

Central Bucks School District
School Board Briefs
September 28, 2021

At the September 28, 2021 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board met in Executive Session from 6:30-7:30pm on September 28, 2021 for an information session regarding mental health and some personnel items.

Heard Public Comment Regarding the Appointment of Region IX School Director

T.J. Kosin of Warwick addressed the Board regarding advocating for the education of all children in the community, open dialogue, and building public understanding. Mr. Kosin shared his history of service to the country and to the community and his hope to continue to serve the community through the school board.

Daniela Burg of Furlong addressed the Board regarding the questionnaire presented to school board candidates, trying to elect a Vice President at the last meeting, and asked the Board to put forth a motion to allow questioning of the candidates.

Donna Shannon of Doylestown asked the Board to consider confirming T.J. Kosin as the candidate to fill the vacant seat on the Board. Ms. Shannon spoke about T.J. Kosin being the most qualified to fit this position, the current Board being female-heavy, and that a male candidate will add perspective and diversity.

Heather Reynolds of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding the Board being fractured and dysfunctional, it being imperative to appoint someone with a neutral, apolitical, and compromising voice, and the November 2021 and 2023 elections.

Vonna DeArmond of Plumstead was listed on the sign-up sheet for both Public Comment sections of the agenda but did not speak at the first Public Comment section regarding the appointment of the Region IX School Director.

Appointed a School Director representing Region IX: Robert Farley

Witnessed The Honorable Jeffrey L. Finley administer the Oath of Office to Robert Farley

Approved the minutes of the September 14, 2021 Special School Board Meeting

Heard Superintendent's Report:

- Dr. Lucabaugh acknowledged two recently appointed Assistant Principals:
Kathryn Deibert at Bridge Valley Elementary School
Dr. Sinead Doherty at Butler Elementary School
- Dr. Lucabaugh discussed mental health and the Crushing Stigma: Building Mental Strength for Life event that is scheduled for October 6, 2021

Heard changes to the Health and Safety Plan

Heard Public Comment:

Anusha Vishwanathan of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding lack of representation having been a topic of recent discussion, Diwali being voted into the school calendar, diversity and inclusion being spoken about in toxic ways, and thanked Mr. Farley for volunteering.

Robert Bozek of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding questions about Board decision making, choosing which health professionals to follow, and mask medical exemption forms.

Jamie Walker of New Britain addressed the Board regarding COVID cases in local municipalities and in school districts, COVID cases in the Penridge, Central Bucks and Council Rock School districts going down by 6%, quarantine and isolation orders, and having a Health and Safety Plan that states that asymptomatic students may stay in school.

Jen Girard of Warwick addressed the Board regarding The Rainbow Room, the district having The Rainbow Room listed as a resource on its website and spoke about some of her family members.

Tina Raymond of Warrington addressed the Board regarding football games and fans, mask wearing, the mask exemption form, district staff bullying unmasked students, anxiety and mental health challenges, and asked the Board to allow parents to exempt their children from masking.

Tim Tressler of Chalfont addressed the Board regarding Director Schwartz's social media comments and asked for her resignation. Mr. Tressler spoke about Director Schwartz's phone number not appearing on the district website and asked if the district was covering for her. Mr. Tressler spoke about Bucks County Department of Health and about vaccination wording in the Health and Safety Plan.

Silvi Haldipur of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding being disheartened by how vile these meetings have become, nonsensical comment offered by the public, not wanting Director Schwartz to resign, the support staff contract, and educating parents on the terms: diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Tanya Kovacs of Buckingham ceded her speaking time to *T.J. Kosin of Warwick*.

T.J. Kosin of Warwick addressed the Board regarding the private investigator contract on the agenda, the district's Health and Safety Plan, CHOP and Lehigh Valley Hospitals, aired a voicemail left for him by a doctor regarding a mask exemption for his child. Mr. Kosin spoke about a book in the Holicong Middle School titled *Lawn Boy* and asked for its immediate removal.

Patricia Murphy of Doylestown ceded her speaking time to *Mara Witsen of Chalfont*.

