

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
27J SCHOOLS**

**May 25, 2021  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Electronic Meeting**

**A livestream link was available at [www.sd27j.org](http://www.sd27j.org)  
A dial-in phone number was available: 720-572-1628**

**1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Green, Director Nickeson, Director Piotraschke, Director Thomas, Director Vigil, and Director Worth were present. Director Kerber was absent from this entire meeting.

**3. COMMITMENT TO GOVERNING STYLE**

Director Piotraschke read the following statement: The Board will govern lawfully, observing Policy Governance principles, with an emphasis on (a) outward vision rather than internal preoccupation, (b) encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, (c) strategic leadership more than administrative detail, (d) clear distinction of Board and chief executive roles, (e) collective rather than individual decisions, (f) future rather than past or present, and (g) governing proactively rather than reactively.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Director Nickeson, seconded by Director Vigil to approve the agenda dated May 25, 2021 as presented. Roll Call Vote: all ayes

**5. STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP MONTHLY REPORT**

Various members of the advisory group presented information regarding school activities.

**6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Fiedler reported on activities throughout the District.

**7. MATTERS OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Fiedler read the following public-comment statements:

**Judith Prior****20678 Catclaw Court, Brighton 80601**

"I have a Grandson that attends BHS, and I have seen the negative effects for remote learning! It is imperative that school year in fall of 2021 be full time in person at BHS! 4 days a week for the entire day...8:00am to 4:00 pm! No masks, and no forced vaccines! Just today there is concern for under 18 vaccines on national news! You must take into account the Mental health and physical health of all these students! There is no reason for a Teacher not to be able to teach in person fulltime! If one is at risk one must find another profession! If a student is at risk then homeschooling is an option, but over 90% are not at risk! Other charter, states have managed successfully! Sincerely, Judith Prior."

**Samantha Hewitt****10513 Joplin Street, Commerce City 80022**

"27J Should make board meetings accessible for all parents and community members. We believe the board meetings should be announced on, at the very least, the 27J Social Media. However, we also believe that if the district has the capability to both email and text every parent every single morning about what to do if our child is sick, the district should use the same capabilities to text and email announcements to parents of regular board meetings, linkage meetings, DAC meetings and etc. The parents deserve to be well informed of upcoming meetings. Opportunities for parent involvement or parent education with regards to the board should be accessible and clear. The various schools within the district should also be sending emails and social media announcement of meetings of the same type.

- 2) 27J should resume in person meetings immediately. We feel silenced by only allowing letters to be read at the meetings. We would like our three minutes to be said in our own voices. Now that everyone who wishes to have the shot has had a chance, we demand reopening of in person school board meetings.
- 3) 27J should keep all parents apprised of all decisions regarding the Fall School Year as soon as decisions are made, not right before school opens. The board has one month before the next board meeting and we believe one month is enough time to inform parents by the end of June the plan for the Fall so that we can make appropriate arrangements regarding:
  - school start and end times
  - before and after care
  - Mask guidance
  - Social distancing guidance
  - Middle and high school class schedules
4. We believe 27J needs to inform parents of the powers that be that are tying the hands of the superintendent causing parents to not have a say in mask wearing, abbreviated school schedules, and etc. We are willing to make ourselves available and do the work it takes to go to these higher powers and find out what is stopping the board from being a LEADER in the decision making process.
5. With that said, we ask that 27J lead, and not follow, with regards to Covid guidelines next year.
6. We believe vaccines should remain optional for all teachers and students.
7. We believe no student should be forced to wear a mask regardless of whether or not a vaccine has been received.
8. We believe parents should be involved in every decision regarding Critical Race Theory and Sexual Education courses in our schools. We believe the CRT (if used) and Sexual Education curriculum should be available to all parents before being taught to our children and that our children should need permission slips in order to receive teaching on either.
9. We feel parents in the district can benefit from more transparency from the board and the decision making process. This should include as stated prior- more announcements of board meetings in more places, but also a yearly town hall where parents can get to know their board members, know how to contact them, and be provided with more information of what the board handles from A to Z.
10. Many of us are committed to applying to other districts, homeschooling, and pulling our child from the 27J district if we do not have more transparency, parent involvement, optional masks and optional vaccines next year. "

