

# MONTOURSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR WORK SESSION  
Online Zoom Webinar

Tuesday, October 27, 2020  
7:15 PM

Call to Order - Board President  
Roll Call - Board Secretary

## MEMBER

  x   Daniel L. Albert  
  x   Susan Beery  
  x   Scott W. Konkle  
  x   Jennifer L. Marriott  
  x   Dottie M. Mathers, Vice President  
  x   William S. Ruffing

## MEMBER

  x   David Shimmel, President  
  x   Ronald E. Snell  
  x   Dale Ulmer  
  x   \*Tom Burkhart, Solicitor  
  x   \*Christina Bason, Superintendent  
  x   \*Brandy N. Smith, Business Mgr./Bd. Secretary  
\*(Non-Voting Member)

## OTHERS

  x   Breon, Amy - Elementary School Principal  
  x   Feerrar, Darrin - Elementary School Principal  
  x   Gnoffo, Joseph - Supervisors of Buildings and Grounds  
  x   King, Christopher - Assistant High School Principal  
  x   Myers, Curtis - Middle School Principal  
  x   Peipher, Sebastian – Lead Network Administrator  
  x   Taormina, Daniel - High School Principal  
  x   Williamson, Michele - Supervisor of Special Education  
  x   Residents   x   Media   x   Students

### Prior Presentation

Mrs. Bason reviewed the chart provided by the Department of Education that is used to determine when to close a school due to COVID-19.

Mr. Konkle asked if we needed to certify that all of the players on a team are COVID free or just the ones who were in close contact.

Mr. Snell asked if the chart was a recommendation.

Mr. Ruffing asked if we could still play the football game on Friday without the 17 players who were quarantined.

Mr. Snell asked if certification was needed for all sports games this season.

Mr. Taormina said that they evaluated every option to make the games happen.

Dr. Mathers stated that she agrees with following the recommendations and guidelines.

Mr. Ruffing shared that he thinks the decision to close should be the responsibility of the School Board.

Mr. Albert said that he agrees with Mr. Ruffing.

Announcement of Executive Session – Prior to the start of the meeting for personnel, safety, and security reasons.

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## Public Comment

Dan Asiello shared that he appreciates decisions made based off science. He said that it is not always about the person who contracts COVID but the people who are at risk around that person. Mr. Asiello stated that he is okay with in-person board meetings as long as the public can still participate remotely if they choose to do so.

Keith Bennett asked the board to reconsider the decision so the students can play their upcoming games.

Kaye Blair asked if students on buses were a part of the contact tracing.

Tracy Bower suggested giving the option of remote learning for high risk students in situations when there are positive cases.

Alaska Dreese asked about siblings of students who were asked to quarantine at other schools still going to school. She also asked about the policy for contact with a contact of someone who tested positive.

Vic Gorini spoke to the mental health impact for the students. He asked for the decision to cancel the games to be reevaluated.

Phil Young would still like a virtual option for board meetings. He stated that he believes we should allow the students who have not had direct contact to play in their games.

Lara DeNune asked what the barriers are to getting the student athletes rapid tests.

Alex LeCrone said that from what she has seen masks are not being worn properly.

Brenda Oberheim shared that she believes the board meetings should be in person. She does not want to see a permanent change to virtual meetings.

Matt Alexander asked if the plan that resulted in the High School shut down was shared with the public.

Beau Keyte asked if the Board can decide during the meeting to allow the students to go back to school. He stated that he doesn't believe the school should be closed over two cases.

Bruce Jones shared that he thinks the football players and coaches have done a great job all season staying accountable and being careful throughout their processes.

Christy Livermore asked if the team could get tested so they could play.

Pamela Nelson said she wouldn't want the district to spend any money on technology for interactive board meetings. She shared concern over false negative tests if students are tested too soon after contact.

Tina Marie Kline said the students who are consistently not wearing their masks properly should be disciplined.

Dylan Bennett wanted to share that his coaches have done a great job making sure everyone is following the protocols regarding masks and temperature checks. He shared that he has struggled with the online learning portion of the year.

Beth Baylor said she doesn't believe school should be closed and sports should be allowed to continue. She said she believes the decision could do more damage to the students than the positive cases.

Mr. Taormina shared the number of students who had direct contact and would need to quarantine.

John Wanner stated that he believes if we allow siblings of quarantined individuals to go to school, then we should allow the sports teams to play.

Jenny Miller shared concern for the high school students missing out on their activities. She shared that she thinks we can get the athletes tested before the games.

