

Windsor



CHARTER ACADEMY

GROWING LIFE-LONG LEARNERS

September Special Session
September 1, 2021

**Elementary
School**

*680 Academy Ct.
Windsor, CO 80550*

**Middle
School**

*810 Automation Dr.
Windsor, CO 80550*

**Early
College
High School**

*810 Automation Dr.
Windsor, CO 80550*

August 26, 2021
Regular Session @ 6:00 p.m.

Executive Board

John Feyen, President
Sherry Bartmann, Vice President
Donna James, Treasurer
Elaine Hungenberg, Secretary
Carolyn Mader, Member
Jenny Ojala, Member

The Executive Board would like to welcome all WCA community members, citizens, and staff. The meeting time is dedicated to the mission and vision of Windsor Charter Academy. There is an opportunity during Member, Citizen and Staff Communications to address the Executive Board. Discussions of agenda items during the course of the meeting are limited to the board members unless otherwise requested by a board member.

Agenda

- 1.0 Opening of the Meeting**
- 2.0 Citizen Communication**
- 3.0 Reports**
- 4.0 Items for Information**
- 5.0 Items for Action**
- 6.0 Consent Agenda**
- 7.0 Executive Session**
- 8.0 Adjournment**

VISION STATEMENT

Where students are educated, empowered, and equipped to reach their highest potential.

MISSION STATEMENT

Windsor Charter Academy provides our students with a solid academic foundation through our K-8 Core Knowledge and our rigorous 9-12 early college high school curricula. Our culture empowers our students to achieve academic excellence through critical thinking, character development, and a love for lifelong learning.



**Executive Board Agenda
September 1, 2021**

Special Session: 6:00 p.m.

1.0 Opening of Meeting

- 1.1 Call to Order
- 1.2 Roll Call
- 1.3 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.4 Mission Statement
- 1.5 Adoption of Agenda

2.0 Citizen Communication

This is an opportunity to present brief comments or pose questions to the Board for consideration or follow-up. Each person is asked to limit his or her comments to five minutes. Any person desiring to speak during this time should complete a comment card provided on the table near the entrance or from the Executive Board Secretary.

3.0 Items for Action

- 3.1 COVID Mitigation Strategies

4.0 Executive Session

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- 1. Conduct discussions regarding the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of property, C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(a)
- 2. Conduct conferences with the Charter's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on a particular matter, C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b)
- 3. Discuss matters which are required to be kept confidential by federal or state law, rules or regulations. In such cases, the Executive Board must announce the

specific citation of the law, rule, or regulation which provides for confidentiality, C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(c)

4. Discuss security arrangements or investigations, C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(d)
5. Conduct discussions regarding the Charter's position, strategies, and bargaining instructions regarding collective bargaining negotiations, C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e)
6. Discuss personnel matters, subject to the limitations discussed below. If the employee who is the subject of the discussions desires the discussions occur in open meeting, the discussions must be held in open meeting, C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f)
7. To consider any documents which are protected from disclosure by the Colorado Open Records Act, C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(g)
8. Discuss individual students where public disclosure would adversely affect the person or persons involved, C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(h)

5.0 Adjournment



MINUTES TO BE APPROVED AT THE SEPTEMBER 2021 REGULAR SESSION

Executive Board Minutes September 1, 2021

1.0 Opening of the Meeting

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

President Feyen addressed the parent stakeholders, apologizing for the late notice of an added action item on mask and COVID. Given constant changes in the community, the Executive Board felt that it was important to discuss and wanted to ensure that stakeholders were notified and had an opportunity to have their voice heard. 3.1 COVID Mitigation Strategies was added to the agenda.

1.2 Executive Board Members Present

John Feyen, Executive Board President
Sherry Bartmann, Executive Board Vice-President
Donna James, Executive Board Treasurer
Elaine Hungenberg, Executive Board Secretary
Jenny Ojala, Executive Board Member
Carolyn Mader, Executive Board Member

Staff Present

Rebecca Teeples, Executive Director
Kelly Seilbach, Director of Middle School Education
Sara Ibarra, School Nurse

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

1.4 Mission Statement

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curricula. Our culture empowers our students to achieve academic excellence through critical thinking, character development, and a love for lifelong learning.

1.6 Adoption of the Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the September 1, 2021 Regular Session was made by Donna James and seconded by Elaine Hungenberg. Members voted the following: Bartmann, aye; Hungenberg, aye; James, aye; Mader, aye; Ojala, aye; Feyen, aye. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Citizen Communication

There were several parents present. There were no parents that spoke during Citizen Communication at the Executive Board Regular Session.

3.0 Items for Action

3.1 COVID Mitigation Strategies

Dr. Teeples and Sara Ibarra, School Nurse, shared background information on CDC and CDPHE guidelines for schools and current mitigation strategies that are in place at Windsor Charter Academy Schools.

Dr. Teeples reminded the Executive Board that the main goal of education was to keep students learning in person. She shared local and state data that tracked data on absentee rates, number of cases per month for staff and students, and highest days of positive cases. Dr. Teeples recommended the following motion for the Executive Board to consider approving:

To approve mitigations strategies outlined that include remote learning for any elementary school cohort that has 5 or more positive cases of COVID within a rolling 2-week period, as well as the wearing of masks for all students at any school that exceeds 3% or more of staff and students that are confirmed positive with COVID. All other measures to mitigate spread will be operational and within the discretion of the leadership team.

At the end of the presentation, President Feyen made a motion to extend the time for Citizen Communication from 30 minutes to 1 hour. Each stakeholder would have 3 minutes to speak. The motion was seconded by Sherry Bartmann. The motion passed unanimously.