**Erica Lopez****11714 Memphis Street, Commerce City 80022**

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## **Kasey Mueller**

### **11598 Jasper Street, Commerce City 80022**

"On Friday, one hour before school was to let out for summer, NHA sent out an email with a video letting parents know what was expected from the students in the Fall of 2021. To say I was shocked would be an understatement. I felt betrayed by my own school district who was showing their cards at the last minute knowing school would soon let out and we wouldn't have the time to respond. It was a dirty move in my opinion. This move made me see that there was a calculated agenda, one of which seemed obvious ""get your vaccine"". There was a doctor in the video, one of which seemed very happy to share how vaccines are safe and don't cause infertility. I have no idea how any doctor could safely say this, as this vaccine is still not FDA approved and the trials are still ongoing for children. We don't even have long term results as to what happens to mice much less humans. I immediately began my search for private schools and sent an email to NHA and the principal. I am sure I will never hear back. I want the board to understand how hard it will be for us as a family to pull my child from all her friends she has had since kindergarten. She will be entering 6th grade, middle school, and now will have to start all over. I can't begin to stress how disappointed I am in the actions of NHA! NHA also forgot to add in their email how you could opt out for religious reasons or personal reasons. Believe it or not... there are still families who have religious reasons and last I checked those people still count.

We need to be heard. We are being ostracized. I may choose to leave the district but I will still fight for those who don't have that luxury. I implore you to consider the real science, the science that says kid aren't spreaders, aren't showing signs of illness. It has nothing to do with masking or vaccines because COVID isn't affecting children. States are opening up, restaurants are opening up, the All Star game will be at full capacity and they said this back in February. I find it curious that an all-star game can be promised at full capacity in February when we were still having high cases of COVID. Why don't our children matter in the same way as an All Star game? Why aren't they more important than a baseball game that makes millions? These children are our future and they do matter, they matter to me and all the parents commenting today and so many more who haven't yet found their voice.

Lastly, parents have the right to know by the end of June what the decision on masking and vaccines will be. We need time to prepare our kids for big changes, we need time to move, find money for private school and settle into the new mindset that we will no longer have our kids attending school in 27J.

Thank you for your time,

## **Kasey Mueller – Additional Submission**

I currently left a comment concerning the push for vaccines within 27J. This morning I woke to mainstream news saying the CDC is investigating heart inflammation in teens. Is this part of the evidence that its shown to be safe? I think not. We are still learning about this vaccine every day. The vaccine has not been around long enough to put a

blanket of safety around it. If 27J is going to support this vaccine as safe, I would like a waiver saying you suggested it and if there are any adverse reasons that are detrimental to my child, you will be paying the doctor bills.

**Brenna Quillen**

**21077 E. 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Commerce City 80022**

Masks should be a personal choice. If you were comfortable sending you kids to school before Covid this shouldn't be any different. They were able to contract a myriad of bugs (literally) and viruses and bacteria before with minimal response from the school. Of course they don't want it but as I was once told it's gonna run through this school like wild fire and there is nothing we or you can do about it. Let's let them continue living and laughing and enjoying the people they care about instead of restrictions and more restrictions that could be causing issues we can't see yet.

**Kelsie Hickey**

**57 N. 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brighton 80601**

"I would like you all to understand that two days a week has been extremely hard on my son that HAS an IEP. He could not get in the groove of things because he had 5 days without school a week. Also, with him having an IEP, he received some services via remote, and it was harder on him and myself. I am no teacher; I have no place in trying to help my son in the manner the school is responsible for, per his IEP. My son also suffers from past trauma and relies so much on facial expressions. This was impossible this year, because of the masks.

I want you all to remember what middle school was like when you first entered. Sharing lockers, having different classes with different peers... these were some of the highlights, and my two children are missing out on the importance of this. My daughter hasn't had as hard of a time as my son, as she is in a charter school, but it's still hard. We need to stop this madness before it changes the course of our youth... for the worse. "

**Katie Southard**

**10732 Dayton Way, Henderson 80640**

"I know that the board is frustrated with the amount of parents who want to get in touch and feel this is the wrong platform. But I feel this should be a signal that we need to improve the way those parents can interact at those meetings. Many parents know nothing about the board members because they have no way to get to know you. You remain big bad wolves because questions are asked, but responses intended to pacify are received. I assure you that you have a lot of parents with their ear to the ground now and just judging off of my own interactions, they aren't going anywhere.

I think the board needs to find a way to interact and use the parents as a way to lighten your load instead of viewing them as a roadblock.

