrs. Beveridge  
Motion Carried

### **Budget 2022-2023 Tentative Timeline Review**

Mrs. Callahan reported: At the Agenda Meeting, Board members were provided the budget timeline worksheet showing the progression of the 2022-2023 budget process. The Board and Administration will review details and work through the budget in April at a public board meeting specifically for budget review and then at the May and June board meeting. The Board will be asked to adopt a Proposed Final Budget in May and the Final Budget in June as required by school code.

### **Approval of Resolution Limiting Tax Increase to Adjusted Index for fiscal year 2022-2023 (Attachment 1-7)**

Mrs. Callahan reported: Act 1 of 2006 implemented restrictions on how much school districts can raise taxes each year. The Adjusted Index for Burrell for 2022-23 was set at 4.4%. This equates to about 4.5 mills of real estate taxes. Mrs. Callahan recommended that the Board approve the resolution which will require the District to develop a budget within this restriction.

Mr. Kaczor added the District cannot raise taxes above that amount, but does not have to go that high.

Mrs. Guido asked what other alternative does our District even have?

Solicitor Lee Price explained that state law, Act 1 of 2006 requires districts to adopt a Preliminary Budget at this time or adopt the Resolution Limiting the Tax Increase. There are exceptions to exceed the tax limit, but a district must qualify for the exceptions.

Motion by: Mr. Deiseroth  
Roll Call: All in Favor

Seconded by: Mrs. Guido  
Motion Carried

### **Communications**

None

### **Requests for Use of Buildings (Attachment 1-8)**

Motion by: Mr. Deiseroth  
Roll Call: All in Favor

Seconded by: Mrs. Schager  
Motion Carried

### **Payment of Bills (Attachment 1-9)**

Motion by: Mr. Kaczor  
Roll Call: All in Favor

Seconded by: Mr. Vinkovich  
Motion Carried

## Comments from the Public

*Craig Canfield, Prospect Circle*

- *Stated he does not want to be here at meeting*
- *Expressed his belief in freedom of choice*
- *Indicated opposed to software updates being done on public property*
- *Stated his belief that the software does not work as intended*
- *Stated that he is confused and frustrated that peers are saying  $2+2 = 5$*
- *Asked why we would host a software update on public property*
- *Opposes anything keeping the supposed emergency afloat*
- *Questioned why Board members were wearing masks in December but not now*
- *Questioned why students are social distanced in class but permitted to play sports together*

Mrs. Guido stated in December teachers and students were asked to wear masks in school so she believes in doing what you are being asked to do. In January, the Board decided masks would be optional so she is practicing that choice.

*Craig Canfield, Prospect Circle*

- *Health and Safety Plan was dominated by CDC and they now say N95 mask only*

Mrs. Guido stated that the mask issue has been addressed already. She added that she did read Mr. Canfield's email and appreciates the information.

Mr. Vinkovich stated that he was considering requesting a UPMC doctor be here to answer questions.

*Craig Canfield, Prospect Circle*

- *Indicated that he voted for Mr. Vinkovich and that Mr. Vinkovich should remember that*

Mrs. Key stated we have rehashed this subject over and over again. She appreciates the passion for what people believe in, but at some point we are going to have to agree to disagree. She explained she is not stating issues cannot be addressed at meetings. However, we continue to go over the same information again and again. She stated it is not productive, not solving anything, and not helping our students. Mrs. Key explained that it is constant and feels like it is breaking our District apart and it is not in the best interest of our District. She believes it is important to look into things that are brought up but then must move on.

*Craig Canfield, Prospect Circle*

- *Asked Mrs. Key to get answers from UPMC*
- *Asked why social distancing is being enforced in school*
- *Suggested that the damage of social distancing to kids may be irreversible*

Mrs. Key suggested she will try to contact UPMC but spending hours discussing an item when it is at an impasse is not productive.

Mrs. Key responded social distancing in school is in our Health and Safety Plan.

Dr. Wagner stated it is based on recommendation of CDC.

Mr. Ferra, Principal at the Middle School, stated if you are getting rid of social distancing, then please get rid of contact tracing. He suggested spending a day in a building to see how much work is involved.

*Jenna Golem, Donnell Road*

- *Asked if the measures are affecting and impacting anything*
- *Stated that kids leave buildings and are not social distancing*
- *Asked if District could try to encourage our kids to have normal positive interactions*

General discussion ensued regarding the work of nurses and measuring desk distance.

Mrs. Key stated Dr. Wagner reported that 3% of positive cases were due to in school transmission.

Dr. Wagner responded yes, this information was prior to removing masks. She stated out of 61 students, there were 6 students that could be traced back to school transmission.

Mrs. Key stated there is a chance that social distancing is helping to keep those numbers lower. She added that if numbers go up too high, then we will need to shut down. She stated we want to keep the kids in school.

*Craig Canfield, Prospect Circle*

- *Asked if shutting down is a school decision or from another source*
- *Suggested that the District is following CDC guidelines on some things and not others so it is inconsistent*

Dr. Wagner explained that the Pennsylvania Department of Education recommendation for closing school is 5% of people testing positive in the building. If the caseload hits 5% it is recommended to close the building to clean and slow down the spread. We have been able to stay open even though there are a lot of cases.

Mrs. Guido added that if too many teachers are sick, we will have to shut down for lack of teachers because there is a teacher shortage everywhere. She stated we just hired people without teaching certificates as emergency certified to substitute.

Mrs. Guido stated that the Board believes that social distancing in school is the least detrimental of our options. We have a significant number of people in our District that do have Covid-19 and while there are not high levels of hospitalization of children, they share the same space with adults in their life. We want our children to be healthy, but it is a ripple effect. Mrs. Guido stated Covid-19 does exist, it is an actual illness. A significant number of people have had it. She believes as a good steward, it is her responsibility to try to help prevent that. She explained that she does not want to control people and does not want to go back to masking, so if encouraging social distancing in class is the least detrimental way of doing that, she supports it. She stated compromise is required in every area of life and said she would consider eliminating contact tracing.

### **Adjournment at 9:10 PM**

Motion by: Mrs. Beveridge  
Roll Call: All in Favor

Seconded by: Mr. Vinkovich  
Motion Carried



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Jennifer S. Callahan  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary