

MISSION STATEMENT: We are committed to or exceeding the NJ Student Learning Standards at all grade levels in all areas, and providing a safe and supportive environment where all students are inspired, empowered, and encouraged to maximize their unique potential.

VISION STATEMENT: Students will become life-long learners, critical thinkers, and creative problem solvers who achieve success as valuable and contributing members of society.

ACTION MEETING on December 2, 2020, Lloyd Road Elementary School, 401 Lloyd Road, Aberdeen, NJ - **VIRTUAL MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President, Ms. Friedman called the Regular Action Meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

II. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Ms. Friedman read the following Statement:

“The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or agreed upon. In accordance with the provision of this act, the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education advertised this meeting on December 1, 2020 in the Asbury Park Press and the Star Ledger. This notice was sent to the Municipal Clerks of the Borough of Matawan and the Township of Aberdeen, and the Matawan-Aberdeen Joint Free Public Library. The notice was also placed on the district’s web site.”

III. ROLL CALL

Present:	Ms. Allison Friedman - President	Ms. Randi Moore - Vice President
	Ms. Annette Ascoli	Mr. Weymouth Brittingham
	Ms. Tara Martinez	Mr. John Montone
	Ms. Kizzie W. Osborne	Ms. Shari Whalen

Absent: Mr. Kevin Ahearn

Also Dr. Joseph Majka, Superintendent of Schools

Present: Mr. John Bombardier, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Alex Ferreira, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Ms. Nelyda Perez, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services and Programs
Mr. Michael Liebmann, Director of Personnel
Mr. David Rubin, Board Counsel

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MINUTES

- None

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Be It Resolved, that a closed session be convened for the purpose of discussing Privacy and Personnel Matters. The subject matter of these discussions will be disclosed to the public when the reason for confidentiality subsides. Although the Board cannot guarantee it, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be 15 minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business. Action will not take place.

It was moved by Ms. Ascoli seconded by Mr. Brittingham that the Board convene in Executive Session and approved by a unanimous voice vote at 6:34 pm.

It was moved by Ms. Martinez and seconded by Ms. Osborne that the board returned to Open Session at 7:21 pm.

VII. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Ms. Friedman made the following statements:

- Ms. Friedman explained the purpose for the meeting
- Ms. Friedman reviewed petition circulating requesting in-person instruction
- Ms. Friedman reviewed administration rationale for picking virtual start and end dates
- Ms. Friedman reviewed the discussion with the Board on changes to positive cases and quarantine guidelines
- Ms. Friedman reviewed the impact of the weekly Department of Health regional assessment

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Majka made the following statements:

- Dr. Majka provided an update on the last two weeks of quarantines, positive tests and contacts to positives based on Department of Health guidelines
- Dr. Majka expressed concerns regarding limitations on guidance from Department of Health and impact on staffing

IX. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

Gevar Younan made the following statement:

- None

X. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- None

XI. SPECIAL SERVICES

- None

XII. PERSONNEL

- None

XIII. POLICY

- None

XIV. FINANCE

- None

XV. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

As required by the recently-adopted emergency regulation of the Department of Community Affairs, I am confirming that adequate and electronic notice of this meeting has been provided. The regulation also requires that I explain our procedures for public comment. The following will govern our public comment session this evening and going forward until further notice. Comments will be accepted by email, addressed to "publiccomments@marsd.org" up to one hour prior to the start of the meeting. Audio or text message comments will be allowed as well through our electronic meeting platform. Members of the public are requested to conduct themselves in a civil manner with due regard for the legal and privacy rights of others. While it is not the Board’s intention to stifle public comments on matters of legitimate concern to the school community; shouting, profanity or other disruptive behavior will not be permitted. The Chair reserves the right to take appropriate action in the event these guidelines are violated, including muting an online speaker's microphone or other interventions as necessary.

- None

XVI. ACTION ON AGENDA ITEMS

- None

XVII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Board comments on process, guidelines and limitations on in-person education at this point

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS

- None

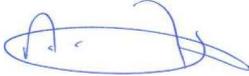
XIX. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATING TO ADDITIONAL MATTERS

- Ms. Friedman read public comments from publiccomments.org emails
- Please refer to Exhibit A which consists of emails from the public comments email account and/or zoom chat
- Dr. Majka and Ms. Friedman addressed the comments

XX. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Martinez seconded by Ms. Osborne and a unanimous roll call vote the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Alex Ferreira
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Exhibit A
Public Comments
Board of Education Meeting
12/2/2020

publiccomments@marsd.org

Leigh Wellman:

Hello BOE members,

I have recently found out that there are more parents out there than just me that want the school to stay open. My son is special needs and is already behind. He does so wonderfully when he is in school but not at home. My daughter although she isn't special needs does even worse at home. There is a lot of crying from her. She does so much better in school.

Here are my suggestions:

- 1) Reopen no later than December 10 (allows for 14-day quarantine since the last day of school before Thanksgiving break)
- 2) Form a working group including parents and other stakeholders to create a plan to avoid future closures
- 3) Improved communication on the part of BOE, including posting planned discussions on the Board agenda posted online and MARS-Alerts of any planned Board discussion related to building closures

Nicole Johnson:

Why close until January 19th if this is due to a staffing shortage for a 2 week quarantine?

