

**PROPOSED**  
**WARRICK COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**August 9, 2020**

The Warrick County Board of School Trustees met in regular session on August 9, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Services Building with all members present. President Tim Mosbey called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Patron Concerns**

**Jim Post**, came before the Board to discuss the current change in the mask policy. Mr. Post explained that he feels it is a student and that family's right to choose whether or not they wear a mask.

**Shawn Turi**, came before the Board to speak against the mask policy. Mr. Turi asked about carbon dioxide levels in the classroom and how the school Board plans to meet Title 410 IAC 33-4-2. He also spoke about OSHA and mask wearing regulations in regards to workers and exposure to co2 while wearing a mask. Mr. Turi asked the Board for the right to choose for his children.

**Angela Oxby**, came before the Board to speak about her concerns regarding bus transportation. Mrs. Oxby voiced her concern that her child has to walk two miles home because there are no routes that run to her neighborhood. She also brought up the Covid protocol of no transfer busses, and the fact that this has created a mess for parents and families.

**Mary Bruce**, came before the Board to speak against the mask policy. Mrs. Bruce stated that she feels it is the right of a parent to choose whether or not to mask her child. Mrs. Bruce voiced concerns of the safety of wearing masks. She also stated that she felt her basic rights as a parent have been stripped away by this policy.

**Cori Meunier**, came before the Board to speak against the mask policy. Mrs. Meunier stated that she is disappointed that her ability to choose a parent has been stripped away. Mrs. Meunier described her experiences with families upon receiving the news that masks were no longer optional, and the anxiety this has caused within her own household. She also asked why WCSC didn't just push back the start date of school. Mrs. Meunier also stated that it is the job of the school Board to do what is best for the children, and listen to information presented by the parents. She urged the Board to review the data that had been submitted, and quit asking our kids to be protectors, and instead let them be normal kids.

**Dany Nickens**, came before the Board to speak against the mask policy. Mrs. Nickens described several issues with her child and others receiving punishment for not properly wearing their masks last year. Mrs. Nickens shared her worry that younger students would not be able to properly see their teachers' mouths to sound out words and letters. She also shared information regarding masks.

**Jay Purdy**, came before the Board to speak against the mask policy. Mr. Purdy shared his concerns regarding long term mask wearing, and asked the Board to put the kids first.

**Dustin Whobrey**, came before the Board to speak against the mask policy. Mr. Whobrey stated that those who wish to vaccinate and wear a mask are free to do so, but no one should make the others do it just because they are scared. Mr. Whobrey also stated that there is a mass exodus from public schooling, so much so the waiting lists are closed for private schools. He further stated that he has never had a problem with the WCSC teachers or principals and has only had good experiences.

**Melanie and Emily King**, came before the Board to speak against the mask policy. Mrs. King spoke about the impacts the pandemic had on educating our children, and asked if masking played a role in that. She added that her family tried various masks and shields, but the bottom line was that they were distracting and uncomfortable and they couldn't breathe. Mrs. King spoke of times when her kids and others were disciplined for pulling their masks down in the cafeteria and outside when it was hot. Mrs. King shared her concern for the type of mask being worn and the length at which the children wear them. Mrs. King added that it should not be the burden of healthy children to save the world and stop a pandemic. She added that our kids need socialization, and feels that we are focused on the wrong issue. She also brought up issues within quarantine protocols and virtual learning. Mrs. King asked the Board to please consider what they are getting ready to put our kids through and let the parents choose.

Mrs. King's daughter, Emily, spoke about her experience with masks in school. Emily explained that it was hard to hear the teacher because their voices were muffled. She explained her heightened anxiety and her discipline experiences. She stated that she felt trapped, and asked the Board to take away the masks.

**Chad Beisler**, came before the Board to speak against the mask policy. Mr. Beisler asked if the Board plans on requiring the students to wear an N95 mask, as these are the only masks that are proven effective. He also asked how masks remain effective if they are being touched all day. Mr. Beisler asked the Board to stand up and do the right thing for our students and asked what the exit strategy is.

**Jennifer Adair**, came before the Board to speak against the mask policy. Mrs. Adair asked the Board to review all the information given to them tonight, and remove the mask policy. She urged the Board to listen to the facts and do their research.

**Michael Martin**, came before to speak against the mask mandate. Mr. Martin spoke about the effects of quarantine, mask mandates, and closures have had on his children. He went on to discuss his discipline issues at work in regards to masks.

Mr. Jordan Aigner asked for a five minute recess.

### **Consideration of Routine Items**

A motion was made by Jane Wilhelmus and seconded by Jeff Baker to approve the following Routine Items, as listed:

- A. Approve the minutes of the School Board meeting held on July 26, 2021
- B. Approve Claims 1-101 dated August 9, 2021 and sign the docket
- C. Approve the Requests for Professional Leave

Motion carried.

