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Volume 3 Issue 32

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## DEXTER'S METTES SISTERS VAULT TO RARE, AMAZING HEIGHTS



By Terry Jacoby

With the Olympics recently crossing the finish line it's time for some athletic reflection and appreciation. And there is no need to travel to Tokyo to find special athletes who are simply out of this world - or at least out of this state.

Just take a look in the backyard, Dexter. And while there are plenty of local athletes and teams to raise up  
**continued on page 6**



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## Dexter Daze Celebrates 50th Anniversary



## Dexter Board of Education Meeting

By Aimee Bingham Osinski  
anbingham@gmail.com

The meeting opened with the passage of minutes and agenda.

Superintendent Timmis presented the 2021-2022 school year with mitigation strategies for the District. The district is looking for feedback from the community. Community members were asked to participate in a thought exchange. People were asked to let Dr. Timmis know the questions people have regarding the return to school in the fall. The goal is to return to school every day while protecting the safety of

the students and staff. In late June the summer programs moved to mask optional indoors. But the cases have continued to rise. When cases are higher in the community, they are higher in the schools. In June there was 1 case in a 2 week span in the Dexter zip code. There is a current uptick in cases. The goal is to keep schools open. Recommendations can change from the health department at any time. As of August 9th Washtenaw County has moved into substantial. If the region is low, masking is recommended indoors.  
**continued on page 10**

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# Movies in the Parks: Hudson Mills

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## Dexter Daze Celebrates 50th Anniversary



► continued from page 1  
Dexter and threats of a Delta variant, Dexter Daze occurred this past weekend. I was able to take my family Saturday and we had a wonderful time. A huge thank you to the organizers, community members, and sponsors who came together during such an uncertain time and pulled it off. I've learned during Covid, not to take community events for granted, especially not events like Dexter Daze with so much history and so many people counting on it. Arriving in Dexter on Saturday to see so many smiling faces was incredible. After a long isolated

year, it was a real treat. My six year old lit up and had: "the best day ever!"

We started our day browsing the booths and checking out items from various vendors. My daughter found a choker, my husband found a squirrel picnic table but bought the larger version for our chickens. Now they have a chicknick table. The name makes me laugh almost as much as the frivolousness of it does. I found several items from the Rock Your World booth, which seemed to attract a lot of visitors. We were smelling food vendors as we wove our way around the booths.

The weather was gorgeous so we stopped for Kona Ice. We were excited to try the putt putt course outside of Three Bird. We played and replayed all the children's activities. For a child that attended kindergarten virtually and has missed dance and gymnastics all year, the ability to play and smile near other kids was really special. She's missed so much, we indulged every whim, including four trips on the trackless train. She was thrilled by the clown, the guinea pigs, turtles and hedgehogs near the gazebo, and the juggler. I know my daughter was not alone in her joy. Countless

families strolled with smiling little ones. Rather than frazzled stressed out toddler chasing parents, I saw smiling parents happy to be out of the house and enjoying the entertainment provided by Dexter Daze.

Knowing how close we came to not having Dexter Daze this year, every bit of it felt special, especially after missing so much last year. Everyone was friendly and happy.

Even the small children waiting in line for face painting were well behaved and in good spirits. The kids playing games seemed to be willing to take turns and as far as I could see everything went without a hitch. I did not enter the tent, but as I passed it I noted ample space and distance, which was a concern for the City Council. It felt like everyone was so glad to have the event that the

community was on it's best behavior. Again, a huge thank you to the organizers, volunteers and sponsors who made it happen. You did an amazing job and everyone I saw in attendance was having a wonderful time, something we all needed this year. We know it wasn't easy. Your hard work is appreciated and recognized. We had, "the best day ever!"

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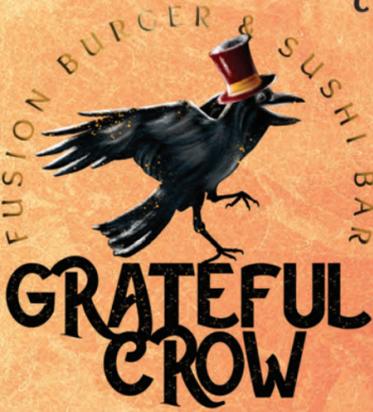
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## Update on additional COVID-19 vaccine doses for moderately to severely immunocompromised people

**From: Washtenaw County Health Department**

The CDC recommends that significantly immunocompromised people (such as people who have received solid organ transplants or are receiving cancer treatments) who got either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines get an additional vaccine dose.