Tina Jimenez:

Just to put some perspective on my family situation. I am a single working mother with 3 children in the school system. I have one in 7th grade, one in 6th grade and one in 4th grade. The system is completely falling me in every aspect. We as a society are trading one group of people for another group. The CDC has come out and stated "The transmission level in school is low". If we are to follow the science then we as a district should understand the transmission level is low and should not be jeopardizing our children's education for a virus that has little to no impact in a school setting.

This generation is now being called "The lost generation". Why you ask.... because the adults, politicians and society are failing our children. My son had a 504k plan and last year his grades went substantially down due to the fact that he did not have any in person learning on the later part of the year. Since he has been able to attend school again his mood has improved and his grades have exponentially gone up since being able to attend school and there is something to be said about in person learning with kids.

The district has made decisions to have half days which I was not happy with initially but understood that this is a different year and we had to make changes. Other school systems have been able to have full five days in person learning with periodic movements to virtual depending on virus case upticks.

Why we as a district do not take that same stance is mind boggling. Having the schools shut down till the 19th of January is an atrocity and you should all be ashamed of yourselves for voting for it.

My 7th grade son (he has a 504 plan) struggles with social aspects of interacting with other children and you have made a decision for him to sit in isolation in his room with no interaction with other children at his grade level. I ask you to ponder the thought of the socializing aspects of school and how that teaches children to become adults. There are so many reasons that can be stated on why this is becoming a mental health issue for

children. The depression of being secluded and the inability to have some sense of a normal society is sad and pathetic that you have chosen for our district.

There is no reason that if a parent is fearful or a child has underlying issues that they can't be given the option to go virtual. While the other parents can continue to send their children to school. This type of **dictatorship** with no parent input from our district is not what our county was founded upon. You have unilaterally made a decision for my family and taken away my choice to choose what is best for **MY CHILDREN**.

This decision needs to be overturned with feedback from parents on how WE want to proceed not just YOU. We need a better solution for OUR kids to help them continue to grow and mature as adults.

This is not over and I will continue to fight with other parents to open the schools up and make sure MY TAX PAYER money is to pay for IN PERSON learning of OUR CHILDREN.

IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE OPENING UP SCHOOLS then maybe you should consider have the state give us money for school choice and I will take MY TAX PAYER money and go to a PRIVATE SCHOOL that can sympathize with my family situation and put my tax payer money to educate my children to help them succeed as adults

Keith Miano:

Administrators and Board of Education:

I currently have three children in three schools in MARSD. I am thoroughly disappointed and disgusted with the decision making that has occurred and continues to occur in this school district. It is selfish and illogical to close the schools at this time. You are hurting children's physical and emotional health and any chance of academic normalcy for years to come.

I will not fill pages with the data that is regularly available to you, because if you used it for these decisions, you would not be closing.

Your process should start with priorities. If you prioritize the CHILDREN, then you look at the risk, to them. There is no risk free choice here, but rather a risk based analysis. The American Academy of Pediatrics reports children are between 0.00% to 0.23 % of all COVID deaths and 17 states report zero child deaths. Further, 0.00%-0.14% of all child COVID cases resulted in death. In other words: **children are not dying from this disease**. Drug abuse, suicide and driving to school are much more dangerous. (Car crash deaths in the US in 2019 was 38,800 Source: National Safety Council [nsc.org](https://www.nsc.org)) **Yet we did not close the highways.**

The fact that infections are up is absolutely irrelevant. We are testing more and getting out more; cases will go up. The risk to teachers is minimal as well: for every 1000 people infected with the coronavirus who are under the age of 50, almost none will die. The rate for those in their 70s is 116 per 1000. What are we doing here?? We are pulling our kid out of school for that? You are doing so for positive **cases**. Positive cases of a disease that is not very deadly. Every death from this disease is tragic and should not be discounted, but your actions are illogical, and punitive towards our most important resource: our children.

If there is one thing I know, it is public service and risk. When I landed on foreign shores to protect a country from an invasion, I knew the risks. We are not asking teachers to do this and they didn't sign up for such risk. But this risk is known and is minimal. Sometimes the risk of a job can change. Staff can make a conscious decision on whether to continue working, but to force the children to suffer instead is nothing short of cowardly and selfish.

In 1941 the country banded together during a much greater crisis. There was sacrifice and prioritizing like the world had never seen. Now we have a much more manageable crisis with a predictable, low risk. You are making bad decisions. I implore you to rethink this decision.

Open the schools, full time, full days. Continue the option of home instruction for those at risk or choosing such. Be brave, for the children. It's the American way.

Thank you for your time and be safe.

Tamara Mallett:

Dear BOE:

I believe that all schools in Matawan should remain opened despite COVID19.

My son is 11 years old and remains frustrated every virtual day. He attends Lloyd Road School. He is disconnected from learning virtually. He has been in quarantine since October and recently was out of quarantine with hopes that he would be going back to school on Cohort D. My son has been left behind in 1st grade due to his age which has already put a mental strain on my child. If he is left back again this year it will be more mentally draining on him. It is not fair that he had only attended two days of hybrid learning since this pandemic. He was very excited to attend when he could go back. It is very sad that my child and many more have to adopt mental torment, anxiety and deep depression that was not there before.

I believe that all schools should remain open. It is up to the schools and the BOE to come up with solutions throughout the year. Last minute closings are also unacceptable. Every child that is going to fail because of the lack of real time, hands on learning. That is unacceptable.

Please consider that schools remain open.

