

**Minutes
Special Meeting
Cumberland CUSD #77
Cumberland High School
September 2, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Wes Chambers. Members present included Pam Ross, Ben Bland, Steve Layton, Howard Markwell, Beth Reeder and Josh McElravy. Others present included Elementary Principal, Daniel Huffman, Middle School Principal, Stacy Keyser, High School Principal Kevin Maynard, and Todd Butler, Superintendent. Visitors present were: Theron and Peggy Kuhn, Nancy McElravy, Luke, Carrie, Nick and Daisy VerDeyen, John and Beth Wormhoudt, Chad and Beth Glanzer, Brian and Kelly Stierwalt, Janene Dittamore, Kelly and Shawna Sutherland, Jake and Micki Bradley, Chris and Karen Buscher, Kylee Booth, Andy Thoele, Mariellen Taylor, Colby Ryan, Todd Hall, Julie Ozier, Traci Becker, Wendy Peters, Bill Ault, Racheal Tipsword, Ashley Carter, Kenny and Diedre Weaver, Elly Osborne, Janel Haga, Chris Dittamore, Nathaniel and Michele Figgins, Tyler Figgins, Jamie Whitaker, Beth Cornwell, Becky Powers, Aaron Beard, Addison St. John, Dawn Grubb, Rhonda Walsh, Logan and Macie Boyd, Matt and Racheal Sudkamp, Tyler and Mackenzie Flood, Madison James, Toby, Adam, and Paige Wolke, Tim and Debbie Beals, Jill Thornton, Scott and Catelyn Sedgewick, Jim Smith, Lyndsey Finn, Misty Ervin, Peggy Kuhn, Danielle and Misty Green, Emily and Adam Phipps, Jodi Carlen, Ken Wolke, Carolyn Wolke, Samantha Strohl, Travis Brading

The Board and guests started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The President welcomed members of the audience and asked if there was any public comment concerning the revised reopening school plan draft for the 2021-2022 school year. He asked that anyone that has questions come to the microphone and state their name.

Macie Boyd approached the microphone. She stated that she is nervous. She wants to speak on behalf of her children and the teachers of this district, most of them. She has tried to be respectful of the board, but she feels that she can no longer sit beside and stay quiet about the proposed reopening plans. She feels privileged that she has a job in which she can be in the classroom and in three different schools in the area. She spoke about her deep concerns about the plastic shields, that she feels are ineffective, and she doesn't want the teachers to have to police the masks. She will respectfully send her children to school in masks, but she would really like to emphasize that children need an opportunity to take mask breaks. She begs the board to make sure that the teachers know that they are not responsible for these masks. She urged the board to remove the other stipulations from the reopening plan.

I am Peggy Kuhn. She wished to say a prayer. She started with a prayer to ask for wisdom and guidance. She stated that she feels this is about good vs. evil and not a political opinion and that she feels that the only way to face this is through prayer. She led the crowd in the Lord's prayer.

Racheal Sudkamp approached the mic. She has an 8 year old and 6 year old in school. She read her statement. When she heard about this change, she was at work and was very upset. She worried about what she was going to do for her children. Her 8 year old had depression symptoms last year. She cried every night about how she hated school and didn't wish to attend. Her 6 year old daughter started kindergarten last year and she, too, didn't want to go to school. She cried, as well, begging not to go to school. Her 6 year old also has asthma and had to have extra treatments due to the masking at school. For the first 15 days of school, attitudes have changed and she is so very excited about school. Her daughter has been so excited about school this year and everything that goes with it. Her children are focused on being a kid and learning. She doesn't want to lose this feeling where her children enjoy school. She has prayed and felt very passionate about her thoughts and feelings and what her role is to be as things change. She has sought out God throughout her journey in knowing what to do. She prayed further for His guidance. She posed the following questions. 1. Are Covid numbers rising in schools where their children are masking? Yes, they are. I remember there were flu outbreaks when I was in school. People didn't point fingers at who was spreading the flu. When she was younger, lice wasn't a worry, either. People made it through those issues. 2. Did I expect that by asking the board not to require masks that they would have superpowers to not get Covid? Absolutely not. 3. Are the kids that have Covid experiencing problems or have symptoms been mild? She knows that every child is not the same. She stated that God knows all of our children and He knows what they can handle. Did God prepare our families and children to fend off the other strains of Delta? Maybe this is part of His plan? We have to trust in Him. She urged the board to amend the line stating "review as often as every six months at the latest." She wants the board to talk about it every month. She wondered if the board would consider returning to strongly recommended if things got better? She asked for the board to repeat the quarantine information so we can all be on the same page. She asked if the board thought the staff was sick of everything that is going on? Racheal closed in prayer. She asked that the board consider His guidance and plan for the future.

