

**WESTFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07090**

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021.

Pursuant to the rules of the Board of Health of the Town of Westfield, NJ, a meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM on Monday, August 2, 2021, in the Council Chambers of Town Hall at 425 E. Broad Street, Westfield, NJ. The statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read.

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Lawrence Budnick
Dr. Andrea Marcus
Dr. Elizabeth Talmont
Ms. Sharon Dorry
Dr. Steven Gorelick
Mr. Brendan Bertsch
Dr. Daniel Halevy (arrived at 5:40)
Ms. Zoe McKelvey—Alternate #1
Ms. Maryann McClosky—Alternate #2

Also Present:

Megan Avallone, MS, RN, REHS—Health Officer
Helen Mendez—Principal REHS
Denise Rizzolo, PA, PhD, MPH, —COVID-19 Generalist
Ellen Shelley, DNP, MSN—Vulnerable Populations Coordinator
Michael Dardia—Council Liaison

ABSENT: None.

PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING:

Ms. Christine Binder, of 404 W. Dudley Ave, urged the Board not to mandate masking in schools.

Allison Emery, of 742 Rahway Ave, commented on the proposed turf field and stated objections to the complex, especially the impacts it may cause regarding light pollution, traffic, noise and parking.

Norman Yang, of 2 Normandy Dr, expressed concerns regarding chemicals and toxins in the proposed turf field.

Erin Skurdal, of 16 Normandy Dr, expressed concerns about the proposed turf field and use in middle school students, who may not have efficient hand hygiene.

Jean Lehmberg, of 528 Grove St, expressed concerns on the turf field and excessive heat. Ms. Lehmberg stated that the environmental health recommendations for turf fields include individuals who utilize them should shower after use and that individuals with asthma should not use.

Kate Oakes, of 740 Embree Crescent, commented that masking in schools adversely affects children.

Emily McDonagh, of 322 Hillside Ave, commented that the decision to mask a child in school should be made by the parent only.

Jonathan Schaeffer, of 538 Colonia Ave, commented that wearing a mask is effective at decreasing covid transmission in schools.

Jen Andretta, of 722 Warren St, commended about masking in schools and was concerned about the potential harm masking will cause in children.

Dr. Budnick addressed the public and stated that the Board of Health does not decide school policy.

Ms. Avallone also addressed the public and stated that while the Board of Health and Health Department provide guidance to the Board of Education, ultimately it is the Board of Education that has the responsibility, autonomy, and authority to determine which policies they will follow.

Jerrold Theese, of 418 Coleman Ave, commented that he would like more information on lunch guidance for schools and that there should be a medical exemption for children who cannot wear a mask.

Risa Kaban, of 34 Manchester Dr, commented that death rates are low for kids and long-term effects of children masking could be harmful as there were studies of oxygen deprivation related to masks.

Jared Kaban, of 34 Manchester Dr, commented that children were not significant drivers of disease and that suicide and anxiety of children is on the rise.

June Tsai, of 2 Normandy Dr, commented that the proposed turf field would increase the volume and speed of traffic in the residential area and that there was not a traffic study completed and not enough crossing guards.

Lisa Donofrio, of 1000 Seward Ave, commented that masking of children in schools should be optional and that we are moving towards dangerous territory with the covid vaccine and expressed concerns about an increase in covid deaths from the vaccine.

Jeanine McGuire, of 209 Woodland Ave, commented that there should be mask choice and that she worked at Holy Trinity School and was worried about oxygen deprivation and teaching children to be victims.

Ken Warren, of 5 Doris Pkwy, commented on the Edison sports complex, concerned about the creek behind the turf field, congestion in the area and that there was not a vote on this 18-million-dollar project.

Lois Kraus, of 585 Nancy Way, commented about landscaping equipment and increased noise and particulates they create.

Marion Obtcheraba, of 341 First St, stated that his children will be home schooled. That vaccination mandates should only be considered after looking at how many children have had the virus. and that decisions should be based on covid test results.

BOARD HEARING: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Dr. Talmont, seconded by Dr. Gorelick, Minutes of the June 3, 2021 meeting were approved as amended and ordered filed.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration/Consumer Health (Restaurant/Environmental Inspections):

Health Department, Vital Statistics, Animal Control and Nursing reports were reviewed and ordered filed.

The Financial Report for June and Bills for the month of June, in the amount of \$7,581.59, were motioned for approval by Dr. Halevy, and seconded by Dr. Gorelick. The following Roll Call vote was taken:

Dr. Halevy—Aye, Dr. Gorelick—Aye, Ms. McClosky—Aye, Ms. McKelvey—Aye,
Mr. Bertsch—Aye, Ms. Dorry—Aye, Dr. Talmont—Aye, Dr. Marcus—Aye,
Dr. Budnick—Aye

The record will reflect majority approval for the Financial Report and Bill list.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Avallone provided an update on the department’s Covid initiatives and activities. Ms. Avallone reviewed local immunization rates with the Board and provided an update on the covid immunization campaign.

There was no update for the vaccination subcommittee.

The Board continued their discussion on gas powered leaf blowers (GLBs). Ms. Avallone informed the Board that the noise ordinance would be unable to be changed unless specific approval was granted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. McKelvey distributed to the Board a letter from the Green Team on the harmful effects of GLBs and asked the Board members to review and provide any feedback. After some discussion, the Board stated that public education of GLB risks would be an initiative for the Board to consider.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Budnick then presented Board of Health Ordinance 2-2021 “An Ordinance Amending Section 5-13 of the Health Code of the Town of Westfield” for Introduction/First Reading. A motion for approval was made by Ms. Dorry, seconded by Mr. Bertsch and unanimously approved by all members present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Dr. Budnick then presented a fee waiver request submitted by the Westfield YMCA. A motion to waive the fee was made by Dr. Halevy, seconded by Dr. Marcus and the following Roll Call vote was taken:

Dr. Halevy—Aye, Dr. Marcus—Aye, Dr. Budnick—Aye, Dr. Gorelick—Aye,
Dr. Talmont—Aye, Ms. Dorry—Aye, Mr. Bertsch—Aye, Ms. McKelvey—Aye,
Ms. McClosky—Aye

The record shall reflect unanimous approval for waiving the Westfield YMCA late fee.

The other items on the agenda were tabled until the next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Halevy, seconded by Mr. Bertsch, at 6:59 PM and unanimously approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Avallone
Board Secretary