

CLEAR FORK VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
Bellville Elementary Cafeteria
September 20, 2021
6:30 p.m.

District Mission Statement: *Striving to Exceed Expectations*

The Regular Meeting of the Clear Fork Valley Local School board was called to order at 6:30 PM by Board President, Mr. Gary McCue.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mr. Ryan Knuckles, Mrs. Lori McKee, Mr. Gary McCue, Mr. Carl Gonzalez and Mrs. Amy Weekley.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Jamie Hamilton of 4819 State Route 546 Lexington read a statement regarding masks which quoted statistics, quoted a doctor, and quoted the CDC, explained her reasoning for addressing the Board about the importance of masks. After she read her statement she requested the Board take action and issue a mask mandate to keep kids in school. Mrs. Amy Weekley thanked Mrs. Hamilton for expressing her thoughts and concerns and responded to her request. Mrs. Weekley explained the decisions the Board makes are based on the consideration of all points of view and all of the information available and she supports the current direction of parental choice on masks.

Mr. McCue responded "it is a very emotional debate, I don't care to go there tonight because it has been politicized nationwide, we ruled in what is in the best interest of the children".

Mrs. Koti Epperson of 443 Robert Place, Bellville Ohio questioned the Board about rescheduling the in-service Professional Development that was cancelled on Friday. Ms. Wyckoff stated that there was no other day like that was available this year. Ms. Wyckoff added that the goal is to have something next year at the beginning of school.

Mrs. Epperson followed up with a second question about the plan for kids who are being quarantined healthy. Mrs. Epperson claimed when her High School student was sent home because he was exposed to COVID "there wasn't much of a plan presented on how to give him his schoolwork". She stated "part of the problem is that there is an expectation that teachers have created google classrooms for their classes and that is simply not true". She claimed that of her son's five classes, only two teacher have google classroom. Mrs. Epperson also claimed that her son "emailed his teachers every morning asking for homework and he got responses from two of them consistently". She stated she didn't feel that it was the teachers fault and stated "I am certainly not standing here throwing the teacher under the bus", but she felt it is

possible that the problem was that there was no plan laid out on how to address the student's being quarantined. She wanted to know what the plan was moving forward. She also stated that she didn't feel the current quarantining protocol is wise and mentioned that Warren County is working with the Governor's office on a different quarantining protocol, which she felt is more beneficial than our current quarantining protocol.

Ms. Wyckoff responded that there is no remote option this year for quarantined students. Mrs. Epperson interjected stating that she was not speaking about remote options, she was speaking about teachers being on top of giving their quarantined students their work. She stated "they are not doing that because there has not been a plan put in place for them to do that". She also stated "there are teachers that are taking the initiative to do what they think is best in the interest of the student, to get those students their work, but I can guarantee that I am not the only parent in this room that has had a quarantined kid who didn't know what to do for homework".

Ms. Wyckoff responded that when a student is out for the flu, we are doing the same thing, which is sending school work home with the child. She stated that the plan was to handle quarantined students that same way, send the homework home with the student just like they would when they had a student with the flu or a broken leg or whatever medical issue they have. Ms. Wyckoff stated that she wasn't aware if every teacher is doing that but that is how was to be handled. She stated that she hoped teachers would respond to parents during their plan period and the plan periods are not all at the same time so the responses would be at various times throughout the day. She responded to the Warren County Pilot project by explaining that that has just started this week and until it is approved by the Governor to be used in other Counties it isn't an option.

Mrs. Epperson ask why is wasn't and option. Ms. Wyckoff responded that we still under the Richland County Health Department and ODH and we have a required set of rules that we are to follow. There was a brief discussion about county protocols because Mrs. Weekley received a quarantine letter from Knox County and she lives in Richland County and a parent stated that they lived in Knox County and received their letter was from the Richland County Health Department.

Mr. Derek Fisher, the Knox County Career Center Principal stated that the letters from different counties may be because of contact tracing due to someone from the Career Center because they have students from multiple counties.

Mrs. Epperson stated that she understood the protocol when kids get the flue or break their leg, claiming she did that for her students when she taught middle school. She specified her issue is "we don't quarantine kids for the flu, we're not sending 23 kids home at a time, and putting that on a teacher or administrators plate and saying, okay send their work home. I don't' know that it is that easy and I think the problem has stemmed from there was really no plan to begin with to address getting those kids their work".

