

## **CONNEAUT SCHOOL DISTRICT AUGUST 24, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**8/24/2020 [7:00PM-9:00PM] @ Alice Schafer Annex Cafeteria**

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**- AUGUST 24, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING -**

### **1. Open of Meeting**

#### **Minutes**

Mrs. Luckock opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

The following Board members were present:

Mr. Burnham	Mr. Ellis	Mr. Hall	Mr. Hornstein	
Mrs. Luckock	Mr. McGuirk	Mr. McQuiston	Mrs. Miller	Mrs. Klink

The following administrators were present:

Superintendent Jarrin Sperry, Business Manager Greg Mayle, Assistant to the Superintendent/Director of Student Services Susy Dressel, Curriculum Director Brenda Kantz, Director of Buildings and Grounds Frank Kimmel, Director of Technology Rick Kelly, Conneaut Lake Elementary School Principal Doug Parks, Conneaut Valley Elementary School Principal Adam Jardina, Conneaut Valley Middle School Principal Kevin Burns, Conneaut Lake Middle School Principal Jeff Hans, Conneaut Area Senior High School Principal Dave Maskrey, Conneaut Area Senior High School Principal John Hines.

### **2. Moment of Silence**

#### **Minutes**

Mrs. Luckock asked all those attending the meeting to observe a moment of silent reflection.

### **3. Flag Ceremony**

### **4. Vision and Mission Statement**

Vision Statement- "A community where all recognize and fulfill their unique potential to contribute to a globally connected society."

Mission Statement- "To provide a safe and supportive environment where all acquire the skills to become productive citizens of a globally connected society."

### **5. Call to Order**

### **6. Visitor Recognition on Agenda Items**

Per Policy 903 – Public Participation in Board Meetings

All visitors who are recognized during the Visitor Recognition are allotted a maximum of five (5) minutes to address matters of their concern, unless otherwise determined by the Board President. Visitor recognition is to be limited to thirty (30) minutes unless otherwise decided by the Board.

## Minutes

Nineteen individuals approached the podium:

1. Sonny Brady – Mr. Brady is a coach at Conneaut Valley Middle School and commented that sports are important for youth. Mr. Brady has been coaching 25 years and has seen sports change the lives of many individuals in difficult households. Mr. Brady said that saying no to fall sports due to COVID-19 would be the wrong decision. The infection rate is low and the benefits outweigh the consequences.
2. Lance Hearn – Mr. Hearn commented that he was reiterating points from an email that was sent to the Board. He has been a member of community his entire life. He played youth sports and was a high school athlete. His sons are active in sports. Mr. Hearn said that athletics and extracurriculars are a part of education. The kids and coaches have worked hard to make the changes that were asked of them and we have to give them a chance to see that through. Mr. Hearn asked that the Board please let the coaches and players show them that they have what it takes to be successful and safe.
3. Barb Vaughn – Ms. Vaughn is a fourth grade teacher. Ms. Vaughn commented that the District has done an incredible job preparing for the start of school. She has no fear or doubt in her mind about returning to school. Rather, she noted that she is here as a concerned parent. Her son plays on the golf team and has spent years practicing. To her son, golf is not just a sport but also a lifesaver. Ms. Vaughn asked the Board to consider how decisions made tonight will affect the students who play fall sports. Ms. Vaughn expressed concern that it could be harmful to them on a social and psychological front.
4. Jason White – Mr. White noted that he was speaking on the optimism that the District is going to play sports. He learned that cameras are being put on the football field for the live streaming of events. Mr. White previously asked if cameras are going to be installed on the soccer field and was told not at this time. Mr. White commented that there are 39 boys and girls whose parents who will not be able to watch their kids play soccer. He suggested the soccer games be played on the football field.
5. Stephen Lober – Mr. Lober is an assistant coach for the girls' soccer team. He commented that it has already been proven that sports improve education. This is his first year as a coach at Conneaut and he noted that he has never seen a group of athletes push as hard as this group. Mr. Lober asked the Board to consider this and to give the athletes the opportunity to show how they have improved.
6. Steve Nader – Mr. Nader is a volunteer assistant girls' soccer coach. Mr. Nader commented that there are 604 students at CASH, approximately 500 of which will be attending in person classes in the fall. Approximately 230 kids participate in extracurricular activities during a school year. Currently, temperatures are being taken and screening forms are being filled out. Mr. Nader said that more is currently being done to keep an eye on students playing sports than will be done in school in the fall. 40% of the students will be having their temperatures checked every day through sports.
7. Scott Hinterleiter – Mr. Hinterleiter commented that a month after last season ended, he began working with both the boys and girls soccer teams as head coach. He noted that the travel teams have been successful and no incidents were encountered with either team. Mr. Hinterleiter said that teams will make mistakes and won't do everything perfect, but they will do everything that needs done to succeed. Both teams have worked hard for the last 10 months and deserve a chance to play.
8. John Miller – Mr. Miller is a junior at CASH and plays on the basketball team. Mr. Miller commented that there is always a risk to playing any sport. He said that we have more control over COVID-19 than we do in other areas, and the case counts in Crawford County are low. Mr. Miller noted that playing basketball has helped with his grades, and they wouldn't be as good as they are without basketball. For some people, sports are everything.
9. Jon Haag – Mr. Haag noted that he is an employee of the District and said we have the greatest school district in this area. His biggest concern is that if fall sports are eliminated, a snowball effect will be started. Mr. Haag commented that PIAA has given the go ahead to start fall sports. He asked what would happen if COVID-19 flares up again in the winter and noted that infection rates are currently very low.
10. Emily Bortnick, Cassidy Snider – Miss Bortnick and Miss Snider are seniors on the girls' volleyball team. They commented that scholarships are at stake if fall sports were cancelled. They commented that it is proven that athletes have better health and a stronger immune system, which would help fight against COVID if contracted. They said that students are following and will continue to follow any restrictions given by the Board. Ms. Bortnick

