



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] FW: Public Comment/Parents' questions

1 message

Genovese, Maegan <maegan.genovese@yale.edu>
To: Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 4:03 PM

FYI, this was sent to you as well but she entered your email incorrectly

~Maegan

From: Monika Kaczmarczyk <kacz_monika@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 3:51 PM
To: mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org; joyceshavers@gmail.com; Genovese, Maegan <maegan.genovese@yale.edu>;
Analisa Sherman <asherman@woodbridgeps.org>; CSyriac@woodbridgeps.org
Subject: Public Comment/Parents' questions

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

I understand that during special meetings, public comments are not addressed. Nevertheless, I'd like to forward you a comprehensive document containing questions from several BRS parents, who used Google Docs as a platform for creating the attached file. Please take some time to provide detailed and meaningful information in your response. For instances, where work is still in progress, please indicate the challenges and possible solutions that are under consideration.

As always, thank you for your time and consideration, especially during these trying times.

Regards,

Monika Kaczmarczyk

 **Parent questions.docx**
21K

COVID Specific Questions:

1. If a child or teacher contracts COVID-19, does that entire class go into quarantine? Do they go immediately to distance learning or are they absent for 14 days?
2. How many cases need to be in the school before the decision would be made to go to distance learning?
3. Are there specific guidelines for which type of masks the children should wear? If a child wears a gator mask or one with a ventilator, will they be asked to change into a surgical mask?
4. If masks are off for snack time and lunch time, what is being done to mitigate the risk considering they will be seated only 3 feet apart?
5. What is the criteria for contact tracing once there is a confirmed case in the school?
6. Will the entire school be notified when there is a COVID-19 case in the school?
7. How are you preventing the spread of COVID-19 when many children will either be asymptomatic or will develop symptoms days after becoming infectious?
8. Will you have COVID-19 testing at the school?
9. Will you inform parents when our children may have been in contact with someone that is COVID-19 positive? How will this be communicated? When will this be communicated and who will communicate this information?
10. Will you ensure the privacy of those that test positive to avoid judgment and potential stigma?
11. Will be suggesting guidelines for families outside of school in terms of best practices (playdates, outside curriculars) to avoid community transmission?
12. What will inform your decision making on the response to COVID-19 outbreaks - state health officials; CDC; other?
13. What if a student gets a fever or a runny nose, what is the protocol for getting testing for covid? For eg. will they need to be tested the next day even if the fever goes away? And if the test comes out negative, will the kid be allowed in school the following day?
14. If a kid is tested covid positive and they quarantine for 14 days, will they be allowed back without a follow up test?
15. A pediatrician advising Amity Middle School in Bethany shared in a webinar on Monday that the data suggests that AMS in Bethany will have a person with a positive case by the first to second week of school. What is the projected data on Beecher Road School estimated length of time before a positive case occurs? What is the data on how much spread will occur when that positive case occurs?

Ingress

1. How will my first grader make his way from the south entrance all the way across the school to the first grade wing? Will he be socially distanced during this walk or just with children from his classroom cohort?

Egress

1. How will the large number of cars picking up their children be moved through the line safely in 15 minute intervals (as stated in the letter from Principal Sherman)? This seems like it will not be enough time.
2. If all the children for pick-ups are waiting in the south gym, how will they be cohorted/distanced from each other? This will be an incredibly large number of children in one space.

Lunch in classroom - allergies

1. How are the lunches going to be handled for children with allergies?

Classroom Questions

1. Will parents be told if there is a child in the classroom who is exempt from wearing a mask?
2. Will there be a school-wide technology platform (such as Google Classroom) or will we be using many different platforms like the spring?
3. Will the teachers in the smaller classrooms be assigned less students to allow for social distancing?
4. Wouldn't a hybrid model solve the social distancing issue in classrooms? 10 kids in at a time, not 20.
5. What training and information is being provided to staff on the psychological needs of the children during this pandemic?
6. What different methods of evaluation are being adopted?
7. How are children that do not have parents that are able to help with schoolwork at home being supported?

Teacher Questions

1. Do we have a sense of the student-teacher ratio that will be at BRS this year?
2. How many teachers will be new to BRS this year?
3. How many positions are not yet filled?
4. What kind of environment will it be as a school community if the teachers have so many important concerns that have not yet been addressed?
5. Please explain how you feel it is acceptable to go forward as a community when a majority of the teachers - teachers that know more than anyone in the classroom - feel so worried about the current plan?
6. As a parent, I wholeheartedly support our teachers and their expertise in education. Explain how I can reconcile the feeling that I am turning my backs on these teachers by sending my children to school. Why is the BOE putting parents in this terrible position?
7. Why is the current plan not a Beecher Road School teacher driven plan?
8. Why has an outside learning plan not been considered when Beecher Road School actually has the rare expertise in the MAG teachers to teach

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

in an outdoor classroom as MAG teachers have successfully taught a wide range of subjects outside for years? Why has this expertise been ignored and this opportunity to learn outside - a far less risky environment - been dismissed in a plan?

Distance learning

1. My understanding is that currently there is one teacher per grade level for distance learning. How will the administration decide when to add more teachers as more children move in and out of distance learning?
2. How many students will each distance teacher be in charge of?
3. How will time be divided between synchronous and asynchronous learning?
4. What platforms will be used?
5. Will the distance learners have small group chats? One-on-one meetings?
6. Who will keep track of the kids moving back and forth from distance learning to their regular classroom, because they have had to quarantine for 14 days?
7. Do kids have to wait one week prior to joining distance learning if they need to quarantine for some reason?

Specials Questions:

1. How will band and chorus be handled in school?
2. Will distance learners also have specials?
3. Specials teachers will be exposed to all the cohorts, correct?

Wednesday, August 26, 2020