Scott Metzger stated that he believes the District can leave the school open in a safe manner. He believes the plan in place needs to be re-evaluated. He said we should work to make our own plan independent of the state recommendations.

Kelly Bidlespacher asked what is considered a direct contact.

Kimberly Rehn said she would have preferred the District stayed in the hybrid model.

Kristin Evans asked if our District was hybrid would we have had as many quarantined students. She also asked if quarantined students will receive direction on how they are supposed to get their assignments.

Brett Wilson shared that he is concerned for the student's mental health.

Calogero Signor shared how hard the team has worked this year. He said he would really like to see something be done so the team can play.

Bob Larson shared that he does not agree with the state guidelines and that instruction should be fully in-person.

Jenny Miller asked why it was already posted that the team forfeited the upcoming game.

Jill Barnes said we should be more focused on education than the after-school activities.

Chad Eberhart said he believes the policy should be re-evaluated for students who were not in direct contact.

Vincent Reeder asked if the board would contact the PIAA if they decided the students could play their game.

J.C. Keefer clarified some information regarding rescheduling the football game.

Mike Caseman said he thought the email sent to parents made it sound like all sports were canceled.

John Schmalhofer thanked everyone for their work.

Gina Weber thanked Mr. Keefer for the work he has done with her kids. She said she would be willing to get her son a rapid test if that meant he could play.

Nathan Kimble shared that he believes that athletes should be able to participate.

Kristine Conklin said she was in favor of the athletes being able to play their games.

Christy Livermore shared information she received from the Department of Health regarding her child quarantining.

Brenda Oberheim stated that she is worried about false positive tests. She said she would like students in school.

Agenda Items

• **General**

G-1 Approval of an Addendum for the agreement between Montoursville Area School District and Warren County School District. (Attachment)

Motion: Marriott Second: Mathers  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell asked if we could buy directly from the company instead of going through Warren County School District.

• **Personnel**

P-1 Approval of the following substitute custodian for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>Substitute</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>
Amber Fry	\$10.50

Motion: Marriott Second: Ruffing  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

P-2 Approval of the following addition to the exclusive sub list for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>Substitute</u>	<u>Certification</u>
Rebecca Hall	English

Motion: Marriott Second: Beery  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

P-3 Approval of the following addition to the extracurricular activity advisors for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>	<u>Replacement for:</u>
Rebecca Hall	Drama Director	\$1,340	Desirae Mausteller
Rebecca Hall	Lighting Director	\$250	Denise Clark

Motion: Marriott Second: Mathers  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**



P-5 Approval of the following addition for a Temporary Professional Contract:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Replacement for:</u>
Holley Fuller	Art	TBD to the end of the 2020-2021 school year	Victoria Stetts

P-6 Approval of the following addition to the support staff:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Replacement for:</u>
Taylor Strein	Paraprofessional	\$11.40	November 2, 2020	Wendy Durant

Motion: Marriott Second: Konkle  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**  
P-5 Mr. Snell asked why the start date was to be determined.

P-4 Approval of the following addition to fill long-term position:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Replacement for:</u>
Victoria Stetts	Art	August 25, 2020	Vacant Art Position

Motion: Snell Second: Ruffing  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

P-7 Approval of a retirement from a member of the professional staff:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Michael Cillo	Physical Education	20	September 2, 2021

Motion: Ulmer Second: Marriott  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**  
Mrs. Bason, Mrs. Marriott, and Mr. Ulmer thanked Mr. Cillo for his service over 20 years.

P-8 Approval of the following changes to the coaching staff for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>	<u>Replacement for:</u>
Craig Weaver, Sr	Girls Basketball	JV Coach	\$3,200	Ashley Burger

Motion: Ulmer Second: Marriott  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: Konkle  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Informational Items

**Motion for Mr. Shimmel to look into options for in-person board meetings as soon as possible.**

Motion: Ulmer                      Second: Konkle

**Motion to amend the previous motion to include that Mr. Shimmel provide all needed information to decide on in person board meetings in two weeks.**

Motion: Snell                      Second: Ulmer  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: Marriott, Mathers  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: Marriott, Mathers  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

**Motion to amend the health and safety plan to increase the amount of COVID cases needed to shut down a school.**

Motion: Snell                      Second: Ruffing

**Motion to amend the previous motion to 2% over 14 days.**

Motion: Snell                      Second: Ruffing  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: Marriott, Mathers  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: Marriott, Mathers  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Shimmel said that we need a specific number or percentage of cases for the Administration.

