

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

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021.**

Pursuant to the rules of the Board of Health of the Town of Westfield, NJ, a meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM on Monday, September 13, 2021, in the Community Room 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—arrived at 5:10
Dr. Steven Gorelick
Mr. Brendan Bertsch
Dr. Daniel Halevy
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:

Christine Binder, of 404 W. Dudley Ave, commented that she does not support children wearing masks in school and she is now home schooling her son due to the school masking rules.

Dominique Venezia, of 118 Wyoming St, commented that she opposes COVID-19 vaccinations.

Ann Rosen, of 116 Mountain Ave, commented that she requests the Board of Health and Health Department employees discontinue using what she considers to be divisive language by using terms such as “a pandemic of unvaccinated individuals”. Ms. Rosen commented that these terms increase stigma in the community and have negative effects on mental health.

Lisa Donofrio, of 1000 Seward Ave, commented that we should let the healthy live and that COVID has to end. She stated that more focus should be put on natural immunity and vitamins.

Jean Lehmborg, of 528 Grove St, commented on concerns about climate change and effects of the proposed sports complex at Edison School.

Janet Onishi, of 759 Knollwood Terrace, commented on concerns about increased noise and light pollution from the proposed sports complex at Edison School.

Timothy Eaton, of 762 Knollwood Terrace, commented that the proposed sports complex at Edison School will create a lack of parking, decrease the quality of life for those who live nearby and that alternatives should be investigated before a decision is made.

BOARD HEARING: 1958 Cuban Cuisine

Luis Perez, owner and Ignacio Lopez, Manager were in attendance representing 1958 Cuban Cuisine.

Ms. Mendez reviewed the previous four inspections for the Board. Ms. Mendez stated that the past four inspections were Conditionally Satisfactory and that continuous problems include improper handwashing and a lack of oversight by those in charge. Ms. Mendez stated that she has offered the establishment action plans to assist with proper food preparation, by the establishment has declined to participate in such plans. Ms. Mendez informed the Board that four complaints were made by residents in the past few months.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Halevy to hold a two-day closure in abeyance for any rating received less than Satisfactory for the next twelve months. The days of closure will be determined by the health department. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gorelick and was unanimously approved by all members present.

Mr. Perez and Mr. Lopez stated that they understood and were excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tabled until next meeting.

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 Reports and Bills for the months of July and August, in the amount of \$7,581.59 for July and \$10,037.50 for August, were motioned for approval by Dr. Gorelick, and seconded by Dr. Marcus. The following Roll Call vote was taken:

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

The record will reflect unanimous approval by all members present for the Financial Report and Bill list.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Budnick presented Board of Health Ordinance 2-2021 “An Ordinance Amending Section 5-13 of the Health Code of the Town of Westfield” for Final Passage/Second Reading. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Bertsch, seconded by Ms. McKelvey and the following Roll Call vote was taken:

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

The record shall reflect unanimous approval for BOH Ordinance 2-2021.

Ms. Avallone and Dr. Shelley provided an update on COVID-19 activities and reviewed local data. Ms. Avallone informed the Board that updated data regarding breakthrough COVID infections were released by the New Jersey Department of Health and it shows that out of 5,312,016 New Jersey residents who have been fully vaccinated, 18,390 have resulted in breakthrough infections (0.35%), have been hospitalized (0.007%), and 97 (0.002%) have died.

Ms. McKelvey distributed an updated community education document on the community impact of two-stroke gas leaf blowers and the Board discussed ways to educate the community.

Dr. Budnick informed those present that there would be a community meeting to discuss the proposed sports complex at Edison School on September 20, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

Discussion took place regarding membership to the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association. After some discussion, the Board agreed that Dr. Budnick would join as an individual representing the entire Board.

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

CLOSED SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Marcus, seconded by Dr. Halevy, at 6:53 PM and unanimously approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Avallone
Board Secretary