Cheryl Marsilio:

Hello,

Now that everyone will be fully remote, can we please have the hours of live instruction reformatted? The afternoons with no live instruction does not work. Can we move the specials to the afternoon perhaps? That would be a great start. Also breaking them into smaller groups as they currently do for gym and health. That way the 9:20-1:20 time frame is given to the direct teacher only? Also, give teachers aids or assistants as needed? Having a class Of over 25 students for one teacher is out of ratio. It's not fair for the students or the teachers. I could not be more impressed with how the teachers can do that each week and continue to smile and press on. Lastly, can we get clarity of the afternoon break? Is it 1:20-2:15 or 1:20-2:55? This should be reassessed as our understanding was the long break was for the hybrid students to get home. Now can we shift the schedule that works better with more live instruction ?

Please help our students and teachers during these hard times!

Michael Wendel:

To Whom it may concern,

I am deeply concerned that I am hearing that schools may be closed for in person learning thru 1/19 due to a staffing issue. We have suffered hardships during the past 6+ months with our daughter having to do remote learning as my wife & I are essential personnel and have been working fulltime throughout the pandemic. This has resulted in us struggling to find someone to be home with our daughter while she must be at home and having to pay for any additional tutoring needed because she is not getting the support from school. We have found that remote learning is a poor substitute for in person education for our children and expect that if the

district decides to go full remote, it will need to provide & fund full time/in person alternatives. We already moved our youngest daughter to private school because remote learning was ineffective in her education. District staffing issues should not negatively impact our children's education and as we have seen, the district is more than capable of making in person education work thru these trying times.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or if you would like to speak about this in more detail.

Jennifer Jameson:

Middletown School district has established a COVID dashboard to inform parents about positive cases in the schools. Would Matawan be willing to do something like this? I know that myself, along with many parents, are not happy with the lack of communication on the part of the Board of Ed. I was under the impression that our school district didn't have any cases. Even if it was not in my daughter's school, I would like to be informed of cases happening in our district. The dashboard seems like a great idea to relay real time information to parents. I hope it will be taken into consideration

Abbie Aronofsky:

Why are we going to all virtual? The kids were doing very well with the in person. There were some cases of Covid but kids get it mild or no symptoms at all. We can't keep these kids in a bubble. My children are suffering with their socialism due to this. Please can we go back to full time schooling. Other districts and towns are doing it. Why can't we ?

Cindy Santora:

We recently moved to Jersey to escape the tyrannical rules in NYC. We loved the thought of a small district and friendly neighborhoods. If we would have stayed in NYC my daughter would be attending 5 full days as of next Monday. I work 9 hour days and commute 3 hours a day. How is virtual learning helping my daughter when her care giver is 80 and I am in the neighboring state. I do not want options. I want my daughter in school being taught by her teacher. She has been attending September with no issues. She was learning, and even with masks and social distancing she had made friends.

Shame on you for taking away her education, cause I can promise you she will NOT learn virtually. The COVID SLIDE is real. Follow the science. Children are not super spreaders, schools are not super spreaders. Follow Murphy, he said schools should be open. Follow your parents and students who desperately need their children in school.

Jared Zusi:

To whom it may concern,

I am the father on a 2nd grade student at the Strathmore Elementary School. I am troubled my daughter has had approximately 60 hours of in school instruction approximately 1/3 of the way through the school year. From mid March 2020 to December 2020 she has had 60 hours of in personal instruction, this is unacceptable.

She has recently taken standardized tests in school. I am respectfully requesting a 2019 vs. 2020 comparison of cumulative scores of the standardized test for each grade. I would like to see the true impact of remote learning and believe this will be a true unbiased gauge.

Thank you in advance for this information.

Beckett Pell:

Hello, I am Beckett Pell, a student at Lloyd road Elementary school. I have emailed you to talk about the virtual learning experience. I wish to be allowed to go back into school. The entire time I have been in virtual learning I have not really learned anything. In person learning is much more effective than virtual learning. I get more

done on in person days and ever since I have been in person I have had higher grades. Please take my opinion into consideration.

Nicole Jakobowicz:

I have always been a big supporter of the Board of Education and this is my first time I have ever spoken out. As a parent who has twins in third grade at Strathmore Elementary I am deeply concerned about them being home now till January 19th. My son was just starting to go 5 days a week, due to the fact that he scored low on his Iready reading/writing testing. He now needs extra help. My son has fallen behind like many students since this pandemic has happened. He complains of headaches from being on the computer so much and the eye Dr. has told us that since going virtual, he now will have to wear glasses until things get better. As a parent watching your child struggle isn't easy. My son never had this issue before. Both my children miss being in school so much. I do not feel that my children are at any extra risk when they are in school and we are always practicing being safe. I hope you understand how important it is for our children to be in school. Thank you so much for your time.

Mr. & Mrs. Corpus:

Good Evening MARSD Board Members,

For greater transparency and understanding of real-time community spread and its impact, would the BOE consider posting a COVID-19 dashboard to the district website? At the moment this information management tool is not available in our district.

Other K-12 school districts and institutions of higher learning here and throughout the country have incorporated this health monitor for their communities.**

According to the letter from the Superintendent dated November 24, in just a week's time, there were "11 confirmed cases and 110 identified contacts resulting in isolation and quarantine." Although the district has always readily shared their concerns and remains dedicated, this was the first time actual statistics in their total were presented to us in a community-wide format. With these challenging times, this type of information is so important in understanding how we stand as a whole, the district's decision-making process, and metrics for pivot. Please consider utilizing this helpful instrument in service to our community as we all try to navigate 2020 and beyond.

