

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

July 8, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.

VIA Zoom

Minutes

- I. **President** Richard Schlameuss called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Board Secretary, Patricia Rosado called the roll.

- II. **Board Members present:** George Andrews, Rebecca Bear, Dr. Damary Bonilla, Larry Dymond, Sharone Glasco, Debbie Kulick (joined at 7:24 p.m.), Wayne Rohner, Richard Schlameuss and Lisa VanWhy.

- III. **School personnel present:** Jennifer Agolino, Nichelle Allen, Stacie Ammerman, Michelle Arnold, Amie Atticks, Brian Baddick, Anne Marie Bauer, Terrence Bomar, Brian Borosh, Angela Byrne, Anthony Calderone, Sarah Campbell, Tara Caplette, Mary Capulish, Louis Carbajal, Jessica Carson, Maria Casciotta, Mike Catrillo, Theresa Cavanaugh, Marisol Cepin, Patricia Chestnut, Cindy Christian, Diane Contino, Christopher Corso, Kathaleen Cramer, Hadiyah Crosswell, Iveliz Cruz, Barbara Dahl, Mary DeFazio, Nicole DeLuca, Beverly Dollar, Debra Ecenbarger, Jane Fetherman, Kelly Finn, Laura Follis, Joe Formica, Eric Forsyth, Jeanine Fuller, Cathy Gallagher, Janice Giannolla, Miriam Giove, Linda Gittens, Brenda Gomez, Diana Govus, Kio Haraldsen, Donna Hicks, Erin Hubert, Joann Johnson, Shahida Jones, Alisa Keiper, Amanda Kerdzaliev, Danielle Kishel, Ann Marie Kizer, Leanne Konawalik, Matthew Krauss, Catherine Kutteroff, Keith LaBar, Annmarie LaFemina-Adams, Ray Lenhart, Diane Litts, Gina Locke, Maddalena LoPresti, Kristin Lord, Trenee Lurry, Linda Males, Jennifer Marmo, Larysa Martone, Leisa Masker, Kathy Mattern, Holly McFarlane, Tom McIntyre, Barbara Miller, Lisa Minnichbach, MaryAnn Moore, Deana Morabito, Venus Morales, Ryan Moran, Debra Padavano, Michelle Palmer, Julissa Perez, Kyle Philhower, Amy Polmounter, Taylor Quire, Jeff Reichl, Daryl Reith, Barbara Rescigno, Ola Reyes, William Riker, Kimberly Riley, Gloria Rivadeneira, Erica Rivera, Dawn Rohrer, Patricia Rosado, Matt Sadowsky, Donald Sanker, James Schmidt, Malika Scott, Susan Smith, Kathleen Snow, Judy Sourwine, Susan Steakin, Renee Stevens, Rick Stine, Elizabeth Suarez, Kerry Sullivan, Launie Summerville, Denise Touma, Sandra Turner, Dana Venslosky, Lisa Vitulli, William Vitulli, Tim Wagner, Tammy Walsh, Laura Weeks, Matt Whitney, Robin Wilson, Zahra Yohe, and Steve Zall. Christopher Brown, Solicitor.

- IV. **Community members present:** Connie Alexander, Lauren Allu, Michael Ammerman, Kendal Askins, Verenys Avelino, Matt Bauman, Ana Beckworth, Demi Berg, Krystal Bomar, Renee Bookhart-Thomas, Lesley Branch, Seffanie Bush, Taylor Byrd, Jihan Colletta, Chelsea Corso, Melanie D., Kristi Dellacona, Melanie Diaz, Ms. Dorota, Drew Dymond, Jenica Edwards, Vaugh Edwards, Laurie Favini, P.J. Feliciano, Trista Ferguson, Reginald Fields, Kevin Filan, Crystal Flachek, Stephanie Flaherty, Jennifer Floyd, Jen Fluck, Samantha Frevele, Audry Garrett, Toni Ann Gilmore, Anna Gress, Robert Halliday, Deborah Harris, Michelle Hiller, Rebecca Hilgert, Nancy Holt, Maria Hopkins, Mohammed Hossain, Misozi Houston, Mathew Ingram, Joanna Jimenez, Trevor Jones, Laurie Jordan, Keith Karkut, Danny Kutrick, Randy Litts, Alondra Maldonado, Lynn

Manza, Lisa Massa, Denise Matrisciano, Daisy Matthew, Luz Mayi, Chieyen Meachem, Khari Medley, Dahlia Merritt, Amy Messana, Christina Modugno, James Modugno, Lisa Murray, Evelina Niedbala, Jenny NinoBonilla, Hale Orellana, Monique Pacheco, Darice Pauselius, Kimberly Peregrin, Elisse Perez, Michal Peterson, Keleisha Phillip-Stringer, Cheryl Popp, Michael Potestio, Charle Rawlinson, Ashlei Rivera, Tammy Rivera, Jessica Rodriguez, Darryle Sabino, Maria Sandoval, Savietta Sharma, Kandice Simpson, B. Stanel, Sonji Stevenson-Patrick, John Strouse, Ronnelle Thomas-Brunswick, Ruben Torres, Kelly Vandervliet, Michelle Vazquez, Heather Williams, David Williams, Brandy Womack, Aneta Wszola, Kamil Wszola, Agnieszka Wykowski, and Jenn Young.

V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Rebecca Bear to adopt this agenda for July 8, 2020, as submitted, with the Board of Education reserving the right to add to the agenda, and take further action on any items raised in executive session where immediate action on such items is considered to be in the best interest of the District. Motion was seconded by Sharone Glasco and carried unanimously, 8-0.

VI. SUSPENSION OF RULES

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Lisa VanWhy to suspend the rules of the day to permit discussion of budgetary items to be presented by the administration or members of the Board and the public concerning review of the Return-to-School Plan, without the necessity of a motion and second being previously made. Motion was seconded by Dr. Damary Bonilla and carried unanimously, 8-0.