\*People who aren't immunocompromised do not need an additional vaccine dose right now.\*

Beginning Tuesday August 17, we will be able to give additional doses to immunocompromised people at our ongoing Health Department clinic at 555 Towner in Ypsilanti. Those eligible for an additional dose will be asked to attest to their condition.

See clinic details here: <http://bit.ly/vaxwchd>.

We strongly encourage patients to talk with their primary care doctor (or treatment team who cares for their immunosuppressive condition) before getting an additional dose. Your health care provider can help determine if an additional shot is needed and, importantly, determine the appropriate timing of an additional dose.

Please remember COVID vaccines are now widely available and other providers are also offering these additional doses: <http://bit.ly/vaxlocations>.

Learn more from the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/.../vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>.

# AUGUST EVENTS



## August Enrollment Special

**August 1-31 (CHE/DEX/STK)**

Join Chelsea or Dexter Wellness Centers in August with no enrollment fee and \$50 in FitFunds per membership. Join Stockbridge Wellness Center in August with no enrollment fee and 50% off September dues!

## The 50 States Challenge

**August 2-September 15 (CHE)**

Each state on our map will have an exercise to complete. Exercises may be broken up into smaller manageable portions and/or completed over a few sessions. Color in a state once a state is completed. Max of two states completed per day. Can't double count exercises to use in other states. For more details, visit the Fitness Desk.

## Exercise and Osteoporosis Workshop\*

**Monday, August 23 at 5:30pm (DEX)**

**Amaylia Carruthers, Fitness Specialist, ACSM Certified Personal**

Is it safe to exercise with osteoporosis? The answer is yes! In fact, strengthening your muscles can actually help protect your bones and build bone mass. Listen in to learn more about the benefits of exercising with osteoporosis and how to safely implement an exercise routine. Members can register via member self-service portal or at the Member Service Desk. Non-members must register with Dexter Wellness Center by calling 734-580-2500.

\*Open to the community.



HE-1609951 0721

# BOARD OF EDUCATION BULLETIN

## DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



The annual organizational meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, July 26th.

Superintendent Chris Timmis was designated as temporary chairman to preside through the election of officers.

### NEW MEMBER OATH OF OFFICE:

After calling the roll, Dr. Timmis administered the oath of office to the two newly appointed Trustees,

Daniel Alabr  and Melanie Szawara, as well as new student representative, DHS

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The 2021-2022 BOE officers are: President Mara Greatorex, Vice President Elise Bruderly, Secretary Brian Arnold & Treasurer Dick Lundy.

### SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE:

Dr. Timmis shared that staff are working through the Dread Strong Summer program and various athletic camps. Administration is currently in the process of hiring several positions throughout the

District, including the Beacon principal. Interviews for this principal position, conducted by constituent committees including staff, parents and administrators, are expected to wrap up by the end of this week.

Official back-to-school plans will begin mid-August; information and guidance changes quickly, and it is premature to make solid plans so far in advance of the first day of school.

### BOARD PRESIDENT UPDATE:

Newly-elected president Mara Greatorex extended a warm welcome to Trustees Alabr  & Szawara and Student Representative Patel.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Parent Kevin Creech asked the Board to release an official return-to-school plan within the next few weeks, including guidance for social distancing, masks, vaccinations, etc. in order for parents to plan accordingly.

### CONSENT ITEMS:

The consent items were unanimously approved in bulk. These included accepting the resignations of Kara Constable and Elizabeth Berghorst, and the hiring of teachers Allison Denisco (DHS Math), Eric Williams (DHS Health), and Katey Robinson (Mill Creek ELA). District banking, property restrictions, Board membership in MASB, MH-SAA membership and the appointment of a District liaison to the Dexter District Library Board were also part of the consent agenda.

