

**MINUTES OF A
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
OF
THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION
OF
DWIGHT COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT #232
AND
DWIGHT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #230**

**Held in the Dwight High School Cafeteria
On August 3, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

Board President Tim Henson called the HS portion of the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

PRESENT: Kevin Berta; Tim Henson; Susan Legner; Joel Sandeno; Eric Scheuer; Max Sulzberger

ABSENT: Paul Warner

Board President Nick Stipanovich called the GS portion of the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

PRESENT: Lori Bowman; Mark Christenson; Michael Cornale; Tara Hansen; Jaime Mallaney; Nick Stipanovich

ABSENT: Marc Ellis

Also in attendance: Dr. Richard Jancek, Superintendent; Amie Lee, Acting Secretary; Julie Schultz, Andy Pittenger, Jeremy Jenkins, Logan Murray, Demetrius Skrapates, and Cathy Ferguson

PUBLIC HEARING

Moved by Berta, seconded by Sandeno, for the High School to open public hearing at 5:05 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye.

Moved by Stipanovich, seconded by Cornale, for the Grade School to open public hearing at 5:05 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye.

Dr. Jancek explained the benefits of the Application for Waiver of Illinois State Board School Code to the board members and the audience. He stated there is currently a dire shortage of staff and this would allow children of full time Dwight Public School employees that don't currently reside in district to enroll in Dwight schools without fees. Dr. Jancek also noted that although the district would not benefit from the employees' property tax it would receive the 1 cent sales tax revenue.

Moved by Sulzberger, seconded by Scheuer, for the High School to close public hearing at 5:13 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye.

Moved by Bowman, seconded by Hansen, for the Grade School to close public hearing at 5:14 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Jancek presented the board with a letter from Timothy & Ariane Misener regarding the return to school.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Jancek presented his resolution regarding CDC/IDPH/LCHD Guidance for Covid-19. He stated the CDC hasn't used the verbiage "must or required" regarding the wearing of masks like it did last year. He recommends the choice of wearing masks be left up to the families of students. Masks will be required on transportation. He said the cleaning and disinfecting of the schools will continue. If the CDC requirements change then he recommends the district follow the updated mandates.

Max Sulzberger stated his concern about hot spots in larger communities near Chicago that will force the state to mandate masks for everyone.

Nick Stipanovich thanked the public for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns.

Leta Leach voiced her concerns about how the absentee policy would apply for students and staff when masks are left to choice if required to quarantine.

Dr. Jancek stated that last year the State Board had come out with a comprehensive approach and contingency plan regarding quarantine days. The school board is currently still waiting on further guidance.

Susan Schall asked the school board how support would be provided to students sent home due to quarantine.

Dr. Jancek noted that the district is being as proactive as possible but is continuing to wait for guidance from the state.

Deborah Holcolm asked if remote learning was going to be an option for students if the state mandates masks.

Dr. Jancek explained that the State Board is pushing for in person learning and a student will need to meet stated requirements to qualify for remote learning. He also noted that his proposed resolution removes required testing to get out of quarantine.

Julie Schultz advised any parent that wished to see if their child qualifies for remote learning to contact her but that remote learning will not be offered to everyone.

Max Sulzburger voiced his concerns about segregating students that don't follow the mask mandate and the liabilities that surround that.

Tim Henson thanked the public for attending the meeting and reiterated that we are all in this together and that the board is looking out for the best interest and education for the child.

Mike Gerber asked if there will be a special board meeting when the CDC changes the mandate.

Nick Stipanovich confirmed that the school board will hold a special meeting to reconvene addressing the new mandate.

Tim Misener voiced his concern of the governor calling the shots for the entire state.

Dr. Jancek stated he can't knowingly go against a directive from the Illinois State Board of Education but admits that the final decision lays in the hands of the fourteen board members.

Carol Fink asked how everyone will be informed when the mask mandates change and will there be a parent survey addressing return to school?

Dr. Jancek commented that communication will be sent to parents as soon as possible via Facebook or Email.

Catie Wilkey asked if there were schools that lost funding due to not following the state requirements.

Dr. Jancek confirmed that he knows of one district formally threatened by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Jake Tjelle commented that it was time to move away from wearing masks and that Covid-19 doesn't affect children.

Brittany Brady voiced concern about the new Delta variant and that it is more infectious.

BUSINESS (GS) CONSENT AGENDA

Items for consideration on this month's Consent Agenda are as follows:

- A. Accept Resignation, Danielle Battles, 8th Grade Teacher
- B. Accept Resignation, Hannah Bookheimer, 1st Grade Teacher
- C. Approve Employment, Jessica Schmeltzer, 1st Grade Teacher
- D. Approve Employment, Laura Drews, 8th Grade Teacher
- E. Approve Memo Of Understanding (3), Heartland Head Start
- F. Affirm Volunteer, Jeremy Delong, Assistant Baseball Coach

Moved by Mallaney, seconded by Christenson, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

BUSINESS (HS) CONSENT AGENDA

Items for consideration on this month's Consent Agenda are as follows:

- A. Approve Employment, Dennis Dunlap, Boys Freshman Basketball Coach
- B. Approve Intent To Withdraw From Vermillion Valley Conference (Football At The Conclusion Of 21-22 Season) New Conference To Be Determined
- C. Affirm Employment, Amie Lee, District Office Administrative Assistant
- D. Approve Employment, Jana Brooks, Assistant Volleyball Coach
- E. Approve Employment, Carli Serpe, Social Studies Teacher
- F. Affirm IASB Annual Dues, \$2,397

- G. Approve Extension Of Co-op With Gardner South Wilmington High School, 2021-2022 & 2022-2023, Boys & Girls Golf, Boys & Girls Cross Country, Boys & Girls Track, Wrestling

Moved by Scheuer, seconded by Berta, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carries.

