

# Board of Education Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2021 6:00 p.m., Dansville Middle School Gym

Mike Kapp, 2021-2022 President, kappm@dansville.org

A special meeting of the Dansville Schools Board of Education was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Mike Kapp

Members Present: President Mike Kapp, Trustee Dave Lilly, Treasurer Chad Minnis, Vice President Chris Schmidt, Trustee John Stolz, Shelby Cremer and Secretary Candy Sherwood.

Members Absent: Student Representative

Administrators: Elementary Principal Andy Cox, High School Principal Tania Dupuis, Middle School Principal Erin Graf and Superintendent Amy Hodgson

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Without objection, Mr. Kapp requested the following three changes to the agenda:

1. Add a Motion of censure for Trustee Stolz
2. Add directions to board members regarding FOIA request from member Stolz
3. Move public participation to the end of the meeting

Mr. Stolz moved to add the removal of Mike Kapp as board president to the agenda. No second was given. Mr. Stolz asked that the consent agenda items be voted on separately.

## ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS PER AMENDED AGENDA

### 1. Motion of censure for Trustee Stolz

Mr. Minnis moved that Mr. Stolz be reprimanded for failure to uphold an Emergency Order of the Ingham County Health Department and policies and procedures of the district in violation of his Oath of Office as follows:

- *Policies 122, 123 and 143. Board Powers, Philosophy of the Board, and Authority.* Mr. Stolz has been provided board-member orientation, assigned a mentor, offered professional development, and given guidance by other members of the board regarding the role of the Board and its members. The focus of board responsibility and authority is the education and safety of students and related staffing, budgeting, and facilities management established in state law. Mr. Stolz persists in raising issues unrelated to board responsibility and unsupported by any other board members. This behavior has taken administrator time away from more important duties of the district, disrupted the ordinary operations of the board, and delayed the purchase of technology equipment needed by staff and students for teaching and learning.

- *Board procedures of Good Governance, Spirit of Inquiry, and Chain of Command.* After nine months on the board, Mr. Stolz continues to come unprepared to board meetings and ask questions without giving the administration the opportunity to research the question for a full public response and in violation of the Board’s “No Surprises” rule. The tone of his inquiries is accusatory rather than that of seeking clarity. Mr. Stolz persists in bringing community questions directly to the Board rather than informing the Superintendent and following the prescribed Chain of Command so that concerns are directed to the place where they can be best addressed. Each of these behaviors are in violation of the Governance and Operating Procedures unanimously adopted by the Board on May 24, 2021.
- *Policy 143 Public Expressions of the Board.* It is important that Board Members debate and discuss issues that come before the Board. However, individual members do not possess any of the powers that reside in the Board as a whole. Once the majority has spoken, members are expected to respect the authority of the Board by supporting its decisions regardless of positions taken prior to votes. The board president then functions as the official spokesperson for the Board. In spite of board orientation and multiple other communication efforts to ensure his understanding of this policy, Mr. Stolz responded to at least one known email independently without copying board members or indicating that his views do not reflect the views of the Board. After being informed again in writing of the policy, Mr. Stolz demonstrated continued resistance to the policy by insisting that the board president not respond to emails on behalf of the board and that each individual board member respond to questions from the public.
- *Emergency Order 2021-2 of Ingham County Health Department Policy 144.2.* Mr. Stolz refused to wear a facial covering while inside Dansville Middle School for a meeting held prior to the Regular Meeting of the Board, causing the Regular Meeting to be canceled. The board represents members of the community on both sides of the mask debate. This reprimand is not about masking versus not masking. It is about upholding the order that remains in place. The board has no authority to change or ignore a lawful order of the Ingham County Health Department. That authority is vested only in a court of competent jurisdiction.

For a school board’s impact on student achievement to be positive, board member service must focus on supporting excellent outcomes for students. This reprimand follows many other unsuccessful attempts and is a last resort effort by the board to remind Mr. Stolz to leave aside his personal agenda, eliminate the distractions and divisions, and follow the student-focused principles embedded in the policies and procedures of this Board.

The Motion was seconded by Mr. Lilly. Mr. Stolz was given the opportunity to respond.

Roll Call Vote

Cremer – Yes	Lilly – Yes	Schmidt - Yes	Stolz – Abstained
Kapp – Yes	Minnis – Yes	Sherwood - Yes	

6 yes, 1 abstained, Motion Passed

## **2. Directions to board members regarding FOIA request from member Stolz**

- Mrs. Hodgson addressed the board regarding the FOIA request from Mr. Stolz asking for emails from Mr. Kapp, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Minnis, Mrs. Sherwood, Mr. Lilly, Mrs. Cremer, Mrs. Hodgson and text messages from Mrs. Hodgson and Mr. Kapp.
- Copies of the request were shared with the board. Mrs. Hodgson offered impacted board members to have the IT team search their email accounts and pull the information.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

### **▪ Principals' Reports**

### **▪ Superintendent Report**

- Mrs. Hodgson expressed her enthusiasm about the posting for an Elementary Counselor.
- Several other questions were posed by the board.

### **▪ Student Representative Report**

- Student Representative had prior commitments and was unable to attend.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Item 1: August 23, 2021 regular board meeting minutes**

- Motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Lilly, to approve August 2021 Board Minutes as presented.

6 yes, 1 no, Motion Passed

### **Item 2: July PCARD**

- Motion by Mrs. Sherwood, seconded by Mrs. Cremer, to approve the July PCARD as presented.

6 yes, 1 no, Motion Passed

### **Item 3: August Invoices**

- Motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Lilly, to approve the August Invoices as presented.

6 yes, 1 no, Motion Passed

### **Item 4: Status Report/August Payroll**

- Motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Lilly, to approve the Status Report/August Payroll as presented.

6 yes, 1 no, Motion Passed

**Item 5: Approval of technology purchase**

- Motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Lilly, to approve the technology purchase as presented.

Mrs. Hodgson explained that the technology purchase exceeds the bid threshold, thus needing to be an action item.

7 yes, Motion Passed

**Item 6: Approval of high school FFA trip**

- Motion by Mr. Lilly, seconded by Mrs. Cremer, to approve the FFA Trip as presented.

7 yes, 0 no, Motion Passed

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Kapp reiterated the rules on public participation during the meeting in accordance of board policies.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Candy Sherwood, Board Secretary