

**Schuylkill Haven Area School District**  
**Minutes of the Special Meeting**  
**July 29, 2020**

The Board of School Directors of the Schuylkill Haven Area School District held a Special Meeting in the Hale Board Room on July 29, 2020. Public attendance was held via Zoom Video Conferencing noted with \* asterisk. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Jacoby followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Felty called roll and the following members of the Board responded:

School Board Directors

- Mr. Scott Jacoby
- Mr. Eric Felty
- Mrs. Diana McGoey
- Mr. Dion Fessler
- Mrs. Sandy Hess
- Mrs. Crystal McGarry
- Mr. Donald “Bud” Runkle
- Mrs. Jennifer Stoyer
- Mrs. Melissa Strauch
  
- Visitors listed on Pages 4-5 attending via Zoom Video

- Administrators
  - Mr. Ken Albitz
  - Mr. Matthew Buletza
  - Mr. Joseph Delluso
  - Mr. Matthew Horoschak
  - Dr. Susan Morgan
  - Mr. Dave Pizzico
  - Mr. Dennis Siket
- Mrs. Kimberly Umphrey, Business Manager
- Dr. Shawn Fitzpatrick, Superintendent
  
- \*Mrs. Jane Gordon, Recording Secretary

President Scott Jacoby welcomed everyone to the July 29, 2020 Special Board Meeting of the Schuylkill Haven Area School District Board of Directors. Mr. Jacoby stated: “This meeting shall be conducted in the Hale Board Room with a group of 25 people and participation via Zoom webinar. Members of the public wishing to make a comment are welcome to submit their comments in writing to email address [publiccomment@shasd.org](mailto:publiccomment@shasd.org). Comments duly submitted will be noted and (as practical) verbally summarized by the presiding officer during the meeting, and then the entire comment, verbatim, will become part of the record of the meeting in the district’s official Board meeting minutes book. All procedures for public comments apply. State your name, address and municipality of residence. Please limit your comments to three minutes. It is the Board’s practice to not engage in dialogue with speakers. When appropriate, follow-up responses will be posted on the District’s website.”

President Jacoby informed all present the purpose of this Special Meeting is the Schuylkill Haven Area School District Administration and Pandemic Planning Team will be presenting the Board of Directors their proposed Health & Safety Plan for reopening of the 2020-21 school year.

Superintendent Fitzpatrick presented the Plan and Calendar to the School Board. Each principal discussed their building specific modifications to reopen school. Mrs. Laura Schaeffer, School Nurse, and Director of Food Services, Mrs. Patty Daley explained the changes they too will be incorporating in order to reopen school during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following emails were read by Dr. Fitzpatrick from the Public Comment mailbox:

**Letter 1:**

Dear School Board Members:

My name is Krista Essler. My daughters Ayla and Raina Essler-Kiryaman attend the middle and elementary schools, respectively. We live at 243 N Margareta Street in Schuylkill Haven.

I have carefully considered their academic development against their physical health and wellbeing. I will not send them to school this year.

Daily, there is more information about the long-term effects of contracting COVID-19. These include clotting in the small blood vessels (1), continued fatigue even after testing negative (2) and impairment of neurological function including memory and coordination (3). These effects are seen in those who experienced mild, moderate, and severe symptoms (4). Projected models show that as many as one in four teachers may contract the disease by going back to classroom teaching (5).

I believe the best approach for school, until a viable vaccine is available, is to develop more effective remote learning tools with supports such as student-teacher and peer-to-peer tutoring.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this serious matter.

Below are the references:

- (1) [Pathologist found blood clots in 'almost every organ' during autopsies on COVID-19 patients](#)
- (2) <https://news.yahoo.com/long-lasting-covid-symptoms-lungs-120957410.html>
- (3) [Warning of serious brain disorders in people with mild coronavirus symptoms](#)
- (4) [Brain fog, fatigue, breathlessness. Rehab centers set up across Europe to treat long-term effects of coronavirus](#)
- (5) [How Many Teachers Are at Risk of Serious Illness If Infected with Coronavirus?](#)

Be well,

Krista J Essler, LAc  
570-728-3438  
acu17901.com

**Letter 2:**



Julie Wisner <julie1822@comcast.net>

Public Comment

7/29/20

Lockers in Elementary

I've always been fearful of the shared cubby lockers in Elementary Center because of lice. Will the students now be able to have individual lockers as opposed to the traditional shared lockers?

Thanks!  
Julie Wisner

**Letter 3:**



jessica brennan <jess.marie.brennan@gmail.com>

Public Comment

7/29/2020

Achieve

You replied to this message on 7/29/2020 7:15 PM.

What are the grades that can attend the achieve program?

With the change in times to the elementary center we will have difficulty with morning child care for our kindergarten student. If he could attend achieve in the mornings that would be a big.