### **Consideration of Items for Board Action**

- A. A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Stephanie Gerhardt to approve the memorandum of understanding with Educational Testing Service (ETS) regarding the HiSet test, our High School Equivalency exam, and has been reviewed by the Board attorney. I recommend the Board approve the MOU with ETS regarding the HiSet, as presented. Motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Jane Wilhelmus to approve the request to change to a new Advanced Placement (AP) Biology textbook. This request is being made because the current textbook is no longer on the approved AP list. Additionally, the materials we are requesting you to approve are free online and low cost in print. I recommend the Board approve the request for the updated AP Biology book, as presented. Motion carried.
- C. A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Jane Wilhelmus to approve Policy 2435 - the Teacher Appreciation Grant. This policy must be updated annually. I recommend that you approve Policy 2435, as presented. Motion carried.
- D. A motion was made by Jeff Baker and seconded by Jane Wilhelmus to accept donation to Castle North Middle School for \$3,000.00 from the Castle North Middle School PTO. These funds are to be used in purchase of a new sound system for the gymnasium. I recommend that you approve the donation, as presented. Motion carried.
- E. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Jordan Aigner to accept a donation to Tennyson Elementary from Baker Chapel UMC for \$500.00. These funds are to be used to support the Tennyson Backpack Program. I recommend that you approve the donation, as presented. Motion carried.

## **Consideration of Personnel Recommendations**

Dr. Doug Gresham presented recommendations for employment and requests for leave of absence. Upon his recommendation:

### A. Consideration of Employment:

1. A motion was made by Stephanie Gerhardt and seconded by Jeff Baker to employ the following:
  - **Brooke Strange**, Temporary Kindergarten Teacher at Sharon Elementary School
  - **Tera Heldt**, Temporary Kindergarten Teacher at John H. Elementary School
  - **Misty Lickey**, Temporary Kindergarten Teacher at Chandler Elementary School
  - **Julie Waters**, Temporary Program Assistant at Sharon Elementary School

### B. Consideration of Employment of the following positions which have been hired by Dr. Lambert:

1. A motion was made by Brenda Metzger and seconded by Lynda Glover to employ the following:
  - **Gennifer Willis**, 5th Grade at Chandler Elementary
  - **Mari Lyn Clark**, English Teacher at Boonville High School
  - **Paxton Britt**, 1st Grade Teacher at Elberfeld Elementary School
  - **Julie Flake**, Temporary 4th Grade Teacher at Elberfeld Elementary School.
  - **Leigh Jackson**, Library Aide at Chandler Elementary School
  - **Abigail Parker**, Health Aide at Oakdale Elementary and Boonville Middle School
  - **Jaleigh Hadley**, Temporary Program Assistant at Oakdale Elementary School
  - **Dawn Wheeler**, 6.5 hour Cafeteria position at Castle High School
  - **Lynna Waninger**, Clerical Aide at Castle High School
  - **Maria Woodworth**, Temporary Program Assistant at Yankeetown Elementary School
  - **Elizabeth Tieman**, Library Aide at Yankeetown Elementary School
  - **Allison Kirby**, Temporary Program Assistant at Sharon Elementary School
  - **Katelyn Galdamez**, Temporary Program Assistant at Sharon Elementary School
  - **Allie Cavins**, Temporary Program Assistant at Sharon Elementary School
  - **Heather Nunnely**, Program Assistant at Castle High School
  - **Cole Tirb**, Temporary Program Assistant at Boonville High School
  - **Vicki Beck**, Temporary Program Assistant at Boonville High School
  - **Kim McDonald**, 3.5 hour Cafeteria position at Castle High School
  - **Francis Lutz**, 3.75 hour Cafeteria position at Boonville Middle School
  - **Brooke Mitchell**, 6.0 hour Cafeteria position at Castle South Middle School
  - **Qin Liu**, 3.5 hour Cafeteria position at Castle South Middle School
  - **Rebekah Pryor**, Temporary Program Assistant at Loge Elementary School
  - **Melissa Casagrand**, Temporary Program Assistant at Newburgh Elementary School
  - **Kalyn Chapman**, Home School Advisor at Loge Elementary School
  - **Katelyn Miles**, 6.5 hour Cafeteria position at Oakdale Elementary School
  - **Amber Kinney**, 3.25 hour Cafeteria position at John H Castle Elementary School

