

**Coal City Community Unit School District #1  
Board of Education Special Study Session of the Whole Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 19, 2021**

**Call to Order**

President Miller called the Special Board Study Session meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the board members answering roll call present: Robert Bianchetta, Mary Gill, Shawn Hamilton, Quint Harmon, Chuck Lander, Steve Rogers, and Ken Miller. Superintendent Kent Bugg, Principal Chris Spencer, Director of Special Populations Luke Krippel, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Tammy Elledge, and Board Secretary LaWanda Gagliardo were also in attendance.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Miller led the Board of Education and others present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Miller opened the meeting by reminding those in attendance that due to the Open Meetings Act no public comment can be taken at this meeting. Any Public comments will have to take place during regular Board meetings.

**Discussion on Revised IDPH School Guidelines**

The Board reviewed the updated IDPH Public Health guidance for schools. Dr. Bugg started with thanking the Board for their availability on such a short notice. He also thanked the parents of the district for being flexible and understanding, and he expressed how he couldn't be prouder of this district and the work that has been done to keep our students in school. Dr. Bugg provided the Board with a summary of the state mandates that the Administration had to work within when planning for the 20 – 21 school year. This year IDPH fully adopted the CDC guidance and there are fewer mandates, but a lot of recommendations. Dr. Bugg along with Superintendents across the state sent a letter to the State Superintendent asking for local control when dealing with COVID-19 in their perspective districts.

Dr. Bugg discussed the IDPH press release adopting the CDC guidance regarding masks. Dr. Bugg also reviewed some of the key takeaways: (1) multiple references emphasizing the need for local districts to monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, testing results, and the occurrence of outbreaks, and local boards should take that into consideration when creating mitigations, (2) does not contain a mask mandate when indoors, (3) no masks for fully-vaccinated individuals, but recommends masks for unvaccinated individuals when indoors, (4) no masks for anyone when outdoors, (5) there is a mask mandate on school district transportation (school buses, driver's ed vehicles etc...) (6) social distancing at a minimum of 3 feet, (7) extra sanitation/cleaning no longer necessary, (8) acknowledged the importance of in-person learning for all students. The State Board of Education passed a Resolution last spring requiring in-person learning for all students. The Board discussed the many other. After reviewing the guidance with the district Administrators, Union leadership and the attorneys Dr. Bugg and the administrators began the work for developing the Return to School Plan. There will be a Special Board meeting on Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> to take action on the Board Resolution Regarding IDPH Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools.

The Board has made it clear that the health and safety of students of the district first, and that include mental, physical and emotional. There will be further discussions at future Board meetings as the guidance from IDPH changes.

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**Open**

- a) Items not known at agenda preparation time – none.
- b) Sharing Ideas / Information – none.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Hamilton moved and Mr. Lander seconded to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. the Board Study Session of the Whole meeting.

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Kenneth P. Miller, President

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Mary Gill, Secretary