Nathaniel Figgins approached the mic. He had a copy of a Bible and the Constitution of the United States in the other hand. He stated that he wasn't just here to speak for his kids and his wife, but for all of the people that the union doesn't want to protect their rights and their freedom. He stated that the Bible should belong in school. God gives all of us a conscience, soul and good will. Both the Bible and the Bill of Rights documents give us the right to screw up our lives as much as possible if we allow it. He praised Wes Chambers and Mr. Beard as they are exercising their Rights as they present information in video of the meeting and through the publishing of the newspaper. He stated that people are trying to censor Christians and Conservatives on Facebook every day. If you are vaccinated and wear a mask, he will support you. He expects that if he chooses not to vaccinate and not wear a mask, that you will support him, too. He is frustrated that kids are being sent home to quarantine. Third and fourth grade students are switching classrooms. He said, "What the hell? You're helping spread the virus with those plans." He stated that he is a God-fearing man and became emotional when talking about how his wife is fearful in her position. He sees the fear every night when talking to his kids. He wondered where the leaders are in this community? He worries that someone is going

to shut everything down again. Parents have to start reading the Bible and the Bill of Rights to their kids or someone will take your freedoms away. He quoted Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson and thanked everyone for allowing him to share his thoughts.

Mike Dittamore approached the mic next. He stated that he really doesn't have a mask opinion that he wished to discuss tonight, but he wondered who wrote this revision of the reopening plan. Did someone write it? Did it come from the State? Can't anyone answer out loud. Is this following the State of Illinois? Was somebody threatened? He asked Josh McElravy if he wrote it and Josh responded "no". Mr. Dittamore stated that there are probably a lot of people who don't want masks. Are people involved in making these decisions? Did one person write this? How did this come about? Cowering down to the State is not a good plan. When he came to the first board meeting, he came to talk about masks. CRT was asked about with no response. If we give up our rights, slowly but surely a little bit at a time, and you're going to kill everything. Who decided this? Does one man want this? Does anyone know? It's ironic that we started this meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, but our rights are being stripped away. Do the kids pray in school anymore? Moment of silence or reflection is offered to students every day. When they made the seat belt law, you had to decide if you are going to follow it or not. Who is really calling the shots? What is going on here? He stated that he was disappointed that no one would respond to his questions.

Emily Phipps approached the microphone. She stated that we all know about the masks. She feels it should be the right of the parents in regards to making decisions for their own children. Right now, 27% of the student body is absent. She urged the board to consider all of the mitigations being put back in place. 10% of the students might have parents that are being cautious in keeping their children home with symptoms. There are also many other viruses affecting our community right now. Not one single student, to her knowledge, has been hospitalized as a result of having Covid currently. When her oldest child was in kindergarten, there was a huge flu outbreak and yet, we stayed in school. We gained herd immunity and that helped our kids develop strong immune systems. They need to build up these immune systems again. She urged all board members to consider all aspects of this reopening plan. She stressed that the barriers in the classrooms aren't good. They aren't disinfected well. She gave the example of a boy who picked his nose under his mask and wiped those boogers on the desk shield. Then, the teacher put the shields in a pile at the end of the day so cleaning could take place on. The air conditioning is shut off overnight leaving a dark, warm, moist environment for the shields. The next day, Sally comes into class and her teacher tells her to grab the shield on top which still has the little boy's boogers on it from yesterday. The contamination continues and nothing is any better for any of the children. She asked the board to consider removing masks when the children are at their desks and away from other individuals at a safe distance. She also stated that when she went to school, if someone was too ill to go to school, then they were too ill to go to extracurricular events or to friends' houses. If we can't be in school, why should we still play sports? When 30% of the student body had flu, we didn't shut the school down. This all raises questions about if this is really about our students and their safety or something else?

