

Special Meeting of the Vermilion Local School District Board of Education
Wednesday, September 1, 2021

The Special meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Stepp, aye; Mr. Johnston, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mrs. Innes, absent.

Mrs. Stepp led the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

1. Mr. Pempin gave opening remarks, reviewed last Board of Education meeting.
2. Pete Schade, ECHD Commission gave remarks regarding COVID, Delta variant and spread within a community. Mask wearing would help keep kids in school. Looking at masks as best measure to knock the virus down.

102.21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

James Allen-Wants a number threshold to justify students wearing masks.

Eric Jones- Requested the Board of Education read its minutes from last board meeting. Mr. Jones also wants to know what authority allows the board of education to require masks.

Colleen Rini- Provided a print out of questions to the BOE.

Joseph Jones-At last meeting we would no longer accept a lesser education for our child based on medical status.

Mr. Jones also requested to know if a mask policy was tied to Federal funding.

Patrick Higgins- Stated that going virtual again would hold student's hostage regarding a masking mandate.

Robin Aston-States she did not want teachers required to pay into union dues that go toward a political agenda.

Heather Nash-Stated that wearing a mask is in violation of students rights and that young students typically do not wear them correctly.

Julie Steiner-Stated the district should listen to Erie County Health Department and the science behind this.

Mike Thomas-Stated he would rather students wear masks and stay in school than be at home.

Adam Wilson-Stated he does not believe the school has the right to tell his children to wear a mask.

Mike Moes- Stated that there is a labor shortage making this more difficult.

Chad Heilman-Stated masks do not provide any benefit in slowing the down the spread of the virus and brought with him research papers. Mr. Pempin asked if he could leave the board a copy.

Denise Owens- Stated it should be her choice to mask her student, not the school boards.

Russ Owens-Stated COVID particles are smaller than the filtration systems used including N-95.

Erin Pruse- Stated that masks work to protect against diseases and is advocating to return to masks.

Scott Haber-Stated the district should consider doing more than a mask mandate. Mr. Haber suggested zoom update with cases, and other outside of the box thinking.

Mike Rini-Suggested making partitions available at the lunch room tables as most students are unmasked at this time.

Mallory Shirley- Stated COVID is not going away and the spread is airborne and not droplet.

Sara Jones-no show

Peggy Sue Johnson- Stated masking young children will not work and parents should have a choice.

Kathleen Heinz-Stated children are not super spreaders and should not be wearing masks.

Tanis Pancost-Stated masks are doing something in the high school and does not want to go back to online learning.

103.21 BOARD DISCUSSION: Mr. Johnston moved that the Board table the discussion and resolution to approve a mask mandate until a later date. Mr. Habermehl seconded. ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes, absent; Mrs. Stepp, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mr. Johnston, aye. Motion Carried.

Date and location of upcoming Board meetings. Board Meetings will be held in the Workforce Development room at Vermilion High School 1250 Sanford St., Vermilion OH 44089. (unless noted)

Regular Meeting:	Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM
Regular Meeting:	Monday, October 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM
Regular Meeting:	Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM

104.21 Mr. Johnston moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Russell seconded. ROLL CALL: Mrs. Innes, absent; Mrs. Stepp, aye; Mrs. Russell, aye; Mr. Habermehl, aye; Mr. Johnston, aye. Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM.

ATTEST:

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Treasurer

Board President