

**LINCOLN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS**  
**Ypsilanti, Michigan**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION / SPECIAL MEETING**  
**February 21, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**District Boardroom-Lincoln High School**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jennifer Czachorski, President  
Jennifer LaBombarbe, Vice President  
Allie Sparks, Secretary (arrived at 6:006pm)  
Thomas Rollins, Treasurer  
Matthew Bentley, Trustee  
Jason Moore, Trustee

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT**

Robert Jansen, Superintendent  
Karensa Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction  
Adam Blaylock, Human Resources Director

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Melissa Palmquist, Drew Palmquist, Charlotte Allum, Sherry Smith and Laurie Price

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

President Czachorski called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**2.0 ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed all Board Members were present with the exception of Williams.

**3.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

**4.0 PLEDGE TO FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Board and audience members.

**5.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

It was moved by LaBombarbe and seconded by Rollins that we accept the agenda as presented.

Ayes:5

Nays: 0

Motion carried 5-0

**6.0 PRESENTATIONS**

- 6.1 Covid-19 Protocol Updates (*Sparks arrived at 6:06pm*)  
Statement read by Mr. Jansen

These last few years, dealing with the Pandemic have been so difficult for so many. As an organization, we have done our best to listen to the health professionals and partner with others to do the very best to keep our students, staff, and community Safe. What makes our community so beautiful is the diversity, in all areas of life. When we talk about Masking mandates, there are some very strong feelings and differing opinions on what is best. I believe our community has supported and will continue to support each other through kindness, compassion and love.

We are at another crossroads where we need to make an important decision as a district around Masking. We plan to share a little information and give you Four potential options to move us forward.

- We have spent a great deal of time exploring the various options regarding the Health departments lifting of the Mask mandate starting February 28.
- Here is a summary of the four options:
  - **Option 1 - Board Approved Plan** - The Board of Education approved a plan in August, 2021, that outlines when masks would be used. We can move forward with the already Board-approved plan.
    - Board has already approved it.
    - Color coded and allows for seamless transition as numbers change. More conservative for younger students.
  - **Option 2 - Modified Board Approved Plan** - Vaccinations are now widely available for all of our school-aged children (except those at Model). This option would use the structure of the Board of Education approved plan, but remove the mask requirement when in the CDC's Yellow rating for K-6 students.
    - Small modification but would update our K-6 who have not had the chance to be vaccinated.
  - **Option 3 - More Relaxed Plan** - This option would remove the mask requirement for any students or staff unless we are in the CDC's Red rating.
    - This would allow us to have a system in place when numbers go down and back up.
  - **Option 4 - Current WCHD Guidance** - This option would make mask wearing highly recommended at all times, but would not continue any mask wearing requirement, unless the WCHD mandates them moving forward..
    - We have followed the health professionals all along, and the Health Department is now Highly recommending and we stay consistent with them.

There is no single data point that led to this decision. Local emergency health orders are a temporary/emergency tool. In the absence of emergency orders, we still expect our guidance and recommendations to be used for organizational decision making. As described in our public statement, several circumstances have changed since these orders were put in place. Most importantly, 1) COVID-19 vaccination is available for all K-12 students, 2) Washtenaw students have the highest vaccine rates in Michigan for kids ages 5-11 years and 12-15 years, 3) more therapeutics available to prevent or treat serious illness, and 4) cases are rapidly trending down. Additionally, with omicron, delta, and vaccinations, we have seen much higher levels of community exposure. This likely means there is some level of protection for many in the community and this premise is supported in the literature. Finally, when a virus is very contagious, as we saw with omicron, there are a lot of exposures happening throughout the community, and a high percentage of students exposure happens in non-schools settings. With this higher degree of transmission, orders specific to one specific setting when people have exposures in multiple settings become somewhat less effective. Again, while a local order specific to masks will not remain in place, the Health Department continues to recommend layered prevention measures, which includes masks and isolation and quarantine (which is also required by existing administrative rules in Michigan). Providing guidance is the normal role of local public health, and adherence is especially critical during outbreaks and health emergencies.

Statement read by Jennifer Czachorski, Board of Education President

Thank you to the entire LCS staff and administration for their tireless efforts during this global pandemic. Your efforts have undoubtedly kept our community safer.

In the 2 years that we have lived with Covid 19, we have learned and grown a great deal.

Two years ago we did not -

- Clearly know the ways in which Covid could be transmitted
- Know the mortality rates across subgroups of our populations
- Have a clear understanding of variants

- Have adequate systems for tracking covid exposures
- Have adequate systems for testing for covid
- Have access to the adequate supplies of the materials required for multi layered safety protocols such as hand sanitizer and masks

We now understand a great deal more about multi layered safety protocols for slowing the transmission of Covid

- Transmissions rate among communities, and specifically children
- Understand more about how children's **innate** immune systems react to Covid 19
- Have vaccines available for much of the population above 5 years of age
- Have protocols and systems in place to react swiftly to new variants or large-scale outbreaks
- Have supplies available to provide multi layered safety protocols
- Have adequate access to testing and understanding of the results
- Have a clearer understanding about the negative impacts of virtual education on the social, emotional, and academic learning of our students.

This board is not comprised of experts on epidemiology and public health. We must rely on expert institutions to guide us. Our process throughout this pandemic has been based on the trusting the experts and science, which has led us to following the guidance of state, local and national health departments. The current recommendation from the WCHD removes mask mandates as of February 28th and replaces the mandate with a strong recommendation for masking. The MDHHS is recommending moving to a Response, Recovery and Readiness program and states that Michigan is currently in a post surge recovery phase.

I believe that it is in the best interest of our district to continue to follow the guidance set forth by our health experts. This would include strongly recommending masks for all individuals while in district buildings and required masking or quarantining subject to the guidelines that will be forth by the WCHD. Furthermore, the MDHHS asks all people to consider their individual and family members' risk factors and vaccination status when making the personal decision whether to mask.

## 7.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

### 7.1 Public Comment Board of Education Public Comment Statement

This is the time set aside by the Board to hear from you, the members of our community. We invite you to address the Board with comments, questions or concerns regarding board actions, policies, or other issues not resolved through appropriate administrative channels. The Board may not immediately respond to concerns presented at this meeting; however, we will respond to inquiries on or before the next board meeting.

Please sign in completing your contact information. Limit individual comments to 5 minutes or less. Comments with respect to the performance of specific district employees are not appropriate during public comment.

---

#### Rules for Public Comment:

1. The Board of Education reserves the right to limit the total public comment to 30 minutes in any meeting
2. The Board of Education will limit each speaker to one opportunity to speak during any public comment period
3. The Board of Education President, or the President's delegee (such as the Superintendent or another District administrator) will respond to your comment
4. The Presiding officer may: A) prohibit public comments which are frivolous, repetitive, or harassing; B) interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; C) request any individual to leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive of the orderly conduct of the meeting; D) request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting, and; E) call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.

- Sherry Smith, Paraprofessional, addressed her concerns about the masking changes and how it would impact the Middle School.
- Melissa Palmquist, resident, addressed the Board with her views on staff and students wearing or not wearing masks properly.
- Charlotte Allum, employee, voiced her option as well over the new masking changes.

**8.0 OLD BUSINESS**

8.1 Covid-19 Protocol Updates

It was moved by Bentley and seconded by Rollins that we adopt option #4 as presented by administration.

Ayes:4

Nays: 2

Motion carried 4-2 (Sparks and Moore)

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by LaBombarbe and seconded by Rollins that we adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried 6-0

**APPROVED BY:**

---

**Allison Sparks, Secretary, Board of Education  
Lincoln Consolidated Schools**

---

**Date**