



**Member Matters: Open Forum
Chat Log
Nov. 16, 2021**

12:06:34 From Kristin Flick: Their concern at our meeting last week was if we had certain books in our school library. They provided a list.

12:06:47 From Angela Shinaver: The individuals coming to ours are still focused on Covid and vaccinations. YES - we received emails about the concern about the resolution already!!

12:06:56 From Justin Barnaby: Yes. They want no masking, no vaccine mandates, no close contacting, and no quarantining

12:06:57 From Kenneth Stahl: CRT Masks and Quarantines

12:07:09 From Beth Barnard: Ours are for civil liberties from the mask mandate. We appeased them with a waiver for the students. We have seen attendance wane since the waiver option.

12:07:29 From Rebecca Harvey: Our meeting participants last night mostly spoke about the superintendent's findings based on complaints filed by parents whose children were disciplined for not wearing masks.

12:07:38 From Stan Miller: Our committed band of citizens has shifted to attacking books they deem inappropriate. This has so far been almost entirely focused on books that include LGBTQ+ characters and especially those that include homosexual relationships.

12:07:59 From Angela Shinaver: I wondered where the individuals had gotten their information about the resolution, this helps - thank you!

12:08:03 From Nick Rush: We have an organized group in Jackson County that is hitting all the school boards, for the most part. CRT, masks, vaccinations and one lady really wants us to fight the CDC to eliminate federal "unlawful" per her mask mandate on busses. We have also in two of the last three meetings had discussion about our health curriculum that teaches LGBTQ+ vocabulary and respect so that these students feel safe at school

12:08:58 From Stan Miller: That vote sounded like about 550-4 to me.

12:09:24 From Christine Baker: Last night topics included CRT, mask mandate, and COVID vaccine clinics we are hosting at local schools after hours.

12:09:35 From Howard Baron-Bloomfield: Bloomfield received an email from a community member on Sunday on G-9.55 Communicable Diseases. I had a back and forth email exchange on it.

12:10:23 From Nick Reichenbach, Rockford Schools: Mandated vaccines for students and staff. 'I told you so' - which in fact, they did and here it is...

12:10:47 From Erica Mohr: We continue to have a large group show up at our board meetings. Approximately 15-20 people of which only 2-3 have kids or grand kids in the system. Lots of comments that still are focusing on DEIB and critical race theory. They are now linking SEL into that thought process. I continue to get FOIAed because they think we are passing curriculum issues regarding CRT.

12:11:13 From Angela Shinaver: That would be extremely HELPFUL!!

12:11:20 From Ken Hall: CRT/DEIB/SEL and book policies. Also mask policies and vaccines. We get between 15 to 20 speakers at most meetings.

12:11:32 From Justin Barnaby: ^ yes, SEL is being billed as a gateway to CRT

12:11:34 From Stan Miller: Might be helpful to note that that resolution has not changed since ... 2011?

12:11:55 From Mandy Stewart: We have had all of the above in FB comment, Public Comment, and emails. I would also add a push for us to publicly fight against the Health Dept and quarantines.

12:12:10 From Shawn K. Wightman: We have a number of parents expressing concerns about the MiPHY survey. They don't want it conducted in our schools (7th, 9th, and 11th grades). One parent posted the entire survey online (see https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aWxCK7ymdAtOHwa43ec_KyTxZT8Ras3Z/view?fbclid=IwAR2dSSNvXKh2iTPU5aiKIUS9WELEaNh5S9ahW619VE3-Vqz1kFOGt3_iY5A).

12:12:14 From Kathleen Kane: Still having Mask/ no mask coming to board meetings. We meet tonight, I anticipate the vaccine/testing issue will probably be brought up.

12:12:59 From Nick Rush: We occasionally have pushback on the MiPHY survey and specific questions on it. Not at meetings yet, but I've seen it on social media the last couple of years

12:13:35 From Mary Hanser (she/her) - Oxford: Heard that was happening in Texas

12:14:01 From Adel Mozip: are MiPHY surveys required?

12:14:29 From Christine Baker: Interesting. The main argument for no masks is the damage to SEL. Yet those same folks are now against SEL??

12:15:04 From Angela Shinaver: You mentioned there is something on MASB website about the resolution - could someone share the link?

12:15:15 From Beth Barnard: If the overview was helpful to the delegates as Mary stated. It would be helpful to the whole body. Please put the letter out. Thanks.

12:15:15 From Stan Miller: "Will you make the hard but right decision even if it costs you personally?" – USMC Col. Arthur Athens in his address to the ALC on Saturday.