### ACTION ITEMS:

A resolution and memo from Dexter CFO Dr. Sharon Raschke regarding the 2021-2022 School Loan Revolving Fund Annual Loan Activity Application was unanimously approved. President Greatorex commended Raschke for the memo's thoroughness.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

In the meeting packet, Trustees received the Declaration of Commitment, Con-

flict of Interest, Board Norms, and Social Media Guidelines forms to sign and return. Committee membership was discussed; all positions are open for the upcoming year, and President Greatorex asked Trustees to express their interest in committee service via email.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

No one chose to speak during the meeting's second opportunity for public participation. President Greatorex expressed her thanks to all those who attend and participate in Board meetings.

### BOARD COMMENTS:

Trustee Lundy shared the long-standing Board tradition that if a meeting ends by 7:30 p.m., he will take all Trustees to DQ for ice cream.

Trustee Alabr  asked when action would be taken on the group of policies currently on the table for Board approval. President Greatorex said this item was moved to a future meeting so as not to overwhelm the newly-appointed Trustees.

Trustee Jennifer

Kangas shared her appreciation for the number of excellent candidates who applied for the open Board seats.

Trustee Szawara reported she has heard significant positive feedback about the Dread Strong Summer program and thanked the staff responsible for putting it together.

Trustee Arnold welcomed the new Board members, sharing there were eight really strong candidates and the Board would have been well served by any one of them. Trustee Szawara responded that it is great to be part of this group and she is anxious to get to work.

### INFORMATION ITEMS:

The 6/28/21 Board Bulletin was included in the meeting packet.

The full meeting video can be found on the DCS website at <https://www.dexter-schools.org/district/board-of-education/meetings/videos>.

### BOARD CALENDAR:

- Monday, August 16 - 7:00pm - Board Meeting - Bates
- Monday, August 30 - 7:00pm - Board Meeting - Bates



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# DEXTER ATHLETICS



## DEXTER'S METTES SISTERS VAULT TO RARE, AMAZING HEIGHTS



► continued from page 1 the flag pole (we've highlighted many here), the accomplishments of two particular young athletes requires a jump that will clear the bar and land where few have ever landed.

It's quite an accomplishment to win a state title in anything. And to have two athletes from the same school win a state title in the same sport/event is, well, amazing and let's assume very rare. But how unique – and how cool – is to have two athletes from not only the same school, but the SAME family finish first AND second in the state finals in the same event as members of the Dexter track and field team.

Please allow me to introduce – Sophia and Josie Mettes – the Mettes sisters from DEXTER!

Sophia, who is entering her senior year at Dexter, was state champion in girls' pole vault with a leap of 12-feet, 6-inches. Her older sister, Josie, was second overall with a vault of 12-3.

Well, that deserves some appreciation and recognition.

Both Sophia and Josie were part of the Interact Club and the National Honor Society at DHS. And both were/are excellent students with GPAs over 3.8. Josie is now heading to U-M while Sophia has one more year of high school.

The two sisters recently answered some questions about their sport, their school,

their sisterhood and their amazing accomplishments in the pole vault. Let's get into it!

**Q: What were some of the highlights from this past track & field season?**

**Sophia:** I had grappled in the past with vaulting in cold weather conditions, but one of my biggest highlights this year was overcoming these conditions and PRing (personal record) despite my previous struggles. This season I hit two new marks: 12'6" and 12'7". One was The Outdoor Nationals qualifying mark (12' 7") and the other was in the state finals (12' 6").

**Josie:** Coming back from the Covid lockdown, I didn't expect much from this season since we had limited time to practice and prepare. For a while, we were uncertain if there would even be a season this year. As my sister mentioned, our performances were off to a slow start due to unfavorable weather. That being said, I think our entire team was able to rally as can be seen from how well everyone did this year. I was able to PR not once, but twice at the same meet and increase my height from 12'3" to 12'8". Hitting that mark qualified me for the 2021 Outdoor Nationals and I also broke the DHS school record. I was state runner-up and at Larry Steeb Meet of Champions I was awarded Female Field Athlete of the Year. This season, I was ranked No. 1 pole

vaulter in the state of Michigan.