VII. PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Riker said the administration is looking for guidance and direction from the Board this evening regarding three items that are on the agenda tonight. As they continue to analyze the reopening of schools on August 31st, he presented information to the Board over the past several weeks with reference to the number of students they would allow on the school buses, in the classrooms and, of course, whether all students or partial number of students will return to school on August 31st. Any reduction in the number of students on the bus or in the classroom may inform administration whether all students would return to school. He shared with the Board the recommendation from the Bucks County Department of Health and information from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) with reference to number of students on the bus and in the classroom. Their recommendation of social distancing ideas is not possible with reference to the number of students. It is clearly obvious that the number of spaces in the classroom and buses will not permit social distancing. This is a concern but anything less than those numbers would require an abbreviated or alternating school day. Mr. Andrews said three feet would get us down to an 80% reduction because that is what the CDC also recommended. Dr. Riker said he read a number of articles that said three-feet distancing but has not seen this said by the CDC. However, there are numerous documents on three-feet distancing. Mr. Andrews said three-feet distancing would be sufficient. Ms. Kulick said she disagrees. Dr. Riker said he has shared items on the three questions that the Board will be working on tonight. This does not include the items that will be included in the Health and Safety plan that will be presented to the Board at the July 20th Board meeting. There are many items such as the process of wearing of masks, eating lunches, cleaning,

disinfecting, sanitizing, etc., which will be included in the plan. The Health and Safety Plan has to be adopted by the Board and sent to the Department of Education. Administration needs direction from the Board so that the building leaders can move into their planning and for the community members to be made aware of what is being planned. Mrs. Bear asked Dr. Riker to review the three items that would need to be determined tonight. Mr. Andrews said we cannot make a decision until we have all the facts. Mrs. VanWhy said we need to give Administration direction tonight before they can finalize a plan and bring it to the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Schlameuss said the Board members will be able to make their comments, followed by the public and then the Board will make a decision on the items that are on the agenda.

VIII. **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mrs. VanWhy said she is in favor of starting school as normal as possible. She believes it is in the best interest of the students because that is our job. They should be in the classroom with the teachers. The district also offers many other opportunities for parents that want to choose our Cyber Academy or homeschooling. Most of the information she gathered from the CDC and different Senators regarding COVID-19 state that it is a very minimal risk to the students and for them to bring it to their homes. If they contract the virus, it is at 25% and not that probable that they would infect other people. Our area has a 95.5% recovery rate from this virus. The death rate is also different here.

Mrs. Bear said as a parent and Board member she has concerns with not necessarily the bus sizes and classes sizes but with the cleaning process. We have to not only worry about our teachers, but all staff. We don't know who has a compromised system. Being a mom, she knows that her kids missed their friends and teachers. Her daughter struggled with online learning. If we have to choose staggered days we need to be more prepared for more structured classroom training between teachers and students. We need to keep everyone's wellbeing in mind including their social learning when making a decision.

Mr. Andrews said he would like the schools to open as close to normal as possible. Students learn much better in the classroom than in remote learning. The average student could fall seven months behind learning online. He believes, if at all possible, we need to do in-class teaching. It is also helps with the mental health of the students and with the current economy, many parents have to work. We cannot have parents staying home and not have a salary. The cost of child care is high. We do not know the student's family stability. We do not know what they go through at home, especially if they suffer from abuse. We would be in a better position to help them. We need to maximize the learning opportunities for students. Some students do not have the equipment and internet to help them learn from home.

Dr. Damary Bonilla said she appreciate everyone's comments and agrees with some but not all. We need to be mindful of all the dynamics and situations within our district. We have to be careful not to throw out statistics that are not backed up by research that all Board members have not looked at together. Not all kids thrive in the classroom or do bad virtually. She said her kids do well in the classroom. The district has a strong cyber school in the school district. We have pros and cons with every circumstance that needs to be looked at. We should not undermine those that have concerns regarding their health. She has concerns and so do her kids, as well as fear. When we make comments we need to differentiate that the comments are personal as an individual and not grounded on research that may not be credible or a fact. She is open to have a discussion on these comments. She has also read a lot and knows many other Board members have done so too. We need to compromise in ways that will help the diverse needs of the students. There are concerns with reference to special needs students. She said she represents the Board at the IU 20

and they are having a Board meeting on July 29th and parents are invited to attend the meeting to be informed on the decisions that will be made for their students.

Ms. Sharone Glasco said she has multiple thoughts about returning to school. Number one is the safety of the children. Can the district guarantee that the students will be safe? She is thinking about the demographic of the students and they are prone to socialization. The students have learned in the last four months that we need to have social distancing. She is not sure the students will be compliant and nor does she know how the district can regulate that situation. She would love for the students to go back to school but she is not sure that we can guarantee safety. She is torn and hopes to be having this communication. One thing the district has to their advantage is that they offer the Cyber Academy and Distance Learning. She is concerned about the teachers and how this could impact their lives if we went to multiple days or shifts. Our students are not part of the demographic where many youths are not passing as a result of this pandemic. We have many mature teachers and administrators in our buildings. There could be individuals with pre-existing conditions. How do we start it and how do we stop it if there is an emergency? What is the plan? What is the magic number to say it is no longer comfortable from a student or faculty prospective?

Ms. Debbie Kulick said she agrees with Dr. Damary and Sharone. She would like to see students back as normal as possible, but the new normal will be the normal. There are safety concerns. In reading all of the feedback from parents, just about 50% would say start school but make it safe. Three-feet separation will not be enough. Some suggestions may be to have grab and go lunch, masks but also accept face shields. It will be far more convenient for students and teachers. We have teachers who may have compromised and underlying health issues. They may become ill and so will the support staff as well as all other staff.

Mr. Richard Schlameuss said this decision is a big decision. We will hear from the public as well. He said that he is sure that whatever decision is made, not all will agree. There is not perfect plan that will please the majority. It will affect teachers, support staff, parents and students. We will be looked at for answers and will try to provide the best solution. We will proceed to provide the best education that we can. There are other options that the district offers such as Cyber School. Parents will have options and decisions to make. The State has made it easier for us because they are requiring a covering on the face. Once we go past that, what does it mean for our schools. We are here to proceed with guidelines for Administration so that when we adopt a plan we all can agree on it. We will try to recognize as many community members as we can tonight who want to comment. We received many comments online from those who sent them previously. All Board members have read them.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA (3 min. ea.)