BUSINESS (GS/HS)

Moved by Scheuer, seconded by Sulzberger, for the High School to approve the Application for Waiver of Illinois State Board School Code regarding out of district tuition. Roll call. Scheuer, aye; Sulzberger, aye; Berta, nay; Legner, aye; Sandeno, aye; Henson, aye. Motion carries.

Moved by Bowman, seconded by Hansen, for the Grade School to approve the Application for Waiver of Illinois State Board School Code regarding out of district tuition. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carries.

Moved by Sandeno, seconded by Berta, for the High School to accept Letter of Retirement of Dr. Richard Jancek, Superintendent, at the end of the 2021-22 fiscal year. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carries.

Moved by Bowman, seconded by Christenson, for the Grade School to accept Letter of Retirement of Dr. Richard Jancek, Superintendent, at the end of the 2021-22 fiscal year. Roll call. Bowman, aye; Christenson, aye; Mallaney, aye; Cornale, aye; Hansen, aye; Stipanovich, nay. Motion carries.

Moved by Berta, seconded by Scheuer, for the High School to approve employment of Timothy Halloran as Substitute Teacher. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carries.

Moved by Mallaney, seconded by Hansen, for the Grade School to approve employment of Timothy Halloran as Substitute Teacher. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carries.

Julie Schultz and Andrew Pittenger spoke on the Safe Return to School Plans and that the school is trying to keep the learning environment as traditional as possible. She noted that meals will still be sent home on Fridays for families and that there will be no clear backpacks this year. Pittenger voiced that a return to normalcy is vital.

Moved by Sandeno, seconded by Sulzberger, for the High School to approve the Safe Return to School Plans, ESSER III Mandate. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carries.

Moved by Bowman, seconded by Mallaney, for the Grade School to approve the Safe Return to School Plans, ESSER III Mandate. Roll call. All voted ay. Motion carries.

Dr. Jancek presented his resolution regarding CDC/IDPH/LCHD Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention. He recommends that the choice to wear masks be left to the families of students.

Max Sulzberger, for the High School, moved to adopt the presented resolution regarding CDC/IDPH/LCDH Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention with the promise to the community that when the mandate changes the board will meet in a timely manner to discuss how it will affect Dwight Public Schools. Seconded by Sandeno. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carries.

Jamie Mallaney, for the Grade School, moved to adopt the presented resolution regarding CDC/IDPH/LCDH Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention also with the promise to the community that when the mandate changes the board will meet in a timely manner to discuss how it will affect Dwight Public Schools.

Mike Cornale seconded the motion but with discussion. He stated that considering going against the mask mandate would be reckless. He discussed the implications of Tort liability and the lawsuits that incur when going against requirements.

Nick Stipanovich said that it is not his decision to make medical decisions for students but that he is responsible for providing free and equal education for everyone. He believes we need to do everything possible to enhance the educational experience in the classroom.

Tara Hansen asked the staff to please reach out to the board members about classroom safety and how they can best support them.

Mallaney, for the Grade School, moved to adopt the presented resolution regarding CDC/IDPH/LCDH Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention also with the promise to the community that when the mandate changes the board will meet in a timely manner to discuss how it will affect Dwight Public Schools. Seconded by Cornale. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carries.

Dr. Jancek stated there is no action regarding IASB Press Plus Board Policy Recommendations.

In regards to hiring a new Superintendent, the board members decided that Dr. Jancek will create a posting for employment which will be brought to the board for discussion and approval to release to the public.

Dr. Jancek presented the board members with a document outlining the Board Goals. Areas addressed are Teaching & Learning, District Finance, Culture & Climate, Building & Grounds, and Learning Community. He noted that it is the job of the board to think globally and allow the administration to put the actions in place to achieve the goal at hand.

High School board members decided to take the document home to fill out and return with the completed form by the end of the month to discuss goals for the future.

Mike Cornale voiced that a future goal should be a paraprofessional salary schedule that is shared between both districts to eliminate competition of employment.

Julie Schultz spoke on behalf of the Grade School and what she would like to see some goals being for the board. She recommended adding a handicap accessible restroom along with a bathroom near the 5th through 8th grade student classrooms. She advised that the pavement near the handicap picnic tables be extended to meet the concrete to make movement of wheelchairs easier. Julie also asked the board to consider adding to the existing playground along with a playground on the East side of the school on Columbia Street. She noted that a new multipurpose room and or a retrofit of the current gymnasium should also be considered as scheduling during inclement weather proves to be a continuous issue for staff.

Mike Cornale suggested that income from solar farm be put in reserves and only spend what can be sustained for multiple years allowing retention of funds for future boards.

Julie Schultz informed the board members that everyone was getting new PCs along with micro PCs on back of white board at every grade level. Chromebooks are 1:1 for students 2nd through 8th grades.

Moved by Bowman, seconded by Christenson, to adjourn the GS portion of the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Legner, seconded by Sandeno, to adjourn the HS portion of the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Roll call.
All voted aye. Motion carried.

Debbie Conroy, Secretary, Dist #230 & #232

Nick Stipanovich, President, District #232

Tim Henson, President, District #230