Mr. Knuckles answered Mrs. Epperson stating that he didn't' think it was fair to assume that there was no plan and he explained that in the district in which he teaches there were students that went out and there was two days before they even showed up on the absence list as quarantined. He stated that he didn't think there was an oversight and he doesn't think there is not a plan.

Mrs. Epperson stated that she didn't think "the way Lexington is doing things is relevant to the way that we do them here in the Valley" following with "that is not what I am hearing from staff, they don't have a plan and they don't know how to address it".

Mr. McCue stated that she was the first parent that has brought this up and the Board would look into it. He also stated that "if there is a more efficient way to get after this the Board would look into it but right now we are following the protocol given to us by RPH."

Mrs. Caela Miller of 2316 Darlington East Road, Bellville Ohio asked the Board about contact tracing and sending healthy kids home, asking if there was a different option for parents that want their kids to stay in school. She asked if there was any study done on the kids that are healthy but were being quarantined due to contact tracing, asking if they are getting sick.

Ms. Wyckoff stated that of the approximately 289 Students that have been quarantined in the past four weeks, 18 or 20 of them became ill after they were quarantined. She stated that she doesn't "appreciate sending home kids who are not sick, it seems counter intuitive to our purpose" She also explained that we are stuck with where we are because of the guidelines we have to follow.

Mrs. Miller then asked if kids could just move every 15 minutes so they are not in proximity with the same person. Ms. Wyckoff stated that she understands what she was saying but moving around every 15 minutes would be a loss of instruction time so we have to balance what we do. She stated "I personally believe in masking and vaccinating, personally, but professionally I have to look at the big picture and the big picture of Clear Fork. If you don't want your kid quarantined, I'm sorry, the price is a mask, if you are alright with your kids being quarantined and you don't want to mask them then the price is going home and doing the work at home".

Mrs. Epperson interjected that it was silly to quarantine healthy children, she stated that she is concerned that kids that are being quarantined are going home they don't have a set plan on how to retrieve their work. She stated "I want to be clear that I'm not saying that in an effort to throw the teachers and the administrators under the bus, I think that there needed to be some sort of a plan from the top down so I'm asking you if we can make one".

Mr. McCue stated we would look into that.

Mrs. Crystal Shultz of 2233 Koppert Road, Butler Ohio asked the Board about guidelines means, is a guideline a law or a mandate? Ms. Wyckoff stated that under Ohio Revised code is the Health Codes and it states that we must work with the Health Department. She stated that a lot of the quarantines are happening at lunch so no teaching time is being lost by making students move every 15 minutes. She stated that she knows there are already some football players setting a timer on their phone and moving every 14 minutes and 50 seconds. She stated that this is her suggestion to help keep the kids in school. She also asked if administration watching the video cameras to contact trace? Ms. Wyckoff state yes, video is being used to identify kids for contact tracing. Mrs. Shultz stated "administrators are in charge of making sure that kids get the best education they possibly can" questioning who has time to watch the cameras? She added that "if the Health Department wants to contact trace, have them send their people in because our teachers and our administration don't get paid for that". Mrs.

Shultz made additional comments about contact tracing, and the amount of time it takes, who is responsible for it, and the notification from the Health Department. Mr. McCue stated that the school is following RPH so just follow what Jenny (our school nurse) says. Mrs. Shultz stated that she feels the contact tracing so going too far and she stated we should not be watching videos, it isn't the job of any of our teachers to keep track of who is wearing a mask or who is sitting where.

Mr. Knuckles responded to Mrs. Shultz stating that he doesn't like the quarantining but he sees the benefits of it, and if we didn't do our own quarantining he thinks our numbers would be through the roof. He stated that when he had COVID he was cleared to go back the day he received his letter, which was 10 days after he had already been quarantined. He stated "as much as we hate the quarantining, I think it is beneficial for us to keep our numbers where they are."

Mrs. Shultz responded that she understands quarantining, it is the contact tracing and the way it is being done she doesn't agree with.

Ms. Wyckoff replied "if we let the health department do contact tracing we will be out like Lexington. Because I spoke to their Superintendent, they contact traced 500 kids plus but they wanted the Health Department to send the letters because they just didn't want them to do them anymore. Now they are back to sending the letters themselves because the Health department is overrun and they can't get them done. We are required to do contact tracing."