**Q: Tell us about some highlights/accomplishments from previous years?**

**Sophia:** I was lucky enough to attend Freshman Nationals hosted by NSAF in Greensboro, NC and take fifth place. I also was able to place sixth at the Outdoor State meet my freshman year. I also took third and qualified for the New Balance Indoor Nationals (canceled because of Covid-19) at the MITS indoor state meet my sophomore year.

**Josie:** I started vaulting in eighth grade, so as I came into my second year as a pole vaulter, I placed 16th as a freshman at the Outdoor States. I've also been SEC Champion twice and Regional Champion twice throughout high school. Similar to my sister, I placed second at MITS Indoor State Finals and qualified for New Balance Nationals Indoor (which was then cancelled).

**Q: Dexter has one of the best pole vault programs in the state and has been for many years – what are the reasons for this incredible success?**

**Sophia:** Dexter's pole vault program would not be as successful without the excellent coaches. Geoff and Janell Gerstner (Coach and Janell as we call them) show commitment and devotion for each and every single vaulter that is a part of their program. Their

support and ability to make every practice enjoyable makes it easy for vaulters to reach their full potential.

**Josie:** Yeah, I completely agree with my sister. Aside from the work that the vaulter's put into their own success, the team's overall success is because of Coach and Janell. Out of all of the coaches I've had in the different sports I've participated in throughout the years, I can say that my closest relationship has been with my pole vault coaches. They put 110 percent into everything they do to help the team. They work to accommodate the needs of the athletes whether that be new strategies to improve their vault or even changing practice times that will allow for more people to attend.

Coach and Janell are amazing in the sense that they have set up an organized and helpful vaulting program/club that allows beginner vaulters to try their new sport and experienced vaulters to continue improving their technique. Not only that, but our coaches have the best attitudes that makes practice 10 times more enjoyable. We always joke about how enthusiastic Coach is at pole vault meets – we take videos of our vaults at the meets and you can always see Coach jumping up and down in the background when someone makes a bar.

**Q: What was it like having to miss last season because of the pandemic?**

**Sophia:** Missing last season was a heartache. Sitting at home everyday knowing that I could be practicing and hanging out with my friends was hard to deal with.

**Josie:** I was devastated to miss last season because not only did it take away almost a year of my vaulting, but we also missed that last season with the athletes who were seniors at the time. I always look forward to practices because even if it's one of those off days where I'm having more trouble than usual taking vaults up, I still enjoy the company of my coaches and teammates. However,

we missed out on that last year and without school and without pole vault, it just got really boring.

**Q: What first got you interested in pole vault?**

**Sophia:** Initially, my sister and I were gymnasts, and once our gymnastics career had come to an end we were looking for other sports to partake in. We looked into many activities and came across diving and pole vault. Giving both sports a try we ended up pursuing our passions for pole vault.

**Josie:** While I got my sister interested in pole vault, it was my friend/teammate, Kenzie Stock, that got me to join pole vault. As Sophia said, both of us were finishing up gymnastics and were looking for new sports to try. A lot of people had mentioned that gymnasts normally take up either diving or pole vault, so we gave both a shot. I remember that I had just joined track in middle school and we were allowed to choose the events we wanted to try. Kenzie got me to write down "pole vault" on the piece of paper and I've stuck with it ever since.

**Q: What is it like having your sister as a teammate?**

**Sophia:** Having my sister on the team with me is so amazing. We do a lot of things together at practice and at meets since we are vaulting around the same heights. For example, when we are at meets we normally enter competitions around the same height, so we will do some running and stretching together to get warmed up.

**Josie:** It's really nice to have Sophia on the team with me. She said exactly how I view our situation. We do a lot of warmups together at meets because we come into the competition at similar heights.

**Q: How do you train for pole vault?**

**Sophia:** Training for pole vault requires hours of training both inside and outside. Inside practice I work towards perfecting my technique when vaulting. Outside of practice I will spend 30 minutes to an hour working out to build up muscle and

to stay in shape. On the side I will watch videos to get an idea of what I need to work on technique-wise next time my team has practice.