noted that life lessons are learned through sports and that sports teams become a second family and some students need that.

Ms. Luckock noted that the 30 minute public comment period had expired. It was the consensus of the Board to add 15 more minutes.

11. Nate Bortnick – Mr. Bortnick is a senior and plays on the football team. Mr. Bortnick commented that he will always cherish memories made and life lessons learned through sports.

12. Callie Gerber - Miss Gerber is a manager for the Conneaut Lake Middle School girls' basketball team and commented that it would be beneficial to have sports because they are part of the school experience.

13. Alex O'Grady - Mr. O'Grady asked the Board to imagine what students will be doing if there are no sports. Mr. O'Grady commented that sports are the most important thing in school.

14. Dave Maskrey – Mr. Maskrey commented that the Board is here tonight because the Governor and PIAA did not make definitive decisions. Mr. Maskrey noted that he was speaking for the students and the community and said that if schools are open we need to play.

15. Randi Fields – Ms. Fields commented that she works on the “front lines” with COVID-19 patients. She said that there are currently zero positive cases in hospital. She noted that there is a potential for risk, but the risk is not currently there. Ms. Fields said that students have shown they are willing to follow the rules and we should respect that.

16. John Schell – Mr. Schell noted that he is a medical professional and youth coach. He commented that there are risks to the virus, but risks are always present.

17. Jason Easler – Mr. Easler noted that in his personal life, a coach was his disciplinarian growing up. His son plays football. Mr. Easler commented that a lot of students don't have a strong home life and sports help them.

18. Lindsey Blood – Miss Blood commented that an accident to a student has brought a District sports team together. The season hasn't started, but she feels it is going to be a good one.

19. Tara Merola – Ms. Merola noted that she is the mother of senior boy, a freshman girl and a sixth grader. Ms. Merola commented that if everyone was to look back at their first day of high school, they would remember it was a scary experience. She said that sports have helped her family through difficult times and commented that sports help keep depression and suicide rates down.

## **7. Approval of Agenda**

## **8. Board Discussion about 2020 Fall Interscholastic and Intramural Sports programs during COVID-19 Pandemic**

### **Minutes**

Mrs. Luckock asked Mr. Acklin to approach the podium. Mr. Acklin described a proposal that had been discussed by school districts in area. This proposal would delay the start of the season by two weeks. Games would start in the middle of September, allowing for school to begin first. Playoffs would occur around the third or fourth week of October. However, this proposal did not gain traction in time. Mr. Acklin noted that District 10 will be developing schedules in the next two weeks; if we wait, we won't have anyone to play.

Mrs. Luckock asked Mr. Acklin to confirm that Districts would not be penalized if a schedule was created that resulted in fewer games. Mr. Acklin commented that this was correct.

Mr. Hall asked Mr. Acklin if all coaches have all been trained in PIAA guidance on fall sports. Mr. Acklin has confirmed that all sports have been trained.