Luke, Carrie, Nick and Daisy VerDeyen approached the mic. Carrie spoke on behalf of the family. She stated that they support the mask mandate in schools. There is a moral compass to help keep everyone safe. Covid is real and it affects everyone differently. Masking and vaccines worked in the past. When September 11 occurred, we reunited as a nation and worked together. She is disappointed by many in the community and she offered her sincerest apologies to the board, administrators and members of the school organization and staff for other people's ugliness and behavior that is inexcusable. She feels that some have bullied and abused others throughout this process. She feels that it's important that her children learn by her example of how to treat others. She feels that if the school is closed, then sports should be halted, too. She feels it's important to try something to improve the situation than do nothing at all. She again stressed that adult actions are being watched by your children. She feels that the community is better than what they have displayed in some situations and it's time to try to work together. No one asked any of us to be put in this mess. Many go into their job everyday and try to do their best. Be kind to others and treat others as you would like to be treated.

Danielle Green stated that she bragged at work last year about how our school district was the safest in the region. She feels that the past few weeks have only demonstrated that we placed our kids in an experiment and that should be over. She is disappointed in the board and administration that her children have been used as a pawn. Freedom of choice has been used to weed out the sick, the old and the poor. She has sacrificed for the greater good of the community. She expects the board to act on behalf of the children in the district. She entrusts all associated with the school district to serve in loco parentis (in place of parents) during the school day. She knows they know better and that they have been called to do better for all of the kids.

Misty Ervin stated that she has two children in the district. One is a high school junior and the other is in fourth grade. She feels that those not wearing masks have caused more issues in fifteen days than we dealt with all of last school year. Everyone wants to go back to normal. Everyone needs to do their part. All that are able to, should vaccinate. If you are able, you should wear a mask. This will help keep our friends, family, and community safe. This is an impossible task and a tough situation to have to face every day. She trusts the board and school staff with her children. It's time to do this the right way and I thank you for considering the mask mandatory option now.

Travis Brading spoke next. He is the father of three daughters aged 10, 7 and 5. Everyday, he comes home from work and they discuss what they are going to do about Covid. He got the message with the new rules and we had another conversation. He didn't know what to say and do. He always tells his girls that no one can take your joy unless you let them. He feels he has to preach hope to his girls. We are going to have to deal with this again and again. His girls are affected by the masks and the Covid mitigations. We all struggle on an emotional level with this Covid. He can't look his kids in the face without hope. He knows that everyone here is a good person. We have to give our kids hope and their emotional health is of the utmost importance to him. Please consider what this is doing to their emotional health as you make these decisions.

Janene Dittamore asked what disciplinary action will be taken when her child won't wear a mask. It's not if, it's when she won't wear a mask. Her girls get massive headaches from the masks daily which keep them from accomplishing their daily tasks of completing homework and chores with their animals on their farm. Covid won't go away. Do not mask our children, please!

Todd Hall, high school teacher and President of the Cumberland Education Association approached the mic. He stated that he was speaking only as Mr. Hall, teacher from room 8 at Cumberland High School. He really appreciates what everyone has said. This is part of government and civics. He teaches civics to every senior at CHS and he wished all of his students could have been in attendance tonight to witness this in person. He's not a particular fan of the governmental leader in Illinois which resembles himself and he doesn't like to wear a mask. He has congestive heart failure and it makes things harder for him. He masks to protect his students and co-workers. There is a difference between last year and this year. When he coached football, he stated that the team had 'em beat, but we let them get back in the game. We had Covid beat and we let it get back in the game. The mask mandate will hopefully help get our students to a healthier place and get the virus under control again. Secondly, he values his seniors tremendously. They are like his family by the end of their senior year. He cares a lot about their future, whether it be in their future occupation or college path toward success. He feels that the kids have worked too hard to miss out on opportunities for success. Sometimes, we have to swallow our pride and do what we need to do. He thanked the administrators and school board for all they have done to support everyone throughout this difficult time.

Catelyn Sedgewick stated that she isn't from Cumberland County, but grew up in a small community in Edgar County which is much like Cumberland County. She appreciates the school and community and will do whatever she can to support it. She often bragged about our district last year to her colleagues and others. She complimented the Verdeyen children for being so brave as they stood in their masks with their parents as they took a stand for what they believe in. She is a program director in Charleston, Illinois at a group home for disabled individuals. Her job is to keep those she serves safe. She has many college students that work in this facility who aren't trained medically, but have a lot of responsibility to help maintain safe and healthy conditions. She understands the controversy surrounding masking, the guidelines that the State imposes on organizations, and how hard it is to constantly maintain high levels of protection for those you serve. She supports mask wearing for the greater good for kids.

