

Currituck County Schools**Meeting Minutes****Printed : 10/15/2021 2:39 PM ET****Special Meeting****07/28/2021 05:30 PM**

Professional Learning Center (PLC)

Attendees

Voting Members

Karen Etheridge, Chairman
Dwan Craft, Vice Chairman
Dr. Bill Dobney, Board Member
Kelly Williams Peters, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Matt Lutz, Superintendent

A. Call to Order**B. Consideration of Local Implementation Procedures of the StrongSchools NC Public Health Toolkit for the Opening of the 2021-2022 Academic Year.**

The Board held a Special Meeting to review and implement procedures recommended in the Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit for the 21-22 school year. Dr. Lutz reviewed updates made to the toolkit by the Department of Health & Human Services . He explained the prevention strategies that included those that should be implemented and strategies that could be implemented to reduce the risk of COVID exposure and spread.

The document included social distancing guidelines, directions for handling positive and presumptive cases, and transportation mask recommendations. Individuals who are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms are not required to quarantine after close contact. Quarantine is not required if face masks are worn consistently by both the person with COVID and the potentially exposed person.

Based on the current information, Dr. Lutz presented three options for the opening of schools:

- Option 1: Masks required K-12
- Option 2: Masks required K-8; Masks optional 9-12
- Option 3: Masks optional K-12

The Board and Administrators discussed the current cases of COVID in Currituck County which was 12. Currituck is rated "Significant" which means there is a case rate between 20-100 new cases per capita in 14 days and have a percent positive between 5% and 7.9%.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of a mask mandate. They also spoke about feedback they received from parents who supported wearing masks and those who opposed mask mandates.

Should masks be made optional, the district would of course continue with thorough cleaning practices. Cleaning and the setup of the schools' cafeterias will be addressed prior to the start of school. Last year the pre-packaged food made it easier to serve the students. The Board also discussed the capacity of the district's buses and if distancing guidelines would even be possible. The driver shortage will impact the student capacity on each bus.

Chairman Etheridge said she would recommend Option 3 - allowing masks to be optional in K-12 but required to be worn by drivers and students while on the school buses.

The Board discussed the need for mask protocols and working with parents so that staff is not over

burdened. Administration will ask teachers for input regarding the practice of serving meals to students in the classrooms. The Board will schedule meetings as needed to address the mask options and COVID protocols.

Motion made by: Karen Etheridge

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

C. Adjourn Meeting (Action)

Motion made by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Motion seconded by: Karen Etheridge

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Chairperson

Secretary