**Josie:** We have practices almost year round with a break in the fall. Most of our training during the year is focused on vaulting and improving our technique. However, we still spend some practices doing workouts and drills that all help to either increase our strength or lead us through the movements similar to that of a real vault.

**Q: What are your future goals/plans for pole vault?**

**Sophia:** I have many future goals for pole vault. Some of my biggest aspirations include hitting 13' 0" this summer, and vaulting at a collegiate level. Besides that I plan to work hard to achieve those goals, and see what else happens along the way.

**Josie:** This summer will most likely be my last season vaulting, so for me I intend to continue performing at the level I'm at right now and maybe PR before fall comes around. But I also just want to have fun with my teammates and enjoy my time during the summer.

**Q: What are your college plans?**

**Sophia:** I would love to vault in college, but I don't have any specific plan on where I would like to attend college. As I enter my senior year of high school, I am continuing to look more into colleges and what I would like to study.

**Josie:** I'm attending the University of Michigan starting this Fall and will be studying Biology. As of right now, I don't plan on pole vaulting in college.



# SUMMER CAR SALE

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# Dexter Area Historical Society Updates 2021



## DAHS 50th Anniversary Celebration

On Friday, September 10th, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Historical Society with a fundraiser party at Gordon Hall with a little history, dancing

and snacks! Many DAHS Board members past and present will attend along with all of our great supporters. Come and be part of the celebration!

Come early at 6 pm to have a guided tour through Gordon Hall and then join the party. Tickets are \$50 per person and are available at our web-

site: DexterHistory.org, call 734-395-4106 or at our booth during Dexter Daze on August 20th & 14th.

## GORDON HALL DAYS, SEPTEMBER 11th and 12th



We are making plans for Gordon Hall Days and are hoping for good weather so we can have all of the proposed events. Our plans include activities for all ages.

Demonstrations of blacksmithing, bee keeping, various crafts, handmade socks, chair canning, a demonstration of a canon and more will occur at small tents around the grounds.

You will also find musical groups performing at various times with the Dulcimers group playing on Saturday. We hope to have some live animals including llamas, sheep and other possible animals from the 4-H club.

Additionally you will find the Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club in the back tent both days, the Car show along the drive-

way on Saturday from 11 to 4, some Farmer's market vendors on Sunday from 10-4, tours of the newly restored Milk House both days, historical posters around the grounds, a farm display, a Museum booth, the Doletzky tractor and the Tally-Ho out on the green. As we get closer to the date, we will have more exact times and places for the various

activities.

Nothing can happen without the help of many volunteers! Members, their children or grandchildren, and friends from the community are all needed to make Gordon Hall Days a success. The Rotary Club and the Lions Club have already agreed again to help us, but we need many more persons willing to help. We are seek-

ing volunteers from High schoolers to Senior Citizens to help in many different areas. If you are interested in helping, we ask that you call 734-426-2519 or email us at DexMuseum@aol.com and we will get back to you. Please leave your name and contact information and using the chart below, indicate the days and times you would be available.

If you are interested in being a tour guide inside Gordon Hall, please let us know if you have any physical limitations as there are 3 floors and if necessary we can assign you to the main floor. For those interested in being Gordon Hall tour guides, use Nancy's email, NancyVanB@aol.com and she will get back to you.

## DEXTER CIDER MILL SET TO OPEN NEXT FRIDAY, AUG. 27th FOR 135th STRAIGHT YEAR



From: Shop Dexter

Just like the Masters- "A tradition unlike any other". Mark your calendar for a week from Friday. One of the best things to do this time of the year is to visit the Dexter Cider Mill when it opens. Love the smell of the cinnamon donuts when you walk in the door. For 135 years the Dexter Cider Mill has welcomed in fall with the best cider & donuts around. It's the oldest continuously operating cider mill in Michigan. Hours will be 8am-5pm. For



Photos Courtesy of Shop Dexter

updates you can follow them Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/dextermill/>

# Auction Opens and Chef's Menu Announced for Dinner Event Benefiting the 5 Healthy Towns Foundation's Farmers Markets

From: Shawn Personke

Calling all farmers market fans!