Many parents want to know why the highschoolers schedule turned out the way it did. As I understand it, the schedule created much chaos for working parents, which most of us are. Many watched their highschoolers mental health deteriorate right in front of their eyes this year. Many parents of elementary kids want to know why their kids were given stricter rules than the governors rules, and, even still, remain masked when we all know that if you trust the vaccine there is no reason for this. Our poor babies. We have all read the guidance too. So we don't appreciate being told that we don't understand. Help us understand.

Even further, as I understand it, parents are looking for more ways to help, more ways to interact. More ways to get their opinions heard. More surveys or even volunteer opportunities.

As a volunteer on PTO at my students' field day, I was deeply saddened by parents in the parking lot sitting in their cars desperately zooming their phones as far as they will go to try to capture one moment of the child enjoying a tiny slice of normal life. This really bothered me. We do not get this time back. There are sports games, concerts. I feel like as a whole, the district is doing a poor job of understanding what people really want for the children. We all know that 27J Schools are no strangers to setting up Google forms, once a week sometimes. We all did one for the mill levy. Why we can't ask for how parents really feel about the schedules for the highschoolers the masks for the kids, field day etc. I have yet to find one parent who supports closing it off. believes that your day should have been closed off. And I can't find anything about it in tri-county guidelines either.

Even still, this is just another example where 27J has an opportunity to stop following the leader and be the change. Should we get in trouble, shut down, warned etc. by a health department, you would have hundreds of parents backing you up and helping you out. But continuing to play this follow the Leader game has resulted in hundreds of parents being extremely dissatisfied. I for one am sick of the division everywhere, everywhere we look. In recent

discussions with many parents, a huge undertone that I heard was that they want to be involved and they want to help but they feel shut out. They literally want to untie your hands. These parents are willing to do the work for you. The work you don't have time to do. The research, everything. We just need you to lead. We cannot be wet blankets when our children are on the line. I can't imagine the child who asks his mom and dad why they didn't stand the heck up.

I hope the board will accept the help that is being offered to them instead of treating parents as if they have no business coming to or commenting on your meetings. Help us help you. Parents demand to know what is preventing 27J from making some bold moves. Tell us what's holding you back, and we will get a team together to specifically help research the issue. There are no excuses right now.

Lastly, I'm pretty sure if anyone ever threatens parents that the only way their kids are going to go back to school without a mask is by subjecting them to experimental vaccinations unapproved by the FDA again, the parents are going to be less willing to just help and more determined to disrupt. I think lots of parents came a bit unglued at this insinuation and want the board to address it.

I want to reiterate, for those of you that know me or have had interactions with me, I am passionate, outspoken, and determined. But I am not here to kick and scream. I know how hard the board works, and I know it can be a thankless job but I'm telling you, again, that if parents are not given a platform and are not included in the decisions going forward, they're going to make it really difficult to get things done and the district is going to watch them leave in droves.

27J has to lead, and must be bold. Our country is entangled in this entire mess because all anyone has done is follow the leader for the past 14 months. If we don't lead- who will?"

### **Donna Pekas**

**16561 Tree Haven Street, Hudson 890642**

I know this is a hard situation. You're damned if you do, you're damned if you don't. However, I feel we did the remote learning and masks for over a year and now it's time to try something different. Let the kids be kids and step up hygiene.

### **Aaron and Paige Martinez**

**9478 E. 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Henderson 80640**

"First of all, thank you for your work on the school board this year. We know that this is hard time to "please everyone".

I would like to touch on a few quick concerns moving in to the 2021-2022 school year.

As parents and leaders in our schools and school district, we need to establish and follow through with an environment to make our future of this country a resilient group of individuals.

That being said, this starts with us and all the board members of 27J.

There is no reason that 27J can't be the change for a better tomorrow.

We always tell our children that they should not follow what others do. Well, it's time we follow our own words and be the example.

-Topic 1

- Mask and Vaccines SHOULD be an individual and family's optional decision moving in to this next school year. This goes for both faculty and students. As a parent with a child that has, not one but TWO, auto-immune diseases already to deal with, my child struggles daily breathing with a mask on. Having multiple bloody noses throughout the day. Our family does not ask anyone else to make changes to accommodate our child. WE make the decisions and adapt for them, but this is what is happening all around us. The school district has made remote learning available for those who are concerned with their well-being and I applaud that. Again, this leaves every individual and family to have the option to decide based on their beliefs.

