

MINUTES
VSWEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2022
VIA [Zoom](#)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kerstin Kubina (KK)–President
April Sauer (AS)–Secretary
Dan Franks (DF)–Treasurer
John Tanner (JT)
Danielle Martinez (DM)

Nellie Grossenbacher (NG)
Ben Fong (BF)
Myriah Mhoon (MM)
Scott Edwards (SE)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

The President, Treasurer, and Secretary were present, and a quorum was reached.

GUESTS

Invitees of the Board:

Frank Mirizio (FM)
Michelle Kratzer (MK)

Members of the public present via Zoom/Registration through Google Forms:

Barb Cunningham
Andrew Young
Megan Young
Addie Heartkin
Helena Moriarty
Laura Slayton-Garcia
Roxana Elixavide
Sarah Williamson
Laura Heaney
Megan
JJ
Deb
Susan Kerr
Larry G
Sarah Baize
Elodyyy

Kellee Schlink
Thomas
Gina Limesand
Kim Baker
Addie H
Kristen
Lily
Andrew
Tammy/Tom
Sergio Elixavide
Laura Slayton-Garcia
Blayne Goodman
Sophie McCurley
William
Arika
Sami Rank

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Heather Sullivan
Morgan Davis
Mike McCurley
Vincent Slayton-Garcia
Nelly McGillicuddy

Jerry
Patricia Castillo
Amy Edwards
Russell Bayles
Alison Easter

OPENING VERSE / INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting was called to order at 6:34pm. KK welcomed the public to the meeting, read the opening verse, and reviewed the agenda.

The Board members introduced themselves along with FM and MK.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

FM His board report listed 6-7 positive covid cases, but now we have 11 positive cases. 18 students are being quarantined due to close contact or have siblings who are positive. This week we had to terminate our janitorial services. He did data collection to show them that they weren't doing their duties and broke their contract. We have a new company called Prestige. They may be starting tomorrow. If not, they will start Monday. Earlier in the week, Steve, Hector, and teachers have been doing double duty to keep the campus and classrooms clean and stocked. This company was with us for the last year and half, but they dropped the ball, and it was time to move on. Tennis is underway. We have five players. Vince Denopoli is our coach. He's a tennis pro and is doing a wonderful job. That's all I have to report tonight since I know we have a lot of talk about.

KK Thank you, FM.

BOARD PROCEDURES

Approval of Minutes

KK moved to approve the 12/15/21 Meeting Minutes. NG second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: KK, AS, DM, NG, JT, MM, SE, BF, DF. **Motion passes.**

Board Operational Items

KK The meeting cadence is up for discussion. Are we okay with continuing with two a month, or do we want to go to one a month?

SE I'm not sure I have enough of a sample size to change it.

DM I think if we were in person, I'd like one a month, but for now with zoom, I'm happy with two.

DF I agree, and I feel like with all the changes with Covid it's probably still a good idea to stick with two a month.

MM I think if we were spending a lot of time talking about Covid then it warrants two. I'm happy to stay with two a month and reevaluate at the end of the year.

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NG I think it might be nice to do one on Zoom and one in person.

MM Would that start immediately, or later on in the Spring?

NG I would think immediately. Did we meet in the eurythmy room or elsewhere?

AS We met in the high school English room, and if we had too many visitors, we moved to the eurythmy room. Though, I must add that the logistics of that are always difficult because we're moving equipment over. And speaking of equipment, I think everyone who had the equipment has since left the board, so something to think about as we think about moving back to in person meetings. We need to have the proper equipment to project our financials and other reports.

FM I'm counting now 40 people in this meeting, and we have a lot of Covid cases right now. I don't think that's a good idea right now. This is not getting better. We are spiking.

BF We can change anytime, right?

KK Yes.

BF It seems like revisiting this in a month or two sounds good.

NG That sounds great to me.

KK moved to keep the meeting cadence of two board meetings month for now. BF seconded. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: KK, AS, DM, NG, JT, MM, SE, BF, DF. **Motion passes.**

KK We still have some outstanding documents from our new members, and we need those to make our amendment. Please get those in. Also, we need to get Gregory's departure on record. AS, want to help me out here?