Theron Kuhn asked for a show of hands of who took history in school. Several raised their hands. He stated that he just didn't understand why someone wouldn't answer Mr. Dittamore's questions earlier. He stated that the school board answered questions last time. He asked Josh McElravy if he knew where the document came from. Josh stated that it was emailed to him. Mr. Kuhn stated that he wouldn't want the board's jobs and he feels sorry for everyone in this situation. He feels it's all about the money. It's not all about the masks. Steve Layton stated that the document came from our superintendent and for our input. Mr. Kuhn asked Mr. Butler, who said the first part was from the State and the rest was what we utilized in last year's plan. Mr. Kuhn stated that he got the answer for Mr. Dittamore's questions from before. Mr. Kuhn stated that what we are experiencing is communism. There are 45 goals of communism.

20 of those have been starred with asterisks by Mr. Kuhn. These are things that have been relatable since the time you were born. They have been in Wes's paper and in the Greenup Press. He's done a lot of research like many others have done. He feels vaccines are going to become mandatory and then, CRT will be mandatory, too. He has grandchildren and great-grandchildren that will be going through school. He feels this is nothing but bullshit. He asked President Chambers if he was recording him and President Chambers stated that he was watching the timer for everyone.

Andy Thoele introduced himself and stated that he is a teacher at Cumberland High School. He stated that he appreciates everyone doing their job during this difficult time. He has shields up in his classroom already. He states that his students are doing fine with them. Some are wearing masks and they, too, are doing fine. It's not a big deal to his students. He is stating his own opinion about his topic. There is no oppression in his classroom. If the students are masked, they can take their shield down and still follow the current guidelines. It's not as negative as it seems. He thanked the board for letting him speak.

Beth Wormhoudt, kindergarten teacher, spoke on behalf of the little kids in the Cumberland school district. She said that the shields might be fine for the big kids, but they are not fine for the little ones. The teacher has to do everything involving the shield. When it falls over, the young ones can't figure out how to set it back up. Teaching is interrupted and lesson plans that have taken a lot of preparation and time are totally out the window. If you want us to wear masks, that might help us stay in person at school, I will support that even though I might not like it, but please amend the reopening plan to leave out the shields. The cafeteria is needed for lunch. Please think about things from all perspectives as you make these decisions. We have goals for social emotional development in the younger grades. If we can't teach kids how to share, take turns, and role play, we are missing out on critical parts of their development and overall life skills. If those experiences are taken away, we can't do anything else.

Ashley Carter has a junior in high school and a 6th grader. Safety is a big deal to her. She is responsible for the safety of over 500 employees and she takes it very seriously. She suggested that the board consider layering the mitigations slowly, to see what approach and features work best. The first layer might be the mask. The second layer might be the shields and so forth. Her middle school aged child doesn't care about anything. Her high school aged child has been diagnosed with depression in the last 18 months. As a mom, she is willing to help her child through this tough time, but she doesn't want anything to be made tougher from these decisions. She encouraged the board to take the kids' feelings into consideration as decisions are made. Go with one thing at a time and see what works.

Kelly Sutherland has a daughter who is a sophomore at CHS. He felt that stopping school for a long weekend for extra cleaning was a good move by the district. Covid is an airborne contaminant. If masks are worn, we know that they won't stop everything. You can mask, social distance, and change mitigations, but unless you improve the air quality and limit exposure of students/others to each other, you won't make great gains. We are in a room with two big fans with an airborne issue and why aren't those on? His business involves industrial air quality. He helps with solving air quality issues all of the time. Mr. Figgins stated that kids

are moving classrooms all of the time. Common sense tells us that we are spreading the virus because of this. We have to open doors and expel those particles from the rooms. You have to limit movement in order to limit exposure. How is it good to pack busses full of students and send them to other places to infect or contract illness from elsewhere? We have to learn how to mitigate the risk and then, we can limit the virus. Fresh air in rooms is vitally important. He understands PPE and small contaminants. There is extensive training in fighting this, but we are spinning our wheels. How can we fight this? Think beyond the box. Kids are breathing in the same air. There aren't adequate filtration systems in schools. If he's wrong about things, he will gladly come before the board and admit that. He would be happy to walk through the schools and offer suggestions if you wish, but I hope you listen to what I'm saying. You have to get better air quality for the everyone in the school to combat this illness.