12:15:39 From Jan Van Gasse: I wasn't at our last Board meeting because of being at the ALC, but our public comment has lasted about 2 hours at the last three meetings and has been over our mask mandate (our Health Department doesn't have a mask mandate) and SEL. Our district is the only district in our ISD area that had a mask mandate. We did rescind our mask mandate at the last Board meeting that I missed as of November 29th because all students can get vaccinations.

12:15:47 From Marc Katz: I still remember in the late 1950s, early 1960s going to a school clinic to get the polio vaccine on the sugar cubes.

12:17:07 From Shawn K. Wightman: Yes; that was their concern...

12:18:39 From Brad Banasik: MASB held its Delegate Assembly on Thursday, November 11, in conjunction with our Annual Leadership Conference. The Delegate Assembly constitutes MASB's annual membership meeting, which we're required to have under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act. The meeting is traditionally attended by 300+ school board members, who serve as voting MASB members.

At this meeting, our members reaffirm or amend resolutions, which are positional statements for MASB. The following resolution, which has been in place since 2010, was scheduled to be reaffirmed under the Delegate Assembly's consent agenda:

G-9.55 Communicable Diseases (2010; Revised 2015)

The Michigan Association of School Boards urges its members to adopt policies for handling all communicable diseases. School boards must develop an educational program for school staff, students and the community to provide factual information about communicable diseases, their ways of spreading, means of prevention and clarification of any misconceptions the public

12:18:43 From Shawn K. Wightman: It is not required...

12:19:41 From Brad Banasik: may have.

The MASB supports vaccinations for school children who are able to be vaccinated to protect the entire school population but especially those who cannot be vaccinated. School boards should follow the guidance from the medical profession on vaccinations and monitor the shift in responsibility for those vaccinations from the schools to the health departments as required by the state.

In drafting policies on communicable diseases and vaccinations, school boards must

balance the need to protect the health of the students and employees with the need to protect each individual's civil rights and privacy.

During the meeting, a member requested that the Communicable Diseases resolution be removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately. The board member claimed that the resolution could be interpreted as interfering with parental choice in regards to vaccinations.

The resolution was eventually reaffirmed by an overwhelming vote, with approximately 98% of the assembly voting for it and about 2%

12:20:14 From Brad Banasik: voting against it. It's likely that your board member voted for reaffirming the resolution, but because it was a voice vote, we don't know that for sure.

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if you have any further questions on this.

12:20:49 From Shawn K. Wightman: MiPHY also has an "opt out" option for parents who don't want their child(ren) to participate...

12:21:37 From Shawn K. Wightman: <https://www.schoolboardwatchlist.org/>

12:22:27 From Adel Mozip: Thank you Shawn.

12:23:13 From Stacy Bogard: On Thursday night at the MASB Delegate Assembly, delegates renewed Resolution 9.55 Communicable Diseases. This resolution was created in 2010 with an amendment in 2015 and has not changed since. It has language that states that MASB supports vaccinations for children who are able to and it also states that as districts adopt policies they need to balance health and safety with privacy and civil rights. This resolution is and was about the current vaccinations in state law and was not a statement on the COVID vaccine. We support the current process for parents to work through their health departments to opt out as allowed under current law. COVID vaccinations are not covered or required under state law. I hope this clarifies the events at our Delegate Assembly.

12:23:59 From Christine Baker: It is important to support diversity and inclusion efforts. Thank you for reaffirming.

12:25:19 From Howard Baron-Bloomfield: Good for you, Stan!!!!

12:25:24 From Stacy Bogard: The votes at our Delegate Assembly are all voice votes as allowed under the rules of the Assembly and thus individual votes are not known. MASB does not use an electronic voting system due to having more than 300 delegates at the assembly.

12:25:44 From Erica Mohr: Thank you for sharing Stan! I would love to hear his public comment.

12:26:23 From Ken Hall: Thanks Stan. That was a good message to hear.

12:27:54 From Shawn K. Wightman: Put public comment at beginning of agenda...

12:28:24 From Patricia Burton: We have done the same thing, Stan. Worked great!

12:29:17 From Kenneth Stahl: We have put it at the end some will not stay that long

12:29:46 From Shawn K. Wightman: Only "1" public comment; some districts do two...

12:30:12 From Stan Miller: Our city council has two public comment periods, one at the beginning for comment on agenda items and one at the end for anything else. Can we legally restrict the content of public comment in that first session?

12:30:16 From Rebecca Harvey: We have 2 public participations...1 at the beginning for comment on agenda items only. that way if someone wants input on something we are going to vote on, they can do so before the vote. Then we have a public participation at the end for any topic. that's the long one, because people can speak on anything, but we have been able to get all our business accomplished.

12:30:24 From Nick Rush: We do two and I'm not a fan...I'm sure it wasn't an issue at all when that was originally decided

12:31:00 From Nick Rush: Interesting Rebecca...