Ms. Wyckoff stated that if the Warren County pilot works out we will be all over it, but until the Governor approves it for the rest of the counties it is not an option.

Mr. Gonzalez discussed the set-up of the Warren pilot project. He stated that in that pilot project, if a student is quarantined, they are kept in school in the same room, so all of the kids that might be sick and the ones that are sick into one petri dish. Mrs. Epperson responded that the kids that are sick are sent home, the kids that were exposed and may need to be quarantined are required to wear a mask at school until they have their second negative test but they aren't missing school. Mr. Gonzales stated that they are in one classroom all together. Mrs. Epperson argued that they are not with sick kids because they are sent home. Mr. Gonzalez replied that you know of. He stated "he doesn't think you would want to quarantine a bunch of sick kids together, or maybe sick kids together because if one person get through in that classroom then they will spread it." Mrs. Epperson replied "I'm not sure that all the kids that should be quarantined or might be sick are in one room together, I think they are just permitted to go to their classes like normal with the requirement of wearing a mask." Mr. Gonzalez then replied the kids are back in the healthy classroom now infecting them. Mrs. Epperson replied "I'm not so worried about the quarantining, I'm worried about the education."

Mr. McCue requested to move on.

Mr. Benji Bethea of 4572 Bellville North Road, Bellville Ohio stated that Ashland City Schools is not quarantining. He stated if they can do it we should reach out to them and see how they can accomplish that. Mr. McCue stated that we would.

Mrs. Nina McGhee of 1840 Darlington East Road, Bellville asked for clarification on the bus masking policy. She asked how is bussing a Federal form of transportation when

bussing is funded through property and state taxes. Ms. Wyckoff stated it is under 42 United States Code 264 under Federal Regulations 70.2, 71.31 and 71.32. Mr. McCue stated that he couldn't answer how taxes are divided but these are federally mandated, U.S.C makes is federal. Mrs. McGhee asked about payment-in-lieu of for transportation. Mr. Stevens explained payment-in-lieu-of for transported to a private school and how that is separate from the taxes and state reimbursement. He further explained how the district receives money for things like reimbursements for food, Title I funding, and IDEA funding for Special Education teachers are Federal funds that are passed on to the district through the state.

Ms. Wyckoff stated that she read another attorney opinion that stated if the district isn't following the transportation guidelines with the masking, the Board and the Administration is liable in both a personal and professional capacity. She stated that we cannot discipline kids for not having a mask, we are to provide them with one, but we can discipline them for not wearing them because it creates a liability issue for the Board and the district's taxpayers.

2021-235 **Upon Motion** by Mrs. Weekley and seconded by Mr. Gonzalez, the Board approved the minutes of the August 24, 2021 Regular Meeting as written.

The vote was:	Mrs. McKee	Yes	Mr. Gonzalez	Yes
	Mr. Knuckles	Yes	Mr. McCue	Yes
	Mrs. Weekley	Yes		

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon Motion by Mr. Knuckles and seconded by Mrs. McKee, the Board:

2021-236 Approved the August 2021 Financial Report.

2021-237 Approved the Permanent Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2022.

2021-238 Approved the following Activity Account Budgets for the 2021-2022 school year.

200-9290	History Club
200-9610	National Honor Society
200-9613	Middle School Student Council
200-9723	Class of 2023 Junior
300-9470	Choral Activities
300-9651	Library Media Center
300-9652	Bellville Elementary Library
300-9653	Butler Elementary Library

2021-239 Accepted the following grant from the Richland County Foundation and authorizes the Treasurer to place in the proper fund/account.

019-9222 RCF-OSR Field Trip – Richard Hoover \$450.00

2021-240 Approved increasing all classified staff substitute hourly rates to equal Step 0 of the classified staff negotiated salary schedule.