- **Lisa Cannon**, 4.75 hour Cafeteria position at Castle South Middle School
- **Jessica Lockard**, Program Assistant at Elberfeld Elementary School
- **Abby Ritchie**, Program Assistant at Chandler Elementary School
- **Jennifer Thomas**, Temporary Program Assistant at Elberfeld Elementary School
- **Tiffany Morris**, Temporary Program Assistant at Loge Elementary School
- **Anna Tyson**, 6.5 hour Cafeteria position at Castle High School
- **Amelia Wilson**, 3.5 hour Cafeteria position at Castle High School
- **Banani Mondal**, 3.5 hour Cafeteria position at Castle South Middle School
- **Jane Schuble**, Temporary Program Assistant at Chandler Elementary School
- **Michelle Behny**, Temporary Program Assistant at Yankeetown Elementary School
- **Michelle Strickland**, Temporary Program Assistant at Yankeetown Elementary School
- **Ann Swinford**, Program Assistant at Oakdale Elementary School
- **Heather Payne**, ESL Program Assistant at JH Castle Elementary School
- **Jessica Bugg**, Temporary Program Assistant at JH Castle Elementary School
- **Stefanie Trexler-Pavlovich**, Temporary Program Assistant at JH Castle Elementary School.
- **Brittany Jones**, Temporary Program Assistant at Newburgh Elementary School
- **Tim Catron**, Program Assistant at Chandler Elementary School

C. Leave Requests:

1. A motion was made by Lynda Glover and seconded by Jeff Baker to approve the following leave requests:

- **Retha Hollman**, Program Assistant at Tennyson Elementary School
- **Kweenie Young-Cotton**, 6.0 hour Cafeteria Employee at Castle South Middle School.
- **Kelli Wilson**, 3.5 hour Cafeteria Employee at Castle High School.
- **Melissa Casagrand**, 3.5 hour Cafeteria Employee.
- **Tiffany Morris**, 4.5 hour Cafeteria Employee at Newburgh Elementary School.
- **Megan Biehler**, Program Assistant at Tecumseh High School.
- **Shari Buhmeier**, Program Assistant at Boonville Middle School.
- **Jennifer Thomas**, Health Aide at Castle High School.
- **Julie Flake**, Program Assistant at Yankeetown Elementary School.
- **Tina Wheeler**, 6.25 hour Cafeteria Employee at Chandler Elementary School.
- **Edyth Ford**, 5.25 hour Cafeteria Employee at Boonville High School.
- **Emilie Phillips**, Library Aide at Lynnville Elementary School and Elberfeld Elementary School.

D. Report of Cafeteria Transfers:

- **Charish Siggers**, 3.5 hour Cafeteria Employee at Tecumseh High School to 3.75 hours at Boonville High School. (Multi Responsibility position).
- **Melissa Lester**, 3.25 hour Cafeteria Employee at JH Castle Elementary School to 6.5 hours at Castle South Middle School.
- **Brandie Kolley**, 4.5 hour Cafeteria Employee at Lynnville Elementary School to 6.5 hours at Lynnville Elementary School.

- **Amber Sisk**, 3.5 hour Cafeteria Employee at Castle South Middle School to 4.75 hours at Boonville High School.
- **Kim Eidson**, 6.0 hour Cafeteria Employee at Castle High School to 6.5 hours at Castle High School.
- **Amanda Williamson**, 4.5 hour Cafeteria Employee at Castle High School to 4.5 hours at Lynnville Elementary School.

E. Report of Custodian transfer:

- **Gilbert Williams**, Custodian at Tecumseh High School is transferring to Custodian at Castle South Middle School.

F. Mr. Gresham reported on the following resignations:

- **Linda Moore**, 3.25 hour Cafeteria Employee at JH Castle Elementary School, effective July 25, 2021.
- **Kory White**, Behavior Coach at WEC, effective July 26, 2021.
- **Amanda Mosley**, Program Assistant at Castle High School, effective July 27, 2021.
- **Laura Sitzman**, Program Assistant at Chandler Elementary School, effective July 28, 2021.
- **Edwina Wilkinson**, 4.75 hour Cafeteria Employee at Boonville High School, effective July 28, 2021.
- **Amber Quick**, 6 hour Cafeteria Employee at Lynnville Elementary School, effective August 10, 2021.
- **Bobbie Bruce**, Program Assistant at Oakdale Elementary School, effective July 30, 2021.
- **Kathy Cline**, Full Time Custodian at Castle North Middle School - resignation effective July 27, 2021.
- **Halee Thomasson**, Temporary Program Assistant at Loge Elementary School, effective August 2, 2021.
- **Jarred Reas**, Bus Driver, effective August 2, 2021.
- **Brandi Geach**, Program Assistant at Newburgh Elementary School, effective August 2, 2021.
- **Emily Julian**, Secretary at Tecumseh High School, effective August 13, 2021.
- **Gary Harper**, Full Time Custodian at Castle High School, effective July 29, 2021.
- **Elizabeth Ammons**, Program Assistant at Chandler Elementary School, effective August 5, 2021.
- **Erica Hutchison**, Program Assistant at Boonville Middle School, effective August 20, 2021.
- **Julie Waters**, 3.75 hour Cafeteria Employee at Castle North Middle School, effective August 6, 2021.
- **Tammy Nau**, 6.25 hour Cafeteria Employee at Tecumseh Middle School, effective August 5, 2021.

