



# Mansfield Township School District

## Board of Education Monthly Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2021

### I. Meeting Started 6:05pm

#### Open Public Meeting Statement

*The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Mansfield Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof communicated to the Burlington County Times, and under the emergency regulations by providing electronic notice in lieu of the traditional "adequate notice" of notifying the newspaper.*

*At times, it may appear to members of our audience that the board of education takes action with very little, if any, comment and, in many cases, a unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting, the administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter and is satisfied that it is ready to be presented to the board of education. The matter may have been previously discussed at the work session meeting. Board members preview the agenda items and discuss questionable items with the Superintendent or Business Administrator so that when they attend the meeting, there is usually no further need to question the issue. Only then is it voted upon as an action item at a public meeting.*

#### Salute to the Flag

#### Roll Call of Board Members

Jared Fantasia	Present	Lisa Willever	Absent
Stephen Thomas	Present	Allyson Johnston	Present
Leila Davis	Present	Omar Coley	Absent
Abbey True Harris	Present	Frank Armenante	Present
Emily Green	Present		

**Administrators**

Tiffany Moutis, Superintendent	<i>Absent</i>	Glenn Kershner, MTES Principal	<i>Absent</i>
Danielle Dolci, Business Adm/Bd Sec	<i>Absent</i>	Stacy Cullari, JHES Principal	<i>Absent</i>
Fred Knaak, Facilities Manager	<i>Absent</i>	Kelly Gamez, Curr. & Inst. Supervisor	<i>Absent</i>
Jason Shainline, Sup. of Special Services	<i>Absent</i>		

**II. HIB Training**

Presentation by NJSBA

**III. Public Comment**

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of providing an opportunity to the public to express themselves on school-related matters of concern to the residents of Mansfield Township. To allow for a fair and orderly public comment period and in accordance with Board Policy no. 1120, individual comments are limited to two minutes and the total time for the public comment session will be thirty minutes. To protect the privacy of all students and staff, concerns regarding individual students and staff members should generally be addressed by first meeting with the appropriate administrative staff.

*Samantha Simmons, 479 White Pine Road, Our children should not have to wear masks. It should be optional.*

*Brian Greer, 85 Augusta Drive, Allow masks to be optional. There are barriers at every desk. If some parents are still nervous they can have their kid wear a mask.*

*Desiree Mancuso, 40 Fairmont Drive, Hello, as a parent of an incoming kindergartener I wanted to express my feelings on masks to be optional for students for the upcoming school year. Incoming families were not given the survey to vote, and I feel it important to have everyone's input. In making your final decision regarding this matter, please reference CDC, WHO, and COVID Data Tracker all in which state the risk of transmission and illness from this virus as very low.*

*Nancy Nutt, 24290 West Main Street, Please lift this mask requirement!! It needs to be at the discretion of the parents whether or not they want their child/children to wear a mask all day!  
Thank you!*

*Kristie Matey, 24387 West Main Street, I strongly urge the board to allow masks to me OPTIONAL for everyone. My daughter is listed as a "child with a disability" which, in her case, is a communication delay. Speech therapy is supposed to be a huge part of her school agenda, and how is she able to benefit fully from her speech therapy while she or hear teacher are wearing masks?? She needs to be able to see mouth movements and pronunciation in order to fully understand and improve in school. PLEASE ALLOW MASKS TO BE OPTIONAL!!*

*Darrah Greene, 2300 Old York Road, Good evening. My name is Darrah Greene and I have been a Mansfield resident for over 10 years. My oldest will be going into second grade in the fall and my second to oldest will be going into kindergarten. I feel that with public places now being masks optional, coupled with the fact that every adult has had the opportunity to get vaccinated to protect themselves, I think that masks should be optional for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Given the fact that children are not getting severe sickness from Covid-19, I feel that it should be the parents' personal choice whether they want to send their child to school with a mask on or not. All of the teachers and staff have had the opportunity to get vaccinated if that was their choice to do so. So we can't use the excuse anymore that we are worried about students infecting the teachers, or students bringing COVID-19 home to infect elderly family members. That can't be true if every adult who wants to get vaccinated is vaccinated and protected from contracting COVID-19. Children are allowed to go without masks now almost everywhere. Grocery stores, amusement parks, you name it. How is the classroom any different? Please give us back our parental rights and let us as parents choose whether we want to send our children in with a mask or not. Any parent who is still nervous about COVID-19 can certainly send their child with a mask on. But for those of us who are not nervous about it, should have the right to send our children mask free. Please do the right thing, not just by me, but by all of the children who are eager to get some normalcy back in school! The children whose self confidence has plummeted since having to wear a mask. The children who have become depressed and anxious from having to wear a mask. The children whose learning and grades have suffered by having to wear a mask. Please give these kids their lives back. I urge you. Thank you for your time.*

*Sara Doyle, 26675 Mt. Pleasant Road, No masks!*

*John Doyle, 26675 Mount Pleasant Road, No masks for kids in school.*

*Jennifer Brown, 25580 Mount Pleasant Road, I would like to voice my support for making masks optional for our children when they return in September. With the mask mandate being removed throughout the state, I would like to see the school follow suit and give the families the option to choose.*

*Michelle Rittman, 2684 Kinkora Road, Children should continue wearing masks full-time unless every single teacher, staff member and administrator has been polled and all are in agreement that the children can stop wearing masks. It is irrelevant what the parent wants. They don't determine dress codes or other safety procedures or protocols at the schools.*

*Brenda Lawyer, 5 Hansom Drive, Masks for children should be OPTIONAL. There are just as many arguments that masks are detrimental at this age than there are that they are beneficial - it's all personal opinion and therefore should be personal choice. I CHOOSE to not have my children wear a mask. I feel the risk of wearing them outweighs the benefits. I wouldn't force my views on others and have no problem if other families would have their children wear masks, but I also feel it should be our choice to make the decision that's right for our family. Kids will have been mask-free all summer, having playdates, camps, pool parties, sporting events, etc with most of the same kids they will be with in school. Since the decision to mask in schools is no longer REQUIRED, then I implore the superintendent to make the right decision. Though asking the Board for their recommendations is honorable, it's not necessary. I hope the ultimate decision is made to allow PARENTS to have the choice. NO REQUIRED MASKS!!*

**IV. Good of the Order**

Board agreed to cancel the July 19, 2021 meeting

**V. Adjournment**

WHEREAS, there being no further business of the Mansfield Township Board of Education to attend to on this 12th day of July, 2021; now, therefore, be it  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the July, 2021 meeting of the Mansfield Township Board of Education be and is hereby adjourned at 8:08pm.

Moved by: Jared Fantasia


Seconded by: Allyson Johnston

Jared Fantasia	<i>Aye</i>	Lisa Willever	<i>Absent</i>
Stephen Thomas	<i>Aye</i>	Allyson Johnston	<i>Aye</i>
Leila Davis	<i>Aye</i>	Omar Coley	<i>Absent</i>
Abbey True Harris	<i>Aye</i>	Frank Armenante	<i>Aye</i>
Emily Green	<i>Aye</i>		

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 Danielle Dolci  
 Secretary to the Board

  
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 Frank Armenante, President

{OFFICIAL SEAL}

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*CERTIFICATION OF THE BOARD SECRETARY*

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**Public Attendance:**  
NJSBA Representative and Presenter