11-30-20 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
11/30/2020  [9:00AM-10:00AM]  @  Virtual - Zoom Webinar

- 11-30-20 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA -

1. **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

   *Link to Audio Recordings.*

   **Minutes**

   The special meeting of the Dallastown Area Board of School Directors convened virtually on Monday morning, November 30, 2020. The sole purpose was to take action on the *Attestation Mandate for Schools in Substantial Counties*, in response to the Order of the Secretary of Health dated November 24, 2020, and in advance of the submission deadline of 5:00 p.m. this same day. Board President Ronald J. Blevins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

   This was a fully virtual meeting during the Green Phase of the state’s response to COVID-19. Those who wished to make public comment registered within the 100-attendee maximum limitation and the remainder of the public viewed the meeting through a live streaming link on our YouTube channel.

2. **ROLL CALL**

   **Minutes**

   **VIRTUAL ATTENDEES:**

   Board Members: Ronald J. Blevins, Sue A. Heistand, Sarah B. Hostler, Steven A. Kopelic, William A. Lytle, Anthony J. Pantano, Hilary S. Trout and Scott A. Wingard

   *(Absent Board Member: Steven C. Bentzel)*

   Board Secretary: Lisa M. Kirby

   Administrators/Staff: Dr. Joshua Doll, Dr. Erin Heffler, Troy Fisher and Nicole Montgomery

   Technology Administrator (Host): Tom Stauffer

   Other Dallastown Area School District Staff/Citizens: Shown in Attendee Report attached/filed, and other parents and members of the public joined through the Live Stream.

   *(11-30-20 Attendee Report.pdf attached)*

3. **APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA**

   **Minutes**

   *Mrs. Heistand moved and Mr. Lytle seconded approval of the Agenda as is.*

   **By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously...**

   Ayes: Ronald J. Blevins, Sue A. Heistand, Sarah B. Hostler, Steven A. Kopelic, William A. Lytle, Anthony J. Pantano, Hilary S. Trout and Scott A. Wingard

4. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

   The School Board and Administration welcome comments from the public.

   *If you wish to speak, select the "Raise Hand" option on your screen.*

   *When it is your turn to speak, the Webinar Host will unmute your microphone and you'll be asked to state and spell your name for the record and to share your address.*
• Specific comments for agenda items may be addressed.
• Comments for non-agenda items may be brought to the Board's attention.
• Individual comments should be limited to less than two minutes.
• When several individuals wish to address the same topic, total comment time will be limited to 30 minutes per topic.
• At the School Board President's discretion, additional time may be allowed or deferred until the end of the meeting in order to move the meeting forward.

Minutes

Before opening the floor to public comment, Mr. Blevins explained that the Board will be limited to choosing one of two options by 5:00 PM today, as outlined below, and Administration is recommending the first option:

1. Adhering to the updated mask/facial coverings order and thresholds for school closures in order to maintain face-to-face instruction.
2. Choosing remote learning for the entire district.

Christopher Rodkey spoke in support of fully remote learning in the interest of public health.

Louis Palacio supported keeping schools open, particularly for students with special needs.

Michelle Erickson supported in-person learning which is encouraged by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Eva Sanabria shared concern for the health and safety of students with special needs and avoiding an interruption of services.

Kristine Couler-Womack spoke in support of in-person learning and socialization and commended elementary schools for adhering to facial coverings and other mitigation efforts.

Rose Beal shared her belief that children should be in school and suggested talking to Red Lion Area School District which she believed had no confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Aislinn Cunningham commented on the attestation form, the cases at the middle and high schools, and school gatherings. She shared support for either decision.

Jackie Stevens spoke in support of in-person learning, indicating that cases are not spreading within the school because the District is taking precautions.

Jean Druck, a Reliance van driver, shared her beliefs that students should be in school and that DASD and Reliance are doing what they need to do. She also has a heart for drivers, students, teachers and staff.

5. ATTESTATION MANDATE FOR SCHOOLS IN SUBSTANTIAL COUNTIES - MR. BLEVINS / DR. DOLL

Motion: Authorization for the Board President and Superintendent to sign the PA Departments of Health (DOH) and Education (PDE) Attestation form after selecting the first option to allow for the continuation of in-person instruction for all or some of DASD students.

Minutes

ATTESTATION FORM

On Monday, November 23rd, Governor Wolf and the PA Secretary of Health Levine issued an Order requiring the Superintendent and Board President of every School District in the Commonwealth to sign an Attestation Form. Out of respect to our Board, he and Mr. Blevins scheduled today’s special meeting in order to gauge Board and community opinion on our two limited options:

• To continue in-person instruction, he and Mr. Blevins would have to attest to complying with Updated Orders related to the requirement of Universal Face Coverings, in addition to following REVISED recommendations for how schools address the identification of COVID-19 cases.
• The other option would immediately put an end to face-to-face learning and only permit our district to offer fully remote instruction.