12:31:58 From Stan Miller: As president I will sometimes respond to false statements during public comment. Mixed results.

12:32:03 From Jill Fennessy: Our district does the same as Rebecca described above.

12:33:25 From Stan Miller: By request, and with prior permission from our teacher, here is his public comment:
Hello, my name is Jason Crago. I am a resident of the Mona Shores School District and a teacher at the high school. I'm here tonight in support of any and all staff members who choose an atmosphere of inclusion in their classroom. When I am asked: what is it that I teach? The answer is always "I teach students." The ability to connect with students and to make them feel welcome in our classrooms is first and foremost our task as educators. Without that, any academic lesson taught would be futile.

12:33:31 From Stan Miller: If there's anything we've learned as a society over the past half decade it's that students and or adults who lack empathy can be cruel and alienating. For a teacher to go out of their way to let young people know that they are in a safe place regardless of their gender identity or race can only make our schools a better place. As students progress through middle school and into high school, it is crucial that they be taught and allowed to think for themselves. Because you read a book or passage that you happen to disagree with does not mean you are harmed, it means you are educated. I allow students to voice their opinions in a safe and open way. Living in a free society under the Bill of Rights does not protect you from being offended.

12:33:39 From Stan Miller: We represent a system of public education, where all students of diverse backgrounds are welcome to come and learn. There are educational institutions where one belief and/ or lifestyle can dominate and students can be sheltered from diversity, but this particular institution is not one of them.

12:33:40 From Nick Rush: We don't respond during the meeting at all. We do either have the super or board president reach out the next day

12:33:54 From Ken Hall: Our super has now started to cover and update on some topics in report section. Practice for emails is the super or board president will respond, but some board members will also feel compelled to respond.

12:34:03 From Jill Fennessy: Thank you for sharing that message Stan.

12:34:10 From Kristin Flick: We try to respond to all who speak during public comment. They may be further discussion at a future meeting but we acknowledge each individual who speaks.

12:34:13 From Valerie Bury: We do the same Ken

12:39:15 From Shawn K. Wightman: We're very cautious responding to emails; problem is that there are private Facebook groups that share email responses with their peers. The information is then dissected and used against Board members. This has happened a few times to us...

12:39:51 From Amanda Massaway: Does anyone have a policy governing email responses from the Board?

12:39:57 From Stan Miller: Thanks, Brad!

12:40:14 From Don Wotruba: Shawn that is why it should be done by the superintendent probably after conversations internally to make sure it is hard to take out of context

12:40:42 From Stan Miller: We have a policy that says the president speaks for the board, including on email sent to the board.

12:40:53 From Barb Anness: @Amanda: Ours are typically comes from the Board President.

12:40:57 From Valerie Bury: Thanks Shawn. You are correct

12:41:11 From Shawn K. Wightman: Thanks, Don...

12:41:31 From Ken Hall: That is our practice as well, Stan. Some board members have gotten so fed up that they feel compelled to respond.

12:42:57 From Barb Anness: We do that as well, @Shawn K. Wightman

12:44:10 From Rob Fay: Do other boards have any sort of policy on acknowledging receipt of emails? This is different than a formal response from the board, more of a

confirmation that your email was received. How about sharing emails that are not sent to the entire board?

12:46:48 From Barb Anness: Interesting, so does the trained facilitator respond to the outbursts and public comment directly?

12:47:04 From Casey Petz: Our meetings are not usually well attended in Suttons Bay Public Schools, but one strategy we use is to greet everyone that shows up and try to spend some time talking to them ahead of the meeting. Our entire admin staff attends board meetings so we can usually get to a few dozen people in about 15 minutes. We have been able to diffuse a few issues that way. It's a strategy that may work for some smaller districts, especially if you know most of the folks that are in attendance.

12:48:10 From Shawn Vondra: Approved Critical Shortage List: Is there any movement expected for identifying superintendents and/or principal positions as "critical shortage" qualified for exemption of annual wage earnings while drawing a retirement pension?

12:48:13 From Ken Hall: Thanks Nick.

12:49:04 From Ken Hall: Thanks Norice.

12:51:23 From Birgit McQuiston: Curious to know how many of your districts have a 3 minute or 5 minute public speaking time in your bylaws...