AS Sure. We have to make amendments when we add or remove board members, and we need to have those changes in our minutes. So, for the record, Gregory Schneider's term as a board member ended on 11/20/2021. Now it's documented, and we're good to make that amendment.

Community Survey

NG I've been listening to a lot of community members since I began at DMS, and since there's no public comment and town halls have been inconsistent, I felt we needed to give everyone a voice, so I wanted to put out a survey with a general check in. I think until we have meetings in person or open public comment, the community needs to be heard on issues that concern them. I think it's a general survey so we can see where they're at or hear what concerns or comments that they may have. I think we need to have open lines of communication with the people we're governing.

MM I feel like the sound bite or the suggestion that there are not opportunities to communicate-- I'm not sure that's correct in my view. I feel like we have a principal who is open to communication, I think we have a board who's willing to listen. I think we're even in a different

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space now than we were when we were doing the contemplation, and I think we need to give ourselves credit for that.

NG I hear that. I know that I've made myself very available in the parking lot, and people speak up. I think it's a simple survey, and I don't think it will hurt.

SE I think the survey would be helpful. I know there are people who feel shut down, so if we can increase transparency that's good.

DF I like anonymous surveys, but I think we need to aggregate the information and do something about it.

DM Yes, I think I'd like to have the survey be anonymous, but how do we ensure that?

AS I think there's a simple click of a button on google forms to collect emails or not collect emails.

BF Can I ask more about the anonymous survey? What's the purpose of that? My concern is without collecting emails, we can't verify that people are only filling it out one time. I think that's really important. I think we should publish the results, but my concern is that if one family fills it out several times then our results would be skewed.

DF There's an option to make it that they can only fill it out once.

NG In regards to anonymity, last year the community was feeling shut out. They were kicked in the corner and not heard. The process was to ease them back into knowing that we're here to bridge that connection. FM is available all the time; we are pretty available, and we answer emails. We just want to bridge that gap and recognize that we know they're still here and we want them to have a space to speak up.

BF That makes sense, and the technical piece that DF said solves the problem I had.

NG I came in fresh. I didn't suffer from what happened previously, so I feel like I'm being objective here.

FM I think we need the survey, but I think I'd like the community to be able to choose whether or not they'd like to be anonymous. It would be nice to answer back to someone who has a concern and wants to be contacted. That way, they have an option.

NG It would be easy to have a question where you're not required to answer it, where they could put their name if they'd like to.

MM I feel like survey tools are complicated. BF was saying we want a baseline to check in; now we're saying we want a dialogue. I would hope that if someone wanted to speak up that they'd be calling the school or speaking with FM.

DF For some reason some people won't speak up, and a survey will help them to speak out. It's more work to keep track of, but it's another way to make contact. We have to keep on top of it.

KK It sounds like everyone is interested in having the survey. I do feel like FM spends the vast majority of his day with his door open speaking to parents. We are all available, and town halls

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are happening. I think adding a survey will be great. It sounds like we just need to have an option for community members to name themselves or not. NG put the survey together. Does anyone have any questions about it?

DF I thought the questions were great.

KK I'm not sure if we need to make a motion or not. A little help?

AS Well, JT always likes to say it's a good practice to make a motion just in case. He's muted, but he's smiling and nodded his head, so I think I got that right, and we should just make the motion as a safeguard.

KK moved to send out the community survey form as NG has put together for the Board. DM second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: KK, AS, DM, NG, JT, MM, SE, BF, DF.
Motion passes.

KK It looks like we just need to finalize some options for allowing a name or not.

NG Yes, I can look into it.

KK I want to make sure that families only fill it out once.

DF I can send an email about how to do this anonymously and only once.

NG Thanks, DF, I appreciate that.

KK When you get that done, send it over, and I can get it out on ParentSquare.

Community Zoom Rooms

KK MM sent forward an idea for community Zoom rooms.