G. Mr. Gresham reported on the following retirement:

- **Karen Dillman**, 4.75 hour Cafeteria Employee at Castle South Middle School, effective July 15, 2021

### **Reports**

Dr. Doug Gresham gave an update on the Personnel & Contracts, Food & Nutrition, Custodial and Safety Committee. Dr. Gresham stated that the covid days approved for employees in January 2021, are still in effect until December 31, 2021. In new business, he stated that WCSC added 4 sections to kindergarten to help with large numbers. Dr. Gresham also stated that new teacher orientation was held successfully, and we welcomed 32 new teachers to Warrick county.

Dr. Walter Lambert gave an update on the Policy and Curriculum committee. Dr. Lambert explained that the teacher appreciation grant that was passed tonight, is a Policy that must be passed annually. This is from the IDOE and is a sort of bonus for our teachers. He explained the committee is also working on the residency verification policy requested from the IDOE. Dr. Lambert stated that in new business, a policy for electronic participation at board meetings is still in the works, and at some point the committee will ask for input from the entire Board..

### **Other Board Business**

#### **Policy and Curriculum Committee Meeting**

– Monday, August 23, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Services Building.

#### **Transportation & Special Education Committee Meeting**

– Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. at the Administration Building.

#### **Personnel & Contracts, Food & Nutrition, Custodial, and Safety Committee Meeting**

– Monday, September 13, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Services Building.

#### **Construction, Technology, & Maintenance Committee Meeting**

– Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 7:30 a.m. at the Administration Building.

#### **Career Pathways Committee Meeting**

– Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. at the Administration Building.

Mr Jordan Aigner made a motion to adjust the current mask policy to optional. A second was made by Mrs. Lynda Glover.

President Tim Mosbey opened the floor for discussion from Board members.

Mr. Jordan Aigner stated that while there were quite a few things that he did not agree with, several points resonated with him. Mr. Aigner stated that he has never seen

this much support for anything during his time on the board. Mr. Aigner also stated that it is best to allow choice.

Mrs. Brenda Metzger stated that no matter the stance, everyone in the room is here for the same reason; to do what is best for our children. She also stated that this is a very complex situation, and while there are many people here tonight who are against this, there are just as many people out there who are for it.

Mr. Jeff Baker stated that last year proved to be a year in which a lot of school corporations closed, but WCSC remained open and our children were very successful given the stressors from within and at home. He stated that he will continue to follow the guidance of the State Health Department, and the superintendent.

Mrs. Stephanie Gerhardt asked what the guidelines would be in the schools for quarantine and testing, and how they would differ with and without masks.

Dr. Todd Lambert answered that starting without masks would mean six feet with contact tracing, meaning anyone within six feet of a person who tested positive must be quarantined. He went on to say that with masks on, it would bring that distance down to three feet, ending in less quarantined students and less contact tracing because in most classrooms we can space our children at three feet apart. Dr. Lambert added that our biggest goal is keep our schools open.

Mrs. Gerhardt asked what would happen if numbers started rising within schools while masks were optional?

Dr. Lambert stated that something like that would depend on the intensity, and pace.

Mr. Neff stated that during an earlier meeting, the Board gave the superintendent authority to change the school entry plan as the Covid-19 situation dictates. Therefore, if this motion was to pass; it still would not deprive Dr. Lambert of the authority to change the plan depending on the situation and numbers.

Mr. Jordan Aigner amended his motion to state that masks be optional until the county metric reads red.

Lynda Glover seconded the motion.

Mr. Baker asked that the motion be clear, and clarified that this cannot be about school buses as that is federally mandated. Mr. Baker also stated that masks are only being asked to be worn inside schools, not outside and not at extracurricular events.

Mr. Tim Mosbey stated that he has received an overwhelming amount of correspondence regarding this issue. He further stated that the majority of emails he

has received, is that of parents in favor of the mask policy. Mr. Mosbey stated that he did not agree with Mr. Aigners motion.

Mr. Mosbey called for a vote regarding the motion on the floor.

Jordan Aigner, and Lynda Glover voted in favor of the motion.

Brenda Metzger, Tim Mosbey, Jeff Baker, and Stephanie Gerhardt voted against the motion.

Jane Wilhelmus abstained from vote, but shall be counted as a vote with the majority. (As defined in Code 9001 of the Board Policy.)

Motion was defeated.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

These minutes were approved by the Warrick County Board of School Trustees on the 23rd day of August, 2021.

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Lynda Glover, Secretary of the Warrick County  
Board of School Trustees

Attested:

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Tim Mosbey, President of the Warrick County  
Board of School Trustees