Colby Ryan, seventeen year old senior, approached the board. He stated that he hates the desk shields. He admits that he leans over them and reaches around them. He also hated eating separated lunches last year as his time to relax with his friends was interrupted. Colby has made sacrifices for himself daily to attempt to reach his goal of playing in the NFL. Every day since the fourth grade, he has been working for this. He is worried that some kid next to him will be Covid positive and that result might keep him from reaching his goal. If it means that he can stay on the football field, he will make the sacrifices necessary to keep moving forward.

Peggy Kuhn is a Cumberland graduate and has grandchildren currently attending Cumberland schools. She doesn't believe that it's a good idea to mask kids. She hated school because of a whipping she received in the first grade as she stalled to answer a question. If she could have dropped out in the third grade to work at the elevator in Greenup, she would have. On the last day of school last year, one of her grandchildren was yelled at by a teacher to put his or her mask on. This was heard by others in a neighboring classroom. She doesn't want any child to hate school as much as she did if they aren't wearing their mask. That same teacher was seen in public at an event with over 100 people and was unmasked.

Lyndsey Finn shared that she has a freshman in high school and a 4th grader in the district. She thanked the board for listening to all of the ideas and concerns brought forth. She applauded others for the passion they showed and is thankful that tonight both sides were heard. She appreciated how the board listened to the parents during the first two weeks and it's evident that plan didn't work. Masks are okay, but please layer the mitigations. She stressed that there were no outside spaces for fresh air. Board member Howard Markwell stated that the tents have been ordered and will be here soon to allow for outdoor spaces. It is good for kids' health, soul and mind to be outside. Her daughter has extreme anxiety and depression. She had a rough first week at the high school and sought out counseling twice during that first week. In her letter to the board, she requested that someone come to the elementary/middle school and the high school to talk to students about depression, suicide, and anxiety. President Chambers stated that this has been and will continue to be discussed. Again, she emphasized that she feels it will be important to start with masks and then layer it from there.

Josh McElravy, board member, spoke. He stated that the district had gone above what was recommended by the CDC. He would never want any harm to come to anyone, especially our

students. He believes that parents should have the right to make medical decisions on behalf of their own children. Quarantining healthy kids is insane. Current rules will not help our students. Our administrators, school board, and superintendent are not health care officials. They have to stop doing the job of the health department. They must be available to provide education to our students and run the school district. He has mixed feelings about testing healthy kids, but if it helps lessen quarantine numbers, then it would be beneficial. This virus has pitted people against each other. Each decision has not been made lightly. The virus is here. Each year on November 11, our school presents one of the most wonderful Veterans Day programs around. We take time to honor those who have fought for our freedoms. If we give up those freedoms, we will never get them back again. Senate Bill 100 states that all students are offered a free public education. We are giving up freedoms hand over fist. There is no law right now, only mandates. As he entered the school the other day, he picked up a box of unopened masks. On the package, it states that the mask will not stop the spread of Covid-19. It also stated that you shouldn't wear the mask around anyone with Covid-19. He felt he had to express his beliefs and convictions so that when his seven year old son, Luke Henry, walks across the stage, still wearing a freaking mask at graduation in 10 years, he can at least state that he tried to stand up for what he believed in.

Elizabeth Reeder stated that she was speaking from her heart. She wants our kids to have a choice in everything whether it be right or wrong. She was hoping that tonight would be a solution to the problem that we are facing. We have to try to get the numbers down to gain some normalcy. She feels the reopening plan should have a goal for when we could lessen the mitigations so we don't have to spend the next ten years dealing with this. She is eager to find options and suggestions for this.

President Chambers asked Vice President, Pam Ross, to present the reopening plan proposal to the board and visitors.

Pam Ross read the plan:

Cumberland CUSD #77 School Reopening Plan Proposal for SY 2021-2022. Reopening procedures are dependent on community COVID 19 data; the plan may need to be adjusted.

School Day

Illinois State Board of Education Resolution:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois State Board of Education supports the following declaration of Illinois State Superintendent of Education: Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that: Pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30, remote instruction be made available for students who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and are under a quarantine order by a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Together with local public health officials, schools should consider multiple factors when they make decisions about implementing layered prevention strategies against COVID-19. Decisions should be based on the school population, families, and students served, as well as their communities.