MM We have a need to be transparent and give people lots of opportunities to have dialogue with us. I'd like to set up a Zoom room where we can have dialogues and baseline conversations with the community. We want to give them the opportunity to dialogue. I don't have the skill to spearhead this, but I like the idea.

DF It shouldn't be hard to do, but we do need to check our bylaws.

MM Yes, that's a good point. We wouldn't be making governance moves. We'd need to be cautious of our responses.

DM We had something in the past where it was director on the porch or board member on the porch.

MM I think that would be great.

AS Are we talking separate from board meetings? This is a separate date/time?

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KK Yes, it would be another date/time with a few board members, and we'd have open dialogue.

NG I'm up for anything that will bring the community's voice into the fold.

DF I think we'd need to figure out how to set this up? Do they contact us? Do we set it up by topic? I think the coordination would be difficult, but we can figure it out.

KK I think we'd just set a date/time, and board members could sign up. I don't want to overload anyone. If it's regularly scheduled and people can just pop in and ask questions that would work. We could try a couple of different things and adjust going forward.

MM I was assuming that we'd take our four hours of board work and use that to communicate to our community members. We should be giving our time and space to others and listen before we get into some of these governance conversations. I was initially intending to give some time of our board meeting to the community.

KK Ideally our board meetings should only be one hour, but there's so much to going on. There are ways we can be more efficient. We can move agenda items to next board meetings if needed. What are everyone's thoughts about that?

AS I just want to mention that I am at every Parent Council meeting. Some are via Zoom and others are in person. I'm there answering questions as they come. Sometimes, there are no questions, and other times there are a lot. The last meeting I attended someone asked me how to get on the board, and I described the whole process in detail as it was fresh in my mind. So I just want to put that out there--that we are available to the community, and we are having open discussions.

KK JT, thoughts?

JT You have to show me how this isn't going to violate open meeting law. Until you can show me how this isn't violating the law, then I'm not for this.

KK We can't have this during our board meeting, so we'd need to look into how we can do this and make sure that there aren't too many of us in the Zoom room. AS, I know you were speaking to someone about training. Will you remind me of the outcome?

AS Well, we're talking about two different things: open meeting law training and charter specific training. I reached out to Rachel Hannah from the AZ State Board for Charter Schools who said there would be a training in January or February, and that training does include open meeting law. But, also, everyone has access to open meeting law training. It's public information. I put information on that on the mentorship document that was sent out. There's a link to the open meeting law booklet as well as the YouTube presentation by the same guy who did my live training—Danee Garone. It's good information.

KK I think it would be good for all of us to review open meeting law to make sure that we can do this. Would anyone be willing to spearhead this?

DM I'd be happy to.

DF I'm happy to help with the technology as well.

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KK Let's put this on the next agenda and make sure we get updates about open meeting law, scheduling, and logistics.

Covid Policy Review

KK So we put together a folder of research items with everything from the CDC guidelines to our own policy to updated guidance. I know everyone spent a lot of time studying these materials, so I appreciate that. It may be a tough conversation, or it may be a simple conversation and we all agree. So that our attendees are aware, I felt that the way we should manage this in a 30 minute window is to allocate three minutes to anyone who wants to make modifications to the policy. Everyone can make a proposal, we can discuss, and then if anyone wants to make a motion we can vote at that time. At this point, I'll mostly be a time keeper. I don't want to disrupt anyone. At 2 ½ minutes I'll give a visual indicator to show that you have 30 seconds left. Just a basic framework to open our discussion. I want us to get through this in a timely manner, but we do have some flexibility. It's one of the most important topics to our community, so we want to give it the time it needs. So who'd like to start?

SE To get the ball rolling, I want everyone to know that I'm checking myself as a father and husband at the door. Everything I'm putting forward is evidence driven. The school is fragmented on the covid issues. The last thing we need is another policy that's shoved down their throats. I think we need something that's understandable so that we can all agree. We should add an appendix to the policy to show the rationale that we're using. The CDC does this, and I think it would be helpful. They might not like it, but it will show that it makes sense. I propose that a physician be added to the mitigation team. I think it would look good to whatever regulatory site that may be looking at us. The CDC doesn't recommend cancelling school. I don't think that school or grade closures should be an option unless there are great outbreaks and we'd use MCDPH to seek guidance when needed. I propose that extra-curricular and outdoor festivals remain open unless a community outbreak is occurring. And again that can be determined by the MCDPH. We should adopt the new CDC guidelines for quarantine. I think the policy should be rewritten to clarify it. We need to clarify what close contact means. The MCDPH provides that definition.