Thank you.

Mr. & Mrs. Corpus

**** Dashboard Examples (For BOE reference only.)**

Hillsborough County: <https://hillsboroughschools.org/doc/2744/school-reopening-plan/frequently-asked-questions/coviddash>

Frisco Independent: <https://www.friscoisd.org/departments/covid-19/covid-19-dashboard>

Bridgewater-Raritan, NJ: <https://www.brrsd.org/covid-19-dashboard>

Delran, NJ: <http://www.delranschools.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3013673&pageId=6969920>

Montgomery Twp., NJ: <https://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/domain/1653>

Morristown, NJ: <https://www.morrisschooldistrict.org/district>

West Long Branch, NJ: <https://www.monmouth.edu/covid-19/dashboard>

Robert LoPresti:

With students 100% virtual for the next 6 weeks, why hasn't the board adjusted the class schedules back to reflect full days of instruction Mon-Fri?

Bad enough they can't be in school, but what is the rationale for maintaining the abbreviated Wednesday and afternoon schedules? The decision to keep the status quo is detrimental to all of the students in the district...they need full days of instruction more than ever!!

MaryElizabeth Germaine:

Board of Education:

I was disappointed to hear about the decision to move to 100% virtual school. We have heard time and time again that schools are not where the virus spread is coming from, in fact, there are just 11 confirmed cases, representing .28% of students and staff.

I understand the concerns following the holiday season and travel but wouldn't it be better to go virtual for the 7-10 days following the thanksgiving holiday (given new CDC guidelines indicate that following exposure people only need to quarantine for 7 days). That would give students an additional 3-weeks of in-person education in December. And if the same philosophy is applied in January, it would provide an additional week of in-person education. This approach should take care of both staff shortages and concern about community spread. Full virtual until January 19 seems quite excessive and flies in the face of what other districts are doing, moving to remote for just two weeks (and some districts like Keyport are opening for 4 days in-person on November 30).

The administration and BOE exhibited poor form in not alerting the community, parents or staff that this change was going to be discussed at the Board meeting last Monday. The item could have been added to the Board agenda posted online, could have been communicated with PTO leadership, could have been discussed with teachers, with input from parents as well -- anything to make us feel like we're actually "in this together." You have sent out multiple letters to the community, using surveys to gauge numbers but parents were not asked for input about this latest move.

You are supposed to be the group advocating for our children, doing what you can to deliver the best educational experience possible. In fact, this action flies in the face of your mission statement "We are committed to meeting or exceeding the NJ Student Learning Standards at all grade levels in all areas, and providing a safe and supportive environment where all students are inspired, empowered, and encouraged to maximize their unique potential." This decision does not reflect that mission.

Closing schools causes children to suffer academically, developmentally and in their physical, mental and emotional health. A 6-week full virtual, when kids were just adapting to being back in school following the 4-week full virtual at the beginning of the school year for most kids does not seem to be in the best interest of students. I don't feel like the concerns of parents are being given a seat at the table for any discussions whatsoever.

Thank you for your time and I hope the Board will reconsider its decision.

Dawn Cammayo:

I would like to know if you have any intention on opening the schools after 1/19. I have heard from a very reliable source (politician) that our district will not be opening for the remainder of the school year. If this is true, you need to let families know so they can arrange to send their children to private school instead of beating around the bush.

Sheetal Werneke:

Good day,

I just wanted to express my concern for growing side affects of remote learning. Aside from anxiety, depression and other mental issues – roller coasters ALL of us and our children have been on... I am now seeing physical affects of the huge increase in daily screen time. Headaches, eye strain, neck pain and other muscle aches are common complaints for both of my children. These must be addressed.

Corey Souza:

my son attends cliffwood elementary, I have not heard of a lot of teachers being out there. Why did they have to follow the remote till jan 19? I understand being a district but each school is affected by covid/ teachers out differently

Stephanie Bohnert:

To whom it may concern,

I would like to address the board that was voted in to make decisions for my two children without even a notice to the taxpayers of this town that closing schools for six weeks was being discussed. My son is a 5th grader at Lloyd Road school, he has been virtual since the beginning of school year. The only reason he continues to be is he does not do well with inconsistency and well I felt based on the surrounding towns in our county who have be in person K-5 since the beginning of the year our district was going to be playing games. I was all ready once you made the decision again to switch my child's teacher going to put him in person and glad I waited it out bc going for two weeks to just be pulled out for six weeks is not good for kids. Children thrive off of routine the inconsistency that this school district has shown makes me no longer have confidence you are able to make decisions for our districts children.

Our number one priority should be having our children, the future in person learning everyday full day. Dr. Fauci has said children need to be in school, why aren't our children in school? It's certainly not a statewide shutdown? What is the issue ? This board has not been transparent.

My child received straight A's & A + last marking period, no acknowledgement from the school especially during these trying times? His homeroom teacher whom he received A's and A+ didn't even bother to write a comment on his report card. I understand everyone is struggling, this is difficult not only for students but teachers. But listen teachers get paid they are adults they are better equipped to deal with the ever changing climate of a school day. Ten year olds are not. My child is struggling behavior wise, he has no socialization, no independence, his teachers aren't able to know him and the type of student he is. He doesn't even know any of the kids in his current class. But my child is lucky, I am home I am able to stay on top of his classes and assignments, feed him healthy lunch and snacks. What about the kids who don't have this support at home? Who is taking care of them? They are our future.

