

HANOVER PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Administration Building

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

6:00 P.M

MINUTES

- A. Opening Business
- Call to Order - 6:00 PM
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Roll Call
 - Board Members Present: Mr. Frederick, Mrs. Gallagher, Mrs. Gulden, Mr. Huston, Mr. Kauffman, Mrs. Keeney, Mr. Lippy, Mr. Reck, Mrs. Shea
 - Also Present: Dr. Scola, David Fry, Troy Wentz, via zoom several District administrators, Gloria Sanders
- B. Recognition of Visitors: None
- C. Public Comments: The following comments were received prior to the meeting and read into the meeting by Board Secretary Troy Wentz

Lindsay Laird Clancy, 811 Blossom Drive Hanover PA -- I will be doing online schooling, we have a high risk child who is 2 and high risk grandparents and the risk is not worth it.

Dan Gruver, 846 Blossom Dr. Hanover PA -- I would like to see a concerted effort to ensure that the seniors have as close to a normal school year as possible. Thanks.

Keith Smith, 23 4th Street, Hanover, PA -- The district's goal should not just be to open our schools, but to open them in a way that will keep them open. Please base your decision on facts, science & safety. The modeling provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education clearly shows the recklessness of a return as normal. We will not even reach the end of September before cases populate every building in the district. The blend model does not guarantee normalcy, but it buys us more time with smaller class sizes and easier social distancing. Masks MUST also be part of the blend model. The CDC, WHO & every epidemiologist stress the importance of masks in slowing down the spread. In the end, the district may have to go virtual in the late fall & winter. Blend will give the students more face-to-face time because it will put off that possibly inevitable decision for months longer according to PDE's modeling. Thank you for your hard work on this challenging decision.

Carey Plumlee, 239 Baer Avenue, Hanover, PA -- Will the district be providing PPE to all of the teachers and staff in the schools? Will the district provide masks to those students that cannot afford a mask? Will face shields for students be allowed?

Ashley Riggelman, 414 Baltimore Street, Hanover, PA -- If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19 are they required to quarantine for 14 days? If so does all students who were in contact with that teacher have to quarantine and will it be counted as absence towards them? Where is the district going to find substitute teachers who is willing to come into a classroom if a teacher is out due to possible COVID-19? What if a student test positive will all students be required to be tested and/or quarantine? Will the parents be notified who is infected and when? Or will we just get emails stating "may have been in contact"? Will face

coverings be required all day while in school or can they have them off when sitting at the desk? How will lunch be served and is there room in each class for the students to be 6 ft apart from each other?

Jennifer Mentzer, 16 Maple Ave Hanover -- My comment is that we should return to school. My children are used to that school setting schedule and it makes it hard at home to continue that school schedule home is home for homework etc school is school it's different. When everything happened in March it was a HUGE stresser trying to get school stuff done when a child refuses. There has not been many cases involving kids and if there was it wasn't a big issue unless they have other health concerns. Then parents should keep those kids home!

Stacey Zitto, 429 Clearview Rd., Hanover, PA -- 30% of the teachers in the US are over 50. About 16% of the total deaths in the US are people between the ages of 45-65.

We are choosing to put our teachers in danger.

We're not paying them more.

We aren't spending anywhere near the right amount to protect them. And in turn, we are putting ourselves and our kids in danger."

This is another:

" To our fellow FCPS families, this is it gang, 5 days until the 2 days in school vs. 100% virtual decision. Let's talk it out, in my traditional mammoth TL/DR form.

Like all of you, I've seen my feed become a flood of anxiety and faux expertise. You'll get no presumption of expertise here. This is how I am looking at and considering this issue and the positions people have taken in my feed and in the hundred or so FCPS discussion groups that have popped up. The lead comments in quotes are taken directly from my feed and those boards. Sometimes I try to rationalize them. Sometimes I'm just punching back at the void.

Full disclosure, we initially chose the 2 days option and are now having serious reservations. As I consider the positions and arguments I see in my feed, these are where my mind goes. Of note, when I started working on this piece at 12:19 PM today the COVID death tally in the United States stood at 133,420.

"My kids want to go back to school."

I challenge that position. I believe what the kids desire is more abstract. I believe what they want is a return to normalcy. They want their idea of yesterday. And yesterday isn't on the menu.

"I want my child in school so they can socialize."

This was the principle reason for our 2 days decision. As I think more on it though, what do we think 'social' will look like? There aren't going to be any lunch table groups, any lockers, any recess games, any study halls, any sitting next to friends, any talking to people in the hallway, any dances. All of that is off the menu. So, when we say that we want the kids to benefit from the social experience, what are we deluding ourselves into thinking in-building socialization will actually look like in the Fall?

"My kid is going to be left behind."