- These years in our children's development are crucial on how they read a person's body language and emotions. With masks covering faces, how are they supposed to learn this? That's just food for thought.

-Topic 2

-Transparency from the board to 27J families is a must. Too many times as concerned parents we get told our hands are tied, or we get shoved off to the next person that may be able to help us. If you are truly tied, let the families help you. There are plenty of us willing to step and make some waves. We need to act as team.

- We are requesting that all 27J board meetings be announced to all families through the email/call/text communication that the you use.

- We are also requesting that ALL board meetings resume to in-person meetings. At this point, we can write a letter all day long, but it still feels like we get are getting silenced.  
SIDE NOTE: We attend Belle Creek Charter and we are always told we are not represented by 27J. However, BCCS runs off 27J guidelines and Greg Piotraschke is a Belle Creek Charter Rep.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME  
Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Martinez"

**Sharlene Aitken**  
**15010 Prairie Red Court, Brighton 80603**

Our students should NOT be wearing masks come Fall 2021. These students need to get back to normal which means no cohorts, dances, football games, etc. The students need to have sports well attended, assemblies, in person classes for those that want them. The death rate for students age 0-18 is less than 99.8% which is ridiculous that they are taking the brunt of the restrictions.

**Shawna Hirter, Brighton**

Good evening, I'm a brand new 27J parent this school year. We are Arizona transplants. We have a daughter who just finished her Freshman year at BHS and our son is a 1st grader at BECS. Attending a new school is hard enough on its own, but add in masks, social distancing, & remote learning & making friends is quite the impossibility. How would we all fare under these circumstances? Please put yourselves in our children's shoes. Social interaction is just as important as education. Masks need to be a choice. We know that kids and younger individuals aren't often affected by this virus, nor are they carriers. We cannot as a society live our lives in fear of what if!! Where do we draw the line? Our kids deserve to live and experience abundant life! The CDC website doesn't even register deaths per 100,000 populations for individuals under 25. With 4 different clinical trial jabs available for all adults in Colorado, those individuals who are fearful can get one. Our children and teens do not need to inject an emergency use medicine for a virus that has virtually no effect on them. VAERS, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, a government website already shows over 5,000 deaths due to this jab, as of May 10. Unsure of how many adverse reactions, including very serious reactions but I can get you that information. Long term, we have no idea of what these will do to the body. This virus has a survivability rate of greater than 99.9%. One is more likely to be struck by lightning than to die of CV-19. For those that are too afraid let them stay home and keep their children remote. Please bring some normalcy back to our kids' lives! Thank you for your time & I am encouraged that 27J will be a leader in making bold & common sense decisions!!

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Worth to approve the consent agenda dates May 25, 2021 as presented. Roll Call Vote: all ayes

- a. Approval of Board of Education minutes dated April 27, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes
- b. Approval of personnel items on memorandum dated May 19, 2021
- c. Approval to authorize the Superintendent or his designees to negotiate the final terms of the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding the Joint School Resource Officer Program with the City of Thornton for the 2021-2022 school year and to execute all necessary documents

**9. GOVERNANCE PROCESS THAT SUPPORTS OUR GLOBAL GOALS**

- a. Ownership Linkage – Members: Director Kerber and Director Vigil: No report.