The only question I have is when are our children going to be out first ? When is our district, this board going to make the right decisions for our children.

Thank you for your time. I hope you make the right decision.

Tina DeVito:

I do agree the communication well lack of communication between families and school needs work and I understand a lot of parents are upset over the short notice over the school closing however what about all the parents who are 100% for virtual learning with the increase of covid cases in our state. The way virtual learning is going now it needs to be reworked and looked at however it seems the school/district is only worried about opening the schools which is forcing virtual learners to suffer which seems like you're trying to force parents to do in person learning. When will the issues with virtual learning be addressed?

Jessica Crimi:

Hello Allison! My apologies for getting your name wrong in the first email. I have heard from various sources that the union has no intentions of opening the schools in January and in fact wants to wait until May can you please confirm or deny this.

Tina Jimenez:

Allison-

I am a first time attendee and it has come to my attention that you are commenting about the parents of this district a "POSSE" and dismissing our concerns.

Can you please shed some light on this comment?

Parent of 3 children in the district.

Jennifer Abeywardena:

If due to COVID numbers our students need to remain fully virtual through January. Can this time be used to provide a more substantial hybrid program for students upon the January return? Two days per week with alternate Wednesdays is not sufficient time to address hands on classes or direct teaching time so needed by these students. Four months into the school year, we should be preparing to have students, in school, five days per week for those in cohorts A and B rather than restarting in the same situation we had in September.

Kari Meyer, LMSW:

Good evening. Although I understand the risk of COVID to school staff, personal and children I feel the switch back to remote learning for more than 5 weeks is a mistake. My children are in the third and first grade at Strathmore Elementary School. They have been on and off in person and remote as you know since March of last school year. All in all that is almost six months without steady learning. Although I applaud the amount of work the teachers have done to ensure the children are doing as much as possible while home it is unfortunately not the same as in person learning. My daughter is struggling greatly the interaction in a classroom and the structure of school. Virtual learning, as hard as we try to make it the same is not the same. Her test scores have dropped, her reading is a grade level behind. She and my son thrive in the school setting. Although they were only able to do two half days a week this year those two half days were so much to the two of them. They were also so much to me as well. I am a working parent. Both my husband and I have full time jobs. The stress of this situation is one I am sure you understand personally as well as professionally.

New York City public schools announced they would return to in person schooling for elementary school children. NYC which has the largest public school system in the country understands that virtual is not working. Surely Strathmore, Ravine and Cliffwood elementary can figure out a way to make this work if nyc can.

This system in place is not working. Our children are behind. Not just educationally but emotionally. They need to be back in the classroom.

Dianna Pell:

Please accept the attached petition on behalf of the parents of Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District. A large group of parents have convened to discuss virtual schooling and ask the Board to reconsider its recent decisions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you and I look forward to the Board meeting this evening.

PETITION Considering that a stated staffing shortage has closed our schools for a month and a half, and a lack of in-person instruction negatively impacts our children's academic achievement and physical, mental and emotional health, the parents of Matawan Aberdeen Regional School District demand the following of the Board of Education:

- 1) Reopen schools in Matawan Aberdeen Regional School District no later than December 10, allowing a 14-day quarantine for affected teachers while providing 2 weeks of in-person instruction in December;
- 2) Form a working group including district parents as well as other stakeholders to create a plan to avoid future closures;
- 3) Practice better communication with the community, including adding planned topics of discussion to the Board agenda posted online, and sending MARSD-Alerts of planned Board discussions related to school closure (i.e., going "100% virtual").

With these changes, the parents of Matawan Aberdeen Regional School District are confident that we can work together with the Board, District administration, staff and teachers to address this crisis and emerge stronger as a close knit community.

My name is Dianna Pell, I live at 17 Idolstone Lane in Aberdeen. My comment about the district's move to 100% virtual is that citing numbers about cases and community spread ignores the truth from Dr. Fauci, Governor Murphy, public health experts and education experts nationwide - schools are not spreaders of COVID and virtual school damages children. This week I asked MARSD parents to tell me how virtual school affects them and their children, and this is what they said:

-My special ed child cannot remote learn.

-Even more apathy and lack of motivation. Even less learning. Basically, a year to write off. Depression and anxiety.

-Mental, physical and academic: all bad.

-Social life, being home means he wants nothing but electronics.

-The sense of loneliness is heartbreaking.

-Headaches from too much screen time. My child used to love school, loathes logging on. Missing real specials. Behavior wise struggling with having no independence that school brings.

-Behavior issues. Too much on the computer and easily distracted.

-Third grade is too young to be responsible for that level of "independent work." His teacher said he's great in-person, but on virtual days he's a nightmare. Constantly disappearing from his screen, playing with toys, failing to complete or turn in work. I work full-time and can't be literally standing over him the entire school day, but if I'm not he pays no attention and gets nothing done. It's a disaster.

-Not challenging, not a good prep for college. Social isolation. Depression.

-Out of my 3 kids my son is the one who has the most difficult time with it. He gets overwhelmed with all the places he needs to click on to find assignments.

