

**PUBLIC MEETING OF  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
PENN DELCO SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2821 CONCORD ROAD  
ASTON, PA 19014**

**Minutes of the Board of School Directors**

**AUGUST 17, 2020**

A special meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Penn-Delco School District convened on Monday, August 17, 2020, at 7:46 p.m. via electronic communication, pursuant to advertisement published in the Delaware County Daily Times.

**School Directors Present:**

Kate Denney  
Stephanie Ellis  
Lisa Esler  
Catherine Hilferty  
Dawn Jones  
M. Colleen Powell  
Bernie Seasock  
Kevin Tinsley  
Leon Armour

**School Directors Absent:**

None

**Others in Attendance:**

Dr. George Steinhoff, Superintendent  
Eric Kuminka, Assistant Superintendent  
Erik Zebley, Business Administrator  
Nina Tyre, Human Resources Director

**MOTION FOR WAIVER OF FORMALITIES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Powell and seconded by Mrs. Jones to waive formalities.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**ITEMS FOR BOARD INFORMATION**

2.01 – Update on School year Reopening Conditions – Dr. George Steinhoff, Superintendent

Dr. Steinhoff reviewed the reopening conditions which he is recommending this evening. It is his recommendation that Penn-Delco open virtually for the start of the school year. Health and safety of the students and staff is our top priority and these decisions should be made by a Health Care Professional and not educators. On August 14<sup>th</sup>, the Chester County Health Department recommended that all districts in Chester and Delaware County start virtually until at least October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Steinhoff gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed virtual learning program to begin on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

## ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

None

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

### **PREPARED AND INFORMAL COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES FROM CITIZENS GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues with the importance of involving members of the public in Board meetings. In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comments, the Board will provide for two periods for public participation during Board meetings. The presiding officer at each public Board meeting will follow these guidelines:

- Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business in the procedures of this Board, or at the discretion of the presiding officer on a given issue.
- Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer, and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if appropriate.
- All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.
- Public participation at the beginning of the agenda will be limited to 15 minutes total and to three minutes per person, on agenda topics only.
- **Public participation at the end of the agenda will be limited to 30 minutes total and to three minutes per person.**

The presiding officer may interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.

Approved January 24, 1990

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Meg Greway – 5200 Hilltop Drive, Brookhaven; She thanked Dr. Steinhoff and his staff for the instructional model, but is asking the district to stay with the Hybrid & Cyber option. The district needs to look at the risk/reward and students miss social and emotional programs.

Jackie Eschbach – Aston; Supports the recommendation to go virtual. Hybrid is a disadvantage to students who pick cyber.

Kourtney Dix – Commerce Ave. Brookhaven; Supports virtual learning but asked what happens to students enrolled in cyber when the District returns to hybrid. She expressed concern that there would be a disruption to cyber students.

Megan Killian – Aston; Asked how full-time working parents are supposed to handle virtual learning, and questioned the significance of the October 9 start date. Dr. Steinhoff indicated it is the recommendation of the Chester County Health Department to delay the opening of school. He has to support their recommendation. He will be working with teachers to ensure this isn't the same as it was in March. It is not our preference, but this is what we are facing. President Armour added the Board has the same struggles, but we need to think of the safety of the students.

Michelle Parkhill – 31 Venuti Dr – Aston; thanked everyone for their hard work on this difficult decision. She feels the Hybrid model should be offered, especially for parents working from home.

## **ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **5.01 Penn-Delco Covid-19 Pathway to Reopening Schools Health and Safety Plan Revision**

**MOTION:** The Administration recommends that the Board of School Directors approves a revision to the Penn-Delco Covid-19 Pathway to Reopening Schools Health and Safety Plan, which was approved on July 29, 2020, to indicate: “All Penn-Delco schools will begin the 2020-2021 school year in a virtual format until at least October 9, 2020.”

Following a motion by Mrs. Denney and seconded by Mrs. Esler the above motion was approved 8 – 1.

Voting Aye: Denney, Esler, Hilferty, Jones, Powell, Seasock, Tinsley, Armour

Voting No: Ellis

### **5.02 Title IX**

**MOTION:** To approve Title IX requirements as follows:

1. Effective August 14, 2020, and until the School Board adopts a comprehensive Policy, the School District shall comply with and implement all requirements to the Title IX regulations;
2. Any existing policies or practices that are inconsistent with or in violation of any of the requirements, terms or conditions of the Title IX regulations are hereby superseded effective August 14, 2020;
3. The Assistant Superintendent, Director of Human Resources, and Director of Special Education and Pupil Services are the School District Title IX Coordinators.
4. The Superintendent hereby has the following power and authority regarding Title IX:
  - a. To designate one or more Title IX Coordinators;
  - b. To designate one or more investigators under Title IX;
  - c. To designate (an) initial decision maker(s) and (an) appeal decision maker(s) under Title IX;
  - d. To designate a facilitator;
  - e. To establish supportive measures as required by Title IX;
  - f. To make arrangements for and provide required training;
  - g. To amend the Student Code of Conduct as required by Title IX;
  - h. To adopt and/or amend the Employee Code of Conduct as required by Title IX;
  - i. To ensure that all notices are provided;
  - j. To ensure that all required postings to the website are posted; and
  - k. To adopt Administrative Regulations that will ensure compliance with Title IX.

Following a motion by Mrs. Denney and seconded by Mrs. Powell the above motion was unanimously approved.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

President Armour thanked the parents for understanding, the Board isn't going back and forth. When the Health Departments gives a recommendation, the District can't go against them. He also added, there is no word on sports at this time.

Mr. Seasock, speaking as a parent with two sons at Sun Valley, he's sad, angry and feels their pain. Thanked Dr. Steinhoff and his cabinet and administration for their countless hours since this started in March. He also thanked the District teachers and indicated that our website is a great resource for the community.

Mrs. Powell echoed Mr. Seasock's comments. She also has two children in the District. The Board is doing the best they can.

Mr. Tinsley noted we all want things to return to normal. This is a hard position for everyone. We need to figure this all out.

President Armour asked Dr. Steinhoff for clarification of which medical metrics are being used to determine whether districts move to a hybrid model. Dr. Steinhoff indicated that the CCHD looks at positivity rates and trends each week.

Dr. Steinhoff added, we haven't heard a decision on sports, but are waiting on PIAA and Chesmont League to make a determination. He also added that teachers want this to work. It's unfair to put school districts in this position.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Following a motion by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Powell the Board adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erik Zebley  
Board Secretary

Next Meetings: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 - Board Meeting – via Zoom - 7:30pm