KK How about we talk about the things you brought up already—the appendix, the extra-curricular activities, etc, so we can have that discussion now. I want to do it in chunks.

DM There are five proposals.

NG I like the idea of adding a doctor to the mitigation team.

DF I like the idea of having a doctor on the mitigation team, but I think the specialty that you're in may not fit the need of this—your specialty might not be relevant to Covid. It's almost like we need a generalist or a hospitalist on the team. Do you know anyone like that?

SE I don't think I do. Either I'm it, or I'm not. You've been doing well with FM and Deb.

DM I'd like to see a board member or a teacher on the mitigation team.

AS FM correct me if I'm wrong, but everything that the mitigation team does is immediate and on campus. You get a call that there's a positive case and run the protocol--contact parents, report the case, contact the MCDPH for extra guidance if needed, so I'm not sure how having a board member on the team would be helpful. SE's has a career, so it's not like Deb or FM will

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be contacting him in the middle of the day to seek advice. That wouldn't work. So, in your view, what would you be doing? As board members we are already involved in the building and approval of the covid policy, so I'm not sure what adding a board member would do.

SE I don't think I need to be on the team, but I'm willing to help.

FM We would love more people, but the issue is the process itself means you have to be there in person when it happens. We get a call from someone with a positive case, we have to ask a bunch of questions, we have to remove the child from the class, then we have to do the contact tracing, following MCDPH guidelines. We then have to find who's been in close contact. We talk to the teacher and figure that out. Then we ask if those students vaccinated? If they are, they don't have to be quarantined. We ask a lot of questions about masking to determine close contacts. We were literally in my office drawing desk maps on the wall trying to figure out who was where. The issue of involving someone else is that you need to come right now. It's 8pm at night right now, and Deb is on the phone making calls to parents. So this takes a really long time, and all of this happens with every positive case.

SE I guess I wasn't thinking about the leg work. I was thinking more about the test results and whatnot.

FM Those are questions that we do ask. There was a kid who tested positive and was in class today. The mom explained that her son was having an MRI, so he had to test. He was asymptomatic, but he was positive. It was a unique situation. We have to delve into all this and get answers and it takes time. We'd love more people to verify, but they have to be available.

SE So I'm hearing that there's not a big need, so I'm comfortable stepping down on this as there's not a huge need for it.

DF If FM doesn't think it's helpful or useful, then I don't think we need it.

FM I'm happy for more help, but if you're not available, then that won't work.

SE What about the appendix?

DF I know that we say that we follow the Maricopa guidelines, so how would this be different?

SE We would explain it. I think there's a lot of interpretation to show how/why we're doing the things we're doing.

DF How do we write out these clarifying statements? We want to make sure that the time sent on this is actually helpful. I added the Madison District approach, and I liked their descriptions. We don't have to decide that now and approve it, but we can write it and then approve it.

MM The policy shouldn't be changing unless there's research showing the changes. It would show how the research has changed and could show the reasons behind it.

SE If there's no discussion about this, then I'll make a motion.

SE moved to add to our Covid-19 policy an appendix that offers explanation for the decisions that are based on rationale and scientific data. DF second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: KK, AS, DM, NG, JT, MM, SE, BF, DF. **Motion passes.**

SE moved that school or grade closures are not expected to occur unless in extreme cases of school or concomitant community outbreak. As criteria for defining an outbreak evolves, DMS will contact MCDPH for guidance. DF second. The following discussion took place:

FM You listed that the MCDPH says that an outbreak is defined as two or more cases that are not connected, right?

SE Yes. Then we need to contact MCDPH to seek guidance. It's not an easy or automatic decision.

