

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2020**

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The emergency special meeting of the Warren County School District Board of School Directors was called to order by Mrs. Zariczny, President, at 12:45 p.m. via Zoom meeting.

Mrs. Zariczny announced the Board met in executive session prior to this meeting to discuss a legal matter with its solicitors.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Zariczny led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Joseph Colosimo
Mrs. Elizabeth Huffman
Mr. Kevin Lindvay
Mr. Paul Mangione

Mrs. Mary Passinger
Mr. Arthur Stewart
Mrs. Donna Zariczny

Absent:

Mr. Jeffrey Labesky Mrs. Marcy Morgan

Others Present:

Mrs. Amy Stewart, Superintendent; Mr. Chris Byham, Solicitor; Mr. Patrick Fanelli, Solicitor; Mrs. Ruth Huck, Board Secretary; and Brian Ferry, Times Observer.

1.4 Public Comment

Mr. Brian Ferry from the Warren Times Observer was the only public participant on the call. He had no public comment.

2. New Business

2.1 Other

MOTION: It was moved by Arthur Stewart and seconded by Joseph Colosimo that the Board of School Directors, in the face of legal uncertainties concerning public participation outlined to us in the executive session by our solicitors, that we proceed as planned for the public participation events scheduled for today and this weekend, and that the Board charges the solicitors to further research the interplay of our school district Safety Plan, any proclamations from State officials and any other applicable law, including federal law, and to give us more studied guidance as early as possible next week, so that we can further refine our decisions in accordance with the law as they state it to us.

The Warren County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment practices and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Gary Weber, Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator at 6820 Market Street, Russell, PA 16345 or (814) 723-6900.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ferry had no public comment.

Mr. Stewart stated, "I would just like the record to reflect that we have two solicitors working on this, that they have to comb through what are now two federal opinions that we have a number of statements from state officials, and the PIAA has given us guidance to consult with our solicitors and that we're sorely confused about a host of things, including how gym or gymnasium requirements coordinate with these other requirements that the governor talked about today. And that, in the face of the inability to get 100 percent certain answers, I think we're safer to proceed as planned. The other thing I would like to be sure is on the record, maybe others can speak to this better than I, because of their experience or because they're currently parents, but if we don't proceed as we have planned for this evening, then we may have, at least at the Warren facility, folks who would be attending under our current plans inside in a safe manner in the restrictions that we've already established instead of doing that, they may attend and hang on the fence outside of our facility where we have no control. And that could be a less safe atmosphere than that for which we have already planned."

Mrs. Zariczny commented, "I would agree with that Arthur, especially since all of the property outside of that facility is privately owned and people would have the ability to do whatever they choose out there."

Mr. Stewart said, "And once again, just for the record, I think we should be clear that we've, we've all gotten reports for what those safety plans are. We want to commend the Administration for the care in which they've prepared them. We know we have a facility that's big enough to hold literally thousands of people. The Board's been informed that there's going to be something on the order of about ten percent of the capacity there; the Board's been informed the seating is sectioned off into family sections with very large spacing in between those, and that the plan that's in place would be very different than the ad hoc methodology that people would employ around the private property that we don't control if we didn't continue as we've planned. So that coupled with the legal uncertainty is the reason that I made the motion."

Mrs. Huffman stated, "The 10 percent is more like 15 to 16 percent, so I think that's our worst case scenario. So, I just want to make sure that that's a public statement as well. We're looking at 15 to 16 percent, maximum capacity at that outside facility."

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Elizabeth Huffman, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger,
Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny, Kevin Lindvay

3. Closing Activities

3.1 Adjournment

MOTION: It was moved by Joseph Colosimo and seconded by Mary Passinger that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth A. Huck, Board Secretary