

Central Bucks School District
School Board Briefs
June 2, 2021

At the June 2, 2021 Special School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced the purpose of the Special Meeting: Face masks and the Expiration of the Attestation. Bucks County Health Department Director David Damsker, MD, MPH, is in attendance

Approved the minutes of the May 25, 2021 School Board Special Meeting

Discussed the wearing of face masks in schools.

Dr. David Damsker reviewed COVID case counts, mask mandates, vaccines, and Bucks County no longer needing a masking order. Following Dr. Damsker's remarks, Board members, Dr. Damsker, and Administration engaged in further discussion, questions, and answers.

Heard Public Comment:

Josh Hogan of West Rockhill signed up but did not speak.

Alyson Zimmer of Buckingham signed up but did not speak.

Vonna DeArmond of Plumstead submitted a petition titled Petition to End Masking of Students in Central Bucks School District. Ms. DeArmond remarked that the petition contains 614 signatures of Central Bucks residents. This petition is attached to the official minutes of the June 2, 2021 Special School Board Meeting.

Pam Masciotro of Warrington addressed the Board regarding snack breaks in school, moving forward, parents staying involved, brave parents standing up for their kids, the teachers union, and choosing board members wisely.

Patricia Doebler of Chalfont addressed the Board regarding the emotional harm of masking children, rebuilding trust, and giving parents the choice of making face masks optional.

Sara Vessichelli of Doylestown Borough signed up but did not speak.

Tanya Kovacs of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding her refusal to restrict her children's breathing, and to support removing masks.

Helen Haun of New Britain Township addressed the Board regarding COVID, helping her great-grandchildren with their online schooling, a 99% survival rate not being a pandemic, and giving kids an education next year.

Diana Berech of Plumstead addressed the Board regarding coaching a maskless soccer team, masking not making sense, and about moving on..

Cassandra Brown of Plumstead addressed the Board regarding zero social distancing and zero COVID cases in her child's current mask-optional school, asking for respect, and mandated reporters reporting child abuse.

Shannon Harris of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding support of making masks optional, ruining our kids and the need to start healing, and suggested that students be mask-free starting Monday, if they choose.

Peder Cox of Doylestown Township addressed the Board regarding children having natural immunity and not needing a vaccine, scientific studies showing that we have inbuilt immunity in the bone marrow now, vaccines, about pneumonia being a disease that has been around for two centuries, and about getting rid of the masks.

Jamie Walker of New Britain addressed the Board regarding the district moving forward, letting 1100 kids sit home for ten days under modified quarantine, the district not listening to our medical director, and a message from Dr. Damsker to Director Gamble about decisions that Dr. Kopicki made that didn't make sense.

April Winco of Chalfont Borough addressed the Board regarding kids being ready to be done with masks and asked the Board to make masks optional.

Sheri Pargman of Plumstead Township signed up but did not speak.

Susan Lipson of Plumstead Township addressed the Board regarding adhering to the current DCD guidelines, the Academy of Pediatrics recommendations, and the Pennsylvania mask mandate for the remaining 7 days of school, about Bucks County being 40% vaccinated, and if there is a correlation between not wearing masks and vaccine hesitancy.

Meredith Gapsis of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding children being resilient, taking unnecessary risks for such a short time, and keeping our kids safe, healthy, and masked.

Leticia Torrado of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding having only 7-8 days of school left, being transparent about why people would want this change, thanked CB administrators, professionals and Directors Suits and Smith for their service and thanked the physicians who came to the meeting.

Amanda Paschke of Furlong addressed the Board regarding removing masks from unvaccinated children, that COVID remains a threat and its long-term consequences are worth avoiding, and urged the Board to follow the recommendations from relevant health authorities.

Jenna Little of Plumstead signed up but did not speak.

Anusha Viswanathan of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding COVID cases in children, the long-term impact of COVID, that children can and do get sick from COVID, that a mask is a public health tool and behind every case is a family.

Lisa Dietz of Warrington addressed the Board regarding studies that do not say that masks protect children, this being the first time in history that we needed a test to tell us if we were sick or not, doing the right thing now, that masks were never needed and do not prevent the spread of virus, and asked the Board to end the mandate now.

Aundrea Smith of Warwick addressed the Board regarding a friend who lost her father to COVID, thanked Directors Gamble, Suits and Smith for reading and responding to emails, thanked Director Gamble for

asking questions of Dr. Damsker tonight, and that she relied on the Board to make a school choice for her child and asked them to honor their commitment.

Tina Raymond of Warrington signed up but did not speak.

