

COCALICO SCHOOL DISTRICT Denver, PA

The regular meeting of the Cocalico School Board of Directors was called to order on Monday, June 28, 2021 by Rev. Kevin Eshleman, President. He welcomed the visitors. A moment of silence was held, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Rev. Eshleman announced that the Cocalico School Board met on June 14, 2021 for an Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

Before moving to the first item on the agenda, Rev. Eshleman followed up on the public comments from the May Board meeting:

The Board meets publicly each month and has a formal process it must follow to vote on items presented on the agenda. At the beginning of each meeting, there is time for public comment on any of the agenda items. At the end of the meeting, there is time for public comment on other matters of interest. The Board may delay a response until a later time and assign it to the Superintendent for further investigation, clarification, and/or follow-up. After the last School Board meeting, District administrators followed up with phone calls to all those who commented and spoke with several of the individuals. In addition, the following responses have been developed to provide information to the general public on topics that were raised.

Parking for Board Meetings - The Board was questioned as to why some members parked at the back of the high school building for the May 24th Board meeting. This was done at the recommendation of our School Resource Officer and the Chief of Police due to the potential for a protest regarding masks. Thankfully, no police involvement was needed and those who gathered did so in a peaceful manner.

Critical Race Theory and the 1619 Project - Dr. Haldeman provided some information on this topic during the Superintendent's Report at the last meeting. To reiterate, the District has a well-established process for developing and implementing curriculum, which is based on the PA Standards and approved by curriculum leaders and the Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Neither Critical Race Theory nor the 1619 Project are used as the basis of Cocalico's curriculum and are not presented as core content in any of the courses taught here in the Cocalico School District.

Mask and Vaccination Mandates - Last fall, Superintendents and School Board Presidents in public school districts throughout the state of Pennsylvania signed an Attestation form so they could continue to offer in-person instruction to their students, even when their counties were in "substantial" transmission of COVID-19. The Cocalico School Board ratified the Attestation to affirm that the District would follow protocols regarding positive cases in schools and that it would follow the mask order. In lieu of signing and affirming the Attestation, the District would have been required to shift to fully remote learning for all students and to eliminate all in-person extra-curricular activities. On Memorial Day, 2021 the Attestation requirements were lifted, except for the mask order. Our District solicitor confirmed that students, staff and visitors were still required to wear masks while at school for the balance of the current 20-21 school year, unless:

- they had a legitimate medical exemption

- they were outdoors and six feet apart from other people outside their household, or
- they were fully-vaccinated.

As with most other districts in Lancaster County, Cocalico chose not to ask for proof of vaccination in order to exempt some individuals from wearing a mask during the final days of school. Instead, we communicated with our staff and families that we would continue with the previously-established practices for the remainder of the school year.

Noncompliance with the Governor's Face Mask Order - According to the District's solicitor, the Governor's face mask order was "valid and had the 'force of law,' and legal arguments to the contrary were without merit." Districts who blatantly rejected the mask order or reject other legally binding PA Department of Education or Department of Health requirements could face a variety of consequences.

Mask and Vaccination Requirements for the 2021-2022 School Year - All pandemic-related mitigation requirements, including the mask order, have now been lifted. Our Superintendent, Dr. Musser, has spoken directly with Governor Wolf, Senator Aument, and representatives from the PA Department of Education regarding Cocalico School District's expectations that there will be no mask or vaccination requirements for staff or students when school reopens in the fall. Governor Wolf confirmed that it will be up to individual school districts and businesses to determine whether masks will be optional or required, because the state will not be mandating either of these requirements. Senator Aument and those from the PA Department of Education also confirmed that these will be matters of local control.

Budgetary Considerations - At the last meeting there were some questions regarding budgetary deficits and how the District will address them. To address any budgetary deficits, the District will leverage appropriate grant funds and utilize some of the District's committed funds.

