



## **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 20, 2021 Special Meeting**

Pursuant to the regulations, a special Board meeting was held on the above date in the Waupaca High School Performing Arts Center and virtually via Google Meet, Live Stream, and by phone.

The purpose of the Board Meeting Minutes are to capture the essence of discussions through the actions voted on. These minutes should not be interpreted to represent a transcription of the meeting. To watch a recording of this meeting, please click [here](#).

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Johnson at 5:30 p.m.

### **Roll Call:**

Present in the WHS Performing Arts Center: Stephen Johnson, Dale Feldt, Steve Klismet, Mark Polebitski, Betty Manion, and Steve Hackett.

Excused: Patrick Phair.

### **Also Present:**

Present in the WHS Performing Arts Center: Ron Saari, Sandy Lucas, Mark Flaten, Eric Conner, Michael Werbowski, Laura Colbert, John Meyer, John Erspamer, Jody Pankratz, Jamie Trzebiatowski, Becky Liegl, Crystal Strasse, Kelly Koch, Wendy Vandebush, Jaki Golding, Joni Eisentraud, Kelly Baumgart, and many members of the public. Virtually present via Google Meet: Carl Hayek, Steve Thomaschfsky, Carrie Naparalla, Megan Sanders, Hannah Rowe, Crystal Vida, Stephanie Knuth, Rebecca Marie, and Breann Cordy.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Steve Hackett to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

### **Public Comment:**

Board President Johnson advised of the procedure to be followed should anyone wish to make a public comment.

Many members of the public spoke with regard to the wearing of face masks while in school. Many expressed their desire to end the mandate immediately – to make it a personal/parental choice rather than a mandate. Many parents also expressed their disappointment with the Board for not listening to them in their responses to the mask survey, and feel the Board is not representing the community but has their own agenda. Others expressed their desire that the wearing of face masks continue until more students are vaccinated and the vaccines are available for younger children.

Some parents also expressed their concern that the District/Board is failing their children academically and feel that there needs to be more accountability.

Two WHS seniors spoke against the restrictions related to graduation and prom.

**Review of Board Meeting Norms:**

The Board reviewed their collective commitments.

**Graduation COVID Protocols Update:**

Mr. Saari advised that the medical advisors have informed us that we can decrease the distance families need to be separated at graduation from 6 feet to 3 feet, therefore increasing the number of guests allowed by each graduate from 4 to 8. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion will follow these same protocols.

**Recommended Summer School COVID Inside Face Mask Change:**

Mr. Saari advised that because the CDC came out with new guidelines after last Tuesday night’s (May 11, 2021) regular Board meeting, then so did our medical advisors. So the purpose of this meeting is to advise the Board of a suggested mask change from mandatory face masks indoors for summer school to “moving masks.”

A motion was made by Mark Polebitski to approve the wearing of moving face masks for the 2021 indoor summer school sessions as presented, and also recommended that whenever the health team makes a recommendation to lessen the COVID restrictions, that those be implemented immediately without having to come before the Board; however, if the health team makes a more stringent recommendation, that would have to come before the Board. No second to the motion was received so it failed.

In response to some of the parents’ comments, Board members Betty Manion and Dale Feldt advised that it’s not that they’re not listening, but reminded everyone that the Board advocates for all students and represents the entire community, and thought that the moving masks was a good compromise.

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Steve Klismet to make the wearing of face masks indoors optional as of Wednesday, June 9, 2021. The motion carried on a 5-1-0 roll call vote, with Mark Polebitski voting no.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Steve Klismet to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Johnson, President  
Board of Education

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Manion, Clerk  
Board of Education