

**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 Township High School Cafeteria
On July 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Board President Bo Partney called the GS portion of the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mark Christenson; Michael Cornale; Marc Ellis; Bo Partney; Eric Scheuer; Nick Stipanovich

VIA PHONE: Cathy Ferguson

ABSENT: None

Board President Brian Perschnick called the HS portion of the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Kevin Berta; Betty Gantzert; Brian Perschnick; Tim Henson

VIA PHONE: Max Sulzberger (Left 6:06PM)

ABSENT: Paul Warner; Anne Rodosky

Also in attendance: Dr. Richard Jancek, Superintendent; Jill Haacke, Acting Secretary; Julie Schultz, Andy Pittenger, Jack Connor, Logan Murray, Lindsey Jensen, Jeremy Jenkins, Jackie Froelich

Dr. Jancek informed the board and audience members present that board members Cathy Ferguson, Max Sulzburger and Paul Warner will be attending the board meeting via telephone.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Jancek presented thank you notes from Jane Fritsch, Maggie Taylor and Jeff Froelich for their retirement gifts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sara Hurt voiced her concerns about students wearing their masks while they are in the classroom and communication between students and teachers. She also inquired on how discipline will work if a student does not wear a mask.

Leta Leach said she was concerned about the grade school absentee policy and how it will work if a student in a certain classroom tests positive for COVID.

Anna Sealor voiced her concern about IEP students and how their schedules will work coming back to school. She believes that special education students should be in the classroom.

Bo Partney said the board, parents and school staff work as a team to get our students their education. He and Tim Henson stated that everyone needs to remember some things are in our control and some are not, and we all need to work together.

Dr. Jancek noted that he also has a student going into his senior year, and has to wear two hats, one as a parent and one as the superintendent. He is proud of how the staff has been working together so far during this difficult time.

Brian Perschnick reminded everyone to be kind to one another and also on social media.

Max Sulzberger left the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

BUSINESS (GS) CONSENT

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

1. Approve Tracie Wargo, B Team Softball, Coach
2. Approve Jen Statler, B Team Softball, Volunteer Coach
3. Approve Tom Leonard, A Team Softball, Volunteer Coach
4. Approve Paul Warner, B Team Baseball, Coach
5. Accept Resignation, Corilyn McCullough, Library Aide
6. Accept Resignation, Jeanette McCloskey, Spelling Bee Advisor
7. Accept Resignation, Jeanette McCloskey, Literature Club Advisor
8. Accept Resignation, Matt Norton, Baseball Coach
9. Approve June Minutes
10. Approve July Bills

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

NEW BUSINESS (GS)

Dr. Jancek informed the board that he would like to hire Jeremy Jenkins for the position of Athletic Director and Assistant Principal at the Grade School.

Moved by Christenson, seconded by Stipanovich, to approve the employment and contract for Jeremy Jenkins as Athletic Director and Assistant Principal with a starting salary of \$70,000. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carries.

BUSINESS (HS) CONSENT

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

1. Approve Membership, Vermillion Valley Conference (Football), 2021-2022
2. Approve Paul Lebryk, Track Coach
3. Approve June Minutes
4. Approve July Bills

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

NEW BUSINESS (HS)

Andy Pittenger presented two conference options for the board members to choose from for all other sports besides football. Their choices are the Tri-County Conference or River Valley Conference. He noted that he sent out the conference information to each head coach, and all but one stated that they would prefer to go to the Tri-County Conference. He and Cathy Ferguson have both recommended to join the Tri-County Conference for all other sports.

Moved by Henson, seconded by Berta, to approve the Tri-County Conference for all sports besides football. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carries.

BUSINESS (HS/GS)

Dr. Jancek presented the amended 2020-2021 School Calendar for the board's approval. He noted that the state has a new requirement that schools are not allowed to be in session November 3, 2020, which is Election Day. They have taken that out of the schedule and added the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 25, 2020.

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Cornale, for the Grade School to approve the amended 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carries.

Moved by Berta, seconded by Gantzert, for the High School to approve the amended 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carries.

Dr. Jancek presented the review of IASB Press Plus Board Policy Recommendations, Issue 104, for their first reading for both boards.

Dr. Jancek informed the board that he and the Insurance Committee have had several meetings with Gallagher Health Insurance Cooperative about joining on January 1, 2021. The cooperative has competitive prices for Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance policies compared to what we are currently paying for Health Alliance. He wanted the board to be informed on all the possibilities that he and the Committee are looking into for the future.

Dr. Jancek presented the summary of the Back to School Committee decision. He noted that the committee recommends that there is an option for students to remote learn from home all day and the remaining students will be split into two different groups and will attend every other day from 8AM to noon.

Dr. Jancek also noted that he wanted the committee to focus attention on safety vs. learning and learning over logistics. The committee members included: Julie Schultz, Andy Pittenger, Lindsey Jensen, Cathy Ferguson, Logan Murray, Jack Connor, Clark Reamer, Chuck Butterbrodt, Jackie Froelich, Kathy Stewart, Erica Sandeno, Richard Jancek, Sharon Soto and Mia Kreush. He was proud of how the committee worked together, thought out all scenarios and brought the board a good recommendation.

He then went over the survey that was sent out to the parents in early July. He also went into more specifics concerning transportation, technology, food service, self-certification, classrooms, office management and other activities.

Other members of the Back to School Committee were present. Jensen and Schultz noted that the committee prioritized safety and consistency for all students and staff moving forward. They urged how important it was for the board to make a guided decision tonight so staff can get everything in place for the fall.

Partney voiced his concern on how long the classes are as presented and would like to see more classroom time for the students. Stipanovich and Cornale agreed, more time in the classrooms would be best for the students to gain as much education as possible. They also voiced their concerns with the survey and committee recommendation.

Berta and Perschnick agreed that more in person classroom time would be best for the students. Gantzert voiced her concerns about putting everyone in a classroom so quickly and for long periods of time. She stated that this is not just a Dwight issue, but an issue everyone in the country is facing. She would like to put safety first for students and staff and treat the first 9 weeks as a transition period back into education.

Moved by Stipanovich, seconded by Christenson, to approve the Grade School Fall 2020 first quarter to offer a complete remote learning option and then to split the enrollment into two groups to attend school every other day from 8AM to 2PM. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Berta, seconded by Henson, to approve the High School Fall 2020 first quarter to offer a complete remote learning option and all enrollment is to attend school every day from 8AM to 2PM. Roll call. Berta, aye; Gantzert, nay; Henson, aye; Perschnick, aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Christenson, to adjourn the Grade School portion of the meeting at 9:38 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Berta, seconded by Henson, to adjourn the High School portion of the meeting at 9:38 p.m. Roll call. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Jill Haacke, Acting Secretary, Dist #230 & #232

Bo Partney, President, District #232

Brian Perschnick, President, District #230