Left behind who? The entire country is grappling with the same issue, by talking about, that's right around 0%.

"If the grocery store workers can be onsite what are the teachers afraid of?"

(Deep breath) A grocery store worker, who absolutely risks exposure, has either six feet of space or a plexiglass shield between them and individual adult customers who can grasp their own mortality whose transactions can be completed in moments, in a 40,000 SF space.

A teacher is with 11 'customers' who have not an inkling what mortality is, for 45 minutes, in a 675 SF space, six times a day.

Just stop.

"Teachers are choosing remote because they don't want to work."

(Deep breaths) Many teachers are opting to be remote. That is not a vacation. They're requesting to do

their job at a safer site. Just like many, many people who work in buildings with recycled air have done. And likely the building you're not going into has a newer and better serviced air system than our schools. Of greater interest to me is the number of teachers choosing the 100% virtual option for their children. The people who spend the most time in the buildings are the same ones electing not to send their children into those buildings. That's something I pay attention to.

"I wasn't prepared to be a parent 24/7" and "I just need a break."

I truly, deeply respect that honesty. Truth be told, both arguments have crossed my mind. Pre COVID, I routinely worked from home 1 – 2 days a week. The solace was nice. When I was in the office, I had an actual office, a room with a door I could close, where I could focus. During the quarantine that hasn't always been the case. I've been frustrated, I've been short, I've gone to just take a drive and get the hell away for a moment and been disgusted when one of the kids sees me and asks me to come for a ride, robbing me of those minutes of silence. You want to hear silence. I get it. I really, really do.

Here's another version of that, admittedly extreme. What if one of our kids becomes one of the 302?

What's that silence going to sound like? What if you have one of those matted frames where you add the kid's school picture every year? What if you don't get to finish the pictures?

"What does your gut tell you to do?"

Shawn and I have talked ad infinitum about all of these and other points. Two days ago, at mid-discussion I said, "Stop, right now, gut answer, what is it," and we both said, "virtual."

A lot of the arguments I hear people making for the 2 days sound like we're trying to talk ourselves into ignoring our instincts, they are almost exclusively, "We're doing 2 days, but...". There's a fantastic book by Gavin de Becker, *The Gift of Fear*, which I'll minimize for you thusly: your gut instinct is a hardwired part of your brain and you should listen to it. In the introduction he talks about elevators, and how, of all living things, humans are the only ones that would voluntarily get into a soundproof steel box with a potential predator just so they could skip a flight of stairs.

I keep thinking that the 2 days option is the soundproof steel box. I welcome, damn, beg, anyone to convince me otherwise.

At the time I started writing at 12:09 PM, 133,420 Americans had died from COVID. Upon completing this draft at 7:04 PM, that number rose to 133,940.

520 Americans died of COVID while I was working on this. In seven hours.

The length of a school day."

Aaron Re, 12 Kuhn Drive Hanover, PA -- I do not know how you can make a decision for everyone that potentially impacts the health of our children, I feel only the parents can make that choice. I feel there are still too many unknowns for anyone to be able to proclaim they have the "correct" or "safe" answer. Schools seem to be a place that spreads disease each and every year and no doubt this year will be the same. There is also no doubt that some parents have no option to keep their children home during the day due to their jobs. I think there is a solution to accommodate the needs of all, including faculty who may be at risk. Teachers should prepare to teach online from their classrooms, those parents who choose to keep their children at home can do so and those who choose to send their children can do so. Students can set at their desks in the classroom and receive the instruction live and those who are at home can watch on their chromebooks. The need for an online option is paramount because it seems anyone who catches this disease will need to be out of school for at least a week or more, so having the online learning available makes sure they do not fall behind. If a faculty member chooses or needs to remain home they could still broadcast their class from home, students whose teachers are teaching remotely could report to the auditorium or gym or other empty classroom to watch the lesson wearing headphones. None of this is perfect and in every scenario there will be faculty or students who potentially will be "at risk", there will be no perfect execution of this process all you can do is continue to adapt as more information becomes available. Regardless of your decision the parents will ultimately make their own, to do what they feel is best for the most precious thing in their lives, and at this point in time I do not know

which I would choose for my children.

Cherie Smith, 712 Blossom Dr., Hanover, PA -- First, I want to acknowledge that the school board is currently facing an impossible decision. No matter what you decide, there will be many families and students upset with your decision. At this point, claims of expertise are coming from all directions, often with differing or even conflicting opinions. So, I make no claim to have expertise in what is to come. I can only speak for myself and my son. Is it worth the risk for staff and students to return to school? How can you put a price on even one life? Furthermore, students come home to potentially infect other high risk people. I am in this group, being immune compromised. As you sit in your virtual meeting this evening, I ask you why are you not sitting in a room together? If you don't consider it safe to sit in a room together for a few hours, how can you possibly ask our students to do this several hours a day for even a couple days a week? Therefore, while it may be complicated and present challenges, I feel our only responsible choice is to continue remote learning at this time. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jessica, Hanover, PA -- I really feel the school is equipped to have the students come full time. My daughter is supposed to start her kindergarten experience this year and she is so excited, it would devastate her not to be able to actually go through kindergarten. I feel for her age, online schooling will not work she doesn't have the patience to sit and complete hours of online learning. I really would like the school board to consider opening full time. Again, I do not want to have to tell my 5 year old no I am sorry, but you'll miss the kindergarten experience.