Public Comments were gathered via the ESASD's Website and are attached as part of the minutes.

- A. Mr. Keith Karkut said he would like to offer a suggestion of an idea he thought of when he spoke to some teachers. Students would like to interact and see their teachers. Since the government issued the suggestion of wearing masks, students will not be able to see their teachers. He suggested that students attend a school session one week on and one week off. During the one week, half of the class are in school and the other half would see a teacher through a camera live. The district should be in a position to buy cameras for all classrooms. The following week, the other half would switch and have class live from home. This would allow our buses and lunch program to be relaxed. It would still keep kids

interactive with each other even when not physically in a classroom setting. He said his concern is that students will need to wear a mask every day. He saw students at practice and they are not wearing the masks but putting them in their pockets leaving them to become dirty. The students will become sick from breathing their own toxins.

- B. Mr. Ruben Torres said he understands the Federal Government will be issuing new guidelines early next week; therefore, this meeting may be premature on the decision that will be happening. I agree with Ms. Kulick that face shields should be an option for the children who are uncomfortable in wearing a mask. The Board should look into purchasing them if it is viable.
- C. Mr. Jeff Reichl said he has two children, one in kindergarten and one in 2nd grade. His concern is that they do not learn well from a computer. If they are required to learn from home, his children fall behind. He does not feel that his son got the education that he would have received face-to-face. Parents have options to sign up their child for the Cyber Academy but how many want to. On the other hand, many parents may enroll their child which may alleviate the number of students in the classroom. He is concerned that his children continue to fall behind academically if they have to do another year online.
- D. Ms. Audry Garrett said teachers with health issues need to be considered. What if they do not come back will they be penalized? Students will not leave their masks on all day. In other districts, K-5 students will be in all buildings; therefore, they are able to spread them all across the schools. The secondary students can then learn on the google classroom. This would cover all the grades by providing them with learning.
- E. Ms. Jenn Young said if we do a blended or an online scenario, she is for it. The Board and the Administration need to encourage the teachers to be live in groups to teach the students. Last semester was an emergency situation but now they have the time to plan. If the district feels the students can learn from online, they have to have live contact with their teacher. She said she does not envy the Board and administration for having to make this decision.
- F. Ms. Melanie Diaz thanked the Board and Administration for the work they have done this past year. She said she agrees with Mr. Reichl because she has children in different age groups, too. Her young one fell behind because the work they gave him was busy work. At the end of the year, she realized that he regressed in handwriting alone. Her older child did well online because the work was a little bit more structured. Online cannot replace in the classroom learning. She said as a parent she expects some kind of adjustments to learning but if at home, the district needs to provide a more structured learning in its place. What is the magic number if things get bad? We need to be prepared for this possibility. We need to keep in mind the students' progression and not regression.
- G. Ms. Ronnelle Thomas-Brunswick said her son is in the IU20 Autistic Support Class. He did much better with remote learning than in school. There was more attention given to him but the problem is that she works in New York now. Any schedule for her son needs to be consistent. Blended learning will not work for a special needs child because they will need to know a set schedule. The district has wonderful resources in Sapphire but the supports ended when the school year ended. She suggested that they consider having the online support during the summer, too. For a special needs child, a schedule of one week on and one week off, they cannot balance that. They need consistency.

- H. Ms. Renee Bookhart-Thomas said she is parent and on the PTA Board and has two children. One is going to high school and the other one is already there. The only concern she has is that her daughter loves school but has sickle cell and asthma. Although her daughter wants to go back to school, Ms. Bookhart Thomas would like to know what is the solid plan. Her daughter did not like online learning but if the children go back to school, they want to hug their friends. How can this be prevented for those with a compromised immune system? She said her child can die within a day if she goes into a crisis. She needs to know the solid plan for the children. She said she did not like online learning at all and does not agree with it.
- I. Ms. Lisa Massa said her biggest concern is the way online learning was provided. She said she is not opposed to it, but the system the district put out this year was not effective. Her fourth grader did not learn anything. Her middle schooler's program was a little better but teachers need to be involved with the students. We were promised a lot that we did not get. The parents and teachers need to be on the same page. Teachers need to be involved. She said she agrees with in the classroom learning but the students need to be safe. If the district gives the parents the choice to enroll their student for the cyber school, this may decrease the number of students that will be in class at school. Children will do better in school because who will teach children if parents are at work. It is a lot of work that is placed on parents to keep students home and keep them learning online whether they learn or not. When we asked a teacher at 9:00 a.m. a question and do not get an answer until 10:00 p.m., it is not conducive to learning. Whatever is decided, it needs to be better than what was provided this year.
- J. Ms. Rebecca Hilgert said she thought there was going to be some actionable decision tonight. She said she saw some guidelines on the agenda but nothing has been discussed. They have only heard thoughts from the Board and now the public. As a crisis planner, she would like to see what the plan is. Ultimately there needs to be some type of planning mode other than that students are going back. There also needs to be some type of Crisis Planning if students start school and get COVID. We need to see all scenarios. It cannot just be if you want the students to be at school or they can enroll in cyber. She said she, along with many others here tonight, thought that a decision would be made tonight. Many parents sent out a survey of what they want. We need to know what learning is going to look like and the backup plan when it falls apart. We need to do this for the students and educators. Mr. Schlameuss said several items will be discussed and voted upon tonight in order to form a plan. The plan will then be shared with the staff and parents.
- K. Ms. Michelle Hiller said the district handled the crisis situation the best they possibly could. Students should not be sent back to school. Parents should be able to make that decision if they want to or not. The whole thing is complicated and a crisis plan will need to be put in place. We also need to have a deadline on what is going to be done in order for working parents to be able to plan. There is always 100% chance of any risk for students going back to school. The district should do the basics with students such as washing their hands. She said she came to the meeting tonight thinking that a plan was going to be discussed. She agrees with live learning. She cannot teach what the high schoolers are learning. Not having teacher interaction was not beneficial for the students. She thanked them for this meeting and for the handling of this situation as best they could. Mr. Schlameuss said the plan will be voted upon the July 20th Regular Board meeting.

