

## **COCALICO SCHOOL DISTRICT Denver, PA**

The regular meeting of the Cocalico School Board of Directors was called to order on Monday, July 26, 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 July 19, 2021 for an Executive Session to discuss legal matters. He also announced that two edits were made to the meeting agenda after it was initially posted on the District website on Sunday, July 25, 2021. Item #9.b. was incorrectly listed as Community Action Partnership's contract to use space at Reamstown Elementary for a preschool classroom, and it was corrected to be listed for Adamstown Elementary. In addition, the words "as per addendum" were added to item #12. The corrected agenda was posted on the website prior to the meeting to replace the initial version. Copies of the agenda that were available to those attending the meeting were also correct.

During the General Comments portion at the beginning of the meeting, Mrs. Suelda Hurst raised questions regarding the Health and Safety Plan, agenda item #12. She questioned the effectiveness of masks and expressed safety concerns regarding vaccinations. Mr. Shad Sahm discussed the mandates and questioned why some districts follow them differently.

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

Masks will be optional in the school setting for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. If any unanticipated mask orders are issued in the future, they will be reviewed with our legal counsel to determine if the District is legally bound to follow them.

As of now, all providers of public transportation must require passengers to wear masks. This includes our school bus provider, Brightbill Transportation. Currently, students who are not wearing a mask when they enter the bus to attend the District's summer programs are provided with one.

ESSER III grants are being offered to school districts as an incentive to provide in-person education for all students; therefore, schools must show they have adopted a Health and Safety Plan to bring students back to school in the fall. However, there is no expectation that schools who receive the funds must automatically require all students to wear masks.

Public education is subject to numerous mandates stemming from state and federal laws, regulations and policies that spell out how school districts can and cannot operate. For example, school districts are required to comply with mandates to meet certain obligations related to instructional hours provided, certification of teachers, obtaining background checks for employees and volunteers, specific processes related to budgeting and finance, child abuse reporting, building codes, and state assessments. In instances where school districts elect to offer discretionary services such as Kindergarten or school transportation services, there are legal obligations that districts must follow

when delivering those services. So public schools are subject to many government mandates that impact a wide array of district operations.

The District will not require staff or students to be vaccinated, though the District may post information on the District webpage about local COVID-19 vaccination opportunities that are developed especially for local students. We recognize the COVID vaccination is a matter of parental choice and do not intend for our communication to be interpreted as an effort to influence that decision.

As for concerns related to Critical Race Theory and other curriculum topics, it seems important to reiterate again that 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. Critical Race Theory (CRT) is not included in the PA Standards, nor is it included in Cocalico's written curriculum. CRT may be included in college or graduate level courses, but it is not typically a core component of K-12 instruction.

Concerns regarding supplemental resources such as book selections or videos that are shared in class should be addressed with the classroom teacher, and then the building principal if the matter is not resolved with the teacher. Curriculum Information and the Resolution Process are described in the school calendar that is mailed to every residence in the Cocalico School District. Remaining questions should be addressed to the District Central Office Administration.

Board Members:

Richard Brenner  
Randall Renninger  
Brett Buckwalter

Lin Sensenig  
Douglas Graybill  
Rev. Kevin Eshleman

Pamela Blicke  
Juanita Fox

Administrators:

Dr. Ella Musser  
Sherri L. Stull  
Anthony DiMatteo  
Rebecca Culbert

Dr. Stephen Melnyk  
Chris Irvine  
Dr. Susan Snyder  
Sherry Luttrell

Dr. Beth Haldeman  
Scott Bennetch  
Dr. Bryan Watkins

Visitors:

James Greist  
Tara Greist  
Christine Letch  
Dan Groff  
Eric Fisher  
Michelle Hohl  
Patti Sensenig  
Joanne Holloway  
Renee Marie  
Greta Stoner  
Sue Rigg  
Jason Weidman  
Wendy Sauder  
Bruce Gentry

Tara Nussbaum  
Rodney Nussbaum  
Ben Hurst  
Jill Hurst  
Vince Youndt  
Amy Youndt  
Darren Sharp  
Amber Sharp  
Mark Cooper  
Stephanie Cooper  
Treva Bollinger  
Tom Baum  
Eli Swangren  
Amy Weber

Cornel Weber  
Jodi Garman  
Tricia Day  
Kathleen Longenecker  
Matt Landis  
Quint Zwally  
Mike Price  
Norlene Steinmetz  
Mary Beth Levan  
Larry Levan  
Falín Gossert  
Brian Gossert  
Jared Fritz  
Korey Eppinette

