

KANKAKEE VALLEY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD MINUTES
September 27, 2021

Call to Order by Board President Mrs. Jill Duttlinger at 6:00 p.m. with all members present except Mrs. Kristy Stowers.

Mrs. Katie Sampson read the Kankakee Valley School Corporation (KVSC) Mission Statement.

Mr. Street explained our current Return To School Plan of masks being required at Kankakee Valley Middle School (KVMS) and Kankakee Valley High School (KVHS). Mrs. Schnick provided COVID data comparing the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years and the August 30-September 24, 2021 data as it relates to grades 6-12. Mrs. Schnick also reported the total number of instructional days missed due to Covid positives and quarantines as it pertains to all five of the KV schools.

President, Mrs. Jill Duttlinger, opened the floor for Public Comment.

Ms. Ashley Savin stated she was glad Covid numbers were provided but she feels they are skewed to the mask agenda. She wants masks only for kids who are close contacts.

Mr. Brad Roorda spoke about masks only being required in classrooms. He doesn't believe the numbers presented are accurate.

Toni Smith stated that the CDC quietly removed the mask mandate for schools this weekend. Ms. Smith would like us to back up data with scientific proof that masks work. She stated that a virus goes through masks and that masks are known to house pneumonia, bronchitis, and ecoli.

Ms. Denise O'Rourke stated that she did her research and referenced a systematic review that looked at data that concluded that masks cannot protect a person from a virus. Ms. O'Rourke questioned if anybody is researching the long-term psychological or physical effects of long-term mask-wearing on our children.

Ms. Tasha Mills stated that her son was on a two-week quarantine but returned after one week due to a false positive test. He was sent to the office because he did not want to wear a mask and was told he had to put a mask on or go home. Ms. Mills wants to know if we are adjusting the numbers down when false positives are a factor.

Mr. John Eggers feels the Covid numbers being reported are an assumption because there is no control group. He stated that his son does not want to go to school if he is required to wear a mask. He stated that mask-wearing is a classroom distraction. Mr. Eggers would like masks to be optional and left to the parent to decide.

Mr. Tom Reeb, a teacher in Illinois, stated, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself". He stated that not one kid died who didn't have underlying conditions. Mr. Reeb believes we are being lied to by the government and politicians and that there is no end goal. Mr. Reeb would like to know why parents cannot vote on the plan.

Mr. Jason Owen moved here three years ago from Lake Station. He has since pulled his daughter out of KVSC and will pull his child out of WES if he has to wear a mask. Mr. Owen feels masks are about compliance and the numbers are pushing an agenda related to money. He will not comply, nor will his children.

Ms. Kristin Bristol stated that she heard today that DES took out an entire Kindergarten class, the teacher & all students. She is concerned that students will get behind due to quarantine. She stated that teachers are tired. She wants to remove masks & contact tracing, make mask wearing a parent choice, and emulate what East Porter Schools are doing.

Mr. Ryan Britsol stated he appreciated what the Board is doing, he thanked the Board for the good work they do, and spoke highly about the KV school district. He thinks the Board and the parents/community need to stand together. He doesn't think the masks work at all. He wants kids to have the option to wear masks or not. He would like KV to emulate other school districts where mask-wearing is optional.

Mr. Jeff Schepel pointed out that nobody at the meeting is wearing a mask because the virus is not as deadly as some would have us believe. He stated that he can go anywhere else without a mask and that we are forcing our kids to do something we don't believe in.

Ms. Rebecca Groen, Nurse Practitioner, said she doesn't think masks are effective and that they are for bacteria, not for a virus. She stated a Covid test will test for all viruses and give a positive result for any detection. She stated that she is treating more patients for impetigo, mono, and strep now than before.

Ms. Holly O'Rourke stated that we are taking away the high school experience for the kids. She would like students and staff to stay home when they are sick and return once better. She doesn't want to see any Board members rolling their eyes, and she stated that the more this is pushed, the more people will pull their kids out of school. She

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(CONTINUED)

believes masks are about control and compliance and would like the Board to think about the children and believes the funding will come.

Ms. Brianne Dorn asked if there would be a loss of total funding or only Covid funding if the mandates are not followed. She stated we survived without Covid funding before and believes parents would be willing to again. She asked if the Board thought it was strange that schools that are masking have higher Covid and quarantine numbers than schools that are not masking. She asked where the line will be drawn and if the Board would allow a parent vote regarding masks. Ms. Dorn stated that she believes this won't stop unless the Board takes a stand for the children.

Ms. Viviana Lewis stated that their questions at the Board meetings are not being answered and wants to know when they will be. Mr. Groen stated that questions were answered at the last meeting on Sept. 13th. Mrs. Duttlinger stated the minutes are approved at the next board meeting and posted to the KV website thereafter. Ms. Lewis also stated that her eight-year-old daughter faced consequences in school when her mask accidentally slipped down her nose and that she heard of other students facing the same punishments. She claimed her information came from a teacher. She asked the Board to look at the studies and research the physical and mental consequences on children wearing masks.