- L. Ms. Charle Rawlinson asked what is the plan when it all goes wrong. She believes that the number one priority is how does it work if it all goes wrong. She said she is fine with sending students to school or having them work online. We cannot change what is happening but there must be a plan of what to do when it goes wrong. She asked if she had another concern that she would like to speak about, such as a staff misconduct, when can she address it. Mr. Schlameuss said we are aware of the issue and we are having discussions and it will be addressed. He said this is all he can say at this time. Ms. Rawlinson said this is a tricky situation but the issue is how do we proceed and is there discussions occurring. She does not want to speak out of term. Dr. Damary Bonilla said that School Board meetings are always a place to speak about your opinion. The public gets three minutes to speak. Community members can speak at the July 20th meeting or at any Regular School Board meeting. Everyone is welcomed to speak their comments. The Board members also have school emails where the public can express their concerns. Mr. Schlameuss said via school emails may be more helpful.
- M. Ms. Dahlia Merritt said if the district is considering in-school learning there should be parameters for return-to-school especially if they traveled from other states. These students should quarantine before coming back to school.
- N. Ms. Joanna Jimenez said she has a child who is at risk, who struggled with Edgenuity but works better in school. He has an IEP and would not be able to wear a mask for many hours. What happens if he contracts the virus, or someone else has it and it spreads? Will everyone be sent home to quarantine for 14 days? She would prefer for her son to go to school but on alternate days so that the schools are not packed as they normally are. Families have others in their home to be considered such as elderly and other children. Mr. Schlameuss said all these questions will be addressed in the Health and Safety plan.
- O. Ms. Brandy Womack said she has two students that performed better online than in school. Her other child has sensory issues and does better in school. Her concerns are about temperature check and cleanliness of when she uses the sensory room. How will it be sanitized. How can we prepare them if they put items in their mouth? As preparations are being discussed, the district needs to know that it's hard for a special needs child. Mr. Schlameuss said all these items will be addressed in the Health and Safety plan.
- P. Mr. Terrence Bomar said he has children in all grade levels and also works for the district. He said he and other individuals have talked and came up with some suggestions. The district should keep students in grades 6-12 home and have elementary students attend school in person. Elementary students have trouble navigating in the online system. Google classroom should be provided for students in grades 6-12. Not having a set time imposed some imbalance. As a parent, he tried setting up a set schedule. Students should be able to interact with teachers by setting up appointments. The Cyber Academy can assist to keep low numbers in the building. Parents may have a challenge sending students on bus on days they have to attend. One specific building should be set up for the special needs students in order for them to get one-to-one assistance. A concrete plan needs to be given to the parents.
- Q. Ms. Melanie Diaz said she agrees with everyone's perspective and opinions. However, parents need to be given flexibility. Her older child would not have a set schedule but her second grader would not be able to have a set schedule because she will need to help him after she gets done with her job. Parent need to have options.

- R. Ms. Dorota said she would adjust with the decision to have students go to school or have them learn online. However, she would prefer for her second grader to attend school because he misses one-on-one interaction with the teachers and students. Her main concern is the wearing of a face mask. The kids cannot keep their hands off each other; therefore, the kids will spread germs. Her child is currently at day camp and has to wear a mask all day and he does not like it. Children will not wear the mask all day. She would really like him to go back to school but the parents, administrators and staff need a concrete decision. Governor Wolf will have more recommendations next week where information will change.
- S. Ms. Kimberly Riley said she has been a teacher for the past 25 years. She is hoping if we go back in the fall that the district will provide face shields for all staff in the district. This will help with some concerns when returning back to work.
- T. Ms. Charle Rawlinson said her daughter is in Head Start and she does not like wearing her face mask; therefore, agrees with the recommendation of purchasing face shields. There should be a plan for the younger children.
- U. Ms. Darryl Sabino said that just today the EPA announced that there is an effective spray against the virus and it is Lysol. Information changes daily. The Pennsylvania Government has a plan for face masks/shields. She is aggravated that the district still has no plan. It is July and we all knew that we were going back to school. Parents are repeating similar comments. The fact is that we have to wear masks to school. It is the law that says they must be worn. If we are going back into school, everyone must wear a mask or a shield. Edgenuity was busy work that was given to the students because we were in crisis. Google Classroom should be placed in the upcoming plan. A decision will not be made tonight but rather at the July 20th meeting. All the comments that parent keep repeating are not going to help. Parents need to know what is the plan for July 20th.
- V. Mr. Michael Potestio said that he spoke to a few individuals at the end of the school year regarding why Google Classroom was not an option via live or prerecorded. He was informed that it was not an option because some families could not get online or some parents could not be reached. Meanwhile, many people had the resources and were being held back from the few who didn't. He hopes that Google Classroom is an option which will be included in the plan.

X. RETURN-TO-SCHOOL PLAN

Mr. Schlameuss said there are three items that the Board will address today that will allow Administration to develop a plan that the Board will vote on at the July 20, 2020 meeting.

Mrs. Bear suggested 20 students plus adults in a classroom.

Mr. Andrews suggested 24 persons in a classroom including adults.

Mr. Schlameuss said the Board can decide on a number but a classroom can contain a lesser amount.

Mr. Dymond said they should decide on the number that is allowed.

Mr. Andrews said the Governor made a recommendation and not a mandate.

Mrs. VanWhy recommended no more than 25 individuals in a room.

Mr. Schlameuss said the Board can decide on a number and then modify it.

Ms. Kulick asked if the Administrators can work with 25 persons in a room. What would allow for as close to a six-foot separation? If a teacher is speaking up front, he/she will have six feet of separation.

A total class of about 18 students should leave space available for teacher, para professionals, and teacher aides. This will help alleviate some of the parents' concerns.

