

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

LUDINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION - LUDINGTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
809 E. Tinkham Avenue, Ludington, Michigan 49431 – Phone 231-845-7303

This is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.

Mission: The Ludington Area Schools, in partnership with the community, will achieve excellence in a positive environment where motivation and quality instruction ensure learning and equip students for success in society.

MEETING: Special Meeting

DATE: April 16, 2021

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: **Electronic/Virtual Meeting: See meeting access details below.**

ADDRESS: Ludington Area Schools Administration Office, 809 E. Tinkham Ave., Ludington, MI 49431

SPECIAL MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, and MEMBER LOCATION

☑ Steve Carlson ☑ Josh Snyder ☑ Bret Autrey ☑ Mike Nagle ☑ Stephanie Reed ☑ Leona Ashley ☑
Scott Foster

II. AGENDA MODIFICATION

III. GOOGLE MEET PARTICIPANT CONTROLS

IV. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

V. DISCUSSION ITEM:

A. Extended Continuity of Learning Plan Update: Return to In-person Learning

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Extended Continuity of Learning Plan: Return to In-person Learning

VII. OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Memorandum - Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Jason J. Kennedy, Superintendent
RE: Electronic/Virtual Committee Meeting

Meeting Notice and Meeting Access Information:

This notice is given and published pursuant to the Local State of Emergency Declaration made by the Chairperson of the Mason County Board of Commissioners on April 6, 2021, and extended through June 13, 2021 at 11:59 pm by the Mason County Board of Commissioners at their regularly scheduled meeting on April 13, 2021. The Declaration states:

“On April 7th, 2020 the County of Mason experienced its first confirmed case of COVID-19. In the past year, 1,293 individuals have contracted the disease and 27 have lost their life. The County of Mason continues to experience an increase in positive cases and deaths despite our efforts to slow this pandemic. As a result of this on-going situation and the uncertainty of impacts to our residents and visitors, the following conditions exist:

- The Mason County Emergency Action Guidelines have been duly activated and departments, agencies, and government offices have been coordinating a county-wide response to COVID-19 in accordance with mandates issued by the State of Michigan.
- Mason County, in partnership with District Health Department #10 and all governmental units within Mason County, are maximizing efforts to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- The need to protect all residents and members of public boards, commissions, and meetings conducting governmental business continues to exist beyond the virtual meetings exemption established in the Open Meetings Act.

Therefore, as the Chairperson of the County Board of Commissioners of Mason County, in accordance with Section 10 of Act 390, P.A. 1976, as amended, I hereby declare that a "state of emergency" exists within our jurisdiction, that the response and recovery aspects of the emergency operations plan have been activated, and that local resources are being utilized to the fullest extent practicable. This declaration expires seven days from its execution unless further extended or extinguished by the County Board of Commissioners.”

Signed: Janet S. Andersen, Chairperson

The Board of Education for Ludington Area School District will meet on Friday, April 16, 2021 at 5:30 pm for a special meeting that will be held electronically (online and/or by phone) to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ludington Area School District from Coronavirus/COVID-19, in alignment with the Local State of Emergency Declaration. This electronic meeting is authorized pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.263a.

Public comment will be handled using the participant controls of the Google Meet platform. These will be discussed at the start of the meeting. If you are listening by telephone only, you will be called upon by the host during the time for public participation in the meeting.

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any citizen requesting accommodation to attend this meeting and/or to obtain this notice in an alternative format, should contact Superintendent Jason Kennedy, Ludington Area School District at (231) 845-7303 prior to this meeting.

Google Meet Instructions for Participants

To join the conference by telephone:

1. On your phone, dial the teleconferencing number provided below:
 - Phone number: (US) +1 731-599-7688
2. Enter the meeting pin number below when prompted using your touch-tone (DTMF) keypad:
 - Pin number: 239 129 173#

Before the meeting:

1. You will need a computer, tablet, or smartphone with speakers or headphones. You will have the opportunity to check your audio immediately upon joining the meeting.

To join the meeting via video conference or technology device:

1. At the start time of the meeting, click on the link below to join via computer. You may be instructed to download the Google Meet application.

Meeting Link: meet.google.com/mvo-rzvh-coy

Memorandum - Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Jason Kennedy, Superintendent
RE: Personnel/Policy Committee Meeting ~ Agenda Notes

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Review Board Policy 0167.3: Public Participation at Board Meetings

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on District matters.

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at every regular meeting of the Board and publish rules to govern such participation in Board meetings. The rules shall be administered and enforced by the presiding officer of the meeting.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business, or at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- B. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
- C. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration.
- D. No participant may speak more than once.
- E. Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants.
- F. The presiding officer may:
 1. interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 2. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
 3. request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
 4. call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action;
 5. waive these rules with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.
- G. The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes, but the timeframe will be extended, if necessary, so that no one's right to address the Board will be denied.
- H. Tape or video recordings are permitted. The person operating the recorder should contact the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement of the equipment, and agrees to abide by the following conditions:
 1. No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience.
 2. No interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session.
 3. No commentary, adjustment of equipment, or positioning of operators is made that would distract either the Board or members of the audience while the Board is in session.
- I. Each Board agenda will include the following statement, "Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated on the order of business."

Revised: January 21, 2019

Legal: M.C.L.A. 15.263(4)(5)(6), 380.1808

Discussion Item:

The Board of Education will review updated COVID-19 case counts, updated staffing levels for next week (as of Friday at 5:30 pm), mitigation measures that have been put into place, and a recommendation from the Superintendent to update the District's Extended Continuity of Learning Plan to include a return to in-person learning, effective April 20, 2021.

While positive case counts continue throughout our community, we are confident that the actions to pause learning for two days, in addition to the move to remote learning for this past week, have helped reduce the spread of the virus in our schools. This has allowed for us to further identify and isolate positive cases associated with spring break travel, and has reduced close contact quarantines associated with these positive cases. Importantly, most of our staff will be able to return from isolation or quarantine to in-person work, on or before April 20, 2021.

The Board of Education will hold this special meeting in an effort to assist the District in communicating with families about the Board's action as soon as possible. It is the hope that a decision by the Board on Friday, being made in advance of the Board meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021, will provide as much notice and time for families to plan. Again, the recommendation of the Superintendent will be to return to in-person learning on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

The District has partnered with local agencies, the District Health Department #10, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide additional mitigation measures this weekend to assist in a safe transition back to in-person learning, should the Board support this recommendation. These are in addition to all other safety mitigation measures already in place. These are outlined below:

- Ludington Area Schools will be the host site for a mass vaccination clinic on **Saturday, April 17, 2021**. This clinic will be held in the Hawley Gymnasium, and appointments for the 300 vaccinations have already been scheduled through District Health Department #10. Walk-in appointments are not being accepted for this clinic.
- People traveling across Michigan, to other states, or to a vacation destination over school breaks risk bringing COVID-19 home with them. Our recent surge in positive case counts resulted in an increased number of students and staff members being isolated or quarantined, or being forced into taking leave time to care for isolated or quarantined children. The District has partnered with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide a free drive through rapid COVID-19 testing clinic on **Sunday, April 20, 2021 from 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm** to anyone in Mason County. Pre-registration is highly encouraged; however, not required.
 - By increasing testing capacity, we are able to identify and isolate positive COVID-19 individuals. This allows us to limit the spread of the virus and prevent potential COVID-19 outbreaks. Families are encouraged to take advantage of this free opportunity to help us isolate positive cases and prevent additional spread of the virus.