



Christine Syriac <csyriac@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Beecher during Covid

1 message

Amber Leigh Saffo <saffoa@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 11, 2020 at 9:39 AM

To: csyriac@woodbridgeps.org

Cc: Analisa Sherman <asherman@woodbridgeps.org>, piascyk.boe@gmail.com

To Whom it May Concern,

I have seen that many of the schools around Woodbridge are deciding to go remote for the remainder of 2020. I am writing to encourage Woodbridge to hold off on this decision. Our family is one of the 80% of the school that chose the option to send our children in person. This year has been the best, most successful year that either of our children have had to date. This was the best decision for our children. We feel confident sending our children in to Beecher with all the safety measures they have put in place even with numbers growing in CT. Data shows that schools are one of the safest places and we would like to continue to see our children thrive at Beecher.

Thank you,

Amber and Dan Saffo



Christine Syriac <csyriac@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Please keep school open

1 message

Jeffrey Luck <jeffreyluck@jluck.net>

Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 9:15 PM

To: asherman@woodbridgeps.org, csyriac@woodbridgeps.org, maegan.genovese@yale.edu, piascyk.boe@gmail.com

Dear Mrs. Sherman,

I hope you are doing well. I just wanted to send you and the school board a note to thank you for keeping us updated on what is going on at the school regarding Covid. I can tell that the preventive measures taken are truly effective in keeping the school open. I also understand the logic in the remote learning after Thanksgiving as well.

My wife and I still feel very safe in sending both Ben and Madison to Beecher during these times and I hope the school continues to remain open. They both enjoy going everyday and are learning the way they should and I commend the teachers they both have.

I do hope that the school board does not start to consider shutting down and going remote. I do know there are still plenty of parents that still feel safe sending their kids.

Thanks for listening.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey and Christine Luck



Christine Syriac <csyriac@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] statement to keep full time in-person learning

1 message

jennifer burwick <jburwick@yahoo.com>

Tue, Nov 10, 2020 at 5:44 PM

To: "csyriac@woodbridgeps.org" <csyriac@woodbridgeps.org>

I am writing to urge you to continue offering full time in person learning at Beecher Road School. I have 2 children at Beecher who did not do well with remote learning during the shutdown. They were anxious, did not want to do their work (they both love learning and do very well in school under the usual circumstances), and struggled to master their assignments on-line. Since they have been back to full time in person learning they have been very excited to go to school, their entire demeanor has improved at home and they have never even mentioned the necessary segregation or the mask requirement.

In addition to this, families with parents who both work full-time simply will not be able to stay home to assist with virtual learning. Plus children of this age cannot be alone in the home unsupervised. The burden that this presents for families is immeasurable. We simply cannot stay at home with our kids and would be forced to hire full time outside help which is not financially feasible.

Lastly, and most importantly, the safety of being in person has not yet been compromised so I do not see a compelling reason to close down in person learning.

Again, please continue to offer full time in person learning as long as Covid cases remain low and there is no evidence that it is being spread through contact at school.

Thank you,
Jennifer Hughes



Christine Syriac <csyriac@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Expressing Appreciation and Support

1 message

Marissa Westbrook <marissa.westbrook@gmail.com>
To: asherman@woodbridgeps.org, csyriac@woodbridgeps.org

Wed, Nov 11, 2020 at 9:21 AM

Dear Mrs. Sherman and Mrs. Syriac,

We are reaching out with sincere appreciation for the time and effort that you, the teachers and the Beecher Road School staff have been putting in to ensure that our children could start this year with in-class learning safely. We are also writing in support of the strategy that the school has developed and implemented to make in-school learning a reality. The strategy was extremely thoughtful, with a focus on our childrens' social and emotional health, while enabling them to get back to necessary academic routines and learning. The practices and processes put in place - ingress, egress, hygiene and sanitation, general classroom management, mask breaks, increased outdoor time and creative use of our outdoors spaces - and the love and dedication of those of you that help to maintain these practices daily, has enabled our children to reap the benefits of an in-class experience.

We also recognize the work and adaptability required for planning different learning models, and that this is necessary for the health and wellbeing of our entire community. Our family is supportive of this continued in-school model, provided the health metrics in our community illustrate that it is safe to continue. However, we also recognize the need to be nimble and adjust it as necessary in order to ensure the safety of our community.

