

**The Amanda-Clearcreek Local Board of Education met in Special session on August 30, 2021 at 7:00 PM at Amanda-Clearcreek 3-12 Meeting Room 1100 for the purpose of discussing COVID protocols and guidelines.**

**President Sharp called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following members present: Kern, Rainier, Sharp, Saum and Young.**

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Rainier

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public were invited to address the board. Mr. Sharp asked that comments remain respectful and conversations productive. He used the signup sheet to call on the following individuals:

Angie Roberts – mother of 4 children in district

Appreciates staff, administrators and board – everything they have done  
How far do we follow the health department or is learning more important? Use data to determine the best approach to controlling the spread of the virus  
Are the children safer at home? We shouldn't ignore COVID but need to realize that there are many other risks to students far greater than the virus. Referenced article quoting the CDC data that states masks are not effective. She said she would send to the board when the meeting concludes.

Heather Boyer-Younkin – read information from the House Committee meeting – she played the

Audio from the meeting. Referenced SB22 – local boards of health – quarantining of those medically diagnosed is what the law states – but the local boards of health does not have the authority – the school boards and school districts have the legal right to make the decision about students. Health departments are working with Superintendents.

Sub Senate Bill 22 - Definitions of isolation, quarantining – omission of “medically diagnosed” She continued to highlight all of the verbiage in the guidance put out by the Fairfield County Department of Health that contradicts the current Ohio Law from the language of Sub Senate Bill 22.

She also discussed the narrow scope of authority that the CDC has – they do not have local authority. She further stated the court cases that supported her argument. Other school districts have determined that the CDC does not have local authority. Mandate masks – should not be used to prevent the spread of COVID – not approved for this purpose.

She also says the Federal law cannot mandate masks to be used. Must have informed consent.

Ms. Younkin also stated it's the parents right to decide if students should be masked or not. Board should stand up and do the right thing.

Micah Aills - feels sorry for the school board to be on the board during COVID. Pressure from

everywhere. School buses are not public transportation – should not be considered as part of the “mandates”. NIH Director states that the mandated mask guidelines are not based on data. Adverse Childhood Events – ACE – mental health issues in children – preventing this could reduce a large increase in health conditions as children age.

Masks could have an impact through ACE – which could have an adverse effect on our children and their futures.

Mask optional policy in July – last minute decision to wear mask. Is that policy that was originally voted on still in effect? Information needs to be sought out before making decisions. Lots of information available and not from a single source. Requests seeking outside counsel

John Weaver - 2 high school age students – Physician at Fairfield Medical Center –

Anesthesiologist – Wasn't planning on saying anything but saw the Guidance document from the Fairfield Health Department. The health department is not doctors that are discussing best practices but just people who may or may not have all the facts. This document is just guidance. He is happy to answer questions.

### **BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Mr. Sharp – spoke about his personal experience with his daughter. Seems like there is a lot of misinformation. Depending on who you ask what answer you get.

Mr. Kern – in general, the board needs debriefed on how the last 5 days have happened. Decisions had to be made when new guidelines were given to the district. He believes that the board should make some decisions about how we are responding to the pandemic at this point. At the July meeting we approved the masks optional but we are not executing that now. What is happening in the buildings now?

JB Dick – Superintendents meet weekly with the Fairfield County Health Dept. We have done what the Department has recommended. He has been given the authority to change the policy to adhere to the recommendations. This is what was done prior to the start of school. The Administrative team has followed through with this.

Contact tracing is not the job of the administrators.

Mr. Rainier – tired of this, where is the data for 6' or 15 minutes?; Mr. Dick has continued to make decisions with the input of others; where is the exit strategy? Sunshine Laws prohibit the board discussing this issue without a public meeting – thank you for showing up tonight; there are a lot of people who just send emails or texts.

Mrs. Saum – asked Dr. Weaver about his opinion about COVID; what is his opinion of the pandemic;

His response – who are we protecting? The vaccine is not required yet at Fairfield Medical Center; if he were concerned about his child or someone else getting COVID then wear an N95 mask. The guidance is just that....guidance. "any amount of time" what does that mean? 1 second?

Mrs. Saum – struggles with why the guidelines for healthcare workers and schools are different.

Mr. Rainier – Is there a difference between vaccinated and COVID positive students with an exposure?

Mr. Sharp – quarantine issue is the most important – how do we keep kids in school?

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Audrey Stonewall – has met with a lot of county officials. Met with commissioner – what happens if we don't cooperate? Sheriff says they will not enforce.

Judy Stemen – how effective are the masks? They are not guaranteed. The vaccinations are being required in some instances. This is not ok. It is a matter of control and fear.

Scott Green – COVID is too much drama – we are looking for leadership – this quarantining stuff is BS – kids are not really being affected. Drugs and alcohol are real issues and we should put the attention. Let's prioritize our issues.

### **BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Mr. Sharp - What do we want to accomplish tonight?

Normal school year and quarantining -

Mr. Sharp – no decision tonight – the main thing is truly quarantining rules – what if we make up our own?

Mr. Dick – SB 22 is on our side. Health Dept is guarded – follows ODH.

Mr. Rainier – Should we have a motion for the next meeting that the buses mirror our classroom as it pertains to the COVID policies. He would like to put on the agenda for the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. Mr. Dick will ensure that this is on the agenda.

Mrs. Saum asked Mr. Dick what the other school districts in the county are doing. His response was that some are mandating masks and some are not. He will get a legal opinion of the quarantine guidelines

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 P.M. by Kern, seconded by Young.

Ayes: Kern, Young, Rainier, Saum, Sharp



Kyle Sharp, President



Lana Fairchild, Treasurer