The virtual auction benefiting 6th annual 5 Healthy Towns Farm to Table Fabulous Feast has opened. And ticket sales for the dinner event supporting the Chelsea, Grass Lake, Dexter, Stockbridge, and Manchester farmers markets are now on sale.

"We have so many cool items — over 65 items, in fact — on the auction block," said Sabrina Edgar, chair of this year's event and manager of the Grass Lake Farmers Market.

"There's a Trip to Italy, a 4-Course Dinner for 4 from Chef Savur, art from Chelsea artist Sue Craig,

U of M football tickets, a Wellness Center membership, restaurant gift certificates, a car detailing from La Fontaine, fresh baked goods, goodie baskets, and hand crafted folk art, to name a few," she added. "Each of our markets is also providing delicious auction items."

The auction is a two-fold event, with all items available for bidding virtually, with a dozen items moving to the live auction format at the dinner event on Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021, at 4 p.m.

For the past 5 years, the fundraising dinner traveled to each of the five healthy towns. In 2016, Chelsea presented the first dinner, followed by Grass Lake,



Manchester, Dexter, and, in 2020, Stockbridge.

Edgar said she also

wants people to know that the committee is planning for a Covid-safe event.

"We're providing more tables in the fresh air under the pavilion and tent so that people can eat and socialize with some space," she said.

Chelsea's market manager, Emily Griswold, has been lining up the chefs to prepare the food donated and purchased from each of the five farmers markets.

"Smokehouse 52 is cooking up the main entree, Picnic Chicken, as well as a sweet and



Volunteers set up the 5 Healthy Towns Farm to Table Fabulous Feast, hosted by Manchester in 2018. The 2021 event will be held at the Grass Lake Community Events Park. The event features a multi-course meal using local produce by local chefs from Smokehouse 52, Roaming Goat, Kitchen Little, and Silver Maples of Chelsea. Beer and wine are provided by Jolly Pumpkin and Lone Oak Vineyards.



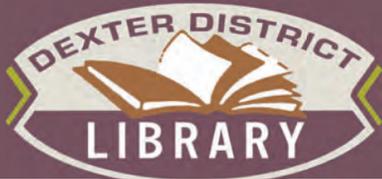
Smokehouse 52's Phil Tolliver joined other local chefs to prepare and serve local food at the 2019 Dexter Farm to Table dinner. Story and more photos on page 2. Photos Courtesy of Shawn Personke.

savory tofu option," said Griswold. "Roaming Goat is on for a Grilled Romaine Heart Salad with a peach lavender vinaigrette, and Chef Emily from Chelsea Alehouse is doing Pickled Veggie and Feta Skewers."

"Silver Maples' Chef Travis is preparing a Toasted Crostini with Tenderloin and Michigan Cherry Sal-

sa, and a Roasted Beet Hummus Shooter," she added. "We'll have Jolly Pumpkin beer, Lone Oak wine. And Common Grill rolls."

"We've got a couple more surprises lined up, too," said Griswold. "The whole menu is looking really good and we're excited to see our chefs using the produce from our five markets."



## Dexter District Library 2021 Summer Events for Kids, Tweens and Teens

# Upcoming Summer Events at Dexter District Library

### 2021 Summer Reading Program Events



## End of Summer Craft Grab Bags

### Tuesday, August 24 – Tuesday, August 31

For kids of all ages

Pick up a mystery bag full of a variety of crafts.

No registration required

While supplies last

# Dexter Board of Education Meeting

► continued from page 1

It is highly recommended that masks are worn indoors under the current risk level. Any diagnosed Covid case must be isolated for 10 days. The quarantining for household contacts is not new, it is similar to what it has been for pertussis and chicken pox. Masking is required on the school bus because the bus is considered federal and it doesn't matter if the school has a mask mandate or not. Masks are required on the school bus. Dr. Timmis reviewed the public health department recommendations regarding sports and new recommendations on quarantining and new definitions for close contacts. CDC is recommending masking at all K-12 schools. ISD masks at all levels. CDC order, masks on buses, posting case counts on websites required, assisting the health department with contact tracing. District boundary, high vaccination rates. Substantial 50-99 cases. Strongly recommend indoor masking and can possibly require indoor masking at higher levels. Much of the guidelines are in place for returning to school. But options regarding masks requirements for grade and number of cases are to be determined. Unfortunately we are in the midst of an evolving pandemic and as more information becomes available, things can and will likely change.

