



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COVINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2021
VOLUME 2021 No. 9**

Mr. Doug Hunter, President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Hunter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Mr. Jason Beck, Vice-President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Cates". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Mr. Kevin Cates, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad Herzog". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Mr. Chad Herzog

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Tolley". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Mr. Ryan Tolley

Minutes from the Special School Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Covington Elementary Gymnasium 7th Street, Covington, IN 47932

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Doug Hunter at 6:31 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Board Member Attendance Verification

- Doug Hunter, President – Present
- Jason Beck, Vice President – Present
- Kevin Cates, Treasurer – Present
- Chad Herzog, Board Member – Present
- Ryan Tolley, Board Member – Present

Officials:

- Dr. Kevin Smith, Superintendent
- Mike Howard, Director of Operations
- Michelle Beck, CES Principal
- Alison Karrfalt, CHS Principal
- Katie Hardy, CHS Asst Principal
- Ryan Sowers, CMS Principal

Guests:

- Bryan Anderson, Community Member
- Stephanie Bennett, Community Member
- Elise Bird, Community Member
- Jason Brothers, Community Member
- Polly Brothers, Community Member
- Janie Cates, Community Member
- Toni Crain, Community Member
- Eric Crowder, Community Member
- Sarah Dickerson, Community Member
- Kelly Ecers, Community Member
- Kelly Engel, Community Member
- Samantha Fye, Community Member

- Kavan Fye, Community Member
- Charles Gayler, Community Member
- Harleigh Gayler, Community Member
- Halle Grady, Community Member
- Kelsey Hammer, Community Member
- Chris and Lisa Hauck, Community Members
- Julie Herzog, Community Member
- Stophanie Hohenstein, Community Member
- Ali Holmes, Community Member
- K. Hunter, Community Member
- Leah Keele, Community Member
- Sarah Keller, Community Member
- Brad Kiger, Community Member
- Abby Krout, Community Member
- Janet Lewis, Community Member
- Mark and Angie Lloyd, Community Members
- Tami McDaniel, Community Member
- Ashley Medlin, Community Member
- Eric Osborn, Community Member
- Dr. Tom Pliura, Community Member
- Chet F Powell, Community Member
- Tara Rieman, Community Member
- Ana Schanlaub, Community Member
- Ron Seibert, Community Member
- Dr. Sean Sharma, Fountain-Warren County Health Department
- Jan Smail, Community Member
- Priscilla Smail, Community Member
- Dan Smith, Community Member
- Levi J. Spicer, Community Member
- Jon Stalcup, Community Member
- Allen Strawser, Community Member
- Kyle and Lexi Swaby, Community Members
- Cindy Tolley, Community Member
- Dr. Waddell, Community Member
- Stu Weliever, CCSC Legal Counsel
- Lucas White, Community Member
- Sue White, Community Member

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hunter reviewed the agenda for the meeting with no changes being proposed following board member consideration.

Following review of the agenda of September 7, 2021 special board meeting a motion was made to approve as presented.

Motion by: Jason Beck

Seconded by : Chad Herzog

Motion Carried by a vote 5-0

3. Review Status of COVID-19 Impact

Mr. Hunter reviewed the agenda for those in attendance. The board will be gathering information and input this evening for consideration at the September 13, 2021 regular session board meeting.

4. Public Comments

- Jan Smail spoke...
 - Spoke in favor of masks, referencing recent comments and executive orders by Indiana Governor Holcomb.
- Eric Osborn spoke...
 - Against forcing the wearing of masks.
 - Referenced the impact of the previous school year.
 - Stated that his children do not want to come to school if there is a mask mandate.
 - Believes individuals can choose to mask their child if they so choose.
- Ashley Medlin spoke...
 - Proposing that speakers not aim their comments towards others and/or their comments.
- Dr. Tom Pliura spoke...
 - Introduced himself as a physician for more than 37 years, who has treated more than 65,000 COVID patients and tests.
 - Reviewed data from his experiences with treating COVID patients.
 - Stated that he is in favor of individuals wearing masks and / or receiving a vaccination if that is what the individual chooses to do.
 - Invited the board and those in attendance to review a video created and placed on his Facebook page.