Mr. Schlameuss asked Dr. Riker if he has a best guess of how many students will be attending Cyber. Dr. Riker said his best guess of those who plan to attend Cyber is about 700 students that are considering that option. Mr. Schlameuss asked if this number is in addition to the number of students that are currently attending. Dr. Riker said yes. This number is not a commitment to attend but just that they are considering it.

Mrs. VanWhy asked where did the recommendation of 25 students come from. Dr. Riker said the CDC recommended a total of 25 individuals in a classroom.

Mrs. VanWhy said this means the total of everyone in the classroom equals 25.

Mrs. Bear said that the motion reads the number of students; therefore, should be changed to persons.

Ms. Kulick said let's vote upon the number of persons in the classroom.

Dr. Riker said the motion can be changed to persons as opposed to students.

Dr. Bonilla asked where do we stand with six feet apart for the 20 students in the classroom.

Ms. Kulick said it is important that we accommodate the distancing portion of it as this is a big concern for many parents.

Dr. Bonilla said she does not see how much distancing can be done with 20 students in a classroom.

Ms. Kulick said Administration will have to figure out how many students they can accommodate.

There may be some non-traditional classrooms that Administration will have to create.

Mr. Andrews said it will either be six feet or three feet of separation. We are working out the details and Administration will prepare the full details.

Ms. Glasco said now is the opportune time to look at all spaces in the schools.

Ms. Kulick said non-traditional places will now become useful.

1.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Lisa VanWhy to direct Administration to allow up to 25 persons in each classroom pursuant to the District's Return-to-School Plan. Motion was seconded by George Andrews and carried unanimously, 9-0.

Mr. Andrews recommend 48 students on the bus.

Ms. Kulick said it would be better to say two students per seat because there are different buses sizes.

Ms. VanWhy said the district has small and large buses.

Dr. Riker said the 48 was the recommended number that came from the Bucks County Department of Health but it relates to the big buses. CDC made a recommendation of 12 students on the bus but we would not be able to do that number because it would take us a long time to bus all students. There is no difference between 13 students or 48 students when it comes to social distancing. We can transport successfully 2 per seat on the bus.

Mr. Schlameuss asked Mr. Andrews if he would amend his motion to say two students per seat as opposed to a maximum of 48 students on the bus.

Dr. Bonilla said is there a reason why we cannot accommodate 1 student to a seat.

Mr. Andrews said if we do this, we are going to have an issue with transporting all students. If we have 48 students, the district will be able to accommodate the students.

Dr. Bonilla said we can pair up siblings and others can ride alone.

Ms. Kulick said this will mean that only 1/3 of the buses are being used. Martz buses run at 75% with everyone wearing a mask. Some parents may identify their child with immune deficiencies and may want them to sit alone. Dr. Bonilla said we should not be married to the number of 48 students but be flexible.

Ms. Glasco said we may have a lesser amount of students on the bus since some students may be going to cyber and others may be transported by their parents. Also, the reality is that things may change drastically.

Ms. Kulick said if we set a 2 per seat maximum, then Administration can work with this number and parent's needs. Mr. Andrews said he agrees with 48 total and it can then be adjusted as needed.

Dr. Bonilla said as long as we are not committed to this number.

Ms. Kulick said we should say a maximum 2 per seat.

Dr. Bonilla said she agrees with a maximum 2 per seat with modification, when necessary.

2.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by George Andrews to direct Administration to allow a maximum of two students per seat to ride each school bus pursuant to the District's Return-to-School Plan. Motion was seconded by Lisa VanWhy and carried unanimously, 9-0.

Dr. Riker said based on the decision and direction on the previous two motions, the last item is to determine if we are still in the green phase that the district be return the student on August 31st. If so, what plan does the Board want the Administration to consider if we are in the green phase or yellow phase or would you prefer an alternate date. How do we plan to open in the green phase as opposed to the yellow phase?

Mr. Andrews asked if the use of masks on the bus needs to be discussed as part of the plan.

Mr. Schlameuss said students have to wear a mask.

Dr. Riker said the new order from the Secretary of Health is that masks should be worn; however, if a student presents a medical condition that does not permit them to wear a mask, they are not required to do so. The district is not required to do any further investigation on what the condition may be. All this information will be part of the district's Health and Safety Plan, which the Board will need to approve at the July 20th Board meeting. The Secretary of Health does have some conditions that not require for a student to wear a mask under those conditions.

Mr. Rohner asked will they be required to wear a face shield.

Dr. Riker said masks or face shields cannot be mandated for students that provide a medical notice that they have a medical condition as outlined in the Secretary's order.

Mr. Schlameuss said these are part of the American with Disabilities Act which is a Federal Law that we have to abide by.

Dr. Riker said that under the current guidance, the district is required to mandate the masks unless there is an exception that is listed on the list in the Secretary's order.

Mrs. Bear asked if the students go back into school live, can Google Classroom be part of the instruction. This will assist with students who cannot come to class on a certain day so they can still see the teacher teaching the class.

Dr. Riker said this is a discussion that the district will be engaging with the union to see if this is a direction that they would like to take.

Mr. Andrews said Google Classroom should be part of the plan.

Mrs. Bear said this will also help with the yellow phase.

Mr. Andrews said this will assist the students when out for any sickness so that they can join from home.

Ms. Glasco said this is already occurring in higher education. There are multiple modes of learning that are occurring. As the teachers are facilitating, they are being videotaped. This would be a great option.

Mr. Schlameuss said time should be allowed for recess by implementing some class time outside until the non-conductive weather occurs.

Dr. Bonilla said under the circumstances and conditions when students that do not wear a mask, they should sit by themselves on the bus.

3.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Lisa VanWhy to direct Administration as follows concerning school day and class scheduling pursuant to the District's Return-to-School Plan: All students return to school effective August 31st for a full day of school, contingent upon that Monroe and Pike Counties are in the Green Zone. Motion was seconded by George Andrews and carried unanimously, 9-0.

Dr. Riker said the motions that were approved by the Board tonight apply to both Monroe and Pike Counties during the green phase. The district will be presenting the Health & Safety Plan, which will include the suggestions from the Board, at the July 20th meeting. The plan will also include the schedule for the yellow zone. If any Board member has other ideas on how to change or amend the schedule during the green phase, they can let him know. Mr. Schlameuss said his recommendation is that if we are in the yellow phase, the district should have an alternate plan and that it be articulated on the Health & Safety Plan so that the public is aware.