Since our public meeting on May 24th, Board members have also gotten some questions regarding state and federal funding and how that ties in with any potential mask or vaccination mandates. It seems important to clarify that as a public school, we are entitled to state and federal funds. Those funds are used each year for remedial programs, special education programs, transportation services, food services, staffing and many other functions of the school district. If we were to refuse these funds, we would need to eliminate a number of programs such as those that were just mentioned. Major tax hikes would be necessary to keep even the most basic programs intact. Regardless, whether or not we accept state or federal funding, if an emergency order or other mandate were to apply to public school districts, there is a legal responsibility to follow the mandate. As public schools, we follow many mandates. We must offer a set number of hours of instruction each year, we must require teachers to be appropriately certificated, we must provide training on child abuse reporting and suicide prevention, we must make sure our buildings meet certain standards, and we must make sure our financial processes meet certain requirements—to name a few of the mandates we must follow. Having said that, however, we are anticipating that masks can remain optional in the school setting when school resumes in the fall, based on communication that has been provided thus far.

Board Members:

Richard Brenner
Pamela Blicke
Juanita Fox

Lin Sensenig
Randy Renninger
Brett Buckwalter

Desiree Wagner
Douglas Graybill
Rev. Kevin Eshleman

Administrators:

Dr. Ella Musser
Sherri L. Stull

Dr. Stephen Melnyk
Chris Irvine

Dr. Beth Haldeman
Scott Bennetch

Visitors:

Tom McCurdy
Shannon McCurdy
Jeremiah Weber
Allison Weber
Maggie Weber
Mollie Weber
Tara Griest
Adam Weber
Michelle Weber
Ted Andrew
Darren Sharp
Amber Sharp
Michelle Hohl
Raymond Hohl
Chris Perkins
John Maier
Amy Maier
Linford Hurst
Suelda Hurst
Amy Weber
Cornel Weber
David Bayley
Dan Burton
Tonia Burton
Amanda Groff

Titus Zimmerman
Nicole Zimmerman
Tyler Rittenour
Matt Landis
Katrine Martin
Christine Stoltzfus
Jon Hibshman
Jared Fritz
Ramona Martin
Rachel Kane
Lonny LeVan
Mary Beth Levan
Lisha Hollinger
Elijah Swangren
Treva Bollinger
Briana Fultz
Wendie Sauder
Janie Good
Alex VanZant
Melia Van Zant
Jason Weidman
Tara Nussbaum
Rodney Nussbaum
Claudia Hambright
Rodney Horst

Faith Horst
Trish Day
Michael Price
Dustin Horning
Rick Jacobs
Tara Jacobs
Leah Shenk
Shawn Buckwalter
Drew Srock
Amy Srock
Johnny Srock
Bronson Reedy
Kristen Updike
Lee Sauder
Lisa Sauder
Falin Gossert
Brian Gossert
Kevin Ebersole
Melissa Ebersole
Shad Sahn
Quint Zwally
Kirstie Zwally
Aubree Fahringer
Kurt Eckenroad

On a motion made by Mr. Buckwalter and seconded by Mr. Renninger, the Board approved the minutes of the School Board meeting held on May 24, 2021. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Made to motion by Mr. Buckwalter and seconded by Ms. Wagner, the Board approved the Treasurer's Report as written. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Beginning Balance 5/1/21

\$28,106,537.71

Receipts:

PDE – Social Security
PDE – Medical Access
PDE – Title I
PDE – Title IIA
PDE – Title IV

256,832.10
3,500.00
46,805.86
9,350.12
2,114.94

PDE – CARES-ESSER	90,398.15
PDE – COVID-SECIM	15,934.65
PDE – NSL	145,338.78
County of Lancaster – Realty Transfer Taxes	40,083.70
County of Lancaster – Delinquent Taxes	74,104.41
LCTCB – Wage Tax	479,618.29
Berkheimer – delinquent per capita	16.50
Ohiopyle – commissions	5.88
Reach Cyber Charter – sport participation fee	2,061.70
RA Solutions – recycled computers	22,019.00
Utica Insurance payment	737.95
Camp Swatara – refund of deposit	950.00
Sponsorship revenue	4,119.00
CEF – supplies & postage	1,483.40
Cocalico Care Center – monthly transportation services	5,560.00
Cocalico Food Service – salaries and benefits	126,157.64
LifeTouch – commissions	1,257.52
Cocalico Education Association – reimburse for substitutes	875.00
District Magistrate – fines	207.49
School Rental/Land Lease	300.00
Mission Inspire Student Fees	737.00
Ephrata Recycling	85.95
Summer School Tuition	700.00
Athletic Fees	2,569.82
Student Fees	70.00
Fuel Sharing Fees	734.16
Insurance Receipts from Retirees	23,738.19
Insurance Receipts from Employees/Cobra	2,664.70
Miscellaneous Income	2,943.04
Interest	2,309.09
Total Receipts	\$1,366,384.03
Total Receipts Plus Beginning Balance	\$29,472,921.74