The district removed layers of mitigations one at a time during the 20-21 school year as we went back to in person learning 5 days a week during the second semester. We will continue to monitor the health of our students and staff and adjust accordingly if needed.

- Remote learning will only be an option as required by the Illinois State Board of Education under section 10-30 of the school code. Section 10-30 states remote instruction be made available for students who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and are under a quarantine order.
- The Cumberland CUSD #77 school board will make changes necessary for the health and safety of students and staff of Cumberland School District #77. Which includes required masking in buses and buildings along with the use of desk shields and barriers in classrooms, restricting hallway and PE locker use and podding of students in elementary and middle school, socially distancing to the greatest extent possible at all times.
- Parents should keep their children home from school if they are awaiting results of a Covid-19 test, are sick or exhibiting symptoms.
- The school day will begin at 8:00 a.m. and dismiss at 2:00 p.m.
- Students will eat lunch in alternate locations with as much physical distancing as possible.
- Each building will employ an additional custodian to help the current day shift custodians ensure proper cleaning practices are maintained and high touch areas are disinfected throughout the school day.

Students

- Good hand hygiene will be strongly encouraged at all grade levels.
- All student lunches will be free as long as the USDA and ISBE allows. When the meal pattern changes, the district will start charging for meals again.
- As we did in 2020-2021, the district will regularly benchmark students to look for learning loss and to help in determining interventions for students.
- Credit, Course and Learning Recovery classroom will be available for at-risk students.
- Summer school is available for students who are recommended for enrollment by school staff.
- Chronic absenteeism will be referred to the ROE Attendance Specialist and/or the Cumberland County State's Attorney as appropriate.
- All medical records, physicals, dental exams, and vision exams should be completed for students as indicated by law. Exclusion from school will be enforced when appropriate. Student COVID-19 vaccination records will not be required.
- Attendance will be calculated as it was before the pandemic. Doctor's notes or Health Department verification will be required for any Covid-19 absences to be excused.
- Students will be assigned district owned chromebooks.

School Staff

- Evaluation program will return for employees.
- Staff dress code will return as it was in the 2019-2020 school year.

Transportation

- Disinfection of the district buses will occur before every trip.
- We will adhere to bus capacity rules.
- Every regular route will have assigned seating.
- Masking on buses is required for students and staff.
- When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation.

Collaboration with Public Health Officials

- District officials, including the school nurse, will continue to collaborate and consult with Cumberland County Health Department officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.

Plan Review

- This plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate.
- Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC, provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA, and made publicly available on the district's website.

Other

- Athletic programs will follow IHSA and IESA rules.
- Admission will **NOT** be charged at remaining home sporting events during the 2021-2022 school year.
- The district will attempt to video stream sporting and special events on the district Youtube channel.
- The district will be prepared to adjust educational and athletic programming if required to do so by State agencies.

ESSER III ARP Grant Allocations

- Remediate learning loss through implementation of extended school year for at-risk students, learning recovery classroom, and enhanced research-based curricular intervention purchases.
- Air filtration upgrades have been made. Ventilation and HVAC upgrades to district facilities will be made when funds from ESSER III are available. Ventilation mitigation strategies can help reduce viral particle concentration. The lower the concentration, the less likely viral particles can be inhaled into the lungs (potentially lowering the inhaled dose); contact eyes, nose, and mouth; or fall out of the air to accumulate on surfaces. Protective ventilation practices and interventions can reduce the airborne concentrations and reduce the overall viral dose to occupants.

Member Reeder opened discussion about setting a goal for the end of this situation such as a percentage. We will remove this if everything is in this plan. She would like to make a motion to

have only masks and not all of the other changes. Do we clean the barriers? They got cleaned once per week and were sprayed every night and then they weren't wiped down. If they have to wear a mask, can they take their mask off if they are behind the shields? Can they take those masks off so they get a break?

The tents and shortening the day is another way to help the students. Masks would be preferred to barriers.

Beth Wormhoudt stated that, in her opinion, it is impossible to continue on as they wish.