12:51:49 From Angela Shinaver: @ Birgit - we have 5 minute limit

12:51:50 From Kenneth Stahl: 3

12:51:51 From Ken Hall: 3 min

12:51:52 From Nick Rush: five minute individual, 10 minutes if representing a group

12:51:52 From Pete Kelto: 3

12:51:52 From Marc Katz: 3

12:51:55 From Christine Baker: We do, 3 minutes

12:51:55 From Rebecca Harvey: 3

12:51:55 From Kristen Stein: 3

12:51:56 From Kathleen Kane: 5

12:51:57 From Patricia Burton: 5

12:51:58 From Kristin Flick - Hanover-Horton: We have 5 minutes

12:51:59 From Stan Miller: 3

12:52:00 From Norice Rasmussen: 5

12:52:00 From Casey Petz: 3 minutes

12:52:06 From Annie Covert: 3 MIN

12:52:08 From Barb Anness: 3 min. in Rochester

12:52:11 From Catherine LaValley: 3 minutes with 2 public comments times

12:52:13 From Caitlin Galer: 3 minutes

12:52:18 From Shawn K. Wightman: 5; can amend to 3 minutes...

12:52:19 From Jan Van Gasse: 3 minutes

12:52:59 From Shawn K. Wightman: Yes; we have that language...

12:53:14 From Howard Baron-Bloomfield: The MI Redistricting Commission has had 90 seconds, 60 seconds, and 30 seconds.

12:53:16 From Kenneth Stahl: How about we try that after covid?????

12:54:08 From Birgit McQuiston: We have that in our language, however, the topic came up. I agree, it would be better to address it after covid, but it came up last week and began a debate within our board...

12:54:27 From Birgit McQuiston: Thanks for everyone's input...

12:54:44 From Valerie Bury: 3

12:55:52 From Howard Baron-Bloomfield: Thank you for the ALC!!!!

12:56:25 From Nick Rush: Agreed, Howard! I thought it was an incredible event!

12:56:36 From Catherine LaValley: I enjoyed the ALC conference very much. Thank you

12:56:48 From Marc Katz: One of the best ALC's that I've attended over the past 30+ years. Kudos to all of the staff and all of the presenters.

12:57:01 From Barb Anness: Wow. That's sad.

12:57:12 From Jan Van Gasse: Will we receive evaluations for the sessions we attended at the ALC?

12:57:32 From Kathleen Kane: Thank you for the ALC it was wonderful. Thank you for all of your hard work.

12:57:43 From Howard Baron-Bloomfield: Support NSBA and MASB!

12:57:48 From Jay Bennett: Yes, evals will be coming out and we encourage you to fill them out, thanks!

12:57:51 From Hope Vestergaard: All those "Watcher" pages are run by the same person. There's also the WISD Watcher and some "Unofficial" school pages - 5 locally.

12:58:22 From Howard Baron-Bloomfield: Thanks for having our backs, Don.

12:58:44 From Catherine LaValley: We are better together. must be jealous of MASB success.

12:59:04 From Christine Baker: Loved the ALC App. Conference well done.

12:59:05 From Kathleen Kane: I agree Catherine.

12:59:12 From Shawn K. Wightman: Thank you, MASB, for having this session today...

12:59:15 From Birgit McQuiston: Can we/should we watch the MASB Watch page???

12:59:49 From Mary Hanser (she/her) - Oxford: Great conference!

12:59:52 From Ken Hall: Thank you Don for the support!

13:00:05 From Angela Shinaver: New board member this year and first time ALC attendee - it was GREAT and am looking forward to next year!!!

13:00:11 From Mandy Stewart: usagainstthedia.com is another we have been monitoring

13:00:15 From Erica Mohr: Thank you for all your work!!

13:00:26 From Kathleen Kane: Thank you for this session. It was good to hear everyone concerning public comment.

13:01:12 From Justin Barnaby: Do board members have to be certified or have taken certain classes in order to run for the MASB Board of Directors?

13:01:50 From Kristin Flick - Hanover-Horton: Thank you for session today.

13:01:52 From Catherine LaValley: good reminder, Brad. Thank you!

13:01:59 From Angela Shinaver: Thank you!!

13:02:02 From Lisa Efros: Thank you for hosting this dialogue. It has been both informative and supportive. Lots of great suggestions!

13:02:19 From Catherine LaValley: I agree, Lisa.

13:02:25 From Barb Anness: Agreed, thanks MASB.

13:02:50 From Cheryl Huffman: Region 4 is Ruth Coppens and Group VI are open

13:02:52 From Jan Van Gasse: Great session today and wonderful conference. MASB is so important for our learning!

13:02:56 From Jennifer Smith: From our Bylaws: Section 5. Qualifications. Each Director of the Association shall have served as a qualified trustee of an Active or Academy member board of education for at least one year and have completed Fundamentals of School Board Service (CBA 101) at the time of his or her nomination to office.

13:03:37 From Stan Miller: Thank you, MASB!!

13:03:43 From Valerie Bury: Are these virtual or in person BOD?

13:03:47 From Mary Mcclellan: Thank you!