Ronda Zeigler, 241 Grant Drive, Hanover, PA 17331 -- The question as to whether our students and faculty should return to the classroom is not an easy question to answer. It's not a simple "yes" or a "no". The more appropriate question is: can our students and faculty SAFELY return to the classroom? I believe yes, with proper planning and training for both students and faculty.

Students need to be in the classroom. I think all students suffer from not being in the classroom. There is an element of learning that doesn't come from a textbook or completing an assignment. The classroom discussion and interaction was suddenly gone from their lives last March. Each student has a learning style. The auditory learner has probably suffered the most by not being in a classroom. But all students have suffered by the lack of social interaction that previously occurred in the classroom. Receiving an assignment via email/Firefly etc. just isn't the same. Having the teacher available for a briefer time span via zoom just isn't the same.

Our district also has to be sensitive to needs of the students who don't have internet service at home. Even though there were free offers of internet service last spring, most had a cap on the amount of data the ISP would provide free. In a home with multiple students, this could be a problem. In addition, there are always students who are more academically challenged than others. It's very difficult for a teacher to see a student struggling with the subject matter when they don't physically see the student.

How to open school safely should be everyone's concern in our community. Temperature taking at the entrances, contact tracing forms signed in homeroom or on line through Fire Fly, allowing time to properly sanitize the classroom between classes, face coverings...whether it's a mask or a shield need to be mandatory—particularly when the bell rings and hallways are crowded. Hand sanitizer in every room and in the hallways. There are multiple products approved by the CDC that kill COVID in 5 minutes. Using products properly is the key to success.

I'd suggest start by opening school full time. Should a student or faculty member test positive for COVID, shut down for 14 days. Do distanced learning during that time frame. Anyone who had contact with that student/faculty member would then be self-quarantined. The person who tested positive needs to test negative 2 times over 14 days to be cleared to return to school. If there is a high number of people that test positive from the one infected individual, consider mandatory testing for ANYONE who had contact with the person...looking for the asymptomatic carrier. During the 14 day shut down, the building gets

sanitized. Cut a deal with Hanover Hospital for the testing. They told me they get results back in 24-48 hours. I was tested there for an out-patient procedure. The faster you have results the faster a large outbreak can be contained. As a community working together we can SAFELY put our students, faculty, and staff back in these buildings. We must have a "can-do" attitude and proactively attack this challenge.

Jennifer Mentzer, 16 Maple Ave Hanover -- My comment is that we should return to school. My children are used to that school setting schedule and it makes it hard at home to continue that school schedule home is home for homework etc school is school it's different. When everything happen in March it was a HUGE stresser trying to get school stuff done when A child refuses. There has not been many cases involving kids and if there was it wasn't a big issue unless they have other health concerns. Then parents should keep those kids home!

Matthew Wilson, 250 Baer Ave, Hanover, PA 17331 -- Our special needs kids cannot keep doing this distance learning. They will not benefit the way that Neurotypical kids can and even that is limited.

Lindsay, 231 3rd Street, Hanover, PA -- If a student becomes sick with COVID and passes away, are you prepared to offer emotional support for their peers?

Donna Neiderer, 1028 Keith Drive -- I support full reopening. There are other countries opening fully with great success and may be a model if needed. My children work much better onsite than online.

Laurie Miller, 332 High Street -- My comment is about the masks, I sincerely hope when school is back in session my son does not have to wear one. I understand some parents might disagree and that is their choice, the choice to not have my son wear a mask is mine. This has been a troublesome time and my son was doing well in school until there was no more attending school. He needs to be in a learning environment with other students, his friends, and his teachers. I hope that it will be taken into consideration that we all should have a choice when it comes to our children's welfare and well being. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to share my thoughts.

Kate Lamberton, 312 Baer Avenue Hanover, PA 17331 -- While I understand the desire to get our children "back to school", the very fact that this meeting is being held virtually, via ZOOM, should be incredibly telling about the safety of schools reopening in a few weeks. I would highly encourage the board to put in place mandatory virtual learning via HOLA for the safety of the staff, faculty, students, and families and friends of all Nighthawks. There are too many unknowns at this time. Florida recently reported that 31.1% of children tested for COVID-19 tested positive for the virus. Survivors are showing little to no preserved immunity, and there is a wide range of side and after-effects. I know that this puts a strain on families, having to supervise education from home, but I truly believe it's in the best interest of all families, faculty, and staff.

