

Central Bucks School District
School Board Briefs
May 25, 2021

At the May 25, 2021 School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board met in Executive Session on May 20, 2021 with the Bucks County IU to discuss the Superintendent search, the Board met in Executive Session this evening, prior to the May 25, 2021 School Board Meeting, to discuss a contract issue, and the Board met in Executive Session on May 19, 2021 to discuss several legal matters.

Approved the minutes of the May 11, 2021 School Board Special Meeting

Heard Public Comment:

Vonna DeArmond of Plumstead Township addressed the Board regarding opening the meeting to the public, giving attention to the budget, repetitive training, and making face masks optional.

Jen Girard of Warwick addressed the Board regarding the Rainbow Room, distributed handouts that contained images from the Rainbow Room's social media site, and asked that a link to the Rainbow Room be removed from the district's website.

Patricia Doebler of Chalfont addressed the Board regarding the face masks and raising temperatures, the Attestation, allowing parents to choose if their children wear face masks, making face mask wearing optional, and thanked Special Education Director Kuchler for reaching out and hearing her concerns.

Lisa Sciscio of Warrington addressed the Board regarding the district's Health and Safety Plan, mistreatment of children, face masks, other school districts making wearing face masks optional, parents holding the primary responsibility for their children's education and health, and board members pushing their own political agendas.

Debra Cannon of Warrington addressed the Board regarding the district vision's pillars of success, political agendas, overspending tax dollars, treatment of children, collusion with union and private physicians to instill fear, special needs sub-par education, and meeting live-stream 504 violations.

Christine Linso of Warrington addressed the Board regarding having a picture of a classroom that has the area around the teacher's desk surrounded by orange cones, psychological harm to children, science and masking, and the Board acting upon fear instead of fact, creating an atmosphere of fear and segregation.

Kevin Levan of New Hope and the Bucks County Anti-Racism Coalition addressed the Board regarding World Suicide Awareness Day on September 10, the safety of CB students, and transgender students and a higher rate of suicide attempts.

Eileen Laphen of Doylestown read a letter written by a friend regarding the friend's child, a staff conference that was voted against by the Board, and asked the Board to reconsider.

James Lamb of Plumstead addressed the Board regarding advocating for trans-, non-binary, and gender non-conforming students, who should not be marginalized and overlooked and asked the Board to listen to the youth, who are asking for inclusion.

Steph Graziano-Hibbs, CBSD staff member, addressed the Board regarding a staff conference that was recently denied, shared that the program includes 24 hours of in-depth training that will help participants make their schools more welcoming and inclusive environments for all students as well as three months of access to a consultant.

Emily Lieberman of Doylestown Township addressed the Board regarding a staff conference that was recently denied, the community starting a fund-raiser to finance it, and urged the Board to support the staff conference.

Marlene Pray of Doylestown Borough read an email from a recent CB East graduate about that graduate's experience at school and of feeling safe in school, and addressed the Board regarding a staff conference that was recently denied, the Rainbow Room and Pride month.

Larissa Hopwood of Doylestown Borough read a letter written by a friend regarding staff training around how to support trans- and non-binary students, giving all children the tools to flourish and investing in teachers' learning about inclusion.

Mindy Freeman of Buckingham Township addressed the Board regarding a staff training, having attended a district equity and inclusion meeting, having a deep respect for all people, training that will benefit all students, gender inclusion, and professional development.

Daniel Mautz of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding suicide rates for transgender youth, fear, and facing discrimination.

Sarah Zhang of Warwick addressed the Board regarding anti-racism, not sending staff to training on transgender inclusive schools, adding Diwali to the school calendar, institutionalized racism, and the district's failure to advocate for minority students.

Isabela Stampes-Blackburn of Buckingham regarding supporting those who are under-represented, an inclusivity training program, anti-racism education, and ensuring that transgender students have resources at their disposal to feel included and safe.

Jamie Walker of New Britain addressed the Board regarding a Right to Know appeal, the Attestation that will end on May 31, the masking order, face mask exemptions, the county's public health director Dr. Damsker, letting parents decide if their children should wear face masks, and bringing back normal and bringing our trust back.

James Bender of Chalfont addressed the Board regarding improving communication, the meeting live-streaming model, broadcasting meetings with video for the community, the professional development vote without explanation for why votes were cast, and asked the Board to consider having discussion about ways that the Board can be more transparent and accessible. Mr. Bender remarked that he sent an email with some clarifying questions about the recess masking policy to the Board and Dr. Lucabaugh and thanked Dr. Lucabaugh for calling him directly the next day.

SueAnn DiVito of Doylestown addressed the Board regarding her child's experience at school and the Rainbow Room as a resource for the community.

Denis Harte of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding treating every student with respect, gender dysphoria, the district's focus on LGBTQ+ dogma and indoctrination to expand the LGBTQ+ population, and refocusing professional development sessions on collapsing grades, truancy, withdrawal from society, self harm and suicide.

Chris Valeri of Buckingham Township addressed the Board regarding the district requiring teachers to participate in a professional development session that forced the Critical Race Theory into the core curriculum by Professor Ibram Kendi. Mr. Valeri remarked that the entire philosophy is based in Marxism. Mr. Valeri spoke about personal liberty, free markets and the rule of law.

James Albert of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding America being the greatest country in the history of the world, illegal aliens that tried to come into this country, freedom and equality for everyone, and remarked that Critical Race Theory subscribes to Marxist theories.