Expenditures:

Invoices approved for month of May	1,482,705.02
Invoices for Athletics for month of May	6,749.11
Payrolls – 5/7 & 5/21	2,055,711.11
Health Insurance Transfer	400,000.00
Fulton Bank – monthly fee	1,386.28
Total Expenditures	\$3,946,551.52
Void ck#155273-Patrick Zorzi-duplicate payment	(170.00)
Net Expenditures	\$3,946,381.52

Ending Balance 5/31/21**\$25,526,540.22**

Ms. Wagner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig, to approve invoices in the amount of \$961,363.82. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Renninger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig, to approve the Capital Project Fund Account Register in the amount of \$108,320.23. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wagner, for Board approval of a Resolution authorizing the Final Budget. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addenda attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renninger for approval of a Resolution authorizing the 2021 Annual Tax Levy. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Ms. Wagner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig, for Board approval of the 2021-2022 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wagner, for Board approval to authorize the Business Manager to make any year-end budgetary transfers for the 2020-2021 school year required by the auditors. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Renninger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Buckwalter, for Board approval of a Resolution for Commitment of the June 30, 2021 Fund Balance. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Sensenig made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fox, for Board approval of the following bid recommendations: IU13 Joint Purchasing - Art Supplies, IU13 Joint Purchasing - Athletic Trainer/Medical Supplies, IU13 Joint Purchasing -Classroom/Office Supplies, IU13 Joint Purchasing - Custodial Supplies, IU13 Joint Purchasing -Technology Education Supplies, IU13 Joint Purchasing - Copy Paper, IU13 Catalogue and PPE Bid, and Middle School Paving. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addenda attached)

Ms. Wagner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig, for Board approval of the following agreements and quote: PHE+, Lancaster-Lebanon IU13, Caron Foundation, Eastern Lancaster County School District, and New Story. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addenda attached)

Mr. Renninger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig, for Board approval of the following insurance coverages/plan: Package - Utica National Insurance Group, Auto - Utica National Insurance Group, Commercial Umbrella - Utica National Insurance Group, Worker's Compensation - Eastern Alliance Insurance Group, Equipment Breakdown - Utica National Insurance Group (included in package), School Leader's Liability - Utica National Insurance Group (included in package), and Health Reimbursement Arrangement - Trustmark Health Benefits, Inc. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addenda attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig, for Board approval of the Student Accident Insurance Policy. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addenda attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wagner, for Board approval of the disposal/sale of obsolete and unused items. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addenda attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wagner, for Board approval of the exceptions to the official list of graduating seniors. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wagner, for Board approval of the Health and Safety Plan - Summer 2021. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wagner, for Board approval of the School Board meeting dates. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0. (Addendum attached)

PERSONNEL

Mr. Renninger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig, for Board approval of the amended Support Staff Performance Evaluation and 2021-2022 Compensation System. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig, for Board approval of the following personnel items:

- (a) Approval of the following professional staff positions effective the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of all state and district requirements:
 - (1) Kelly Barnett, Elementary Teacher, Bachelor's/Step 1
 - (2) Jayna Class, Middle School Special Education Teacher, Bachelor's/Step 1
 - (3) Madison Dailey, High School Special Education Teacher, Bachelor's/Step 1
 - (4) Jacob Reinsmith, Elementary Teacher, Bachelor's/Step 1

