

# Minutes

9:00 a.m., August 27, 2021, Called Meeting

## Lancaster County School District Board of Trustees Called Meeting

### In attendance

#### Board members present-

Ken Buck, Janice Dabney (Vice Chair), Tyrom Faulkner (Chair), Margaret Gamble, Bobby Parker (Secretary), Brad Small, and Melvin Stroble

#### Board members absent-

#### District personnel-

TJ Armbrust (LearnTV), Rachel Bradley (Superintendent's Assistant), Rick Chandler (Attorney), Michelle Craig (Public Information Specialist), Butch Dutton (Secondary Director), Leigh Lever (District Nurse), Lindsey Marino (Student Services Director), Jonathan Phipps (Superintendent), Lonnie Plyler (Safety & Transportation), David Small (Facilities Director), Blake Stacks (IT Director), Quinton Thomas (LearnTV), and Bryan Vaughn (Safety & Transportation Director)

#### Guests-

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#### Press-

Morgan Newell (WBTV), Renee Oneil (CN2), Fox46, Mac Banks (The Lancaster News), Greg Suskin & John Evans (WSOC)

#### Citizens-

19

### Open session

#### Call to order and invocation- BABA

At 9:00 a.m., the chair called the meeting to order. Mr. Faulkner gave the INVOCATION.

#### Notice to media- BCBB

In accordance with the SC Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, Cable 2, The Herald, the Kershaw News Era, The Lancaster News, WBTV, WRHM and WSOC were notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

#### Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance - BCB

At 9:02 a.m., the chair welcomed the public on behalf of the board.

#### Approval of meeting agenda- BCBD

The chair called for approval of the agenda as emailed. In open session, a MOTION was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Dabney to amend the agenda and move Discussion Information item F2, Mask mandate, to before section D, Public Forum. The motion PASSED unanimously (7-0). The agenda was approved as amended. The motion PASSED unanimously (7-0).

**Mask mandate-**

Dr. Phipps introduced Mr. Vaughn who discussed the new federal mask mandate on school buses that was released on August 26th. Mr. Vaughn updated the board that at the very beginning of the school year masking was optional on buses to follow the recommendation of the state department of education. There was discussion at the federal and state level regarding the masking mandates on buses and the outcome of those were to now require masks on school buses. Mr. Vaughn explained the disciplinary action that will be taken for students that continually refuse to wear a mask while riding the bus.

**Public forum-  
BCBI**

The chair outlined the procedures for addressing the board and invited any member of the audience to come forward. Sixteen members of the public came forward. Ms. Tonya Ross, Ms. Ashley Fritchley, Ms. Demetra Cornwell, Ms. Amanda Contesso, Ms. Lori Cross, Ms. Chelsea-Rae Sane, Ms. Heather Brasington, Ms. Courtney Green, Ms. Chrissy VanMeter, Mr. Cory Mullis, Ms. Heather Howard, Mr. Matt Rossano, Ms. Kim Jenson, Ms. Stacia Gaa, and Ms. Michaela Noojin all came to speak to the board about their concerns regarding COVID-19 safety, quarantine, and masking guidelines as well as the possibility of a virtual option for students through the school district.

**Recommendation to approve proposed updated COVID-19 quarantine plan-**

Dr. Phipps recognized Ms. Quinn and Ms. Leigh Lever who went over the updated quarantine guidelines which include the 10-day quarantine option released by the CDC and SC DHEC. This new option was added to the district's guidelines in hopes of providing some flexibility to parents, students, and staff as well as trying to balance keeping students and staff safe. The introduction of the 10-day quarantine option allows for the district to monitor the positive and close contact data and determine if implementing the 7-day quarantine option would be feasible in the future. School and nursing staff are currently overburdened with the COVID-19 paperwork and duties and adding on the additional duties under the 10-day and 7-day options without extra help would severely effect the staff. COVID-19 clerical assistant positions have been posted for every school in the district to hopefully alleviate some of the COVID-19 workload off of the school staff and nurses.

A **MOTION** to approve the updated quarantine plan to include the 10-day option as presented by the district was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Dabney.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

A **MOTION** to work to modify the approved newly updated quarantine plan to include the 7-day option as outlined by SC DHEC COVID-19 guidance for K-12 school identified on page 15, additionally, the board authorizes the use of ESSER funds to acquire resources needed to implement the 7-day option was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Dabney.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

**Recommendation to approve proposed 2021-2022 virtual option for students-**

Dr. Phipps recognized Ms. Quinn who explains to the board that in May when the numbers of interested students came in regarding attending a virtual academy through the district there was not enough interest to commit the staff needed to run that program. The COVID-19 cases have increased over the last few weeks in August and parent interest in a virtual program option has significantly increased. Ms. Quinn stated that with permission from the board, the district would survey parents for interest in switching to a virtual program. The results would provide information needed to determine the amount of staff needed to run the program successfully. Ms. Quinn also asked for permission to seek out the necessary employees who would be interested in filling the positions in the virtual academy. The timeline for this process would be roughly at least eight weeks, with sending out the surveys, processing the survey results, finding and hiring teachers, and getting the program set up and ready for students.

A **MOTION** to approve the proposed 2021-2022 virtual option for students was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Dabney.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).

Ms. Gamble abstained.

**COVID-19 Update-**

Dr. Phipps recognized Ms. Quinn who gave an update on the county and district COVID-19 numbers. Ms. Quinn showed the board the current week's numbers in comparison to the same time as last year. Dr. Phipps briefly explained to the board how teachers and staff will check on students who are in quarantine or participating in the virtual option that may have not logged in or connected with their teacher in a few days. Dr. Phipps also mentioned the limited options regarding providing meals to students who are virtual.

**Adjournment-  
BCBF**

With no other business before the board, the chair adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Robert W. Parker, Secretary

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Tyrom Faulkner, Chair