- b. Board Education – Members: Director Kerber and Director Thomas: Director Thomas reported that they are working on topics for next year’s meetings. Tonight’s topic was about a possible bond and mill levy on the November 2021 ballot.
- c. Board Committees
  - i. Facility Planning Advisory Committee – Member: Director Nickeson: Director Nickeson reported that the committee received the presentation that was consistent with tonight’s study session presentation.
  - ii. Capital Facility Fee Foundation – Members: Director Kerber, Director Vigil and Director Worth: No meeting has occurred since the last Board of Education meeting.
  - iii. Rocky Mountain Risk – Members: Director Piotraschke and Director Kerber is an alternate.: Director Piotraschke reported that the pool is doing well. Claims are lower due to online positions. This may increase next year as teacher return to the classrooms. They are seeing some increases in claims, but they are doing better than other pools. They continue to plan for an additional one to two new members for next year.
  - iv. Reaching Out/In – Members: Director Green and Director Thomas: Director Green and Director Thomas reported seeing posts on Facebook for some of the winner from last month’s awards. Positive messages were shared. Director Thomas thanked Lynn Ann Sheats for coordination, and thanked Jamie Bell and Kathey Ruybal for also serving on the committee.
  - v. Commerce City and School District 27J Use Tax Committee – Members: Director Nickeson and Director Worth, Director Green is an alternate.: No meeting has occurred since the last Board of Education meeting.
  - vi. 2015 Bond Oversight Committee – Members: Director Piotraschke and Director Worth: Director Worth reported that the committee discussed adjustments to the bond budgets. They discovered that the estimates and the schematic designs for Elementary School #14 were under budget by approximately \$1.5 million. Technology was underfunded, but CARES monies accommodated some of the products but not the infrastructure for servers. There are looking at savings from the construction of Padilla Elementary. Riverdale Ridge High School’s construction is complete with no further needs for contingency funds. Director Piotraschke reported that increase in costs, and the shortage in the budgets are due to an increases of cost of materials. The committee is still working on replacing the vacancy that they have on the committee.
- d. Other Matters of Information for the Board: None

## **10. NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING RENAMING**

The Board of Education discussed the renaming of the North Elementary School building.

Motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Nickeson that the North Elementary School building located at 89 N. Sixth Avenue, Brighton, Colorado be renamed the Bob Sakata Education Campus as it is repurposed to serve the students and communities of 27J Schools in a new way. Roll Call Vote: all ayes

## 11. EXPECTATIONS OF THE BOARD

- a. Board acts to accept/reject the following reports due/submitted since last meeting. (ADDENDUM “A”) None at this time.
- b. Chief Academic Officer Will Pierce presented the Expectation of the Board Report through 3.A. Treatment of Students/Public

Motion by Director Nickeson, seconded by Director Worth to accept the Expectations of the Board Report through 3.A Treatment of Students/Public as conveying reasonable interpretation of the executive limitations. Roll Call Vote: all ayes

- c. Policy Review Schedule

i. May 25, 2021	3.A Treatment of Students/Public
ii. June 22, 2021	3.F Financial Planning/Budgeting
iii. August 24, 2021	3.0 General Executive Constraint
iv. September 28, 2021	1.2 Post Secondary Readiness (3E’s) 1.3 School Academic Dashboard 3.J Charter Schools
v. October 26, 2021	3.D Financial Condition & Activities Internal
vi. November 9, 2021	3.H Emergency Executive Succession
vii. December 14, 2021	3.D External Financial Condition & Activities 3.I Board Awareness and Support Internal & Direct Inspection
viii. January 25, 2022	3.C Treatment of Faculty/Staff/Volunteers 3.D Internal Financial Condition and Activities
ix. February 22, 2022	1.1 Graduation Rate 3.B Treatment of Parents/Guardians
x. March 8, 2022	1.4 School SEL Dashboard (Good Humans) 3.G Compensation & Benefits
xi. April 26, 2022	3.E Asset Protection

## 12. CASH-IN-LIEU OF LAND DEDICATION FEES

The Board of Education discussed approving Resolution Number Nine 2020-2021 requesting the transfer of \$2.3 million of cash-in-lieu of land dedication fees from the City of Commerce City for the design and construction of Elementary School #14 – Phase 1.

Motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Thomas to approve Resolution Number Nine 2020-2021 requesting the transfer of \$2.3 million of cash-in-lieu of land dedication fees from the City of Commerce City for the design and construction of Elementary School #14 – Phase 1. Roll Call Vote: all ayes



### **13. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET**

Chief Financial Officer Lori Schiek presented information concerning the 2021-2022 proposed budget. No action was needed by the Board of Education at this time.

### **14. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

June 22, 2021            6:00 p.m. Study Session  
                                 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting  
                                 Lois Lesser Board and Conference Room  
                                 This will be an in-person meeting of the Board of Education.

July 27, 2021            6:00 p.m. Linkage Meeting with 27J Schools Principals  
                                 Lois Lesser Board and Conference Room  
                                 This will be an in-person meeting of the Board of Education.

### **15. BOARD MEETING EVALUATION**

The quarterly-meeting evaluation will be at the June 22, 2021 meeting.

**16. CLOSING COMMENTS:** Director Nickeson congratulated everyone for finishing the year!

**17. ADJOURNMENT:** 9:14 p.m.