-Does much better with in person. It is a struggle to keep him interested virtually.

-Well it's only day 2 and I can't count how many meltdowns there have been.

-So far one marked absence and one makeup test missed. I want to bang my head against the wall.

-My daughter has full on meltdowns every night.

-My son was just approved for five days a week to get extra help. My daughter sits there twirling her hair and calling out for me upstairs. I just want to cry.

-Two children at home. One with special needs who cannot virtual learn on his own. Therefore, we have one parent able to work while the other stays home to navigate this nightmare. A year lost and massive regression.

And I'll add my own - My fifth grader spent today playing assigned computer games with no math or science instruction because Wednesdays are "skills days." He told me he feels like he's not learning anything.

These are real stories, not numbers, not conjecture... real stories of virtual school in MARSD. Please reconsider this massive closure and get these kids back in the building as soon as possible.

MELISSA CRUZ-Tanner:

I would like to express appreciation rather than protest the decision for keeping it virtual. I know these times are quite challenging for both parents as well as instructors. We know that the teachers are trying their best to provide to all the best instruction they can. I can also appreciate the passion those parents that would like live classes to begin. With that said, the amount of parents that choose not to abide the guidelines are what in fact cause our constant closures. If we all came together to follow the guidelines then our numbers and exposure would be less.

Keeping the school closed and limiting the exposure for our children and community is the best choice at this time. I know many other parents agree.

Thank you again for your due diligence in ensuring the right decision are made.

Kristin Foley, M.Ed., BCBA:

I imagine this has been an agonizing time for you- but I want to say thank you for keeping our community safe. Going full virtual is the right decision- and although I am sure you all will get push back, know that you will also get support.

You have our full support to remain closed as long as makes sense for the health and safety of our children, teachers and staff. Do not succumb to voices raised in opposition- they do not represent all of us!!!

Be well, stay strong and thank you!

The Comi Family:

I am writing in support of the Matawan Aberdeen Regional School District's decision to go fully virtual until January 19th. Thank you for making the hard decision and doing what is best for our students, school administrators and staff, and our TEACHERS!!!

Jennifer Dember:

As a parent with 2 kids in the district I support the closure and appreciate the schools efforts. Thank you.

Jennifer Simeone:

Dr. Majka and members of the board,

Just a note to say thank you for doing the right thing for the kids. Some parents may not get it, but I think they are the minority and most of us support the board.

Thank you for keeping our kids safe.

Shari Reeve:

Hi all Board Members,

There are questions mixed within what I have written below (bolded).

I read the district letter that was sent out on November 24th, and within it was the NJ Department of Health Recommendations. And seemingly they are just that. They are not laws or mandates as I understand it.

They seem to reference the CDC's website as resources but clearly state they don't agree with the CDC's recommendations as the CDC states they "*do not currently recommend schools conduct symptom screening for all students in grades K-12 on a routine (e.g., daily) basis.*" Many people don't necessarily agree with what the CDC puts out, but since NJDH is referencing it and not listening to it, they don't seem to state what these recommendations are based off of except rates of transmission.

As I understand it, they created a Regional Risk Matrix based off of the number of positive cases in the State broken out by region. *And there lies a problem.* And its a big problem not just in NJ. These PCR tests are NOT accurate at all. There were never any standards set for cycle thresholds. And there are an enormous amount of companies making the tests. The higher the cycle the more likely a false positive results. There are also false negatives. Dr. Fauci himself even admitted so a couple of months ago, but nothing has been done about it as a country. So what are we doing as a society? There is no answer to that. Because we are basing decisions off of "data" that starts out flawed. These are some of those *data driven* decisions we hear about at work.

The NJDH also states that "*...Implementation of these public health recommendations should be guided by what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of each community.*"

So I ask you as we are adding a list of symptoms that in and of themselves could be absolutely anything and nothing. Runny noses are normal this time of year. So are headaches and yet adding this line of questioning in a matter of I believe 5 days has completely shut down the entire district. What will happen in the spring with hay fever?

How do you foresee the district reopening if you are using recommendations that don't seem like they could realistically accommodate in school learning again? Because every child, teacher or staff with a runny nose or a headache would cause a 14 day quarantine and with contact tracing going back 48 hours, it doesn't seem plausible or feasible that our district would be able to open back up.

Have you corresponded with other districts on how they are handling this?

When you contact trace, I understand you have to contact the department of health. Can you please share what student information is shared with them?

In closing, I appreciate all the work that everyone in this district puts in in particular during these challenging and trying times. Especially the teachers. Teachers are working harder than ever to try and teach and reach students off of a digital platform and it is so incredibly impersonal. You are now and will be for some time to come, witnessing first hand some of the health ramifications and social isolation impact I have spoken of previously with the use of tech on a grand scale. Many children are checking out and struggling, perhaps not in the same way, but the struggle is real and impacts students differently, some more than others. Teachers and parents are impacted too. Everyone is.

I had the parent teacher conferences last night. The teachers were great, but it was such an impersonal experience. And this is what our children and teachers are dealing with day in and day out. These times are hard, and the decisions before this district are hard. You must all try to make decisions based on real science and not fear. That is easier said than done because there is a lot of false info circulating and a lot of fear being

driven by the media. But the fear is real. No one wants their kids to get sick or get sick themselves. No easy task before you. Open communication and sharing of information is of the utmost importance because everyone has different levels of comfort of fear and of life circumstances.