We trust that decisions will be made that are in the best interest of our childrens' well-being and our community's health.

Sincerely,
John and Marissa Westbrook



Christine Syriac <csyriac@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Beecher Road Learning Models

1 message

Anamika Reed <anamikareed@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 8:55 PM

To: csyriac@woodbridgeps.org

Dear Superintendent Syriac,

I fully support and understand your plan of a week of remote learning after Thanksgiving. However, I was hoping that you could clarify several things about your recent email. Given that there has been zero evidence of in school spread at BRS, is the current plan to return to full in person learning after the Thanksgiving break? Also, you seem to be considering a hybrid model. If you make this unfortunate choice, can you please explain your rationale? With 25% of students opting for remote learning, we are already able to achieve 6 ft distancing requirements. If you enact hybrid learning, children's safe cohorts will be disturbed as parents (especially essential worker parents) struggle to patch together childcare. Just today, despite rising infection rates, Governor Lamont at his daily COVID press conference said " wearing a mask in a third grade classroom is one of the safest places you can be." Indeed, my children have been safe while in the classroom at BRS, and you will be compromising their safety and endangering their health by forcing them to have many more exposures on their remote days in a hybrid plan. Furthermore, a hybrid plan does not solve any of the staffing dilemmas brought about by positive cases and related quarantines. Our own teachers have expressed that a hybrid plan will also compromise the quality of the educational experience. Please respect children's safety and basic rights by returning to full in person learning after the Thanksgiving break, if possible.

Thank you for all of your efforts.

Sincerely,

Anamika Reed

Mother to two BRS third graders



Christine Syriac <csyriac@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Thank you

1 message

Diane Schroeder <dianeschroeder1@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 6, 2020 at 4:03 PM

To: csyriac@woodbridgeps.org, Analisa Sherman <asherman@woodbridgeps.org>

Lisa and Christine

We wanted to send another extra special thank you to you, your staff and faculty for keeping our children safe (and happy) while in school in-person. We especially appreciate it given the rising numbers knowing that schools and young children have not been the source of community spread.

Thanks again and have a great weekend!

Diane and Dave Schroeder

Parents of Dash Schroeder in Mrs Fanelli's class



Christine Syriac <csyriac@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Fwd: FW: [External Email] Parent request re COVID19 and Woodbridge - keep the kids in school

1 message

Lynn Piascyk <piascyk.boe@gmail.com>
To: Christine Syriac <csyriac@woodbridgeps.org>

Wed, Nov 11, 2020 at 11:07 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Genovese, Maegan <maegan.genovese@yale.edu>
Date: Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 2:17 PM
Subject: FW: [External Email] Parent request re COVID19 and Woodbridge - keep the kids in school
To: Strambler, Michael <michael.strambler@yale.edu>, Dan Cowan <danielcowanwbe@gmail.com>, Jeff Hughes <jeffrhughes@netscape.net>, Jeffrey Townsend <jeffrey.p.townsend@gmail.com>, Laura Ferrante <lorfer01@gmail.com>, Lor Ferranate Fernandes <lff1315@gmail.com>, Ross, David <david.a.ross@yale.edu>
CC: Lynn Piascyk <piascyk.boe@gmail.com>, Joyce Shavers <joyceshavers@gmail.com>

FYI

From: Analisa Sherman <asherman@woodbridgeps.org>
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2020 1:52 PM
To: Christine Syriac <csyriac@woodbridgeps.org>; Lynn Piascyk <piascyk.boe@gmail.com>; Genovese, Maegan <maegan.genovese@yale.edu>; Joyce Shavers <joyceshavers@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: [External Email] Parent request re COVID19 and Woodbridge - keep the kids in school

Hello all,

Please see below, I am forwarding at the request of the parent.

Thank you

Lisa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kate L. Rozen <katerozen@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 12:54 PM
Subject: [External Email] Parent request re COVID19 and Woodbridge - keep the kids in school
To: Analisa Sherman <asherman@woodbridgeps.org>
Cc: Beth Heller <bheller@woodbridgect.org>

Dear Lisa,

I don't have the Superintendent's email address or the Board of Education. This email is for you and also those populations. Would you be able to forward? I have also cc'd First Selectwoman Beth Heller.

Thank you!

Kate

First, I want to thank all of you for all of the hard work you have done to adapt to COVID 19 conditions. I have read the communication from this morning about our first case at Beecher Road.