The vote was:	Mrs. McKee	Yes	Mr. Gonzalez	Yes
	Mr. Knuckles	Yes	Mr. McCue	Yes
	Mrs. Weekley	Yes		

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Upon Motion by Mr. McCue and seconded by Mrs. McKee, the Board:

2021-241 Accepted the following resignations:

Rosana Remy	Driver – Retirement – effective 3/1/2022
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2021-242 Accepted the following supplemental resignation:

Cathy Kinney	Bellville Newsletter/Student News
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2021-243 Employed the following classified personnel on a one year limited contract beginning with the 2021-2022 school year per the adopted salary schedule, pending completion of requirements:

Tammy McFerren	Paraprofessional – effective 8/26/2021
Dorothy O'Brien	Hourly Cafeteria / Cashier – effective 9/14/2021

2021-244 Employed the following certified personnel on a one (1) year supplemental contract for the 2021-2022 school year:

Nicholas Allerdig	Varsity Wrestling
Brandon Baumgardner	JV Boys Basketball
Eric Cunningham	Butler Tech Team
Randy Echelberger	History Club Advisor
Randy Echelberger	National Honor Society
Richard Hoover	8 th Grade Boys Basketball
Cathy Kinney	Butler Newsletter / Student News
Edward Kossick	Middle School Tech Team
Justen LaPlante	Varsity Boys Tennis

2021-245 In accordance with 3319.22 ORC the Clear Fork Board of Education affirmed that the following positions have been offered to the certified employees of the Clear Fork Valley Local School District and no qualified employee has been selected for the position(s). Furthermore, the Board affirmed that the position(s) had been advertised on the Clear Fork website on March 22, 2021 or July 16, 2021 to those who may be qualified and that the following personnel be employed on a one (1) year supplemental contract for the 2021-2022 school year per the adopted salary schedule:

Kerri Gottfried	Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball
Scott Sellers	Varsity Girls Basketball
Deijah Swihart	Freshman Girls Basketball

2021-246 Approved the following volunteer coaches for the 2021-2022 season.

Charles Sellers Varsity Girls Basketball

2021-247 Approved the following personnel to advance on the salary schedule effective September 21, 2021 in accordance with the Clear Fork Valley Education Association, AFT/OFT Agreement.

Samantha Kline Masters

2021-248 Approved increasing Jeff McBride, Drug Prevention Officer's work hours to 32 ½ hours per week in addition to supervision at special events effective October 4, 2021 for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

The vote was:	Mrs. McKee	Yes	Mr. Gonzalez	Abstain
	Mr. Knuckles	Yes	Mr. McCue	Yes
	Mrs. Weekley	Yes		

Upon Motion by Mrs. McKee and seconded by Mr. Knuckles, the Board:

2021-249 Entered into contract with Imperial Autism Connections for services for one student for the 2021-2022 academic year.

2021-250 Authorized the Treasurer to advertise for sealed bids for an upgrade to the HVAC system at the Middle School / High School building to be paid for through ESSER / ARP funds.

2021-251 Adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS the student(s) identified have been determined to be residents of this school district, and eligible for transportation services; and

WHEREAS after a careful evaluation of all available options, it has been determined that it is impractical to provide transportation for these student(s) to their selected school(s); and

WHEREAS the following factors as identified in Revised Code 2237.02 have been considered:

1. The time and distance required to provide the transportation
2. The number of pupils to be transported
3. The cost of providing transportation in terms of equipment, maintenance, personnel and administration
4. Whether similar or equivalent service is provided to other pupils eligible for transportation
5. Whether and to what extent the additional service unavoidably disrupts current transportation schedules
6. Whether other reimbursable types of transportation are available; and

WHEREAS the option of offering payment – in – lieu of transportation is provided in Ohio Revised Code:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Clear Fork Valley Board of Education hereby approves the declaration that it is impractical to transport identified herein and offers the parent(s) / guardian(s) of student named on the attachment, payment – in – lieu of transportation.

2021-252 Approved the revised 2021-2022 school calendar.

The vote was:	Mrs. McKee	Yes	Mr. Gonzalez	Yes
	Mr. Knuckles	Yes	Mr. McCue	Yes
	Mrs. Weekley	Yes		

2021-253 **Upon Motion** by Mr. McCue and seconded by Mrs. Weekley, the Board adjourned from Regular Session at 7:46 PM.

The vote was:	Mrs. McKee	Yes	Mr. Gonzalez	Yes
	Mr. Knuckles	Yes	Mr. McCue	Yes
	Mrs. Weekley	Yes		

Gary McCue, Board President

Bradd Stevens, Treasurer