Dr. Riker said he agrees and will present it as such.

Mr. Schlameuss said families can reach out to the district to indicate their student(s)' needs in order to help with the schedules.

Dr. Riker said the district will honor these needs.

Ms. Glasco said it is important to have alternation options if we go from the green phase to the yellow phase. The more information that parents, teachers and students know, the better prepared we will be.

Mr. Schlameuss thanked everyone for joining the meeting tonight and for everyone's comments.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Sharone Glasco to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Dr. Damary Bonilla and carried unanimously, 9-0.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT: 9:07 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia L. Rosado
Board Secretary

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Alan Abreu, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"What will be the reduction in school taxes? The teachers will be teaching less and my wife will be teaching more causing her to not be able to work. If you are not providing the education that is customary then my taxes need to be reduced or we will need to file class actions. More time we school at home less time we have to work, less money we have for taxes."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Jaine Bonser, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"No they should learn from home"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Patricia Chestnut, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"What will the protocol be when we are back in the schools if a teacher or student tests positive for Covid-19? "

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Christeena Dauria, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"I have major concerns with any changes to our children's normal school schedule when our county is in green. There is NO reason to modify the learning pattern for children who are clearly in no danger. Change should come by applying deeper sanitations by all (staff, faculty & students). Also changing the policies on being sent to school sick/ill. Furthermore, the level of education that we (taxpayers) expect is not reached while children are home, out of their normal learning environment. Nor is this proposed limited day schedule feedable for working parents that I'm sure makes up the majority of the district residents. Bottom line, my children deserve a proper NORMAL education that we are paying for."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Kimberly DeBlasio, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"Have teachers/staff been able to give their input on instructional day format? Many have students in other districts and they may struggle to work around their children's schedules, as well as their own work schedules. Also, many families within our district have multiple students in multiple grades/buildings. It would be helpful, especially for working parents, if students in the same family could be scheduled to attend during the same times."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Alessandra DeJesus, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"My concern is regarding the format, as having half day instruction for the year may be a more feasible option while still limiting exposure to all. Supplies are already limited and we cannot expect the teachers to hand over extra sanitizing products and double the school supplies to prohibit sharing. What happens when a teacher tests positive, will the entire class then be required to quarantine for 14 days? What about substitutes? What happens if a child's immediate family member tests positive, do the other students in class and teacher need to quarantine?

With everything going on, we need to focus on mental health for the children and faculty. We need to loosen up the academic requirements for the time being and focus on the betterment of the children as a whole in order to get through this together safely."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Kim Dugan, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"I would like to hear how the district plans to address childcare for working parents. Working parents/caregivers cannot pick their child/children up from school or a bus stop mid-day if half-days occur. Working parents/caregivers can also not be present in the home to provide in-home instruction and care for the child/children if working. Also, not all working parents/caregivers utilize a daycare that has available transportation. Nor can working parents afford to pay for daycare all school-year long. As I am concerned for my children's safety, I am concerned for the economic well-being of parents and caregivers if they are forced to quit their jobs."

Public Comment

Special Meeting of the Board of Education

July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Jenica Edwards, Taxpayer

RE: Number of students in each classroom

"What's the maximum number of kids per class? Will they be required to wear masks? What measures will you be putting in place to ensure students and teachers follow social distancing? If a class member or teacher contracts the covid will the class members have to quarantine for 14 days and during that time will they have online class? "

Public Comment

Special Meeting of the Board of Education

July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Nicole Erichsen, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"Kids will be exposed every day or every other day while teachers are exposed everyday "

Public Comment

Special Meeting of the Board of Education

July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Christina Esposito, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"What's the plan with MCTI students"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Sharon Fahl, Resident

RE: Number of students on a school bus

"I am also a driver for the district. I will come into work and do my job no matter what the board decides. That's my Job.
But drivers can not drive that bus wearing masks. It is unsafe. I drove the lunch runs for the first couple months. Those masks are an issue for any driver. I had to take mine off in between stops. It's not safe. So some other idea needs to be implemented.
Thank you. "

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Jessica Faught, Resident

RE: Number of students on a school bus

"Before COVID even happened, our buses were overcrowded. Three kids to a seat even in elementary school is unacceptable. They don't fit, they fall into the aisles, and then when you add in backpacks and instruments there are kids literally sitting on the floor. Then you put one bus driver in a bus of 75 kids and tell her to drive and be responsible for them. It's impossible!! It's unsafe!! Now the children need to be socially distanced-how are we going to have transportation?

It is July. Parents need to plan their schedules for work. We can not start school in a month and a half with out a set plan. You also can't release said plan the week before school starts. I'm hoping this meeting is a formality and you have your choices to pick from. Your decisions affect thousands of families and we can't wait for it to be made. You need to take into children's safety at ALL times. The bus issue needs to be taken care of regardless of COVID. It is unfair to be asking the bus drivers to supervise 75 kids and still drive and get them to school safely. They are overworked and under appreciated for what they do. Please do what you can to figure out a solution to SAFELY transport our children to school regardless of the current pandemic. "

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Stacy Finnerty, Taxpayer

RE: Number of students in each classroom

"If the school is requiring face coverings on our kids. Will they be able to wear face shields?
They are easier to breathe out of."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Libda Gittens, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"Remote learning"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Brian Goorahoo, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"I have two kids in Lehman. One is going to be in 8 grade and my younger one is going to be in 7 grade. My wife drops and picks them up. Would you keep siblings on the same schedule? How would they eat or get lunch? Where would they eat lunch? Will the cafeteria aids bring the lunches to the classrooms?"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Amy Heller, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

“How will half days or half in person/half cyber work for those in Special Education? Will they be able to attend school full time?”

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Michelle Hiller, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

“Will there be full days and full weeks of school? Also how will sports be impacted?”

