

Central Bucks School District
School Board Briefs
June 8, 2021

At the June 8, 2021 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board met in Executive Session on June 3, 2021 to discuss the Superintendent search, and the Board met in Executive/Information Session on June 8, 2021 prior to the start of this meeting to discuss several legal issues and personnel matters.

Approved the minutes of the June 2, 2021 Special School Board Special Meeting

Heard Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Lucabaugh acknowledged the automobile accident over the weekend that injured three CB East students and tragically claimed the life of a fourth CB East student and called for a moment of silence.

Dr. Lucabaugh thanked the internal and external caregivers and resource providers who have assisted at CB East.

Dr. Lucabaugh and the Board recognized and congratulated the Central Bucks High School West Girls' Track and Field Team and coaches for their recent title: PIAA State Champions!

Dr. Lucabaugh acknowledged and congratulated the 114 CBSD students who graduated from MBIT.

Dr. Lucabaugh announced that nearly 1600 CBSD students will graduate on Thursday from our three high schools.

Heard Public Comment:

Jen Girard of Warwick addressed the Board regarding making decisions for the fall as soon as possible, and keeping the uncertain economy in mind when negotiating contracts and promising wage increases with taxpayer dollars

Deneen Dry, CBSD employee, extended condolences to the families and staff affected by the tragic recent accident, and addressed the Board regarding working for a company that supports and values its employees

Donna DiMarco, CBSD employee, addressed the Board regarding her role in teaching students to advocate for themselves in the classroom, all positions working together to create a successful school community, and the Board showing respect to the support staff during contract negotiations.

Lucina Vernish of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding concerns about meeting attendees' decorum and behavior during meetings, Robert's Rules of Order, Parliamentary Procedures, and the responsibilities of the presiding officer

Marlene Assetto, CBSD employee addressed the Board regarding disgust with contract offer, her current rate of pay, Teaching Aides in the classrooms, and paying support staff their fair share

Melissa Krahenbuhl of Warrington thanked the Board for their courage in voting for freedom of choice and giving choices back to parents, for being leaders in this county, and spoke about a return to normalcy and keeping masks optional

Paree Pasi of Furlong addressed the Board regarding the Diwali initiative and urged the Board to do some soul-searching for the reason why Diwali has not been added to the school calendar

Lisa Sciscio of Warrington thanked the Board for giving parents their rights back, maintaining their courage to truly move on, a campaign to keep kids masked until they are vaccinated, and keeping masks and vaccines optional this fall

Patricia Doebler of Chalfont addressed the Board regarding last week's meeting being hard for all, supporting last week's vote, bullying, getting back to seeing each other parents instead of masked vs unmasked people, the mental and emotional health of children, unmasking policy, and moving forward and a full reopening in the fall

Debra Cannon of Warrington addressed the Board regarding voting hypocrisy, detailed numbers of yea and nay Board member votes for Health and Safety Plan updates, thanked the Board for navigating the past 15 months, and thanked Dr. Lucabaugh for putting children first

Alyson Zimmer of Buckingham thanked the Board for dropping the mask mandate and asked them to go on record making masks and vaccines optional for next year

Rosalind Braza of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding support staff going above and beyond what is required and having risen to every challenge thrown their way. Ms. Braza spoke about disappointing salary increases offered in negotiations and that support staff are disheartened and do not feel valued

Kai Bode of Chalfont addressed the Board about the Dunning-Kruger effect, confirmation bias, and taking the time to research ESSER funds for next school year, bullying and websites

Leandra Kelly of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding the effectiveness of masks and that the choice to not wear a mask can have a negative impact on those around you, therefore it is not a personal choice but a community choice

Anshul Shakur of Chalfont asked the Board to condemn the bullying he experienced at a recent meeting, asked the Board to not be political when making rules and decisions for next year; to think of the students, teachers, and support staff

Lela Casey of Doylestown addressed the Board about instability in our district, recent changes in leadership without explanation, the lack of transparency, extending the interim Superintendent's position for a full year to allow sufficient time to choose the next Superintendent, and spoke about support staff being the backbone of our schools

Larissa Hopwood of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding disappointment with last week's vote and two Board members being absent for the vote, petitions for and against optional masking, vaccines for children, supporting the Diwali initiative, and Pride month

Erin Mazzoni of Furlong/Buckingham addressed the Board about supporting guidance for next fall happening as soon as possible, thanked the Board for last week's decision and for giving parents back their choice, masks and asthmatic reactions, and immune systems

Vonna DeArmond of Plumstead thanked the Board for following data and not fear or politics, Director Smith deciding her vote last week prior to hearing from Dr. Damsker and public comment. Ms. DeArmond spoke about watching a Council Rock School Board Meeting on Youtube and asked why Central Bucks can't have our meetings conducted the same way, about divisiveness in the community, and asked the Board to make decisions for what will happen in the fall soon and make the decision for normalcy, without questions about vaccination status

Cassy Kifolo of Doylestown thanked the Board regarding last week's Board vote to make masks optional, spoke about defacing property with chalk, read a quote from John F. Kennedy, and spoke about everyone doing what is right for their families

Nick Goodyear of Warrington addressed the Board regarding COVID cases in our schools, read from the district website's COVID case count page, and spoke about students opting not to wear masks and sending unvaccinated to schools without face masks

Kevin Leven of Bucks County Anti-Racism Coalition addressed the Board supporting the Diwali initiative, offered condolences to the community regarding the recent tragedy, and said that the Board can do better for the support staff

Jennifer Bish of Furlong/Buckingham addressed the Board regarding ensuring the safety of our unvaccinated population, wearing masks indoors, Dr. Damsker's advice, parents opting for in-person education, and the Board's vote creating an unsafe environment.