Jessica McQuillan of Chalfont addressed the Board regarding keeping masking requirements for the remainder of the school year, and to allow students to spend their last few days of school celebrating their successes with their teachers.

Jessica Jones of Plumstead addressed the Board regarding the division because of masks, that we stop this hate and move forward, leaving kids behind, and filling in the gaps for students.

Chris Linso of Warrington addressed the Board regarding being here to speak for children, the Board approving allowing kids to pull down their masks when overheated, and that this all needs to end.

Melissa Krahenbuhl of Warrington addressed the Board regarding ending mask mandates, making masks optional, that choice should never have been taken away from parents, that no one else's fear should extinguish someone else's freedom, and set an example for other districts.

Donna Shannen of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding no other viruses passed around, people deserving the right to be free, and following logic.

Lela Casey of Doylestown read a statement from Kevin Leven of the Bucks County Anti-Racism Coalition regarding those who equate mask wearing with child abuse or oppression have a poor understanding of what child abuse is or what it is to be truly oppressed. Ms. Casey addressed the Board about how effective masks are, some parents made the decision for in-person school because masks were worn.

Evi Casey of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding masks being useful, that doctors and nurses wear masks to safely take care of sick patients and asked why adults are complaining.

Millie Herring of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding keeping masks for 7 days and being courteous of other people.

Melissa Smith of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding there still being a mask mandate in Pennsylvania and looking at the long-term effects of and evolving data regarding COVID.

Andrea Hanna of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding not changing now, basing their school decision on the protocols that are in place and not being willing to take this risk.

Bridgette Thompson of Furlong addressed the Board regarding the CDC still recommending wearing masks in schools, the majority of elementary school students not being vaccinated, and asked that for the last 7 days our children be fully masked indoors.

Michael Lebieczinski of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding correlation not equaling causation, mask-optional schools in Texas, Florida and Iowa, Sweden proving that mask-free schools can be done, and about making schools mask-optional.

Anshul Shukla of Chalfont addressed the Board regarding students having opinions too, and our schools not enforcing mask mandates or safe social distancing.

Devery Palmer of Chalfont signed up but did not speak.

Melissa P. Smith of Chalfont Borough submitted a petition titled CBSD Parents for Sensible Leadership. Ms. Smith remarked that the petition contains 868 signatures. This petition is attached to the official minutes of the June 2, 2021 Special School Board Meeting.

James W. Hensen of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding mitigation efforts, the current mask policy being reasonable, remembering the vulnerable population, and urged the Board to keep the current masking policy.

Erin Mazzoni of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding her family's experience with COVID, described a child's experience in school, teachers yelling at students for not wearing masks, being free Americans, and making masks optional.

Laurie Mirsky of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding allowing parent volunteers back into schools to run school events.

Tracy Lamb of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding the importance of consistency when raising children, students not being unmasked if they are not vaccinated, and asked to keep the mask mandate in place.

Cassandra Folo of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding the district's mission statement painted on the room's walls, following the science, the choice to wear or not wear face masks, and being informed and responsible for yourself.

Karina Lorenzo of Warminster signed up but did not speak.

Keith Farrell of Furlong addressed the Board regarding the choice and freedom around where you wear or do not wear your face mask, stewards-who take care of security and safety, and delegates-who represent self-interest and the interests of partisan constituents, listening to health experts, and finding compromise for the community that is looking for leadership.

Dave Scirrotto of Warrington signed up but did not speak.

Jonathan DeMalta of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding following the science, the cases rising while people were wearing masks, masks not working, masks hindering our kids from being able to freely express themselves, and our kids needing to go to school without masks.

Nicole Rufe of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding her children being in school all year, getting COVID despite double masks, face shields and hand sanitizer, the immunity that comes from the natural illness, kids suffering from masks, and pleading for the end to the mask mandates and make them optional.

Jason Brown of Doylestown signed up but did not speak.

Patrick Bastek of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding righting a wrong and setting a precedent for what will happen in the next school year, thanked Dr. Damsker for doing a wonderful job, thanked the Board and Administration to continue in-person learning this school year, giving parents the right to decide what is best for their children as this is about independence and parents' choice.

Kaethe Bersin of Doylestown signed up but did not speak.

Tina Ferguson of Buckingham signed up but did not speak.

Doug Watson of Plumstead signed up but did not speak, instead his wife *Missy Watson of Plumstead* addressed the Board regarding keeping the mask requirement for the remaining school year, concerns about spreading the virus by taking away masks, the school district creating chaos and negativity, and this decision dominating the last few days of school.

Approved a motion to make the wearing of face masks optional effective Monday, June 7, 2021