The Board opened it up for public participation. Marc Tassin stated he would like a mask mandate in the fall. He stated we should look at and respect science. He also stated from a civics perspective, freedom comes with responsibility. Catherine Johnson would like masks worn as the mother of a child too young for a vaccine. She would like a six foot space when children have masks off while eating. Charissa spoke after writing the board three times this summer. She wants the choice regarding her children. She wants freedom of choice regarding masks and vaccines. She argues that there was freedom this summer without

consequence. She wants parents to be able to decide for their own children. Connie Creech spoke next. When masks were lifted in the summer why was there not a Covid outbreak? She feels that the students are being punished. She noted the CDC recommendation for a different test. She is concerned with the mental health of the students. Where is the concern for student depression? Student are more likely to die of suicide than Covid. Self harm and drug use are both up. She wants masks to be a choice for families. Kevin Troncall spoke next. He noted that people have been gathering all summer. Kevin noted that teachers are not being mandated to vaccinate. No vaccine accountability for teachers, even though many students are not eligible. If masks are mandated, we should specify the type of masks being used. Sarah Reeves, a professor of epidemiology and pediatrics at U of M then spoke. She is requesting a mask mandate for all children and staff K-6 until vaccines become available. Hana, a biochemist, states that masks do not protect against the virus. The vaccine cannot stop transmission. The vaccine is not a protectant. Bill Simpson spoke next and is for freedom of choice for people. He brought up that mental health is a huge issue and asked how many children have been lost to suicide. Nobody was masked and it isn't spreading through the community like wildfire. It's not even .1% of cases in Washtenaw County. Why take away the choice? We will never get to 0%. We still have the flu even with the vaccine. Nobody is discussing building natural immunity, nutrition, and exercise. Now it's a different standard on how long to quarantine even though the vaccinated population can still get it and spread the virus. He noted the impact the vaccine can potentially have on people. Jessica Fealy spoke next. She is a PCP. She stated that mental health issues are not related to masking

but to anxiety regarding a pandemic, losing relatives to Covid, and isolation earlier in the pandemic. Students tolerate masks very well. Becca Tsallis spoke next. She would like masks mandated for K-6 schools. Her kids do not mind the masks, it's parents who seem to mind. Kari Reschke is a nurse Practitioner. She is wondering if the school has researched the cloth masks kids are wearing. Masks increase anxiety and increase risk of infection. Whitney Boyer requested that masks be mandated for K-6. A. Oveta Fuller a microbiologist and virologist at the University of Michigan then spoke and she commended layering mitigation; mask vaccination, and distancing. It's not just one thing, it's all things working together. She noted flu, rhinovirus, and RSV will also be mitigated by masks. She warned against another variant mutating. We are not where we were in May and June and odds of going back to that are very low unless we work to mitigate. Meg Patulski spoke, she does not want to go back. Last year the discussion was, "can we go to school or not," and now it's, "do we wear a mask or not?" There is plenty of evidence that vaccines are effective and masks are effective. There is plenty of scientific evidence." Let's try to protect everybody and let's have nobody die this year." If wearing facial covering can do that, her family will wear it. I really want to stomp this out. Let's mask up. Let's make sure our kids have a healthy education. Do what's right and I urge you to make the right choice. Christy VH stated just because your kids are comfortable doesn't mean mine are or my neighbors are. Mask wearing does impact kids. It does impact kids emotionally, psychologically and socially. Individual rights are most important to her. Why is one group more important than the other. Heather Wiese spoke next. She is in support of the most stringent masking requirements. Her children are doing