Mara Witsen of Chalfont addressed the Board regarding mask mandates and overreaching quarantine rules, liability to board members, asked which science should be trusted, Dr. Damsker, data being clear that children are not at high risk of illness or death from COVID, staffing shortages

at hospitals, anxiety, emotional damage from these masking policies, being unable to trust government, COVID vaccinations, and conspiracy theories.

Michael Witsen of Chalfont ceded his speaking time to *Mara Witsen of Chalfont*.

Mara Witsen of Chalfont spoke about slander, freedom of choice, and safety. Ms. Witsen ceded the remainder of her speaking time to *Michelle Harvey of Plumstead*.

Michelle Harvey of Plumstead ceded her speaking time to *Shannon Harris of Buckingham*.

Jay Callaghan of Plumstead ceded his speaking time to *Shannon Harris of Buckingham*.

Christy Callaghan of Plumstead ceded her speaking time to *Shannon Harris of Buckingham*.

Shannon Harris of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding corruption, her child's experience being bullied by teachers when mask-less in school, COVID statistics at CHOP and Doylestown Hospital, yearly influenza statistics, the district's August 31st Health and Safety Plan, County Commissioners, and CHOP capacity. Ms. Harris aired an audio clip that spoke about the CDC saying to be prepared for a polio-like outbreak among children, three new flu shots with FDA approval being introduced in 2013 that had known side-effects of paralyzing the legs, arms, and half the faces of children. The clip continued about Guillain-Barre Syndrome, acute flaccid myelitis, and that Flu, COVID, and Polio children's vaccines can cause paralyzed arms and legs. Ms. Harris spoke about money grabs at the expense of our children, COVID cases in schools, the CDC being corrupt, removing language in the Health and Safety Plan that refers to all children being vaccinated, asked the Board to stop using the COVID dashboard because it creates fear, and asked the Board to invite Dr. Damsker to a meeting next month.

Eliza Scott of Plumstead was listed on the sign-up sheet but did not speak.

Mary Jo O'Connor of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding being disturbed by Director Schwartz's recent social media post and being disgusted by the laughter, heckling, and bullying by the meeting's attendees. Ms. O'Connor spoke about trying to teach our kids how to work together and how to be a community, hypocrisy, this being the United States of America where we're allowed to have our truth, and about thinking of our kids.

Vonna DeArmond of Plumstead asked the Board why there would be changes to the Health and Safety Plan since Dr. Lucabaugh said that things are working. Ms. DeArmond spoke about her concern about moving backward, the Bucks County Health Department being an entity that is run by politics, Dr. Damsker being muzzled, the CDC being corrupt, the district's Health and Safety Plan, football games, the district's scheduled mental health event, and about mask exemption forms being a compromise.

Reviewed the School Board Reports:

- Curriculum Committee
- Finance Committee
- Operations Committee

- Policy Committee
- Bucks County Intermediate Unit
- Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Elected a Vice President of the Board of School Directors: Lorraine Sciuto-Ballasy

Approved Business Office Items:

- Treasurer's Report and Summary of Fund Disbursements
- Accounts Payable Check Disbursements Report in the amount of \$1,936,359.90
- Ratification of Investments Report in the amount of \$162,000,000.00
- Bus and Van Drivers for Plumstead Christian School

Approved FEMO Department Item:

- Grant of sidewalk and trail easement to Warrington Township

Approved Special Education Department Items:

- FAPE Waiver Agreement in the amount of \$57,950.00
- FAPE Waiver Agreement Addendum in the amount of \$66,000.00
- FAPE Waiver Agreement in the amount of \$172,550.00

Approved Personnel Items:

- Retirements, Resignations, and Terminations
- Leaves of Absence
- Appointments
- Assignment, Classification, and Status Changes
- Athletic Points: Fall 2021-2022
- Extension of employment contract with HR Director Andrea DiDio-Hauber

Approved Student Items:

- CB South Choir to Boston, MA on February 24-26, 2022
- Student's tuition and bus transportation in the amount of \$9,815.00
- Student's tuition in the amount of \$22,680.00

Tabled Student Item:

- Unami Freshmen Class to New York, NY on April 13, 2022

Approved Staff Conferences/Workshops in the amount of \$3,764.00

Approved a contract with Jeff Cochran of Acclaimed, LLC for private investigative services in the amount of \$70.00 per hour

Did not approve the updated Health and Safety Plan