Jessica Brennan

### **Letter 4:**



Julie Wisner <julie1822@comcast.net>

Public Comment

7/29/2020

Elementary lockers

Thank you for addressing the Elementary cubby locker question!  
Thanks!

### **Letter 5:**



Jasmine Berrios <jasmineberrios82@gmail.com>

Public Comment

7/29/2020

Jasmin Berrios

Hey im Marcos A Correa & Damian ACorrea mother and i dont fell safe sending my kids to the school is any way they cant have home school if any problem let me know so i cant get some home school program for my kids

### **Letter 6:**

From: Rugh, Kevin C CW3 USARMY NG PAARNG (USA) [mailto:kevin.c.rugh.mil@mail.mil]

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 7:57 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@shasd.org>

Subject: Public comment

What steps are you taking to teach the teacher how to use the technology? Last year was not good, many inconsistencies throughout the Diffie teachers. Even this meeting seems to have issues with the technology.

Kevin C. Rugh  
CW3, SC, PAARNG  
Senior Systems Administrator  
JFHQ-G6  
[kevin.c.rugh.mil@mail.mil](mailto:kevin.c.rugh.mil@mail.mil)  
Com [717.861.2205 \(ext 2\)](tel:717.861.2205)

President Jacoby asked for any other items or concerns. Hearing none, Mr. Felty moved and Mrs. Strauch seconded the motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:08 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Eric R. Felty  
School Board Secretary

jmg

\* asterisk indicates Zoom attendee

*Schuylkill Haven Area School District  
Special School Board Meeting Attendance  
July 29, 2020 - 6:00 pm*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>
Shawn Fitzpatrick	Admin	* Lindsay Novatnak	Teacher
Susan Morgan (Co-host)	Admin	* Lisa Hartz	Teacher
Dave Pizzico (Host)	Admin	* Liz Hughes	Teacher
Matt Horoschak	Admin	* Megan Watkins	Teacher
Dennis Siket	Admin	* Melissa Brennan	Teacher
Matt Buletza	Admin	* Michael Wurster	Teacher
Joe Delluso	Admin	* Mikki McGinty	Teacher
Ken Rossi	Admin	* Natalie Masinick	Teacher
Kim Umphrey	Admin	* Nick Yashinsky	Teacher
Laura Schaeffer	School Nurse	* Rebecca Moyer	Teacher
Patty Daley	Food Services	* Rhonda Johnson	Teacher
Scott Jacoby	Board	* Sammantha Gilley	Teacher
Bud Runkle	Board	* Terri Lynn Keyworth	Teacher
Crystal McGarry	Board	* Tom Miller	Teacher
Diana McGoey	Board	* Wayne Smith	Teacher
Dion Fessler	Board	* Anna Spaide	Attendee
Eric Felty	Board	* Cathy Hale	Attendee
Jennifer Stoyer	Board	* Christine Martin	Attendee
Melissa Strauch	Board	* Dalynn Stricker	Attendee
Sandy Hess	Board	* D Morgan	Attendee
* Shea Singley	News Press	* Eric Fryer	Attendee
* Jane Gordon	Office Staff	* Erin	Attendee
* Sonya Reiley	Office Staff	* Gary Malinoski	Attendee
* Beth Karpovich	Paraprofessional	* Gregory Woll	Attendee
* Christine Blecker	Paraprofessional	* Harriet McManus	Attendee
* Adrienne Sterner	Teacher	* Jaime Haag	Attendee
* Amanda Deal	Teacher	* Jaime Luckenbill	Attendee
* Amber Kaslavage	Teacher	* Jaimee Haag	Attendee
* Aprile Goehring	Teacher	* Jessica Brennan	Attendee
* Ashley Wagner	Teacher	* Jessie and Kevin Rugh	Attendee
* Caitlyn Biggs	Teacher	* Jim Munster	Attendee
* Chuck Grabusky	Teacher	* Julie Wisner	Attendee
* Elayne Hinderliter	Teacher	* Lara	Attendee

* Elizabeth Good	Teacher	* Laura Goad	Attendee
* Francine Bensinger	Teacher	* Marie Bildheiser	Attendee
* Ginene Heffner	Teacher	* MaryBeth Houtz	Attendee
* Heather Oswald	Teacher	* Michele Smith	Attendee
* Jennifer Kelly	Teacher	* Nicole Kerschner	Attendee
* jhale	Teacher	* Rebecca Ulsh	Attendee
* Jill Lenhart	Teacher	* Sara Yazujian-Wehr	Attendee
* Justine Colella	Teacher	* Shelly Trumbo	Attendee
* Kathy Dautrich	Teacher	* Sheree Bright	Attendee
* Kayla Witmier	Teacher	* Stacey Shappell	Attendee
* Kimberly Ulsh	Teacher	* Tammy Krause	Attendee
* Lauren Zimmerman	Teacher	* Tammy Munster	Attendee
* Laurie Bedford	Teacher	* Tammy Squires	Attendee