I know that some will see this as a reason to curtail operations completely and shift to a distance learning model, but as we know from research, spread is happening in social gatherings among adults, dining in at restaurants and during travel. In Europe, we have seen countries enact lockdowns while also keeping schools open. I would very strongly encourage the Town of Woodbridge, the Board of Education and the leadership at Beecher Road to consider this as an option in conjunction with guidance from Governor Lamont's office. The children are excellent mask wearers and I saw with my own eyes the difference in my child when she was able to return to in person schooling.

Thank you,

Kate Rozen

Beecher Road parent

—
Analisa Sherman

Principal

Beecher Road School

40 Beecher Road

Woodbridge, CT 06525

203-389-2195

asherman@woodbridgeps.org

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Christine Syriac <csyriac@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] FW: BOE and COVID

1 message

Genovese, Maegan <maegan.genovese@yale.edu>

Wed, Nov 11, 2020 at 3:04 PM

To: "Strambler, Michael" <michael.strambler@yale.edu>, Dan Cowan <danielcowanwbe@gmail.com>, Jeff Hughes <jeffrhughes@netscape.net>, Laura Ferrante <lorfer01@gmail.com>, Lor Ferranate Fernandes <lff1315@gmail.com>, "Genovese, Maegan" <maegan.genovese@yale.edu>, "Ross, David" <david.a.ross@yale.edu>, Christine Syriac <csyriac@woodbridgeps.org>

Cc: Joyce Shavers <joyceshavers@gmail.com>, "Townsend, Jeffrey" <jeffrey.townsend@yale.edu>

FYI - I asked for Claire's permission to share with the full Board.

From: Claire Coleman <coleman.claire@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 1:56 PM

To: Joyce Shavers <joyceshavers@gmail.com>; Townsend, Jeffrey <jeffrey.townsend@yale.edu>; Genovese, Maegan <maegan.genovese@yale.edu>

Subject: BOE and COVID

Hi Joyce, Jeff & Maegan -- I hope you and yours are well in these challenging times! Thanks so much for your incredible service to our school and town -- I'm sure the BOE membership time-burden has increased a ton over the last year between the Superintendent search and COVID, so thank you!

I wanted to convey some personal thoughts as a parent (not in my capacity for the Lamont Administration) about the importance of the social and emotional learning taking place in classrooms right now with in-person learning. I and many parents I know with kids at Beecher in-person have seen huge emotional and educational improvements in our kids since they have returned to school. While I know there are many interests to balance in the determination whether to go hybrid, remote or stay in person, this benefit to kids should stay top of mind.

I wanted to make sure you had the 10.21 updates to the State guidance that provides discretion at a local level with respect to schools models chosen-- depending on the unique circumstances on ground, and any constraints of school building and staff :

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/Addendum-4-Interim-Guidance-for-DecisionMaking-Regarding-the-Use-of-InPerson-Hybrid-Blended-or-Remot.pdf>

The town alert system is meant to be informational, informative, and encourage towns to take additional precautions -- but it is not meant to be a directive for school operating models. As stated in the media on multiple occasions, one of the reasons the Lamont Administration reverted to Phase 2 and imposed other gathering and travel limitations is to help with our chances of keeping schools open. Our school/classroom environments have been taking precautions and as a result very few cases documenting transmission in the classroom. In fact, the data shows that full in person models have had lower transmission rates than hybrid models. <https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-in-PK-12-Public-and-Private-Schools/mpdc-p8wg/>. It seems that keeping kids and teachers in the classroom limits community interactions and the community spread that is occurring outside of our schools.

Commissioner Cardona was on where we live this week: <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/641548910/where-we-live> in case you are intrested.

11/11/2020

Woodbridge PS Mail - [External Email] FW: BOE and COVID

Obviously the input of incredibly dedicated teachers is important -- and I don't know how our teachers are feeling right now -- but if they support staying fulltime in-person, i hope you will continue to support that option for families that want to continue with in-person learning.

Overall Beecher has done an outstanding job of keeping kids and teachers safe, and is a model for the state and the country. I recognize the health metrics are getting worse, but I hope we can stay in fulltime in-person for as long as possible.

Thanks for considering my input,

Claire

—

Claire E. Coleman
coleman.claire@gmail.com
(917) 885-3094