

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting, August 13, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.
MONROE COUNTY BOARD OFFICE

MINUTES

I. Roll Call

- a. Mr. Wickline called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- b. Members present in addition to Mr. Wickline included Everett Fraley, Candace Sabol, Sally Wallace, and Sabrina Stutts.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Agenda/Adjustments

- a. Mrs. Sabol made the motion to approve agenda and the vote to approve was unanimous.

IV. Public Comments

- a. Savannah spoke about virtual school for elementary students. She stated it was disastrous for most children but it assisted her with educating her kids last year. She has a child with an illness and cannot attend in-person with COVID-19. She would like virtual school offered to elementary grades K-5 for children with health problems.
- b. Megan Raines spoke about the re-entry protocol for students. She appreciated what the Board did last year during COVID-19 and felt services were provided in a time when little was known about the virus. She feels parents know more and can make informed decisions and informed consent for what their children do and don't do in regards to the virus. The data is available to parents to read and make decisions. She feels it is in her child's best interest to not wear a mask all day. She quoted the county attendance policy and health policy which state, "It is the parent's responsibility...". She asked the Board to allow parents to make those choices for their children.
- c. RJ Miller spoke and said ditto to what Mrs. Raines stated. On another note he asked that dividers be placed between urinals in the football locker room at JMHS.
- d. Melinda Allen spoke and stated her grandchildren attend Monroe County Schools and she would pick kids up off the bus and they would be crying over having to wear masks. She discussed the low mortality rate from COVID-19 for children and asked the Board to not force children to wear masks.

e. Missy Boggs spoke stating she feels the Board did a good job last year. She does not like the control from the Health Department or CDC. There is not a one size fits all, what is good for New York is not what is good for Monroe County. She feels it is her decision as a parent to decide if her children wear masks or not.

f. Crystal Largen agrees with what has been stated by others. She does not feel masks are beneficial to children in schools. She feels it is parent's decision and not government officials, whether her children wear masks or not. She works in health care and has seen co-workers get COVID-19 even with all the precautions in place. She stated masks do not help and COVID-19 can be transferred even with masks.

g. Matthew Goff, Student Body President, spoke about representing the student body of James Monroe High School. He stated student seem to be against mask mandates. They would like more soap and paper towels available and classes cleaned like last year.

V. New Business

a. Mr. Wickline asked each Board Member to express their opinion about masks. The re-entry document follows state guidance and they leave masks up to the county to decide.

b. Mrs. Sabol discussed masks being required for all public transportation including school buses and recommends asking all staff and students to wear masks at the beginning of the school year.

c. Mr. Fraley thanked those in attendance for speaking and for him being given the opportunity to speak. He feels everyone cares about our children and things are changing very quickly. He was on the fence with masks but felt they should be recommended but knows children won't wear them appropriately.

d. Sabrina Stutts stated she also worked in healthcare and N95 masks are the only masks that are truly effective. She felt masks should be required when the county is orange or red. She wants to do what's best for kids but respects parent concerns.

e. Sally Wallace stated this was a big decision with big responsibility with regard to wearing masks. She read a legal opinion from the Charleston Gazette newspaper and discussed the constitutional rights to a safe education. She felt masks make schools safer and recommended masks for at least first semester.

f. Keith Wickline stated he raised four children and would hate for someone to tell him how to raise his kids. We are here to educate and keep kids safe. He questioned requiring masks in schools but masks not

being required anywhere else. He feels every board member wants to keep children safe and we had minimal outbreaks last year. Staff went above and beyond last year and made sacrifices but children sacrificed the most.

g. Mr. Wickline asked for a motion to approve mask option 1, which required masks. Mrs. Wallace made the motion to require masks through 1st semester and the vote to approve was Mrs. Wallace – yes, Mrs. Sabol – yes, Mr. Fraley – no, Mrs. Stutts – no, and Mr. Wickline – no. Motion failed.

h. Mr. Wickline asked for a motion to approve mask option 2, which required masks for children under the age of 12. No motion was made.

i. Mr. Wickline asked for a motion to approve mask option 3, which required masks when the county was orange or red on the state map. Mrs. Wallace asked about a waiver being used in other counties. Mr. Wickline asked for a motion on option 3 and Mrs. Stutts made the motion and the vote to approve was Stutts – yes, Fraley – yes, Wickline – yes, Sabol – no, and Wallace – no. Motion passed.

j. Mr. Wickline asked for a motion to require parents and employees to sign a waiver if they choose not to wear a mask, noting this would not be effective when the county is orange or red. Mr. Fraley made the motion and the vote to approve was Fraley – yes, Sabol – yes, Stutts – yes, Wickline – yes, and Wallace – no. Motion passed.

VI. Personnel

a. Mr. Fraley made the motion to approve the personnel list and the vote to approve was unanimous.

b. Personnel items include resignations for Ann Turley, Elementary Music Teacher at MVS and John McMillion, Assistant Football Coach at PMS; retirement of Gary Crosier, 2nd Grade Teacher at PES; and hires of Rafael Santana as substitute custodian, James Williams as Extra Duty Bus/Activity Run, Richard Bailey as Extra Duty Bus/Activity Run, Joseph “JD” Jackson as Groundsman/Maintenance, Daniel Cox as Bus Operator for Sinks Grove, Neff’s Orchard, Jennifer Persinger as English Learner Teacher at MVS, Kimberly Rodes SAT Site Coordinator for elementary and middle school at MVS, Alexander Cardwell Band/Music at MVS, Brandy Shrader Social Worker at MVS, Brittani Quigley Special Education Teacher at MVS, Vonda Boothe Kindergarten Teacher at MVS, Stephanie Morris as 2nd Grade Teacher at PES, Zachariah Elmore Social Studies Grades 7/8 at PMS, Darla Ellison Assistant Volleyball Coach PMS, Kelly Mann One Dollar Assistant

Football Coach at PMS, John Helvey Assistant Football coach at PMS, Sreenaiah Nakka English Learner Teacher at JMHS, and Lucy Hamann SAT Site Coordinator at JMHS.

Mr. Fraley would like to ask MVS to create an award for employees in honor of Erin Netzel.

Mrs. Wallace asked Board Members to donate to the memorial Mrs. Netzel's family has set up for purchasing books for kids.

VI. Adjournment

- a. Mrs. Sabol made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and the vote to approve was unanimous.



President



Secretary