Jamie Schepel said she and her husband plan to pull their kids out of KV schools if this "yo-yo" continues. After no further comment Mrs. Duttlinger closed the floor.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting on September 13, 2021.

Motion: Mr. Jeff Groen

Second: Mr. Stephen Eastridge

Vote: 6-0

Approved the Corporation Claims in the amount of \$1,078,771.95 and the Cafeteria Claims in the amount of \$7,939.43."

Motion: Mrs. Katie Sampson

Second: Mr. Bill Walther

Vote: 6-0

Mr. Street reviewed the tentative Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement that is posted on the KV website.

Approved the following retirements:

- 1.) Wheatfield Elementary School (WES) Title 1 Aide, Simone Jones, effective November 10, 2021.

Motion: Mr. Tim Helton

Second: Mr. Stephen Eastridge

Vote: 6-0

Approved the following resignation:

- 1.) Student Information System Manager, Nathan Gmyrek, effective September 24, 2021.
- 2.) KVMS full-time Sweeper, Elizabeth Drake, effective September 13, 2021.
- 3.) KVMS Special Education Aide, Letitia VanWienen, verbal resignation effective September 16, 2021.
- 4.) KVHS Teacher Aide, Jordyn Conley, effective September 17, 2021.
- 5.) WES Part Time Sweeper, Melissa Schreiber, effective September 10, 2021.
- 6.) DeMotte Elementary School (DES) Sweeper, Eleni Bachorski, effective October 1, 2021.
- 7.) KVHS Girls and Boy's Tennis Coach, Steve Ganzeveld, effective the end of the boy's fall season.

Motion: Mr. Stephen Eastridge

Second: Mr. Jeff Groen

Vote: 6-0

Approved the following leaves:

- 1.) A maternity leave of absence for Ashley Terry, Fourth Grade Teacher at Kankakee Valley Intermediate School (KVIS), effective February 22-May 25, 2022.
- 2.) A maternity leave of absence for Nichole Fieser, KVIS Teacher, effective February 24-May 2, 2022.

Motion: Mr. Bill Walther

Second: Mr. Tim Helton

Vote: 6-0

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Approved the following KVMS extracurricular recommendations for the 2021-2022 school year:

Theresa DeBoard	Academic Coach
John Hall	Student Council Sponsor
Kari Innes	Student Council Sponsor

Approved the following KVHS extracurricular recommendations for the 2021-2022 school year:

Willard Brown III	Boys Head Swimming Coach, split with Donna Martin, and pending additional paperwork
Donna Martin	Boys Head Swimming Coach, split with Willard Brown
Eric Kidwell	Varsity Wrestling Coach 75%
Mike Nava	JV Wrestling Coach, current salary +.25% of Eric Kidwell's salary.
Kim Summers	Assistant Swim Coach, split
Jeff Martin	Assistant Swim Coach, split
Kelly Creamer-Sherbit	Volunteer Girls Basketball Assistant, pending additional paperwork

Motion: Mr. Jeff Groen

Second: Mrs. Katie Sampson

Vote: 6-0

Approved the following certified recommendation:

- 1.) Abigail Phillips as WES, temporary Second Grade Teacher, effective October 11, 2021-December 22, 2021. Ms. Phillips will be filling a vacancy due to a maternity leave.

Motion: Mr. Stephen Eastridge

Second: Mr. Bill Walther

Vote: 6-0

Approved the following classified recommendations:

- 1.) Lexi Smith as KVIS Head Custodian, effective September 28, 2021. Lexi will be filling a vacancy due to a resignation.
- 2.) Tara Kikkert as DES Library Aide, effective September 17, 2021. This is a new position.
- 3.) Lauren Ketchem as KVMS Special Needs Aide, effective October 4, 2021. Ms. Ketchem will be filling a vacancy due to a transfer.
- 4.) Shawn Rose as KVMS Alternative Class Aide, effective September 28, 2021. Ms. Rose will be filling a vacancy due to a resignation.
- 5.) Dawn Morrison as KVHS Pre-K Aide, effective September 27, 2021. Ms. Morrison will be filling a vacancy due to a resignation.
- 6.) Heather Bacula as WES Instructional Aide, effective September 27, 2021. Ms. Bacula will be filling a newly created position.

Motion: Mr. Jeff Groen

Second: Mrs. Katie Sampson

Vote: 6-0

Approved Resolution 2021-7, allowing the Superintendent and/or the Chief Financial Officer to authorize the appropriate adjustments in order to achieve a balanced budget for 2022."

Note from C. Deardorff: When we receive our 1782 Notice (the notice of final budget recommendations from the State), we have ten (10) calendar days to respond. Depending on the timing of the receipt of that notice and the next scheduled Board meeting, we may or may not be able to request Board action on budget adjustments needed within the ten days.

