

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

**Minutes of the Board of School Directors
JANUARY 9, 2022**

A special emergency meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Penn-Delco School District convened on Sunday, January 9, 2022, at 8:35 p.m. at the District Service Center.

School Directors Present:

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

School Directors Absent:

Bernie Seasock

Others in Attendance:

Dr. George Steinhoff, Superintendent
Erik Zebley, Business Administrator
Nina Tyre, Director of Human Resources

MOTION FOR WAIVER OF FORMALITIES

A motion was made by Ms. Hilferty and seconded by Mrs. Esler to waive formalities.

Voting Aye: All
Voting No: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC

None

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

President Armour noted that everyone wants to put the Pandemic behind them; however, we will be voting this evening to require masks in all schools and buildings. It may not be popular, but it is necessary.

ITEMS FOR BOARD INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Steinhoff stated it is a decision of the school districts in the County and they agree, keeping schools open is a priority. However, having masks as optional, is no longer an option. We are trying to live life responsible. We are aligned with County school districts, which are requiring masks. He hopes it gets better day by day; masks allow us to keep as many students in school as possible.

Dr. Steinhoff reviewed the recommendations from the CDC and CHOP, who have given us guidance during the pandemic. The recommendation is to require universal masking of all persons in our schools in response to the extraordinary and elevated increase in virus cases throughout Delaware County. This will take effective on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

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 COMMENTS

Jessica, declined to join meeting

Megan Killian – 328 Crozerville Rd – Aston; she stated that it is illegal to require masks and is considering legal action.

James Danna – 6 Anvil Rd – Aston; Cloth masks are useless, N95 masks are more useful, what will be required.

April Sycz – 100 Greenbriar Pl – Aston; Hopes Board votes yes to require masks. She doesn't want students to go virtually again. Keep our kids safe.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Continued

Pat Twisler – 3360 Bancroft Drive – Aston; Board has an impossible task. Thanked the Board for trying to keep the kids safe.

James Peterson – 106 W. Knowlton Rd – Media; asked with multiple people in the house, how will their quarantine days affect the end of year and students being promoted to the next grade. Dr. Steinhoff asked him to reach out to his office and they will assist him.

Jamie Hoesch – 2157 N. Lee Ln – Aston; masks should be the decision of the parents, not a mandate; it is not a law.

Colleen Kefkof – 21 Bunting Ln – Aston; she is all for masking, daughter has underlying conditions, she’s worn a mask this entire time. It may seem like a small thing for some people, but could be worse for others.

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

6.01 PDSB COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan

MOTION: To approve the recommended changes and updates to the PDSB Health and Safety Plan, as presented.

Following a motion by Mrs. Esler and seconded by Mr. Tinsley the above motion was unanimously approved.

Voting Aye: Denney, Ellis, Hilferty, Jones, Powell, Tinsley and Armour

Voting No: Esler

Motion passes 7 – 1

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mark Natale – 2257 Crestview Ln – Aston; concerned with wearing cloth masks; he is disappointed in the vote in favor of masks.

Daniela Cerullo – 231 Spring Valley Way – Aston; thanked the Board for having this meeting and for voting for masks.

James Danna – 6 Anvil Rd – Aston; asked to maybe consider N95 or KN95 masks.

Nicole Mast – 901 Crystal Rd – Aston; she understands parents’ concerns, however as an employee, they will need to police masks again. Students often don’t wear them correctly, especially at the middle and high school levels.

Jamie Hoesch – 2157 N. Lee Ln – Aston; thanked Mrs. Esler for having their backs; the other members had a voice to vote against this mandate.

Thomas Ellis – 706 Marshall Rd – Brookhaven; echoed concerns of controlling proper mask usage. Staff is more burdened when mandated.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - Continued

Sue Fee Schaeffer – 2350 Clearview Ln – Aston; thanked the Board, Administration, Teachers & Staff. Asked the District to consider sharing the data regarding the safeguard measures, included in the Health & Safety Plan. It would be helpful to see information on policies and recommendations by CDC & CHOP on how effective mask wearing is.

Heather Klabunde – 14 Colonial Cr – Aston; thanked the Board, they are in a thankless position. Would be helpful to provide information and opinions; but the parents should be the ones to decide if their children wear masks.

Jaime Tanner – 74 Weathervane Rd – Aston; commented on when someone can return to work/school.

Loretta Reilly – 221 Moria Pl – Aston; doesn't understand why masks are necessary.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Dr. Steinhoff indicated information will go out tomorrow, letting parents know of the required mask wearing effective, Tuesday, January 11th.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Mrs. Jones seconded by Mrs. Esler the Board adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erik Zebley
Board Secretary

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 – Special Business Meeting – Service Center 7:30 p.m.