FM We don't ask those questions as you've just suggested.

NG What about students who have natural immunity? Would that be considered?

DF That Madison District said something similar. It was in their guidelines.

NG It would be interesting to see if we can provide a note on natural immunity for three months. If we could put some guidelines in our policy that would help.

DF I think that three month window is a hypothesis at this point. There's a lot of uncertainty right now about that.

FM If you look at SE's page one the current CDC, MCDPH shows a vaccinated/previous infection. It says on some you quarantine and on some you do not. It depends on symptoms.

KK A quick thought, what do we do when it's a teacher?

SE That's different.

KK But if the teacher doesn't meet that criteria, what do we do? Get a sub? What is the plan?

FM This has been an issue, but teachers are typically not forced to quarantine unless they have Covid. I think that's in SE's research as well. But I know we do have some teachers who quarantine themselves. That has caused a problem because sometimes the kids are ready to be back before the teacher.

SE Do we need to add something that says due to operational constraints there may be temporary closures?

FM We've had whole classes go online for the week to get around that. We were forced to do that in some instances.

SE I imagine there's some disclaimer at the end that says we may need to deviate from this on a case to case basis.

KK I want to be cognizant of time. I think we had a good discussion on closures.

SE Reread the motion.

KK Any other discussion?

DM I want to hear from teachers, and how they feel about it.

JT I agree with DM. I think we need to hear from teachers on this, but I'm only one voice. It's not appropriate for me to speak on behalf of teachers.

MM Was your question in general or for the specific motion?

DM Both. I want to hear from them before making decisions like this.

NG How do we appropriately include them in the conversation? I feel like as a board we need to hear from them.

FM Survey them.

DM I think they should feel free to speak to us.

NG That's the intention of the survey going out. To hear from everyone. I can add that as a line item to that one question.

MM I get the frustration, but we have a motion on the floor.

DM I don't feel like I have enough information on this to vote on it.

BF SE, correct me if I'm wrong, but it seems like the added language you're proposing right now, and with the number of cases right now and the number of students who have covid, that we would meet both of those criteria soon. So what is this changing?

SE I think a lot of it is driven by the fact that we had a policy from August, modified in September, that we didn't follow or that wasn't complete. FM had to bear the burden to do something different. And as far as 'will we meet this criteria,' yes, we will. When this policy was made in August, there wasn't as much information about this. Do we want to shut down? Do we want to be a school? How quick a trigger do we want to pull on this?

FM If you look at SE's goals, they align with what I've been saying all year: let's keep in compliance, let's keep kids in school, let's keep kids safe. We're already doing these things. We're just putting it in writing. Let's not be too quick to pull the trigger, and let's seek guidance when needed.

KK We have motion; we've had some discussion. Let's vote and move on from there.

Unanimous vote in favor: KK, AS, DM, NG, JT, MM, SE, BF, DF. **Motion passes.**

KK DM, you had some great points. Did you want to discuss that?

DM Not at this time.

BF I'd like you to clarify when you're changing the policy or just adding language to clarify.

SE Sorry about that. This is simply to add. Regarding my proposal for extra-curricular activities or festivals that don't involve close contact. They will only be cancelled or postponed if an outbreak is occurring.

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MM Would you have different feelings if there was close contact or heavy breathing? Would that change your mind? I know at Winter Faire, my kid was very close, very handsy, and running around with friends. I'm not sure that our events are allowing for social distancing to occur with our kids due to their nature.

SE I think by design our activities are not made for that. Right now, it's kind of arbitrary. Everyone has the option to wear masks. I think it still applies.

AS I know we can make policy, but I'm wondering if this motion is necessary or overstepping. I know FM and the LDC and possibly the festival committee met to make decisions about the Lantern Walk. I trust their judgment. I know they discussed this, considered all the guidelines, and made a thoughtful decision. Then they came to us with their plan, and we simply supported them. I don't think we need to be involved in this.

FM AS, I agree. LDC and I talk about these things. We discuss is it close contact, are there accommodations we can make for social distancing, and of course we consider positive cases and the MCDPH guidelines, so we stick to those things.