Motion: Mr. Jeff Groen

Second: Mr. Bill Walther

Vote: 6-0

Approved Resolution 2021-8, allowing the Board of Education to adopt the 2022 Capital Project Plan.

Motion: Mr. Stephen Eastridge

Second: Mr. Jeff Groen

Vote: 6-0

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Approved Resolution 2021-9, allowing the Board of Education to adopt the 2022 School Bus Replacement Plan.
 Motion: Mrs. Katie Sampson Second: Mr. Stephen Eastridge Vote: 6-0

Approved Resolution 2021-10, Resolution for Appropriations, Tax Levy, and Tax Rates for the 2022 budget.
 Motion: Mr. Bill Walther Second: Mr. Jeff Groen Vote: 6-0

Approved the purchase of a 2022 Chevrolet 2500 from Wiers Chevrolet. The total cost with the snowplow installed is \$43,777.00.
 Motion: Mr. Stephen Eastridge Second: Mr. Jeff Groen Vote: 6-0

Approved the recommendation for a 3-year contract renewal with Aramark at payments of \$60.41 weekly. This quote will only change if we have an increase/decrease in products. There will be a 5% increase on the anniversary date of the contract.
 Motion: Mrs. Katie Sampson Second: Mr. Bill Walther Vote: 6-0

Approved the recommendation for a 3-year contract renewal with Republic Services, at \$1,161.54 monthly for the district. There will be an additional charge for the "on-call" dumpster as needed of \$45.50 per ton/\$232.18 per haul, and a 3% increase will be added on the anniversary date of the contract.
 Motion: Mr. Tim Helton Second: Mr. Stephen Eastridge Vote: 6-0

Approved the recommendation to increase the driver's field/sports trip pay from \$12 per hour and \$36 for the first three hours to \$15 per hour and \$45 for the first three hours. The effective date would be November 1, 2021.
 Motion: Mr. Jeff Groen Second: Mrs. Katie Sampson Vote: 6-0

Considered the Return to School Plan. K-5 is mask optional and 6-12 masked until October 31, 2021. Beginning November 1, K-12 optional.
 Motion: Mr. Stephen Eastridge Second: Mr. Bill Walther Vote: 6-0

Approved the following field trip:
 KVHS Grades 9-12, FFA and Agriculture Students
 Garrett Bitterling, Sponsor
 FFA National Convention & Expo
 October 27-29, 2021
 Indianapolis, IN

Motion: Mr. Jeff Groen Second: Mr. Stephen Eastridge Vote: 6-0

Approved the following Use of Facilities:

- 1.) First Church Upward Basketball
 Noah Felten, Sponsor
 DES gymnasium, cafeteria, parking, hallway
 January 8-March 11, 2022/Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays/5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
 January 22-March 12, 2022/Saturdays/6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- 2.) Jr. Lady Kougars Basketball Practice
 James Walker, Sponsor
 KVIS gymnasium
 September 27-December 18, 2021, Various Dates 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Bill Walther Second: Mr. Jeff Groen Vote: 6-0

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Approved the following Professional Leaves:

- 1.) Sabina Memic
Indiana Foreign language Teachers Association (IFLTA)
Indianapolis, IN
November 4-6, 2021
- 2.) Theresa Kay DeBoard
Indiana Association for The Gifted Conference
Indianapolis, IN
December 6-7, 2021
- 3.) Linda Yozman & Julie Nomanson
Indiana Association for the Gifted
Indianapolis, IN
December 6-7, 2021

Motion: Mr. Jeff Groen

Second: Mr. Stephen Eastridge

Vote: 6-0

Reviewed the following transfers:

- 1.) KVHS Special Education Aide, Theresa O'Rourke as KVHS Attendance Secretary effective September 27, 2021. Ms. O'Rourke will be filling a vacancy due to a resignation

Communications:

- 1.) The Kankakee Valley Marching Band achieved a Gold superior rating this weekend. They also notched Achievement Awards in Music Performance, Visual Performance, and Percussion Performance. The KVMB travels to Crown Point this weekend for their ISSMA performance. Good luck and bring home the Gold!
- 2.) Congratulations to Sophomore Brynlee DeBoard who will be representing KV in the IHSAA State Finals in Girls Golf! Best of luck to Brynlee!

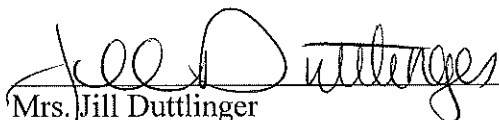
Adjournment: 7:15 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Jeff Groen

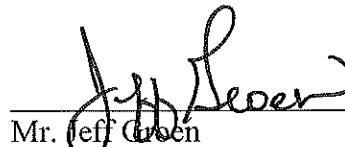
Second: Mrs. Katie Sampson

Vote: 6-0

Public Work Session immediately after the meeting.



Mrs. Jill Duttlinger
Board President



Mr. Jeff Groen
Secretary