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Kira Holden, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

“Full day”

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Maria Hopkins, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"An idea for consideration: Perhaps students can learn at home without cyberschool. I'd like to see if a plan can be developed to allow a small amount of students who need to be in school buildings to attend in person, while the rest of the class attended, real-time, via google classroom. My children's bigger hurdle with LFH was the lack of interactive instruction and an active exchange of ideas."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Mohammed Hossain, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"I would be willing to send my kids to school if it was alternating days and full days because I do not my kids riding the school bus. These school buses are always full and would not accommodate the social distancing of 6ft apart. Since we left school our kids have not even gone out for grocery shopping because we want to protect our children. So on that note 2 or 3 days a week alternating would be a solution to start the school year and see how it goes."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Kelly lanetti, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"School should be full days. Half days do not work for parents who work outside of the home - we live 5 miles from our bus stop so it is not feasible for my 6th grade and 9th grader to walk 5 miles to the bus and 5 miles back home. If parents, and teachers/staff do not feel safe returning I have no issue with that however they should then have to choose cyber learning route. That would reduce the number of students in the classrooms for those that believe in-person instruction is more beneficial. The distance learning absolutely did not work for my children. My 8th grader had little to zero contact with her teachers for 2.5 months. If the district is going to go that route again, then the teachers should be doing live lessons at the same time frame they would be teaching in person. They would only be teaching one class at a time so doing one zoom lesson at a time should be doable. This would be the ONLY way this would work. The interaction a student gets in school from both teachers and other classmates is crucial to their development. Teachers are required to earn a degree to do this job yet the distance learning we had for 2.5 months, it was the parents who were teaching the kids. I understand the teachers may have put the curriculum together, the fact that they were not "teaching" my children the subject matter to me means the district failed to provide the proper education. They should have been doing live video instructions as if they were in front of their students. As a parent, my children are my responsibility however it is the districts responsibility to provide them with proper education and in my opinion Edgeniity was not that."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Joanna Jimenez , Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"My son and daughter are both risk and with their asthma they cannot wear a mask for 8 hours a day."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Justine Kastner, Resident

RE: Number of students in each classroom

"With more people enrolling in ESACA, it may be feasible to have less students in a classroom without needing to alter the "normal" schedule too much. What is the maximum allowed in each classroom? Will masks be required for elementary schools? Will specials still be part of the curriculum?"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Desiree Lopez, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"My child will not wear a mask in class so I prefer online schooling for her and many do to safety"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Jennifer Marmo, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"I implore the district to consider the safety of all in this decision. Keeping our children safe and healthy has got to be the number one consideration. Please look at all the research available before making a decision that could cost lives."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Troy Miller, Taxpayer

RE: Number of students on a school bus

"Buses should not be stopping on Minks Pond or Milford Roads. All these families are in the HOA communities in the area. Therefore, those families who live along those roads should have take their children to the community consolidated bus stops like all the rest of the families in those communities. This change would save buses time and fuel."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Herman Munster, Resident

RE: Number of students on a school bus

"Last year there was a shortage of school bus drivers with completely full buses (including sitting on the floor). What is the districts plan for the addition of school bus drivers so kids have the required 6ft social distancing while on the bus?"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Jennyfer NinoBonilla, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"what is the district considering for the upcoming school year."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Lucinda Pedroza, Taxpayer

RE: Number of students in each classroom

"There should be not more than 10 students per classroom to keep social distancing regulations"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Lucinda Pedroza, Taxpayer

RE: Number of students on a school bus

"School bus must maintain social distance"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Benjamin Perez, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"Will you enforce alternative days due to the governor ordering children to wear mask in school all day. I am a concerned parent and I do not feel children should have to wear mask in school all day."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Candice Pesotini , Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"I find it to be unrealistic to expect children to wear a mask all day. Having alternating schedules is unstable for children. Until a proven effective vaccination for COVID is developed or a stop to the spread is documented, home instruction should continue to occur. Safety is more important than anything. In addition, as a parent, I am uneasy to not know what the distancing practices are of other families whose children will be around mine... "

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Michal Peterson, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"The Board is in an impossible position when it comes to reopening schools. CDC guidelines are unrealistic and unaffordable. The district can reopen schools while ignoring these guidelines, as parents suggest, but at what risk? Also, what will be the impact of continued virtual learning, which has been a failure for the most part? What about special Ed students? I urge Board members to out all personal agendas aside and make a decision that is in the interest of students, only. The best option would be to reopen schools, but allow an option to opt out to visual learning for those parents with students who may be at risk."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Jacqueline Predmore , Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"1-If it is mandatory to wear masks to school will that be only to enter the school and once in their classroom they may remove?

2- If it is mandatory to wear all day who is responsible for monitoring of the masks? For example small children putting on inside out, dropping in the bathroom, wearing a mask that has not been washed at home, trading masks.... etc?

3- If my little one simply can't emotionally handle it or begins to cry or get super upset, scared or feels like they can't breathe with it on what then is the protocol ?

4 Will recess/ much needed fresh air be extended during this time ?

"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Robert Prothro, Resident

RE: Number of students in each classroom

"No more than 15 children should be in a classroom."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Jade Ramos, Resident

RE: Number of students on a school bus

"Children have to at least be 6 feet apart as well so that would be limited to one child per seat. That is why it would be best to have morning and afternoon sessions so it can divide up the amount the children in the classroom as well as the bus."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Jade Ramos, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"They should perhaps have school either 3 days a week for 8 hours or they should maybe have school five days a week for increments of 4 hours per day. Rotate some students to have afternoon hours and some to have morning hours so it's half the amount of children in the classroom at a time."

Public Comment

Special Meeting of the Board of Education

July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Jennifer Rice, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"Are the teachers being consulted for their opinions, since they will be on the front lines and "exposed" to all?

What accommodations are being made for teachers with children in the district? How will this affect their schedules?

How will the students be divided if going with different dates or times? If alphabetically, how will you address students that live in the same household, but have different last names due to divorce and remarriage?