Amy Eppinette	E. Zimmerman	Tabetha Benton
Katrine Martin	Brent Martin	Blair Mendenhall
Suelda Hurst	Ramona Martin	Briana Fultz
Noah Weaver	Chris Perkins	Daniel Burton
Gretchen Hess	Michelle Weber	Tonia Burton
Jon Hibshman	Adam Weber	Cheri Showalter
Tara Jacobs	Rachel Kane	Kim Fasnacht
Rick Jacobs	Jere Weber	Aubree Fahringer
Tanya Ryder	Ali Weber	Randy Sponsler
Gary Hambright	Ted Andrew	Linford Hurst
Terry Noll	Lee Sauder	Bronson Reedy
Shawn Buckwalter	Lisa Sauder	Brinn Ready
Robyn Renninger	Jason Martin	Tyler Rittenaur
Scott Diven	Leah Shenk	Eric Crouse
Barry Weaver	Julie Palm	Amber Crouse
Kirstie Zwally	Angie Lutz	Melissa Ebersole
Jodie Wenger	Josh Benton	Shad Sahn

On a motion made by Mr. Sensenig and seconded by Mr. Buckwalter, the Board approved the minutes of the School Board meeting held on June 28, 2021. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0. (Addendum attached)

Made to motion by Mr. Renninger and seconded by Mr. Buckwalter, the Board approved the Treasurer's Report as written. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0.

Beginning Balance 6/1/21	\$25,526,540.22
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Receipts:

Cocalico Tax Account	58,087.81
PDE – Basic Education	1,851,202.87
PDE – Special Education	467,615.35
PDE – Retirement	1,225,787.76
PDE – Transportation	52,745.00
PDE – Section 1305 & 1306	39,028.79
PDE – Debt Reimbursement	22,459.50
PDE – Medical Access	6,750.00
PDE – Title I	23,402.93
PDE – Title IIA	4,675.06
PDE – CARES-ESSER	18,079.63
PDE – NSL	147,402.15
Commonwealth of PA – PCCD Grant	90,362.00
Commonwealth of PA – Health Reimbursement	645.94
County of Lancaster – Realty Transfer Taxes	64,024.32
County of Lancaster – Delinquent Taxes	25,960.20
LCTCB – Wage Tax	272,056.57
Lancaster-Lebanon IU#13 – EHCC Pool Reimbursement	39,375.27
Lancaster STEM Alliance – grant	6,200.00
Collegium Charter School – refund	3,388.64
Lincoln Learning – refund	1,495.00
Utica Insurance payment	757.67

Keystone – sale of textbooks	250.00
Mike Bertolino – purchase shed from tech ed class	1,661.71
Cocalico Care Center – monthly transportation services	2,780.00
Cocalico Food Service – salaries and benefits	72,420.63
LifeTouch – commissions	501.10
Stauffer’s Store – commission	188.16
Insight PA – refund	2,197.28
EBSCO – refund	4.56
Cocalico Education Foundation – reimburse for postage	122.96
Cocalico Extra Curricular Account – Senior class trip to Hershey, used PCard	4,443.87
District Magistrate – fines	347.18
School Rental/Land Lease	125.00
Mission Inspire Student Fees	933.00
Ephrata Recycling	544.20
Summer School Tuition	3,675.00
Athletic Fees	2,523.18
AP Testing Fees	12,424.00
Summer Band	560.00
Fuel Sharing Fees	3,481.38
Insurance Receipts from Retirees	9,671.17
Insurance Receipts from Employees/Cobra	2,316.68
Miscellaneous Income	2,685.36
Interest	1,405.21
Total Receipts	\$4,546,764.09
Total Receipts Plus Beginning Balance	\$30,073,304.31
<u>Expenditures:</u>	
Invoices approved for month of June	1,249,389.03
Invoices for Athletics for month of June	7,178.63
Payrolls – 6/4 & 6/18	3,292,517.07
Health Insurance Transfer	1,000,000.00
PSERS – employer’s share	2,433,975.30
Transfer to Capital Projects – erate	6,000.00
Fulton Bank – monthly fee	1,050.42
Total Expenditures	\$7,990,110.45
Void ck#154830-Office Basics, check lost in mail	(145.88)
Net Expenditures	\$7,989,964.57
<b>Ending Balance 6/30/21</b>	<b><u>\$22,083,339.74</u></b>

Mr. Sensenig made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renninger, to approve invoices in the amount of \$1,019,846.30. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Renninger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig, to approve the Capital Project Fund Account Register in the amount of \$667,662.24. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fox, for Board approval of Real Estate Exonerations. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig for Board approval of PSBA Volunteers Accident Insurance, Aetna Stop Loss Application and Schedule of Insurance, and Cocalico School District Trustmark HRA. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0. (Addenda attached)