In PDE style, the form is due no later than 5:00 PM today and a failure to return the form will result in an immediate suspension of all in-person instruction and extracurricular activities. It should be noted that complying with the two new orders would not waive previous orders. In essence it supplements, but does not supplant, previous PDE and DOH requirements.

If we agree to continue with in-person instruction...

STRENGTHENED UNIVERSAL FACE COVERINGS ORDER

We must ensure compliance with the recently revised order. This always requires face coverings to be worn and meet specific criteria. The only flexibility provided is that masks can be briefly removed by students and staff if six-feet socially distancing is in place when eating, drinking, or taking a mask break. Staff can also now remove a mask while in an office or room by themselves. Additionally, all students and adults involved in extracurricular activities must comply with the mandate. This includes sports, even during practice and competition, and provides our student participants with very limited exceptions - one being while swimming in the pool.

YORK COUNTY'S LEVEL OF TRANSMISSION

We must closely monitor weekly updates to York County's level of COVID-19 transmission. Currently, the County remains in the substantial level of transmission with an incident rate of 325 individuals out of 100,000 residents that are deemed positive with COVID-19 and a positivity rate of 12.2%, which has clear ramifications on our operations moving forward.

PDE RECOMMENDATIONS

We must follow a new school-closure chart. A major change from the original chart in August is three distinct charts based on the overall unique size of a building's enrollment. Simply put, the guidelines are now more proportional and closely aligned to building size.

• Small School (<500) - For Dallastown, this chart will be utilized by Dallastown, Leaders Heights, Loganville-Springfield and York Township elementary schools. Should a building have between two to four student or staff cases over a rolling 14-day period, we must close the building for a period of three to five days, clean thoroughly, and ensure close contacts are quarantined. Should five or more cases occur, the closure time will increase to 14 days.

• Medium School (500-900) - This chart will be utilized by Ore Valley Elementary. The chart is similar to the last, except that this building would have to observe a three- to five-day closure when we reach four to six positive cases over a rolling 14-day period. With seven plus positive cases, it would be a 14-day closure.

• Large School (>900) - This chart will be used by our intermediate, middle and high schools. The chart is similar to the last two, except they will observe a three- to five-day closure if they reach six to 10 positive cases over a rolling 14-day period, or a 14-day closure with 11 plus positive cases.

CASE INVESTIGATION

We must comply with case investigation, which has kept the administrative team extremely busy at all hours of the day and week since the start of the school year. This includes, but is not limited to, working closely with DOH and district families related to investigating and reporting positive cases, as well as communicating with district families and staff regarding periods of required isolation and quarantining.

CLEANING MEASURES

We must attest to meeting clear cleaning protocols, especially when a positive case is determined.

CLOSURE MATRIX FOR DASD

To simplify the current status of positive, 14-day rolling cases across our District, he provided a chart that contains the following information:

• The name of each school/building.
• The fact that each building is in the substantial level of spread based on York County data.
• The number of current actives cases.
• A new category titled, “Rolling 14 Day Cases,” which will be applied toward our closure matrix numbers.
  ○ You will notice it reflects the number of current active cases in all areas except that of the high school.
  ○ After several discussions with the DOH, we have been informed that when a school closes for fourteen days, which has been the case for our middle and high schools, the rolling 14-day number of cases resets to zero.
• The positive-case range/threshold in which our district must close for a period of three to five days.
• Current status of each building, which is ‘open.’

Dr. Doll pointed out that if the Board chooses to continue with in-person instruction, all Dallastown schools will be open this week, including the middle and high schools which will participate in Wildcat Asynchronous Wednesday and return to face-to-face instruction on Thursday.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION FOR ATTESTATION FORM

His recommendation was to submit the required Attestation Form to continue with in-person instruction. This choice would provide our district with the greatest flexibility and still permit a local decision to close should that be our preference today or down the road.

BOARD QUESTIONS & DELIBERATION

Prior to deliberation, Mr. Blevins allowed time for clarifying questions from the Board. Here are those key points:

• Fully remote students who have not participated in any other school activities and test positive for COVID-19 will not count in a building's closure matrix numbers; however, they are still shared with families for complete transparency.
• If we would close under the new matrix, the following would also be suspended:
  ○ all in-person extracurricular activities, and
  ○ all in-person special education classes, including those operated by the LIU.

Mrs. Heistand moved and Mr. Pantano seconded approval of the authorization for the Board President and Superintendent to sign the PA Departments of Health (DOH) and Education (PDE) Attestation form after selecting the first option to allow for the continuation of in-person instruction for all or some of DASD students.