- Expressed his believe that the impact of the COVID virus is just about beyond us.
- Doug Hunter spoke...
 - The focus for the board is to identify the best approach to keep the school open and running effectively.
- Lexi Swaby spoke...
 - In support of implementing safety measures within the schools, be it 6 feet social distancing, masking, or whatever it is...
 - Is concerned the current protocols will allow the COVID virus to continue to impact the ability of the students to learn.
- Sue White spoke...
 - Thanked the board for all they are doing to keep in – person instruction going.
 - Stated our family would support the school by adopting the most recent executive order from Governor Holcomb.
 - Encouraged the school to allow the use of facilities for student vaccines (for those who may be interested in doing so).
 - Stated she believes this would help parents who work and provide a more convenient option for obtaining a vaccine.
- Mark Lloyd spoke...
 - Stated that he believes there is in an issue based on the fact that we are reluctant to let the school be the school.
 - Stated his support for those individuals who would like their children to wear masks, to be allowed to do so.
- Jon Stalcup spoke...
 - Discussed his experience as a plant leader with decisions required due to COVID.
 - Reviewed how he consulted the experts he felt needed to be involved with their COVID protocol decisions.
 - Stated that masks have been 100% effective with no instances of COVID transmission occurring in the plant.
 - Doesn't believe that one person wearing a mask, and others not, will do no good, unless it is an N95 mask.
 - Requested the board to make the necessary policy decisions that are required for the school.
- Janet Lewis spoke...
 - Shared a packet of data for the board and those in attendance.

- Stated that the masks will help, with proven documentation contained in the packet she distributed.
- Dan Smith spoke...
 - Stated that there are a diverse set of opinions and views on both sides of the COVID debate.
 - Shared a personal experience.
 - Stated that he believes at the end of the day the school is a facility manager and is responsible to ensure safety and zero transmission within the facilities.
 - Stated he understands the freedom argument and people don't want to be told what to do.
- Allen Strawser spoke...
 - Doesn't want masks on the children. (Stated they don't work).
 - Pointed out that if the children wear masks at school, they are then going to go home and hang out with their friends without them.
 - Stated parents should make the medical decisions for their child.
- Kelsey Hammer spoke...
 - Asked a question concerning whether or not the board is prepared for mandating masks for an extended period of time.
- Ron Seibert spoke...
- Stated he doesn't believe we should be mandating masks due to the other outside activities that will be taking place.
 - If we do mandate mask, we need to start at the top, with the board and superintendent.
- Tara Rieman spoke...
 - Reviewed a letter from a teacher who is in favor of instituting whatever mitigation steps are necessary to keep the school safe.
 - The teacher doesn't want to do online learning.
 - Stated that using a mask is at least trying to do something and trying the vaccination clinic, with choice, is trying something.
- Chris Hauck spoke...
 - Stated he would not hold the board accountable if his child became sick.
- Sarah Keller spoke...
 - Reviewed the difficulty her parents had in deciding whether or not to come to school this year due to the difficulty with the COVID environment.

- Expressed concern as a working parent with staying at home to help her child with e-learning.
- Stated would like to see the school be open, even if there is a high spike.
- Allow parents to bring children to school for e-learning.
- Levi Spicer spoke...
 - Challenged the board to figure out an answer and go – forward.
- Sarah Dickerson spoke...
 - Discussed what led to her decision when completing the building level staff survey.
 - Influenced by the need to use an Employee day while being out recently due to classroom quarantine.
- Ali Holmes spoke...
 - Stated that we are here for the kids.
 - Suggested that returning to serving lunch to the classrooms would help the situation with quarantine numbers.
- Sean Sharma spoke...
 - Stated the health department is officially encouraging schools to utilize masking.
 - Discussed the science for public health is different than looking at what is best for individual health.
 - Stated he doesn't believe mandating masks now means we are mandating forever.
 - Stated that a lot of our population don't have the choice to get vaccinated.
 - Stated he believes masks work, but they are not perfect.
 - It is true that kids are immune from the worst outbreaks of COVID-19.
 - Stated we should measure our success by protecting the whole community and the school is a part of the community.
 - The quarantine laws are the quarantine laws and the school is going to have to follow them, whether we like or not.
 - Stated that he believes the current vaccines are reasonably effective against the COVID variants.
- Toni Crain spoke...
 - Stated she believes masks should be a choice.
 - Discussed a concern with a student hearing and understanding an instructor when they wear a mask.
- Bryan Anderson spoke...

- Stated he believes in individual choice.
- Expressed concern on the manner in which the masking was enforced last year. If the board decides to mandate masks the school is going to have to determine a manner around how to enforce the wearing of masks.
- Waddell spoke...
 - Asked a question of Dr. Sharma related to the PCR testing reviewed earlier in the meeting.
- Abby Krout spoke...
 - For mitigation to keep kids safe they

5. Board Comments

6. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Motion by: Kevin Cates

Seconded by: Ryan Tolley

Motion Carried by a vote 5-0

An executive session board meeting was held at 5:15 p.m. to discuss the following:

I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(3) To discuss the assessment, design, and implementation of school safety and security measures, plans, and systems.

I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(6)(9) Employee, student, or contractor status



Secretary of the Board

"Everyone Matters, Everyone Counts"