

KANKAKEE VALLEY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD MINUTES
September 7, 2021

Board President, Mrs. Jill Duttlinger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by Silent Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance with all members present.

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

3. Report Items

- a. State of Indiana Executive Order and Covid-19 School Quarantine Guidance:
Mr. Street and Mrs. Schnick reviewed the Governor's Executive order #21-24 that allows schools to not quarantine individuals if individuals are wearing a mask in a classroom setting.

4. Public Comment

Public Participation at Board Meetings

- Patrons must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name.
- Each statement will be limited to three (3) minutes in duration.
- All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually or speak about specific personnel.

Kristin Bristol commented on Kankakee Valley Middle School (KVMS) students getting their fingers scanned for lunch without being required to wash their hands before or after the scanning and without the scanner being sanitized in between uses. Ms. Bristol would also like to see regular sanitizing of all school buildings.

John Cosgrove commented that PCR test is propaganda and produces 97% false positives, masks are unhealthy & inhibit learning, and are often worn improperly by children. He stated that two weeks prior the CDC stated masks don't work. He questioned if the School Board represents the state or the parents, and questioned if the kids are being kept in school with masks because of funding or over concern for the students' education.

Dan Ellenwood forfeited his three minutes to John Cosgrove in which Mr. Cosgrove stated that parent concerns are growing in regards to the safety and effectiveness of mask-wearing.

Carrie Birky, a licensed dental hygienist, stated that there are currently no masks available that will stop the COVID virus because the molecules are too small to be stopped by a mask. Ms. Birky referenced the Bible and stated that she was here to speak out for the children who can't. She stated that the "Plandemic" was developed to spread fear and government lies. Ms. Birky referenced *Psychology Today* where she read that children experience distress, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts due to COVID restrictions and mask-wearing. She stated that the Health Department doesn't make laws and made reference to The Bill of Rights.

DJ Sterrett, Kankakee Valley High School (KVHS) biology teacher, requested every person think about their agenda. He stated that he believes everyone wants the best education for the students. He stated that he wants his students in a school where they have the best ability to learn. He stated that the COVID restrictions and mask-wearing mandates should be blamed on the governing bodies and no blame should be placed on this School Board or KVSC teachers.

Jennifer Fase, parent and KVHS teacher, doesn't want anything to do with mask-wearing and stated she thinks the recommendation to wear masks completely disregards the parent's right to choose for their children. She referenced Red For Ed and would like to see parents rally at the State House with the support of the School.

Ashley Savin, a parent of a 2nd-grade student at Wheatfield Elementary School (WES), thinks there should be push-back on the Governor's requirements. She addressed the number of positive tests for COVID in children 0-19 years old and the number of deaths for that group, which according to her, was 14. Ms. Savin would like to see kids only

wearing masks if they are close contacts and choose to come to school instead of quarantining at home unless they are symptomatic.

Samantha Russell, a dental hygienist for 22 years, contracted COVID despite the strict PPE practices she follows at work. Ms. Russell would like to see rooms and items sanitized regularly in school.

Jeff Schepel, a father of 2nd and 6th-grade students, thanked the school board for keeping our kids in school last year. He feels the reality of COVID in our schools is that there has been very little sickness and thankfully no fatalities. He is more concerned with quarantining his children than them contracting COVID. He requested we lead instead of conform or live in fear.

Dan Wireman, a father of a DeMotte Elementary School (DES) student, stated that the one size fits all practice is not the right approach even for one specific building. He stated COVID does not seriously impact children, pointed out the negative effects of mask-wearing, and told the Board to research Dr. Steven Petty. Mr. Wireman requested the Board ask parents what they would like to see happen in regards to quarantining and close contacts, compile the data, and make a decision based on the results.

Tom Sandonato, a father of two children at WES, suggested more data be requested & considered before a change in policy is implemented.