SE I want to be sure I understand two kids with covid who tested positive and are in different grades.

FM MCDPH wants to know how many kids in that classroom have it. If it's two or more that is a break out for that room. That's how they explain it to us. We call and talk to them and determine what the issue is. We have not sent classes home for one covid case, and Deb calls and talks to them every time.

SE I'm concerned that the person on the phone for MCDPH is interpreting this incorrectly.

FM The MCDH gives us guidance on this.

SE This isn't to change anything, just to put this in writing.

FM I can only tell you that Deb wants to make sure she's following this to the Nth degree. They ask us questions, and we answer, and they make the recommendation.

SE If there was a doctor explaining this that would help.

KK What's the discrepancy?

SE On the published website of MCDPH, an outbreak is defined as 2 or more cases in a school testing positive for covid, that they have to have no clear contact between them—not in the same classroom, not related. So I want to make sure when FM is making a call and the MCDPH says that's an outbreak of the class that it's accurate.

FM I think they're saying it's an outbreak if there's more than one positive case in the class. When there's more than one it could be spreading.

SE The process should be you find the close contacts, if they're symptomatic they quarantine, then you wait for the test to come back. It sounds like they're acting casually about this and not following their definitions correctly.

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FM They're not reacting like that on the phone. They're very calm, they ask the questions, and say yes, that's an outbreak, or no, that's not.

AS I was on the MCDPH site today, and they did add some bullet points stating that they will be updating their guidelines due to the CDC update.

FM I think we should continue on with SE's documents.

KK I want to make sure that we're clear about an outbreak defined as two or more positive cases that are unrelated to one another in the school.

SE We got into the weeds a bit, but I have reservations about what the people on the phone at the MCDPH are saying.

FM We always try to make the decision to keep our kids in person. When they tell us, two in noncontact areas, I'm happy to hear I only have to shut one class down and not two. Deb's been on the phone all day, and they've been offering guidance.

SE moved to add a provision stating that as most outdoor extra-curricular activities and festivals at DMS do not involve close contact or heavy breathing that these events may be considered for postponement or cancellation only if a school outbreak or community outbreak is occurring concomitantly. As the criteria for an outbreak, DMS will seek the guidance of the MCDPH. DF second. The following discussion took place:

MM I think we're binding ourselves down to too much in the weeds, and I think that policies that attach such specific language will put us in the unknown.

KK Do you have any ideas for how to wordsmith this?

BF I think it's substantive versus a language issue. I think that the expectation of anyone planning an event is that it will happen. When events have been cancelled, I haven't been involved, but some cancelling isn't even Covid related. I'd rather leave this to the discretion of the people planning the event. I agree with MM's objection.

SE This makes it too dogmatic. We're talking about a Covid policy.

BF It says we can only cancel if x, y, z, and I want to be as forthright as possible. I think we should leave this to the discretion of those who plan the event.

SE Yeah, that's why we're having a discussion because there's some resentment that these events have been cancelled. Parents need to know that there are reasons behind these cancellations.

MM I think that's harsh. I don't think anyone is coming at this in a flippant way. I don't think anyone is making these decisions rashly. I'm personally sad about Lantern Walk, but I don't have any resentment for the cancellation.

SE All right, well, people think it's working, and people think it's not working.

Votes in favor: SE, NG, DM. Against: JT, BF, MM, AS, DF, KK. **Motion fails.**

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SE I know other people have things to say, and I think we should move the rest of my proposals to the next meeting.

JT If that's motion I second, but I'm not sure if that's a motion or not.

MM I don't have anything I want to bring into discussion, but I'm curious if anyone else does.

DF I did want to potentially discuss that Madison School District Test to Stay approach, and I prefer not the delay that. It wouldn't be a tonight thing, but more of a do we take on this effort?

DM I would like to reiterate that I want to hear from teachers about this.

KK DM, do you want to bring that to a motion, or are you just opening that up for discussion?

DM What's the best way to get teacher input?

FM A survey.

KK That's a simple place to start.

DM I'm happy to start there.