Member Markwell stated that he hopes everyone can see now that we were listening to all of your ideas as you spoke tonight. That is why there was no answer prior. The seven on the board will make a decision. Is it possible to consider going full bore or start at the bottom and go up? President Chambers stated that he felt that was a good idea. It would be a good start to have the masks. Member Layton stated that if we can get by without the barriers, then we can start with masks. If the numbers rise, we need to add more layers.

Jim Smith stated that there was a point of order change that they didn't provide the paperwork 48 hours prior to the meeting to make the change to the document. The opening plan stated that the school day would end at 3:00 p.m. and now it states 2:00 p.m.

Member Markwell stated that this is still in discussion.

Ashley Carter: Where are all of the kids going to go after 2:00 p.m.? It's going to be a problem with spreading the virus and more?

Wes Chambers: We are trying to get ideas right now.

Debbie Beals: Can we have volunteers who stay with kids at the school that could come in and help the teachers out?

More discussion was held by several members of the audience who shouted out ideas and expressed their concerns.

President Chambers stated that we will just stick with 3:00 p.m., but we were trying to help the teachers by giving them extra time.

Member Markwell asked the board to go through everything bullet point by bullet point. We need to discuss the second option. I feel we should start from the bottom up and only have masking.

Member Markwell stated that he heard one of the best political speeches he's ever heard from Josh McElravy and then voiced that Josh now wasn't saying anything.

Member McElravy thanked Member Markwell for his sarcasm and stated that he would not vote for it, but he feels that would be best right now.

It was repeated that the daily school ending time is 3:00 p.m.

Member Markwell asked about lunch plans. Mr. Maynard explained his plan for high school students. The plan would involve taking 25-30 students per day to study hall and library and everyone else in the cafeteria. Someone asked how hard would it be to have lunch outside? Member Markwell stated that it would be nearly impossible.

Macie Boyd asked if kids get to choose to get cold lunch each day.

Member McElravy stated that his own children don't have time to eat. He packs their lunches every day.

Beth Cornwell, head high school cook, stated that lunches get cold on transport. If the health department would test the food, there would be a reason for issues to arise.

Member Layton asked what could be done to keep high school lunches warm. It was suggested that the school needs a warmer.

President Chambers asked if the district could buy warmers for the serving/transporting. These will be purchased to help with transporting and serving the meals to the students as needed.

Other members of the audience offered suggestions of having more lunch periods so all food is contained in cafeteria and it's fresh. Other voiced opinions that if they switch to three lunches, then students will have less time to eat.

Ms. Booth, CHS teacher, stated that despite being in the second furthest classroom from the kitchen that her food is still warm walking from the kitchen to my classroom. Mrs. Becker, another CHS teacher, stated that she is the furthest away from kitchen and her food is still warm when she picks it up and takes it to her classroom.

Member Markwell stated that we should implement the masks as a first change. He asked what percent do we use? There is no guidance. If the numbers continue to grow, we have to put more mitigations in place. We may have to do them all before it's over.

Pam Ross asked when do we actually close and shut things up. Superintendent Butler answered that the State and health department would have to be involved in that decision.

Pam Ross made the motion to approve the revised reopening plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Ben Bland seconded the motion. President Chambers called for a vote on the motion of the reopening plan. All members voted "Aye" except for Beth Reeder and Josh McElravy, who voted "no".

Wes Chambers stated that information will be sent out to parents in writing to inform them of changes prior to the students' return to school on Wednesday, September 8., 2021.

A motion was made by Howard Markwell and seconded by Pam Ross to move into executive Session Closed session for the purposes of discussing the following subjects:

5ILCS120/2(c)(1) employment and performance of a specific employee

5ILCS120/2(c)(8) Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. at 8:20 p.m. All present voted "Aye".

The Board entered into open session at 8:46 p.m.

Steve Layton made the motion to approve utilizing the IDPH test to stay system. Pam Ross seconded the motion. All members voted "yes".

Howard Markwell made the motion to approve the purchase of nursing services from Cheryl Wilson, RN, as a temporary ESSER II district nurse to manage the test to stay system and employee mandated vaccination and testing protocol. Ben Bland seconded the motion. All members voted "yes".

Beth Reeder made the motion to approve Amy Carr as the assistant technology coordinator/public information coordinator. Pam Ross seconded the motion. All members voted "yes".

Steve Layton made the motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Ben Bland. All present voted "Aye".

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this day, September 2, 2021.

Wes Chambers, President

Ben Bland, Secretary