Summary of Board Comments:

• Mrs. Heistand thanked administration and staff for keeping schools open and students safe.
• Mr. Wingard agreed with Mrs. Heistand but believes we’re slipping behind and should be physically distancing and pursuing the closure of schools.
• Mr. Pantano shared his frustration with the state taking away local control. He noted that back in August, the Board sided with keeping schools open for students while granting the superintendent the authority to close a building if necessary. Also, that the CDC's director has indicated that school is the safest place for children. He acknowledged what Administration is dealing with in regards to contact tracing and that Dr. Doll’s recommended option would give the Board some control.
• Mrs. Trout thanked everyone for their efforts and noted she does not want to lose local control.
• Mr. Lytle saw the first option as the next logical step for the flexibility to meet students needs. He also shared his trust in Administration being cautious in regards to Mr. Wingard's comments.
• Mr. Kopelic echoed others' comments and highly supported Dr. Doll's recommendation as we try to balance student and staff safety with the education of students.
• Mrs. Hostler shared her respect for all viewpoints and noted our District successfully operated with all three learning options until our first school closure in the tenth week. Buildings are thriving through phenomenal efforts and going fully remote would be a disservice to our students.
• Mr. Blevins was sympathetic to Mr. Wingard and the same fear for the weeks ahead, but shared his belief that going with the second option would take away our flexibility. The first option gives the District the most control, which could actually go beyond the matrix if it would be in the best interest of DASD. He also emphasized that in-person learning is so important for grades K-6.

Prior to calling for the vote, Mr. Blevins clarified that a ‘yes’ vote would support Administration's recommendation for the continuation of in-person instruction and a 'no' vote would indicate a wish to go fully remote at 5:00 PM this afternoon.

By roll call vote, the motion passed with a majority vote... (Fully executed form attached)
Ayes: Ronald J. Blevins, Sue A. Heistand, Sarah B. Hostler, Steven A. Kopelic, William A. Lytle, Anthony J. Pantano and Hilary S. Trout
Nays: Scott A. Wingard

Dr. Doll thanked the Board, encouraged families to make necessary arrangements should a closure be mandated, and acknowledged the collective efforts of Dr. Heffler and Mrs. Montgomery. He also commented on other matters related to the COVID-19 response:

- **Revised PA Travel Restrictions** - Prior to the holiday closure, Secretary Levine announced that they would now only apply to travelers over the age of 11; so, in essence, several of our elementary learners would no longer need to quarantine or seek a COVID-19 test simply for traveling. The same applies to those traveling and returning to PA in less than 24 hours and individual students traveling to comply for a court order, such as a child custody agreement.
- **Indoor Capacities** - We are in the process of kicking off and navigating our winter season, as we did in the fall, with a clear limit of a 10% capacity for indoor facilities. As displayed in the chart, parent participation for basketball and wrestling in our middle and high school gyms will be greatly limited, and a clear concern exists for the natatorium and swimmers.

(AttestationForm-fillable.pdf attached)
(11_30_2020 - Special Board Presentation UPDATED.pdf attached)
(AttestationForm-DallastownAreaSD signed 11-30-2020.pdf attached)

6. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The School Board and Administration welcome comments from the public.

If you wish to speak, select the "Raise Hand" option on your screen.

When it is your turn to speak, the Webinar Host will unmute your microphone and you'll be asked to state and spell your name for the record and to share your address.

- Specific comments for agenda items may be addressed.
- Comments for non-agenda items may be brought to the Board's attention.
- **Individual comments should be limited to less than two minutes.**
- **When several individuals wish to address the same topic, total comment time will be limited to 30 minutes per topic.**
- At the School Board President's discretion, additional time may be allowed or deferred until the end of the meeting in order to move the meeting forward.

Minutes

Aislinn Cunningham shared her support for Dr. Doll, who is not in an easy situation, but indicated that considerations for the community as-a-whole and teaching staff are also important.

Rose Beal's son agreed that schools should stay open, noting struggles with Zoom, and shared his mom's question related to the impact of a case outside of school.

Ellen Connelly thanked everyone for their time and investment in the District. She acknowledged the collaborative efforts that are improved upon every day and the need to be vigilant with distancing in larger buildings. She also explained that teachers feel vulnerable every day, which is socially and emotionally exhausting, but they are flexible and embrace change which is common in education.

7. **BOARD COMMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE**

Minutes

There were none.
8. CALENDAR OF BOARD EVENTS:

Most meetings are open to the public and located at 700 New School Lane, Dallastown, PA 17313. Closed meetings are noted with an asterisk (*).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>MEETING/EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 3</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Human Resources Committee*</td>
<td>AD Board Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00-7:15 PM</td>
<td>Organization Meeting &amp; Business Meeting for any other matter(s) that may require timely deliberation</td>
<td>Zoom Webinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Finance followed by Buildings &amp; Grounds Committee</td>
<td>Zoom Webinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 10</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>Zoom Webinar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Link to full list, last updated 11/25/2020: [Meeting Dates through Aug. 2021](#)

Minutes
The list of events were listed for public review.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes
The special meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Kirby, Board Secretary