well wearing masks because she has explained that we're doing it for the greater good. Justin Bingham said three of his four children are too young to be vaccinated. His youngest was hospitalized for RSV before the virus. He fought for our freedom in the military. He explained that people discussing freedom have other options. Jackie stated that people should note recommendations vs required. She discussed hypoxia. She stated that masks don't work and she discussed the harm her child underwent from wearing a mask. She thinks everyone should make their own choice. Angela Fish spoke next. She stated if we want freedom of choice we need to protect our friends and neighbors. As a psychologist at U of M, the best thing to do for mental health is to keep them in school and the best way is to require masks. Luc Tussin reminded everyone how people responded when the Dexter Tornado came through. We all helped each other. He hopes we could all come together and fight for the entire community. Ashley Poirier is a Nurse Practitioner and agrees with masks in school. Multiple levels of protection is the solution. Masks, distance, vaccines, and ventilation are the best way to handle it. Elizabeth spoke. She is a scientist. Mandatory masking protects everyone. Elizabeth stated that her first grader can wear a mask all day. Examples of places where there was no mask mandate spreading infection. She noted the potential for bullying kids who wear masks. Susan Olson wants to know why natural immunity is ignored. She stated that if a child already has had Covid they have natural immunity. She does not want to penalize kids who have the antibodies. It's pointless to give the vaccine if they have had Covid. Holly Cabana spoke in support of freedom of choice. She does not like hearing that people opposed to masks do not have the common good in

mind. What happened to my body, my choice? It's the parents' option. She feels bullied and is opposed to putting her children at risk. Kim Kirkey is an epidemiologist and has kids in the district. Masking is for the greater good. You protect yourself and you protect others if you are infected. The Delta variant is a big contributor to disease in Michigan. We have to keep our students safe. Julie spoke next. She has a daughter that is going to be a senior this year. She is an ER nurse and wears an N95 for 12 hours a day. It is okay to wear a mask that long. Your choice does affect other people. It's not just your right, your choice. She wishes people could come work in the ER and see the widespread impact. People aren't being admitted for Covid because they are waiting 12 hours in the ER and being sent home on steroids. We have no reason to think that the Board, the superintendent and the school are not trying to make the best decision for our kids. Deborah stated that it should be the parents choice. Her senior had a horrible year. It should be the parents choice. We don't need to wear masks. Stop pushing fear to our children. Heather spoke next. She stated the mask saturation point is false. She noted other things are not FDA approved, diet coke and vitamins. She noted that masks are great but Covid can get into the membranes. She agreed that kids might need extra mental health and encouraged the school to work to address it. If a mask is a psychological issue, imagine what the death of a friend would do. Your body, your choice, yes, you still have a choice, opt out of school or go to a different school. You still have a choice. Look up trusted sites and not just read anything online.

Dr. Timmis talked about the condition of the school. August 25th is freshman orientation.

Consent items were approved.

MASB is having a legal workshop and is sending a member of

the board.

Board members shared their opinions, concerns, and echoed some concerns of parents that spoke. The Board seems to be primarily concerned with being able to keep the children in school and providing stability. Choice does not include the right to choose something that is detrimental for someone else. But it was agreed that not all children are the same and some may have anxiety and more mental health support is important. The student rep acknowledged that masks did not bother him. 30% of families in Dexter chose to keep their kids at home last year. The Board added more options to review and discuss. The plan is to come up with several options. The motion to have a meeting for Wed. at 7pm to vote on Covid plans. The motion passed.

It was time for the final public participation. Anne Fish spoke as a grandparent and a former school employee. She spoke of having to attend children's funerals and the worst one, taking her son to the funeral for one of his classmates. She spoke of the importance of consistency. She suggested a system be set up for the children who do really struggle with masks. Adriene Beltz spoke. She was a virtual family. She's concerned about sending her child into an environment that might be a significant risk for her family. She'd like a Zoom option with a Dexter teacher. Meg spoke and was concerned about distancing at lunch. Sarah Fore spoke next. Her child was remote and found that it worked really well for her student last year. She would like an option for Zoom through the school. What happens if all students have to stay home again? Annie spoke as a critical care nurse at U of M she stated that there are other variants that are not a concern in Michigan yet. The Delta variant changes the ballgame for children and the numbers people cited are not including the Delta variant and the change in the impact on children. She also warned of potentially more serious variants coming to Michigan soon. She requested masks in place for all. She thanked the Board and the district for doing the work and making her job as a critical care nurse a little better.