Thank you for your time,

Tiffany Stevenson:

Good Evening,

First, I would like to thank you all for supporting both your students and faculty. The decisions you all have had to make over the last 10 months must have been extremely difficult and were not made without careful consideration. I just want to remind you that regardless of what decisions you make; you will never make everyone happy.

Second, I am writing tonight to let you know that I am completely in favor of you closing school until Mid-January. The amount of contact tracing that has become your responsibility, the amount of staff needed to cover teachers who are in quarantine or become ill, the families traveling over the holidays, and the increase of cases in our state make this a very wise decision.

Lastly, I would like to add that my children finally started going back at the start of the second marking period. Two of them went back because virtual learning was not the best fit for them and they needed social interaction. However, their overall safety and the safety of their teachers is much more important. They might fall behind but the way I look at it, so is everyone else

Thank you for putting your faculty, staff, and student's health and safety first. I wish you all a wonderful and healthy holiday season.

Zoom chat

18:55:03 From Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District : The Board is in Executive Session. It is expected that the Board will resume the public meeting in about 25 minutes.

18:58:30 From tiffany to All panelists : what happened to meeting

19:03:24 From Amy to All panelists : thank you

19:20:09 From cindy santora to All panelists : hi everyone.. does anyone else think it's strange that we see asked to join a meeting at 6:30 and then ignored? as a transplant to the area this is very surprising

19:23:05 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : over 100 now

19:28:10 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists :

[https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fpatch.com%2Fnew-jersey%2Fmatawan-aberdeen%2Faberdeen-parents-dismayed-district-suddenly-goes-all-virtual%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0tZpsAciZF6KSgbdGci-spmT8bi3RoHyug_cfolgeXoucOBWnGrrz3VDc&h=AT3K3LW9YqJAqY5Z9ITcgY2u0uESI2y_J3cz47yPwkiyja44X4jedQGnSFVJ0YD8EtG-JcVYJA9-pNXWLnd2pXhFko94LoXbXAAUQam3EO3I-vQYQjAVVUCDvS9Ztso4VQ&__tn__=%2CmH-R&c\[0\]=AT3kOIiNyvxhAPR8xVHxpD3YtMiHvF9KmrQsbSp8Ngi5SgP3Y2X1fTNx7kSTvxI3F-3MZxse7uhEV6-hCirPEmJ9eNzce09TDzgp5iWnmxFyDQWZvqtsmnQ-DvR2B_2OwIJx2CELOSzF7DK9ecYrbGEMuA](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fpatch.com%2Fnew-jersey%2Fmatawan-aberdeen%2Faberdeen-parents-dismayed-district-suddenly-goes-all-virtual%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0tZpsAciZF6KSgbdGci-spmT8bi3RoHyug_cfolgeXoucOBWnGrrz3VDc&h=AT3K3LW9YqJAqY5Z9ITcgY2u0uESI2y_J3cz47yPwkiyja44X4jedQGnSFVJ0YD8EtG-JcVYJA9-pNXWLnd2pXhFko94LoXbXAAUQam3EO3I-vQYQjAVVUCDvS9Ztso4VQ&__tn__=%2CmH-R&c[0]=AT3kOIiNyvxhAPR8xVHxpD3YtMiHvF9KmrQsbSp8Ngi5SgP3Y2X1fTNx7kSTvxI3F-3MZxse7uhEV6-hCirPEmJ9eNzce09TDzgp5iWnmxFyDQWZvqtsmnQ-DvR2B_2OwIJx2CELOSzF7DK9ecYrbGEMuA)

19:28:11 From cindy santora to All panelists : https://patch.com/new-jersey/matawan-aberdeen/aberdeen-parents-dismayed-district-suddenly-goes-all-virtual?utm_source=alert-breakingnews&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=alert

19:28:51 From Larissa Loua to All panelists : What ages are the students who tested positive? Were they elementary students?

19:28:58 From cindy santora to All panelists : https://www.senatenj.com/index.php/oscanlon/oscanlon-dimaso-support-parents-against-extended-school-closures/51041?fbclid=IwAR23T_Z4JWYw9-_RJvmbfUvmpRh73Xz3cFXDq59zmYkDfaOzfIoXkZTt1B4

19:29:39 From Stephanie Cardoso to All panelists : I appreciate all of your hard work. I know all you hear from are angry parents, but as a teacher and a mom, I am thankful you are putting your staff and students safety first. Thank you.

19:29:44 From cindy santora to All panelists :
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/30/nyregion/elementary-schools-reopening.html?fbclid=IwAR33dRznzbyY0JBjKB5dUN6Yt1Ihkgvfe8hQCoTzFtXBD7CSP17DgjJK70>

19:30:20 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : SAFETY FROM VIRUS

19:30:27 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : WHAT ABOUT EVERY OTHER ISSUE????

19:31:47 From Larissa Loua to All panelists : Parents understand the risk of sending their children to school. Having them home is more detrimental. Anyone who feels their children are at risk, can choose to keep their children home to learn virtually. This is just not working, especially for K-5 children.

19:32:00 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : I was told staffing, how Ms. Friedman saying safety - WHICH IS IT?