At that time, President Feyen offered time for parents to speak to the Executive Board about masks. The following parents spoke:

- Zack Beltz: Jack shared that he was disappointed in the mitigation plan, given that the Executive Board had made the choice to have masks optional at the

prior Board meeting. He was curious about what other illnesses the School was tracking.

- Brian Comiskey: Brian appreciated the Board sharing that this virus was not a large risk to children. Pneumonia is a much greater risk for children. Brian was against any mask mandate.
- Riley James: Riley, a student, shared that being remote was hard on her grades and mental health. She wanted the Board to consider all options that offered opportunities for schools to remain open and for learning to remain in person.
- Ashley Meusch: Ashley shared concerns around bullying that has risen due to COVID concerns.
- Ashley Deckard: Ashley was concerned around segregation that could occur based on vaccination. She would rather have her child be in person and in a mask, if remote learning was to occur.
- Holly Stephens: Holly understood that there was a need for a mitigation plan but was not in favor of the one that was presented to the Executive Board.
- Brian Carson: Brian emphasized the importance of factual information and that it was a cure for fear. He reminded the Board of the importance of freedom and cautioned against vaccination status.
- Matt Niefeld: Matt questioned the threshold of 3% and felt that there was potentially medical discrimination if vaccination status was a determination in quarantines. He also shared data on positivity rates among those who were vaccinated.
- Elizabeth Maxey: Elizabeth felt that there was no evidence that the Delta Variant was causing more harm to children. She felt that there was not a need for mitigation strategies.
- Jesson Salyards: Jesson thanked the Board for their work and in their work on watching the data.
- Brian Martin: Brian felt that our children were being hurt by COVID. He reminded the Board that 0.001 people had died from COVID since March of 2020.
- Coltan Berb: Colton reminded the Board the choice already exists. Families that are concerned can choose to wear a mask.
- Andrea Trostel: Andrea thanked the Executive Board. She was in favor of family choice for masks.
- Tonya Trostel: Tonya reminded the Board that there was no scientific evidence that showed that wearing masks protected children. She shared data that in Weld-County, there has been no deaths of children. Nation-wide there was a .0004% chance of dying from COVID.

After parents spoke. There was a 10-minute recess from 8:30 to 8:40 p.m. The Executive Board asked clarifying questions to Sara Ibarra around CDC and CDPHE guidelines.

The Executive Board shared their stance on COVID and mitigation of the virus.

- Sherry Bartmann: Windsor Charter Academy does not have a threshold with other communicable diseases. Cleaning and increased measures for ventilation have shown successful as mitigation strategies. She was not in favor of masks. Evidence shows that masks do not work. Medical devices should not be prescribed by the Board. Sherry did not agree with Windsor Charter Academy

requiring a student to go to a health provide to return to school. Sherry also shared that remote learning had been a positive experience for her family and would choose remote learning over having to go to masks.

- Elaine Hungenberg: Grandview Elementary School and Windsor Middle School have had cases rise, requiring them to utilize masks as a mitigation strategy. Elaine's first priority was to keep student in school and her second priority was to have masks optional. If we trend towards an outbreak, why wouldn't Windsor Charter Academy intervene with everything the experts say to do? The people who spend their lives as experts are recommending masks. She also shared concerns around staff absences and its impact on schools. She also wanted to ensure that Administration were empowered to act if cases were to rise. Elaine also felt that students going home due to quarantines were more harmful to students and families than masks as a mitigation strategy.
- Donna James: Donna discussed the importance of not having students come to school if they have symptoms. She felt that addressing COVID was under the purview of the Administration. She shared concerns around the length of the 10-day quarantine.
- Carolyn Mader: Carolyn discussed concerns around vaccinated versus unvaccinated status. She wanted this variable off the table as a discussion point.
- Jenny Ojala: Jenny shared that she felt that the mask issue was put to rest last week with the motion that the Board passed. She shared her surprise to see masks as a mitigation strategy if positive cases reached a threshold. Jenny shared that she was not convinced that masks were helping. Jenny wanted to ensure that Administration had clear guidelines that allowed for them to be responsive to other strategies such as contact tracing, etc.
- John Feyen: John shared that he was unmoved by COVID. He felt that we would continue to have variants. He reminded the Board that our communities have done nothing for other viruses that have higher transmission rates. He was not in favor of any strategy that was tied to masks. He felt that Windsor Charter Academy should not do anything to mitigate COVID.

A motion was made by Sherry Bartmann and seconded by Jenny Ojala. Sherry Bartmann motioned the following:

The Executive Director is empowered to make a plan that include engineering controls but, will not require wearing masks or medical or clearance passes for returning to school.

Sherry withdrew her motion; Jenny Ojala seconded the withdrawal.

A motion was made by Jenny Ojala and seconded Sherry Bartmann. Jenny Ojala motioned the following:

To direct administration to put in place a mitigation plan to attempt to reduce transmission of COVID in our schools. The WCA Board further directs that no mask mandate, COVID testing mandate be part of its plan. The Board further directs that no strategy be put in place that differentiates between vaccinated and unvaccinated students or staff.

Members voted the following: Bartmann, aye; Hungenberg, nay; James, nay; Mader, aye; Ojala, aye; Feyen, aye. The motion passed.

4.0 Executive Session

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8. Discuss individual students where public disclosure would adversely affect the person or persons involved, C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(h)

5.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the September 1, 2021 Special Session was made by Elaine Hungenberg and seconded by Donna James. Members voted the following: Bartmann, aye;

Hungenberg, aye; James, aye; Mader, aye; Ojala, aye; Feyen, aye. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.