Mrs. Miller asked how many students are already participating in sports. Mr. Acklin replied that 172 students are currently participating in fall sports, but noted that this number was not counting open gyms for winter sports.

Mr. Burnham commented that he would be in favor of a one week delay, but did not see a reason for two weeks.

Mrs. Klink commented that it would take District 10 at least a week, and perhaps two weeks, to get games set up. Mr. Acklin replied that as things stand, the first play date is September 10th.

Mrs. Miller commented that students are currently traveling to other states with travel teams, and teams are currently scrimmaging with other districts. The Board inquired of Mr. Acklin whether this was true and to what extent scrimmaging with other districts was occurring. Mr. Acklin noted that other districts are holding open gyms and Conneaut cannot control who other districts allow at these events.

Mr. Hall commented that getting back to normal is a big priority for everyone. He noted that PIAA laid out a plan on how to safely reopen sports and that he agrees with it. Mr. Hall commented that we can only control the sports that are played in this district and that the PIAA plan needs to be followed in its entirety. Mr. Hall suggested the creation of a COVID-19 manager position to monitor events and ensure that the guidelines are being followed. Mr. Hall commented that he came to the building early today to watch the soccer team practice and felt that social distancing was not being followed. Mr. McGuirk agreed with this – he expressed concern that things are way too relaxed and people need to take it more seriously.

Mr. Hall gave a presentation regarding PIAA guidelines and his proposal for the creation of a COVID-19 manager position. Mr. Hall commented that this position would be similar to a game manager, but would not be the Athletic Director. Mr. Hall said that the position would be similar to the concussion protocol manager. The COVID-19 manager would have the ability to stop a game if either team was not adhering to plan. Mr. Hall reiterated that sporting events are currently limited by PIAA to 25 people in a room and attendance is limited to athletes, coaches, officials and staff only.

The Board discussed various options relating to junior varsity sports, including separate schedules and separate buses. Mr. Acklin commented that he felt a separate schedule would not be feasible.

Mr. McGuirk noted that the situation can change quickly, and cases can spread very quickly. Mr. McGuirk described the effect COVID-19 has had on people he knows personally.

Mr. Ellis commented that if kids get sent home, it affects parents when both work. He spoke with District 10 at 4PM and at that time only 50% of districts had turned in a yes or no answer regarding fall sports. Mr. Ellis noted that District 10 could not say one way or the other what effect a one week delay would have on fall sports due to scheduling. Mr. Ellis commented that there are teams in quarantine in Crawford County and that one professional staff member has tested positive for COVID-19 in the area.

## **9. Board Motion(s) re: 2020 Fall Interscholastic and Intramural Sports programs**

### **Minutes**

Motion by Ms. Miller, second by Mr. Hall to move forward with PIAA's plan for the return to fall sports, with a one week delay of competitions until September 17th and pending the creation of a COVID-19 Manager position.

Motion passed by roll call.

Mr. Burnham - Yes      Mr. Ellis - Yes      Mr. Hall - Yes

Mr. Hornstein - Yes      Ms. Luckock - Yes      Mrs. Klink - Yes

Mr. McGuirk - Yes      Mr. McQuiston - Yes      Mrs. Miller - Yes

Motion by Mrs. Klink, second by Mr. McQuiston to approve the direction of administration to relocate as many middle and high school sporting events as possible to the high school football field or gymnasium during the fall sports season to allow the broadcasting of these events.

Motion passed.

Mr. Burnham - Yes      Mr. Ellis - Yes      Mr. Hall - Yes

Mr. Hornstein - Yes      Ms. Luckock - Yes      Mrs. Klink - Yes

Mr. McGuirk - Yes      Mr. McQuiston - Yes      Mrs. Miller - Yes

## 10. Board Concerns

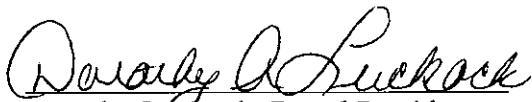
### Minutes

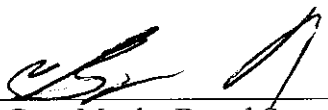
Ms. Luckock thanked the public in attendance for their attention and input.

## 11. Adjournment

### Minutes

Motion by Mr. Ellis, second by Mr. McQuiston to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM.

  
Dorothy Luckock, Board President

  
Greg Mayle, Board Secretary