

Minutes of the August 16, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of School Directors held in the Shippensburg Area Senior High School Auditorium, 201 Eberly Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257.

OPENING

Call to Order

Mr. Mark Buterbaugh called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Roll Call

On roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Mark Buterbaugh, President; Mr. Charles Suders, Vice President; Mr. Jim Bard; Mrs. Erica Burg; Mr. Dwayne Burt; Dr. Nathan Goates, Dr. Michael Lyman, Mr. Fred Scott, Sr.; and Dr. Geno Torri.

Others present were: Dr. Chris Suppo, Superintendent; Mr. Joseph Wachter, Director of Operations and Maintenance; Dr. Troy Stevens, Technology Coordinator; Mrs. Sheri Woodall, Director of Curriculum, Instructions, and Assessment; Jo Ann Negley, Accounting Comptroller; parents; teachers, concerned citizens; and Mrs. Cristy Lentz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Announcement

Mr. Buterbaugh read a statement regarding the rules and conduct for tonight's meeting. He noted the conduct of the public at the August 11, 2021 Special Meeting was unacceptable and feels both the community and the Shippensburg Area School District is better than that. He noted it is important to respect the opinions of others and to set a good example for children. He stated the allegations against eight of the Board Members stating they did not care about students is wrong. He also acknowledged his tremendous respect for his fellow Board Members and noted the Board does not deserve to be attacked and called names. He thanked each Board Member for their service, noted they are entitled to their opinion, and stated that their differences doesn't make their opinions wrong. He noted the Board would accept community comments tonight but not like last Wednesday and stated he would adjourn the meeting if he had to.

Mr. Buterbaugh listed the following rules regarding Citizen's Comments during Board Meetings:

- All comments are welcome
- Everyone must respect one another
- Each individual is limited to a time limit of 3 minutes
- Comments cannot be personally directed or attack/refer to an individual
- Encouraged talking (not yelling)
- Anyone not following the above rules would be asked to leave the meeting and he noted law enforcement is present at tonight's meeting

Moment of Silence

The Board of School Directors held a moment of silence to reflect on our thoughts, plans, and actions on behalf of the students in the Shippensburg Area School District.

(Action)

Agenda Approval

Mr. Buterbaugh asked if there were any changes or amendments to tonight's agenda.

Dr. Suppo stated there are no changes or amendments to tonight's agenda.

On motion of Suders, seconded by Bard to approve tonight's agenda.

On roll call, all present voted to approve tonight's agenda.

(Information)

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Masking Policy

An extensive discussion occurred among the Board and Administration regarding the District's indoor masking policy for students, staff, and visitors including but not limited to the following: personal perspectives of masking; understanding that masks do not offer 100% protection; preventative safety measures the district has taken regarding COVID-19 such as the installation of a bipolar ionization system, social distancing, extra cleaning procedures, etc.; risk calculations regarding COVID-19; the Board's priority to keep students in school; concerns from community relating to district's masking policy in the 2020-2021 school year; mask breaks; the district's Health and Safety Plan; following the Administration's recommendations regarding masking; differences in CDC and PDE's recommendations; the need to update the district's Health and Safety Plan to align with current CDC and PDE recommendations; PDE not mandating mask wearing other than on busses; PDE recommendation that students wear masks; a Board Member's perspective that the decision regarding masking is too big of a decision to place on Administration and the need for the Board to make the decision and carry out the policies; how masking decisions are now a local decision, not a State decision; how the Board followed Administration's recommendations since the beginning of COVID-19; following PDE verses CDC guidelines; discrepancies between the district's Health and Safety Plan showing 3 levels of community spread verses the 4 levels that are now in place; the continued need to re-evaluate the mask wearing mandate; COVID-19 dashboard; incident rates; PCR testing data; the need to keep students and staff safe and healthy as the goal is to keep students in school face-to-face so the district doesn't need to revert back to on-line learning; etc.

(Action)

ACTION AGENDA

On motion, **from the floor**, by Buterbaugh, to approve the following Action Agenda item:

Masking Policy

- The Board recommends reverting back to the optional mask wearing policy as recommended by the Administration, PA Department of Health, and CDC for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Suppo acknowledged that he is not a voting member, but noted he would like to provide some suggestions regarding the motion from the floor.

Based on Dr. Suppo's recommendations, Mr. Buterbaugh agreed to amend his motion as follows:

On motion, **from the floor**, by Buterbaugh, seconded by Bard to approve the following Action Agenda item as **amended**:

Masking Policy (Amended)

- The Board strongly recommends students and staff wear masks in schools indoors and that the recommendation is a strong recommendation in accordance with the PA Department of Health and CDC guidance.

Additional discussion occurred among the Administration and the Board regarding the **amended** motion **from the floor**.

CITIZENS COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

The following concerned citizens spoke regarding the district's current masking policy and the motion from the floor noted above: Jeremy Stouffer, Mike Baumgartner, Becky Wolfinger (Voice for Choice), Stephanie Eberly, Olivia Eberly, Kristin Hughes, Raithen Hughes, Jamie Kasarda, Tabitha Carbaugh, Thalia Carbaugh, Heather Townsend, Tyler Jumper, Tanya Wilson, Levi Cressler, Matt Brown, Steve Cena, Charity Brown, Ashely Emler, Talon Landreth, Ken Shoap, Kathryn Imperato, Jason Nell, Melinda Thompson, Mike Lochiatto, Debra See, Kristy Wagner, Todd Crawley, Chris Jackson, Erika Kyle.

Mrs. Lentz and Mrs. Negley read e-mails from the following concerned citizens that were unable to attend tonight's meeting as an exception made by Mr. Buterbaugh and announced at the August 11, 2021 Special Meeting: Elizabeth Minnich, Christopher Martin, David Drumheller, Renate and David Wildermuth, Tiffany Kurzawa, Brady Seeley, Kristi Eckert, Shannon and Jeremy Smith, Denise Bonura, Angelo Tsambiras, Greg Herb, James D'Annibale, Kathleen and Paul Kurzawa, Beth Herb, Ted DeWald, Mary Burnett, Scott and Laurie Matlock, Sara Duignan, Amy Lyman, and Sarah Bryant.

The following additional concerned citizens spoke regarding the district's current masking policy and the motion from the floor above: Sherry Reed, Leah Donovan, William Gardner, Daren Donovan, Robert Morrison, Tamara Smith-Moore, Tim Wright, and Zoe Wewer.

On roll call, the motion, **from the floor**, **failed** with the following members voting **no**: **Burg, Burt, Goates, Lyman, Scott, Torri, and Suders**.

Mr. Buterbaugh thanked the police for their service and thanked the public for a civil discussion.

(Action)

ACTION AGENDA

On motion, **from the floor**, by Suders to approve the following Action Agenda item:

Masking Policy

- The Board recommends that once students are in the classroom that they be able to take their masks down but they need to wear masks in crowded areas such as hallways.

The motion **failed** due to no second.

BOARD COMMENTS

Dr. Goates noted that everyone needs to continue to monitor the situation and make changes as necessary. He also requested this topic be included on the agenda as a review item for each upcoming Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Scott, seconded by Suders to adjourn at 10:04 p.m.



Cristy Lentz
Board Secretary