How will related arts classes and recess be handled? Do you expect young children to remain contained in just one classroom all day long without movement to other classrooms or getting outside to run around? The arts are of extreme importance to the development of children. How will you guarantee they receive this important instruction? And, on the other side of the coin...how will you maintain safety for both the teachers and students in these environments?

Will the teachers be responsible for sanitizing throughout the day? What about art supplies, musical instruments and gym equipment? Or, will those teachers be expected to teach their disciplines without needed materials? Will there be additional custodial staff employed to assist with cleaning these things?

If teachers are teaching in the school AND online to different groups of students at the same time, will they be allotted additional planning time to provide the necessary content and respond to parent/student questions that occur throughout the online school day, while still teaching in person? (Realize young children need LOTS of help with online schooling and parents aren't always able to assist, especially if they are going back to work as well.)"

Public Comment

Special Meeting of the Board of Education

July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Christina Roche, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"i think the children should not return to the normal schedule. It is time for a change for many reasons , health being one of the biggest ones. "

Public Comment

Special Meeting of the Board of Education

July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Danielle Rothweiler, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"If online learning/homeschooling is an option for 2020-2021, there needs to be significant improvements. For instance, the teachers need to conduct actual classes via Zoom and be present every single day. Showing up for 10 minutes one day a week and leaving the parents to handle everything is unacceptable. Sending YouTube links to random videos for the kids to watch and "learn" is unacceptable. A curriculum needs to be taught by the teacher. The current Steamer Summer program is an excellent example of what needs to happen. Also, grades need to be assigned. It was extremely frustrating as a working mom to essentially put my job on hold to homeschool from March-June, full knowing that the grades didn't count and my son would move forward regardless of his effort. "

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Catherine Schroth, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"If meetings to determine if schools should reopen are being held on zoom (virtually), instead of allowing for those interested to attend in person, it should be telling that schools aren't yet safe to reopen. This is especially true at the secondary level where students change location for class every 42 or every 90 minutes, this would require a lot of material and desk cleaning during the four minute transition time. Also, CDC and PDE guidelines right now call for 6 ft of social distancing at all times. This just isn't possible in the high school with transition every 42 minutes and 1000 or more students enrolled... please as a school board take the time to look at the guidelines and what will actually work vs what won't work in our schools to keep all our students, teachers, and staff safe during this global pandemic."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: sammy sep, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"How will the days go?"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Kenyatta Smartt, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"Online instruction only"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Katherine Spiegel, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"Full day format"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Katherine Spiegel, Resident

RE: Number of students in each classroom

"I think with all the buildings our school district has in place and the staff we can find a way to social distance our children to go back to school full time. Our children deserve an education by professionals and not parents."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Krystal Suhok, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"The students will learn best with a full 5 day a week format, but with better cleaning and sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces. Anything less than full time will be a disservice to their education. "

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Iris Tejada, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"Schools should remain closed and online instruction should continue. Children should not be allowed to return to school during this pandemic. It is a lot to ask of them to remain distanced and wear mask all day. There is no way they will remain 6ft apart. Furthermore, if it is so safe to return to school then why is this meeting being conducted via zoom and not in person. "

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Ronnelle Thomas-Brunswick, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"As a parent of a child in Colonial IU Autistic Support Program, I'm deeply concerned about a nonstandard schedule as my child needs ROUTINE in his routine. Additionally as a parent that commutes daily for work, I'm concerned about bussing for my son. Admittedly when we did remote learning he thrived but that was because I was working from home. I will not have that luxury in August. Is there any special consideration for the special needs students?"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Lisette Torres, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"How is this going to work for parents that work full time like me, will there still be the latch key YMCA that what I put my child for am &pm while school was open"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Lisette Torres, Resident

RE: Number of students in each classroom

"Would the kids have to still social distance"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Christine Upporsky, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"How is the SD planning on implementing social distancing?"

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Maria Urgelles, Taxpayer

RE: Number of students in each classroom

"There should be a half capacity ratio than it used to be before. The 6ft rule should be followed."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Kristin Vidot, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"Don't do it "

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Ida Vigo, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"Now that the governor mandates children to wear masks to school. What measurements is the school district going to take to help prevent the children from having to wear masks all day. How will you practice social distancing so the children do not have to wear a mask all day."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: María Urgelles, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"Having kids/students attend school half days or intermittently would help having small ratios/group in a classroom and around school. Keeping social distancing under control."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Melanie Vough, Taxpayer

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"Can we relax the rule on requiring collar shirt and chinos uniform? There are enough uncomfortable stresses in life right now."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Linda white, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"How will child care be handled for students with full time jobs that can't take time to leave and transport their child."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Valerie Wickberg, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"I would like the day to be a full day without masks and movement. If we can have sports the kids should also have gym and recess as well. Our children need the face to face contact with their teachers and friends."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Chris Witty, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"The American Academy of Pediatrics -- as reported by NPR, the WSJ, and elsewhere -- recently said that having kids in school is important and promotes healthy well-being for a variety of reasons. Unless a child chooses to learn from home (due to close proximity to an elderly person or high-risk individual), the benefits to classrooms/sports seem beneficial versus the risks. Ohio just passed sensible guidelines for school openings this fall which PA can review/emulate. Thanks."

Public Comment
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
July 8, 2020, 7:00 PM

Commenter: Aneta Wszola, Resident

RE: Instructional day format (full days, half days, alternating days, etc.)

"I'd like to voice my concerns about recent state recommendation for mandatory face masks for kids at school. As a parent I do not agree with this and I will not allow my kids to wear masks for long periods of time while at school. There are conflicting opinion on mask effectiveness in protecting against viruses and MANY possible negative health effects following covering your face for prolonged periods of time. It is widely recommended by medical professionals that ONLY sick people should wear it WHEN coughing or sneezing. It would be extremely harmful for all otherwise healthy kids to wear face coverings all day at school. Everyone needs to consider psychological damage this might potentially cause for kids. This wide spread panic is causing massive anxiety amongst kids, how are they supposed to develop their social skills? There are many other ways to prevent the spread of the virus like testing and making sure anyone who is sick stays home. Every parent should have the right to decide if their children need to wear a mask. Thank you."