- (b) Approval of the following long-term substitute teachers, pending completion of all state and district requirements:
 - (1) Allyson Butz, Reamstown Elementary, effective the 1st semester of the 2021-2022 school year
 - (2) Tricia Fasnacht, High School English Language Arts, effective September 22, 2021 for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year
 - (3) Seth Long, High School English Language Arts, effective the 2021-2022 school year

Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Renninger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Buckwalter, for Board approval of the following personnel actions:

- (a) Approval of the following support staff resignations:
 - (1) Melissa Arment, part-time Paraprofessional, effective June 4, 2021

- (2) Stephanie Bollinger, part-time Paraprofessional, effective June 4, 2021
- (b) Approval of the following support staff personnel:
 - (1) Jayson Tuttle, substitute Food Service, effective date to be determined

Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Sensenig made a motion, seconded by Mr. Buckwalter, for Board approval of the following personnel actions:

- (a) Approval of STS employed guest teachers
- (b) Approval of staff for summer programs
- (c) Approval of athletic program volunteers per their continued completion of district and state requirements for the 2021-2022 school year
- (d) Approval of doctors/dentists for the 2021-2022 school year

Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Brett Buckwalter reported that the major topic discussed during the last Lancaster-Lebanon IU13 meeting was technology security.

Mr. Richard Brenner reported that many of the honorees at CTC's Certificate and Awards Program were Cocalico students. He also mentioned that the CTC is working on their Health and Safety Plan, similar to all school districts.

Dr. Beth Haldeman provided updates on the various Federal Grant Funding Programs the District participates in, including Title I, IIA, III, and IV, and Esser I, II, and III. She also discussed the HighMark School Grant and Award.

Information on the High School Renovation Project was presented by Dr. Musser, Mr. Eckenroad, and Mrs. Stull:

Dr. Ella Musser provided an overview of the reasons for the project. A Facilities Study showed safety concerns at the entrance to the building as well as inadequate facilities to meet the ever-changing instructional needs of our students. The most predominate educational areas needing updating are the Technology Education and Family and Consumer Science spaces. Renovations to these areas will provide our students with more opportunities to try new programs and learn skills that will help them in their future careers. It was recommended that the auditorium and choral and band practice areas be updated as well.

Mr. Kurt Eckenroad, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reported that the mechanicals in the building need updating due to age and life cycles of equipment. He defined the phases and approximate timeline of the renovation project.

Mrs. Sherri Stull, Business Manager, reported that the District's Capital Fund is healthy and that either a bond issue or bank loan will be utilized to help pay for the project, with additional funds being transferred to the Capital Fund.

Dr. Stephen Melnyk explained the Student Assistance Program and how referrals occur, and discussed the number of referrals made during the 2020-2021 school year. The District has renewed their contract with the Caron Foundation to administer this program.

June 28, 2021

Dr. Ella Musser commented on summer happenings that include Extended School Year, Camp Read-A-Lot, and tutoring. This year, the District is providing bussing to these programs for interested students.

Mr. Richard Brenner thanked Mr. Irvine and the High School team for the wonderful job they did with the graduation ceremony.

Rev. Kevin Eshleman expressed happiness with the District's "zero" debt, which was reported during the budget presentation.

During the general comments portion of the meeting, several residents voiced opinions and concerns: Mr. Adam Weber expressed concerns over the critical race theory. Miss Maggie Weber, a student at the Middle School, spoke of the challenges encountered during the past school year and expressed her views that vaccines and masks should not be mandatory. Ms. Janie Good, parent of two High School students, spoke against masks for all people, vaccinated or unvaccinated and asked that the teaching of critical race theory be banned. Mr. Linford Hurst spoke of non-communication from the Board and questioned the handling of finances. Mr. Lonny LeVan voiced concerns about teachers choosing their own curriculum, and referred to a book that drove home critical race theory. Ms. Rachel Kane enrolled her children in cyber/charter school last year due to the mask requirement and would like to see masks as optional for the coming school year. Mr. Daniel Burton expressed his beliefs that masking our children and the critical race theory are evil and asked the Board to eliminate masks regardless of state mandates and ban critical race theory.

On a motion made by Mr. Renninger, seconded by Mr. Buckwalter, and unanimously agreed to by the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Sherri L. Stull
Secretary