Mr. Renninger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Buckwalter, for Board approval of the following agreement and contract: UGI two-year pricing agreement for delivery of natural gas and Siemens three-year agreement for various maintenance and support. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0. (Addenda attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fox, for Board approval of Lease Agreements for Denver Elementary, Community Action Partnership's Thrive to Five (formally Head Start), Adamstown Elementary, Community Action Partnership's Thrive to Five (formally Head Start), and Reamstown Elementary, Luthercare's pre-K program. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0. (Addenda attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renninger, for Board approval of a quote from Sage Technology Solutions. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Sensenig made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renninger, for Board approval of special education supplemental contracts. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0. (Addenda attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig, for Board approval of the Health and Safety Plan for 2021-2022. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0. (Addendum attached)

Mr. Buckwalter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sensenig, for Board approval of Dr. Bryan Watkins, Principal of Reamstown Elementary and Mrs. Rebecca Culbert, Assistant Elementary Principal, as District Attendance Officers. Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0.

## **PERSONNEL**

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

- (a) Approval of the following professional contracts for teachers:
  - (1) Chelsea Bear, Middle School Learning Support
  - (2) Elizabeth Hannan, Middle School Health/Physical Education
  - (3) Ivy Matt, High School Family and Consumer Science
  - (4) Mason Musser, Middle School Mathematics
  - (5) Casey Quinto, Middle School English Language Arts

(b) Approval of the following professional staff resignation:

(1) Allyson Butz, Elementary LTS (for Samantha Hatt), effective date TBD

Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0.

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

(a) Approval of the following long-term substitute teacher, pending completion of all state and district requirements:

(1) Emily Smyth, Reamstown Elementary, Effective August 19, 2021

(b) Approval of the following support staff resignations:

(1) Breanna Brubaker, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective July 19, 2021

(2) Caroline Hatala, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective July 30, 2021

(3) Jessica Winter, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective July 20, 2021

(c) Approval of the following support staff personnel:

(1) Kristin Beaver, Food Service Worker, effective date to be determined

(2) Russell Boone, Technology Specialist I, effective date July 1, 2021

(3) Felicia Earhart, Administrative Assistant, effective date August 2, 2021

(4) Amy Engle, Food Service Worker, effective date August 2, 2021

(5) Kristin Martin, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective date July 26, 2021

(6) Suzanne Wentzel, Food Service Worker, effective date August 16, 2021

(d) Approval of supplemental contracts for the 2021-2022 school year, for athletic coaches, pending the completion of PIAA mandatory coursework, as well as the continued completion of district and state requirements for the 2021-2022 school year

(e) Approval of athletic and marching band volunteers, per their continued completion of district and state requirements for the 2021-2022 school year

Roll call vote, all members voting yes. Motion carried 8-0.

Dr. Beth Haldeman spoke on the ARP ESSER III grant, explaining that its purpose is to address learning loss associated with the pandemic. The District will receive approximately \$2,600,000 to be used over the next three years. Plans are to allocate 20% for academic recovery and 80% towards new teachers, maintaining the home visitor, and additional psychologist services.

Dr. Ella Musser advised that the Auditor General's office will conduct their 4-year state audit beginning in August. She also reported that Food Services received a grant for \$3,200. She noted that many students participated in the summer programs, and that as we approach August, the athletes will be returning and the summer mailings to both staff and students will be sent out.

During the general comments portion of the meeting, several residents voiced opinions and concerns: Mrs. Michele Weber and Mrs. Amy Weber expressed concerns over the Critical Race Theory. Mrs. Brianna Fultz reported that she conducted a survey of taxpayers and parents on various subjects including the District's handling of the pandemic, the Health and Safety Plan, vaccines, and the Critical Race Theory.

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Mr. Dan Burton spoke on masks, social distancing, contact tracing, quarantining, the District Health and Safety Plan, and the Critical Race Theory, and requested open communication with the community. Mrs. Kirstie Zwally voiced concerns regarding how teachers add to the curriculum without administration approval, and commented on the hardship parents face with quarantines. Mr. Tom Baum asked that the District not be terrified with the Delta variant and commented that it makes no sense to mask those who are not ill. Mrs. Katrine Martin stated that she sees no validity in the Health and Safety Plan and that individuals should be able to choose their own options. Mrs. Rachel Kane stated that she did not receive the Health and Safety Plan survey. She questioned the CDC guidelines and definition of "guidelines". Mrs. Wendie Sauder reminded the Board of who they are and asked them to advocate against some of the evil occurring. Mrs. Melissa Ebersole asked how she could get to know the curriculum being taught to each of her children. Mr. Matt Landis reported that the District kept students safe by practicing deep cleaning, social distancing, hybrid schedules and masking, and that no cases were a result of transmission within the buildings.

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

Sherri L. Stull  
Secretary