FM I know we're thinking about finishing this conversation at another time, but there are a lot of people asking about the CDC updates, and they'd like to know where we stand on that.

SE I think we probably could vote on that tonight.

MM My fear is that these votes will change as the guidance changes.

KK How about we take a five-minute break, and we can come back and see how far we can get and make a couple of votes?

SE What if we do it by topic? DF, DM, and FM and then we address other things at the next meeting?

KK Sounds good to me.

NG I'm fine going however long we need to go. I'm in favor of not making a decision tonight, but I'm worried that we'll spread it out over too many meetings.

Five-minute break began at 8:43pm.

At 8:50pm the Board returned.

KK Thank you for spending this time. I appreciate this discussion. It sounded like everyone felt that there were some pressing items like the CDC updates. Maybe we need to put a motion forward. She shared her screen to show the new CDC quarantine guidelines.

DF I will say that I'm fine with this. I know there's rhetoric that it's a political move, but I disagree. I know the community will have those individuals who will feel like it's reckless, and some people will like it.

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MM Does our policy say we follow CDC guidelines?

AS The actual motion says we follow both CDC and MCDPH guidelines, but obviously now they're at odds. But the MCDPH has those bullet points that they'll be updating their guidance soon.

NG I think we need to add some information about natural immunity.

DF I agree. But there's so much complexity to it, which is why we stated to follow CDC guidelines.

NG I think with the new guidelines, the kid who was positive today could technically come back in five days. I'd like to know what symptoms people are having and why they're getting sent home for something like the sniffles. The Covid symptom list is like the flu. The list has just about everything, and we can't be sending everyone home with a small symptom.

DF I think you're diluting your argument a bit by bringing up the flu.

NG On our Covid policy we list the symptoms and they're the same symptoms as the flu.

DF That's semantics. If you're saying we should follow the CDC guidelines that's one thing, but if you're saying we should treat the Coronavirus like the flu that's a whole other thing.

NG I'd just like to bring the value natural immunity into play.

KK I think this is important to show to the community that we have different feelings on this.

FM Please know that if we decide to reject or accept this that we're going to add this line or that line. The second thing is, this is a double edged sword. Going to five days will mean more kids can come back but then you must wear a mask for five days, but we have a mask exemption, so if we vote yes on this it's a total package. We don't get to just do line one, line six, line nine. We'd be voting to do the whole thing or not at all.

SE If you choose not to wear a mask, you quarantine for ten days?

KK What does that do for exemptions?

FM Then they'd stay home for ten days. They don't get to stay home for five days and be at school without a mask.

NG Do those absences count against them?

FM No, but we have to document every absence.

DF If we know we've already voted to adopt the MCDPH guidelines, wouldn't this be redundant?

SE Correct, but it could be six months before those updates are made.

DF I think we could discuss the Madison policy and then come back to this.

KK Sure.

01.19.22 Approved

DF Discussed the Madison School District policy. This policy keeps kids in school through a lot of testing. I've talked to a lot of medical professionals and school board people, and it's being done at different districts across the country. It even has a piece about masking. They have paths for all these different scenarios. I think it might make sense for our Covid Mitigation Team to reach out to this district or the MCDPH to create a similar strategy.

MM DF, what was your comment regarding masks?

DF It doubles down on the mask wearing.

MM My issue with that is that we have a community with such a high percentage of mask exemptions, so I'm not sure our community would be accepting of this.

DF About 75% are wearing masks, maybe a bit lower. I want to hear opinions on this. There's going to be more positives. Cases will increase. If we wear masks and can keep kids in class maybe that would sway people.

DM We are a unique community. I'd like to not follow the CDC guidelines so we can write our own policy that makes sense for our community.

KK Well, everything is on the board, but we also need to take action. We're having great discussions, but we need to make motions. FM, I just keep coming back to what you said that there's no win-win.

DF Would there be any way to do the test to stay program? Do we have the capacity to do that?

NG Are you proposing to test the children each day?

DF No, they'd do what they're doing now and quarantine. It's exactly as it is now and we could add natural immunity as well. I thought this was a lighter touch program.