Viviana Lewis, a mother of a Kankakee Valley Intermediate School (KVIS) student, thanked the Board for being in school last year. Ms. Lewis is concerned that if we implement masks now, what is the next thing we will be implementing? She questioned if vaccine mandates will be next in school? Ms. Lewis also stated concern over the consequences her daughter faced for her mask being worn improperly.

Jamie Groen, a parent of two KVIS students, questioned if any attention is being given to the other illnesses that children are contracting. Mr. Groen's wife, Rebecca Groen, a Nurse Practitioner at Urgent Care, commented that masking causes weakened immune systems, therefore, making other illnesses harder to fight. Ms. Groen is concerned that children are wearing dirty and incorrectly placed masks.

Kathy Bunce, DES Secretary, commented that masks will be here to stay. She asked if children participating in sports will be required to wear masks and would like to see mask-wearing enforced the same for all.

Stephen Eastridge, a Board member, asked to hear the advice of the school's attorney. Mr. Street, the Superintendent, stated he had spoken to the attorney twice and that we need to follow the Indiana code. Mr. Street stated that failure to follow the Indiana code compromises school safety, increases school liability, and places the school in a bad situation. He also stated that close contact tracers believe mask-wearing would have reduced the need to quarantine by one-third. Mr. Street stated the goal is to reduce any future quarantines.

Mrs. Schnick, Assistant Superintendent, stated that at reevaluation, if the quarantine numbers are under 1%, masks will again be made optional.

Kristy Stowers, a Board member, stated that she also does not want to see any children quarantine or wear masks and that she has received several emails from concerned parents stating the same. She reiterated the need to be heard at the State House.

Approved the revised Return to School Plan:

UPDATED: Approved 9/7/21, Implementation 9/9/21:

Based on the State of Indiana Executive Order 21-24 and the number of students that have been required to quarantine, KVSC will require masks for grades 6-12 as outlined per the Indiana Department of Health Guidance. The Board of Education will review the mask requirement on Monday, September 27, 2021. Students in grades K-5 will have the option to wear masks. Masks may be required if there is a substantial spread, defined as 1% of the building testing positive for COVID-19. If masks are required because of a substantial spread, the mask requirement will last for at least 21 calendar days from the last documented positive case that required contact tracing. Students are required to provide their own mask. At this time, masks will be required on the school bus
REVISED RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN (CONT)

(per federal transportation requirements). Students who are symptomatic will be required to wear a mask until they are picked up by a parent or leave the building.

Executive Order 21-24 provides that if EVERYONE (including vaccinated individuals) is masked and someone is a positive case, close contacts within three feet are notified to monitor for symptoms for 14 days. The close contacts in the classroom setting are not required to quarantine unless symptoms develop. A close contact must check his/her temperature before school and after school. Close contacts during lunch, band, choir, etc. will be required to quarantine if within 6 feet of a positive individual. Anyone unmasked (positive case and/or close contacts

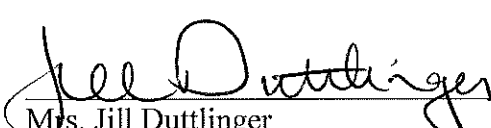
unmasked) must quarantine. A close contact is defined as any individual within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory confirmed or probable case) for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period. They must quarantine with one of the three options:

- A. 14 days after the date of last exposure;
- B. 10 days after the date of the last exposure, following additional precautions for days 11-14; or
- C. 7 days after the date of the last exposure with a negative PCR test result occurring on day 5 or later, following additional precautions for days 8-14.

*Unless fully vaccinated (documented) or have been ill with COVID-19 within the previous three months and recovered, and with any symptoms (documented).
Contract tracing is not necessary for any outdoor activity.

Motion: Mr. Stephen Eastridge	Second: Mr. Bill Walther	Vote: 4-3
Mr. Tim Helton, Mr. Jeff Groen, Mrs, Kristy Stowers opposed		

Adjournment: 8:23 p.m.		
Motion: Mr. Jeff Groen	Second: Mr. Stephen Eastridge	Vote: 7-0



Mrs. Jill Duttlinger
Board President



Mr. Jeff Groen
Secretary