

Communications and Outreach Committee Minutes
June 28, 2021
TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Committee Attendees: Co-Chair; Christina Plourd, Co-Chair; Sophia Shaikh, Tony Holt

Administrative Attendees: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent

Meeting called to order 3:02 PM

Members in Attendance: co-chair, Christina Plourd; co-chair, Sophia Shaikh; Tony Holt
Administration in attendance: Dr. Willett

Several members of the community were logged on. Sophia and Christina agreed to let anyone speak briefly if they wished to. One parent politely requested that we advocate to the state and DPH that masks be optional for all students next school year.

The floor was turned over to Dr. Willett who went through current state law Executive Order 12A that expires on July 20 that we must adhere to. He gave 3 potential scenarios for the future.

1. EO 12A expires and masks are no longer required.
2. The law is extended, and the board must follow the requirements.
3. The state could provide modified direction around vaccines, etc.

Committee members all discussed and agreed that we may advocate to the state, but we cannot make any declarations for what will happen next year. This would put the district at risk for fines and other liabilities.

Board member Jacob Marie (not in attendance) had drafted an advocacy letter to the state around mask practices for grades k-12, asking that they be optional for the next school year. The committee members read Mr. Marie's letter and agreed that it should move forward to the entire board for discussion prior to the state making their decisions. Dr. Willett will send it to board legal and include it in the board packet for the boards next meeting.

With remaining time, the co-chairs agreed to let members of the public speak again. Two parents thanked the committee for listening. Another parent asked if we would consider adding additional national level data to our letter.

A brief discussion amongst committee members determined that the letter would remain as is for presentation to the entire board.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Plourd