NG I appreciate that you brought this in. It's always helpful to have touchpoints. Is Madison Elementary where your sister is a doctor?

DF Her child goes there, and she advises for them.

NG We can look at this, but SE is a doctor and on the board, and we can listen to more points that he needs to say.

KK But everyone needs a turn.

NG Yeah.

DF I'm curious what SE's thoughts are on this program?

SE When the CDC dropped the ball, it's been on testing. Sometimes testing isn't available or unreliable. I want to make sure that this thing has an opt out so you don't have to rely on testing.

DF The opt out is the same as it has been--quarantining.

DM Why are we talking about testing? These are our children.

01.19.22 Approved

SE I think we'd simply default to the existing way.

DF We have a lot of people who are vaccinated or have natural immunity. If students are wearing masks, it keeps kids in class. I just think this gives better options, and that it's a better version of what we have.

SE Does FM have the bandwidth to deal with all these changes if we raise them?

MM I feel like the new guidelines are pretty simple and a middle ground.

SE NG's point about natural immunity is interesting. The CDC used to show it as 90 days, but then they dropped it.

DF moved to have the DMS Covid Mitigation Team reach out the MCDPH to ask about their Test to Stay Program and see if it makes sense for DMS and return the results to the board for further motions. SE Second. No Further Discussion. Votes In Favor: DF, SE, BF, DM. Against: NG, JT, AS, MM, KK. **Motion fails.**

SE moved to adopt a modified revised CDC guidelines, however, not verbatim, but where it talks about vaccinations to add acquired immunity for 90 days as it said before, so it would be an amended CDC guideline subject to further evaluation later. NG seconded. The following discussion took place:

DF Are we asking FM to determine this?

FM How do we prove that someone is immune?

SE Well, that's why we added the 90 days.

DF So we're relying on what we had before.

SE But now it's included.

KK Earlier, we brought up the point of masks.

FM As this is stated, if you come back after five days, you have to mask regardless of exemptions. They would be agreeing to wear a mask if they came back, or they can choose to stay out for ten days.

KK I want to make sure we're all the same page to know what this means so that we all provide proper backing.

NG We're not getting rid of mask exemptions.

KK No.

FM I did hear that if we're accepting the new CDC guidelines, they have to wear a mask for five days at school or they can choose to stay home for ten days.

01.19.22 Approved

KK So the only exception to these guidelines is adding in natural immunity. Is that right?

SE Yes.

Votes in favor: KK, AS, DF, BF, SE, NG, JT. Opposed MM, DM. **Motion Passes.**

FM How do we determine someone has immunity?

KK Perhaps they have to provide a test that was within 90 days.

SE DF doesn't think I'm qualified to talk about this, but I have something to say. You can do an antibody test, but they're not reliable. We could just take someone's word for it, but that may not be the best thing. So you could have a positive test result or a doctor's note.

KK Would a homeopath be allowed to determine a positive test?

SE In the state of AZ they can.

MM But they removed the 90-day limit.

SE Yes.

FM There's another "or" or can show they have immunity by testing positive in the last 90 days. We're adding the immunity clause, right? Another or? If those ors are true, you can come back but have to mask. We will now accept a positive test as proof of natural immunity.

DF moved that, effective immediately, we agree to adopt the most recent CDC Updates Regarding Isolation and Quarantine Period with the amendment added to the section titled "If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)" with the amendment reading "or Have Tested Positive for COVID Within the Past 90 Days". SE second. No further discussion. Votes in favor: KK, AS, DF, BF, NG, JT, MM, SE. Opposed: DM. **Motion passes.**

SE Did we address DM's concern regarding teacher input?

DM I'll reach out to teachers and check in.

DF DM, I sent you an email regarding Zoom rooms and about this too.

DM Great, thank you.

SE moved to adjourn and continue the conversation in the next meeting. MM second. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor: JT, AS, DM, NG, KK, MM, SE, BF. **Motion passes.**

CLOSING VERSE

NG read the closing verse.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:41pm.

Prepared by AS on 01.05.2022.