Terrence Brown of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding a community where everyone is concerned about individual health, his family members' experiences with COVID, people taking risks to keep schools going, and recognizing and incentivizing them to continue

Gwen Stoltz of Plumstead addressed the Board regarding increasing pay for support staff, the Board making decisions that seem to be overreaching their authority, the legally binding face-covering mandate and the expiration of the Attestation

Shannon Harris of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding applying for ESSER Plan funding and asking questions before accepting the terms, being transparent about what is agreed to, masks, temperature checks, and returning to normal

Announced updates to the CBSD Health and Safety Plan:

Dr. Leatherbarrow shared Addendum II: June 2, 2021-Masking: At the June 2, 2021 meeting, the Central Bucks Board or School Directors voted to make masking optional effective June 7, 2021. Therefore, effective Monday, June 7, 2021, students and fully vaccinated staff members are not required to mask during the school day or at extra/co-curricular activities and events whether indoors, outdoors, or on CBSD buses. Students and staff may choose to wear masks.

District Athletic Director Turner aired a presentation highlighting recent changes including the state lifting of all mitigation strategies by the state on May 31, 2021 and the district making the wearing of face masks optional on June 7, 2021. Mrs. Turner advised that the CBSD Athletic Department recommends retiring the Athletics Health and Safety Plan and having a full return to athletics, while adopting preventative measures such as educating student athletes and staff about sign and symptoms of COVID-19, following CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting, keeping sanitation stations, and positive COVID-19 cases still following the district's Health and Safety Plan

Reviewed the School Board Reports:

- Curriculum Committee
- Finance Committee
- Operations Committee
- Policy Committee
- Bucks County Intermediate Unit
- Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Approved Business Office Items:

- Accounts Payable Check Disbursements Report in the amount of \$857,251.08
- Aramark, Inc. Food Service Contract for the 2021-2022 school year
- Food Service Meal Prices for the 2021-2022 school year

Approved FEMO Department Items:

- Low bid from T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc. for district paving and concrete repairs in the amount of \$477,847.00
- Low bid from Twining Construction for sewer line replacement at CB West in the amount of \$63,401.00

- Low bid from Robert Michaels & Associates for façade masonry repair at CB West and Tohickon in the amount of \$807,770.00
- Low bid from Terminix Commercial for integrated pest management in the amount of \$17,000.00
- Proposal from Otis Elevator Company for district preventative maintenance in the amount of \$26,160.00
- Proposal from Emergency Systems Service Company for district generator preventative maintenance in the amount of \$33,997.00
- Proposal from Pittsburgh Stage, Inc. for district equipment inspections in the amount of \$20,199.00
- Proposal from Blejwas Associates, Inc. for district kitchen equipment replacement in the amount of \$97,639.34
- Proposals from Johnson Controls, Inc. for refrigerant monitoring in the amount of \$91,550.00
- Low bid from Ocean Construction for playground site preparation at Cold Spring and Barclay in the amount of \$306,639.57
- Proposal from PlayPower, Inc. for playground improvements at Cold Spring and Barclay in the amount of \$178,694.80

Approved a proposal from Hummer Turfgrass Systems, Inc. for district athletic field consultation services in the amount of \$30,240.00

Approved Special Education Department Items:

- FAPE waiver agreement in the amount of \$186,020.00
- FAPE waiver agreement in the amount of \$220,500.00
- FAPE waiver agreement in the amount of \$143,806.00

Approved Curriculum Items:

- Naviance contract in the amount of \$32,495.00
- Smart Futures contract in the amount of \$14,500.00
- Reading and Language Arts (RELA) Program in the amount of \$2,591,229.06

Approved Policy Items:

- Removed from Table and Approved School Board Policies 323, 504.1 and 805
- Removed from Table and Retired School Board Policies 330 and 330.1

Approved Personnel Items:

- Retirements, Resignations, and Terminations
- Leaves of Absence
- Appointments
- Assignment, Classification, and Status Changes
- Activities EDRs Changes

Approved a Groveland Elementary student for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$13,969.93

Approved Staff Conferences/Workshops in the amount of \$650.00

Approved an addendum to the CBSD Health and Safety Plan: Addendum II: June 2, 2021-Masking: At the June 2, 2021 meeting, the Central Bucks Board or School Directors voted to make masking optional effective June 7, 2021. Therefore, effective Monday, June 7, 2021, students and fully vaccinated staff

members are not required to mask during the school day or at extra/co-curricular activities and events whether indoors, outdoors, or on CBSD buses. Students and staff may choose to wear masks.

Retired the CBSD Athletic Health and Safety Plan and adopted preventative COVID-19 measures