Shannon Harris of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding the school year being spent abusing our children, the hybrid school model, the hypocrisy of employees in the air-conditioned administration building not wearing face masks while students are masked in school buildings, appealing Right to Know requests that were denied without discussion, and the lack of transparency. Ms. Harris remarked that she hopes next year will change but has lost faith and trust in the school district.

Mary Jo O'Connor of Buckingham addressed the Board regarding listening to the divide in the group of people in the room, working on inclusion and the differences that kids have, and respecting each other's differences. Ms. O'Connor thanked Dr. Lucabaugh for calling her last week and engaging in a discussion and remarked that she feels hopeful and knows that things can change if we have people in the right places who are willing to make the changes.

Announced updates to the CBSD Health and Safety Plan: Dr. Leatherbarrow reports that teachers will allow students to remove their masks if they are overheated. Students are encouraged to inform their teachers if they feel overheated. Teachers will employ common-sense strategies to help students feel safe and comfortable. Updated guidance from the CDC and the commonwealth suggests removing one's mask while outdoors presents little risk, therefore, no one will be required to wear a mask outdoors when participating in educational, extracurricular, or co-curricular programming. Fully vaccinated persons may remove their mask when not in the presence of others, and anyone who chooses to wear a mask is welcome to do so. Students and drivers/staff are still required to mask while on the bus. Students may have a medical exemption from masking on the bus. Students who are currently attending school under the modified quarantine protocol must remain masked at all times, except when eating or drinking.

Heard Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Lucabaugh and the Board recognized Central Bucks School District staff award winners of the 2021 Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association Communications Contest:

Mr. Matthew Murray has been awarded the Award of Honor - Videos: Titus: Returning In-Person 2020

Mr. Matthew Murray has been awarded the Award of Excellence - Videos: Mask Tips

Ms. Angela Linch has been awarded the Award of Honor - Publications Category: A Vision for Our Schools

Ms. Angela Linch has been awarded the Award of Honor - COVID-19 and/or Crisis Management Category: 2020-2021 Return to School Document

Reviewed the School Board Reports:

- Curriculum Committee
- Finance Committee
- Operations Committee
- Policy Committee
- Bucks County Intermediate Unit
- Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Approved Business Office Items:

- Treasurer's Report and Summary of Fund Disbursements
- Accounts Payable Check Disbursements Report in the amount of \$2,450,864.95
- 3-Year Agreement with ATI for Athletic Trainer services in the amount of \$519,270.00
- Transportation Agreement with Plumstead Christian School for the 2021-2022 School Year in the amount of \$211,000.00
- 5-Year Agreement with First Student for Transportation services in the amount of \$52,463,000.00
- 5-Year Extension of New Britain Bus Depot Lease Agreement with First Student

- Settlement Agreement with First Student in the amount of \$275,000.00

Approved a School Photography Contract with C&C Studios

Approved an Agreement with EduLink for PA ETEP Employee Evaluation software pending solicitor review in the amount of \$32,526.00

Approved an Amendment to Infinite Campus End User License Agreement in the amount of \$39,401.00

Approved Special Education Department Items:

- BCIU Special Education Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$1,735,788.00
- Carbon Lehigh IU Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$14,000.00
- Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams, LLC Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$20,000
- Austill's Rehabilitation Services Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$1,500,000.00
- New Hope Academy Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$112,000.00

Approved a Bucks Learning Academy Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$68,040.00

Approved the Update to the CBSD Health and Safety Plan: Teachers will allow students to remove their masks if they are overheated. Students are encouraged to inform their teachers if they feel overheated. Teachers will employ common-sense strategies to help students feel safe and comfortable.

Updated guidance from the CDC and the commonwealth suggests removing one's mask while outdoors presents little risk. Therefore, no one will be required to wear a mask outdoors when participating in educational, extracurricular, or co-curricular programming. A student who chooses to continue to mask is welcome to do so.

Fully vaccinated persons may remove their mask when not in the presence of others during the school day. Outside of the school day, fully vaccinated individuals do not need to mask on our campuses, whether indoors or outside. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask is welcome to do so.

Students and drivers/staff are still required to mask while on the bus. Students may have a medical exemption from masking on the bus.

Students who are currently attending school under the modified quarantine protocol must remain masked at all times, except when eating or drinking.

Approved the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Central Bucks School District Calendars

2020-2021 School Year:

June 9, 2021: Early Dismissal (Grades 10-12 only)

June 10, 2021: Early Dismissal

June 11, 2021: Early Dismissal

2021-2022 School Year:

September 3, 2021: Schools Closed/Offices Open

September 7, 2021: Schools Closed/Offices Open

September 16, 2021: Schools Closed/Offices Open

Approved Glencoe: Geometry textbook adoption

Approved to move to Table for First Read School Board Policies 323, 330, 330.1, 504.1, and 805

Approved the Touzer-Trane proposal for the Chiller Rebuild at Mill Creek Elementary School in an amount not to exceed \$130,000.00

Approved Personnel Items:

- Retirements, Resignations, and Terminations
- Leaves of Absence
- Appointments
- Assignment, Classification, and Status Changes
- Activities EDRs Changes

Approved the 2021 Senior Classes from CB East, CB South, and CB West for Graduation

Approved Foreign Exchange Students:

- Foreign Exchange Student #2 for the 2021-2022 school year at CB West
- Foreign Exchange Student #3 for the 2021-2022 school year at CB West

Approved Staff Conferences/Workshops in the amount of \$1,000.00

Elected Dana Hunter President of the Central Bucks Board of School Directors

Elected John Gamble Vice President of the Central Bucks Board of School Directors