Michelle Feeser, 5 Paul Street -- My family strongly believes students should return to school on a full time basis with safety precautions in place. A mask is appropriate for transitions in the hall. We believe in home learning is not the same quality of education as in the classroom. It is important for a student's mental and physical health to have interaction with peers and teachers. Students need the structure and support of in classroom teaching to learn. Please allow students to return full time.

Erica A. Wilson, Baer Ave -- I hope that the reopening takes the needs of specialized and individualized education students into consideration. We have been without learning appropriate for our child since March. Zoom meetings for 20 min at a time and packets sent home not tailored for a special child do not meet the learning requirements when a child requires aids and therapists to make it through a day.

D. Personnel

Bus and Van Drivers - The Board was requested to approve the following drivers employed by Lincoln Intermediate Unit and Lincoln:

Lincoln Drivers

Heather Beall
Trinida Flanagan
Douglas Geeting
Betty Hunt
Austyn Pritt
Amy Ryder
Timothy Stevens
Penny Teal
Megan Warner
James Weisz

LIU Drivers

Debra Campbell
Beth Corson
Pamela Ellis
John Goff
Barbara Greason
Melissa Link
Stephen Morgan
David Moses
Teresa Noel
Teresa Richards
Glenna Riley
Ana Rodriguez-Lucret
Brenda Rowalt-Shellehammer

BOARD ACTION:

Mr. Reck made a motion to approve the personnel items as presented. Second by Mrs. Gallagher and approved on a roll call vote of 9-0.

E. 2020-2021 School Calendar

The Administration recommended the approval of a revised 2020-2021 School Calendar ([enclosure](#))

BOARD ACTION:

Mrs. Shea made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 school calendar as presented. Second by Mr. Reck and approved on a roll call vote of 9-0.

F. Health and Safety Plan Phased Reopening COVID-19 Pandemic

The Administration recommended the approval of the Health and Safety Plan Hanover Public School District Phased Reopening COVID-19 Pandemic 2020-2021 ([enclosure](#))

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Scola presented the Health and Safety Plan along with District administrators and Gloria Sanders, lead nurse in the District. The staff and parents were thanked for input and indication that a leader needs to listen and be adaptive. The plan is available on the School District website. A slide presentation was presented to the Board Members and Public. Mr. Kauffman asked that the March 31 snow day be removed from the calendar, as that day is now an in school day as a trade with September 4 being a non school day. Mr. Reck asked about the two hour first day for Kindergarten, Fifth Grade and Ninth Grade on August 20 where transportation will be provided that day. Mr. Frederick asked about the A/B instruction model which will include instruction each day with students responsible for the material on the days they are not in the building. An opt out by parents is available for their student to take Hanover Public School District on line courses and several alternative programs are available that allow the student to have the regular participation in Hanover Public School District activities and a Hanover Public School District diploma. Questions should be addressed to the building principals. Mr. Reck asked about the parent opt out. Mr. Kauffman asked how the A/B students will be determined through the alphabet. Mr. Kauffman asked about senior privileges which will be available as much as possible. Mrs. Keeney asked if the District has masks available for students and the District has a supply of 2,000 for students who don't bring a mask. Department of Health guidelines will be utilized through contact of the Department of Health for any known health issues that develop. Mr. Frederick asked regarding the Department of Health procedures and notification. For any cases the Department of Health will be contacted and their protocols will be followed. Dr. Scola indicated that the plan is not perfect due to the nature of COVID and that adjustments will be made as necessary and further guidance is given. Mrs. Keeney asked if lessons will be live and recorded and they will be.

BOARD ACTION:

Mrs. Shea made a motion to approve the health and safety plan phased reopening COVID-19 pandemic. Second by Mr. Reck and approved on a roll call vote of 9-0.

G. Budget and Finance

Capital Reserve - Concrete Pads and Bleachers Baseball Field - The Board was requested to approve the following items from Capital Reserve:

Randy Brady Masonry - concrete pads - dugout and bleachers \$11,100 BSN Sports - bleacher sets \$6,600

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Gulden commented that concerns that the baseball field was not as up to date as the softball field and consistent and needed addressed along with safety factors related to the fencing.

BOARD ACTION:

Mrs. Gulden made a motion to approve the capital reserve as presented. Second by Mrs. Keeney and approved on a roll call vote of 9-0.

H. Public Comment: None

I. Adjournment: Mr. Frederick adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Next Planning Meeting - Monday, August 10, at 6:00 PM.
Next Board Meeting - Monday, August 24, at 6:00 PM.

Troy S Wentz