Mr. Snell asked if this would include staff and students.

Mr. Shimmel asked if 2% is a running total or over a certain amount of time.

Mrs. Marriott brought up concerns for our staff's health.

Mr. Snell stated that we need to make sure everyone wears their masks.

Mr. Albert said that we should go with 5%.

Mr. Shimmel asked if the 2% was over a 14-day period.

Mrs. Bason asked if this would change at all depending on our county's status.

Mr. Ulmer said that he believes this should work as a red flag that calls for the board to meet and discuss the situation.

Mrs. Bason stated there needs to be 24-hour public notice of a meeting. She also brought up concerns about key staff being out at the same time.

Mr. Burkhart explained how the motion and amendment needs to be handled.

**Motion for High School Students to return to school on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> 2020.**

Motion: Snell                      Second: Ruffing

Dr. Mathers said we need to follow the health and safety plan.

Dr. Beery said she thinks there needs to be more time to clean. She stated that she would be okay with a Monday return.

Mr. Ruffing said he believes the precautions are doing too much damage to the students.

Mrs. Bason shared what cleaning needs to be done after the school is shut down.

Mr. Snell withdrew his motion for a return to school on Thursday.

**Motion for High School students to return to school on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> 2020.**

Motion: Snell                      Second: Beery  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell  
No: Mathers, Ulmer  
Absent: Marriott  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Taormina asked if he was removing the shop students from the quarantine list.

Mr. Konkle asked details about the COVID pre-screening questions for athletes.

Mr. Shimmel asked Mr. Taormina what he would need to feel comfortable certifying the team.

Mr. Taormina stated that he would like a directive from the board.

**Motion for The Montoursville Area School District Board of Directors, in light of the District's contact tracing efforts of all potential exposure, certify that our High School sports teams scheduled for activities on the 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> meet the requirements of the PIAA COVID-19 certification requirements for athletic fitness.**

Motion: Shimmel                      Second: Ulmer  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: Marriott, Mathers  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Public Comment

Keith Bennett asked if the Board was clearing everyone to play even if they were on the contact tracing list. He also asked when practices would resume.

Mr. Snell asked Mr. Burkhart if the Board needed a separate motion to allow them to practice on Wednesday.

**Motion to allow sports practices to resume Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 2020.**

Motion: Ruffing                      Second: Ulmer

Mr. Snell stated that public comment should be allowed on the topic before a vote is taken.

Kelly Bidlespacher asked if there was any way to establish if kids in the shop class did or did not have direct contact with the case.

Mr. Albert asked if we were removing the shop students from the quarantine list.

Mr. Taormina said he would need a directive from the Board.

Mr. Shimmel stated that he doesn't think we need to be that overly cautious on contact tracing if we can't truly determine if there was direct contact.

Mr. Taormina stated that he can't ask the students if they came in close contact with the case.

Dr. Beery asked if we could ask the positive case who they were in close contact with.

Mrs. Bason said that is unfair to do to the students.

Mr. Snell asked if all three shops were included in contact tracing if there was a positive case within one of the shops.

Mrs. Smith stated that we need to handle the current motion before one is made regarding the contact tracing. She also reminded the Board that public comment needed to be finished as well.

Katie Lakes said that she thinks the District should be more cautious. She shared what she knows about rapid testing and said she doesn't think there would be enough time. Katie Lakes also asked if the Middle School would resume their sports as well.

Kimberly Rehn shared that she is very disappointed in the Board. She feels that we are telling our students that the rules and science do not matter.

Jenny Miller said she hopes that the students can play the game on Saturday.

Anna Baylor thanked the Board for their time in working through these decisions.

Mrs. Smith stated that the first motion to be addressed was the motion to allow practices to resume on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Yes:     Albert, Beery, Konkle, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No:     None  
Absent: Marriott  
Result: **Motion Carried**



**Motion for the Montoursville School District Policy on contact tracing, as defined by the Department of Health, with respect to continuous direct contact for 15 minutes within 6 feet, shall only be applied if there is reasonable certainty that it occurred.**

Motion: Shimmel            Second: Ulmer  
Yes: Albert, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: Beery, Mathers  
Absent: Konkle, Marriott  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell asked if we could get safety glasses for students in the shop classes as they have less of a chance of fogging up with the masks.

Mr. Taormina said they do have those glasses and the fogging still occurs.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR MEETING 2:24 AM

Motion: Beery            Second: Ruffing  
Voice Vote: Unanimous



David Shimmel, President



Brandy N. Smith, Board Secretary