19:32:37 From cindy santora to All panelists :
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/22/health/coronavirus-schools-children.amp.html>

19:33:30 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : the statistics of a child dying in a car accident on the WAY to school are greater

19:33:50 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : unacceptable all of this

19:34:30 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : WE MUST BE ASSURED that we are back in Januar

19:34:33 From Larissa Loua to All panelists : Being home every day, staring at a screen, not socializing, is more risky for the children's mental health than going in to school. Let's be real.

19:34:38 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : January

19:35:03 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : FAUCI SAYS OPEN THE SCHOOLS

19:35:12 From cindy santora to All panelists : https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/covid-children-deaths/2020/09/25/9df39bf4-fdad-11ea-8d05-9beaaa91c71f_story.html?outputType=amp

19:35:24 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : I think we've heard enough

19:35:49 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : numbers aren't the issue staffing is right?

19:36:57 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : I no longer believe you

19:37:05 From Chuck Werneke to All panelists : Union First, Students Last. ALWAYS. None of you give a crap - you are disgusting

19:37:20 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : we represent more than 300 parents and we don't believe you

19:38:41 From theresa to All panelists : Why are we as a district not entertaining in school testing?

19:39:49 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : no beauty in this

19:40:09 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : what about requiring cameras on for students?

19:40:21 From Amy to All panelists : how many of these quarantined individuals have actually been in the school buildings?

19:40:45 From Mary-Alexis Feehan to All panelists : Dear BOE,

19:40:52 From cindy santora to All panelists : yes.. then hide for an hour!!

19:41:10 From Larissa Loua to All panelists : It isn't quick enough. You need to continue to evaluate your logic. If my child's sneezes you are quarantining them? That's totally absurd. NYC services 190,000 in person children and they are returning next week and phasing in five day a week instruction for those children. This is unreal. We are a small town and there is no reason buildings should be closed.

19:41:14 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : Parents have always had the option to keep their kids home

19:41:31 From Mila to All panelists : other schools are able to remain open

19:42:20 From Mary-Alexis Feehan to All panelists : I have not emailed, but I am another parent in support of in person learning. Please hear the parents as they are coming together in a pandemic for the right reasons to do what is in the children and teachers best interest.

19:42:24 From Amy to All panelists : while I understand the boards concerns related to subs in place for teachers, remote learning is no replacement for in person education. pausing school for 1.5 months is a bit extreme

19:42:33 From Jessica Crimi to All panelists : sneezing isnt on the crisis go,therefore no teachers should be asked to quarantine as you menrtioned

19:43:17 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : We don't believe you

19:43:25 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : we just don't believe you

19:43:44 From cindy santora to All panelists : https://www.k12dive.com/news/its-going-to-take-more-than-one-semester-to-fix-the-covid-slide/579827/?referrer_site=www.educationdive.com

19:44:18 From cindy santora to All panelists : <https://www.chalkbeat.org/platform/amp/2020/10/6/21504195/covid-schools-learning-loss-projections-nwea-credo>

19:44:37 From Raychel " The Machine" Aronofsky to All panelists : I am confused first you said you are not bound by the CDC that you follow the NJ Dept of health then you made a statement you will be following up with CDC which is it?

19:45:25 From cindy santora to All panelists : <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.3102/0013189X20965918>

19:45:46 From Raychel " The Machine" Aronofsky to All panelists : Manalpan is still open and Manalapan is bigger than our district

19:46:09 From Michelle Sassa to All panelists : Now that we have to pause in person learning, how will the district optimize the at home learning experience? Research shows virtual students do better with cameras on. Other school districts are creating a culture where cameras on is encouraged. Do we plan to follow suit?

19:46:17 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : We tried we have been very generous.

19:46:40 From Mila to All panelists : all news reports say schools are the safest places to be

19:47:14 From Jessica Crimi to All panelists : i heard last week that admins were covering classes? is that accurate?if so why werent parents told sooner?

19:47:16 From Madison to All panelists : Now that everyone is virtual, will the teaching(online instruction) extend beyond 1:20pm?

19:47:22 From Amy to All panelists : so shall i send the bill for additional tutoring needed for my daughter to stay at her current education level to the BOE?

19:47:35 From Michelle Sassa to All panelists : All the teachers I spoke with at conferences expressed their belief that it would be beneficial to themselves and their students if cameras where on, but that the district told them they could not require this. Which lead many of them to interpret they couldn't even request it!

19:47:37 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : How are we getting positives without Crisis Go info?

19:48:29 From Amy to All panelists : so the decision to go remote is entirely due to staffing issues?

19:48:49 From cindy santora to All panelists : is you force quarantines for every sniffle we won't open til Spring.

19:49:39 From cindy santora to All panelists : when is normal?

19:49:53 From Colleen Hilton to All panelists : why is it different for private school? why can they function?

19:51:17 From Raychel " The Machine" Aronofsky to All panelists : its not fair to us working parents if you choose to go on vacation then you should keep your kids home then why should our kids suffer when families make plans that are risky to others

19:51:37 From Colleen Hilton to All panelists : and why is YMCA still open out of our district n we have to pay? how is this okay? makes no sense

19:51:59 From cindy santora to All panelists : can you explain the forced quarantine for 14 days if you have a sore throat? you can rapid test and get results in less than 24 hours. once you get a negative result you return to school

19:52:54 From cindy santora to All panelists : my job would laugh at me if I say I'm staying hime for every cough or sniffle. They say get a rapid test, if negative return to work

19:53:09 From cindy santora to All panelists : or I lose my job

19:53:39 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : Conferences last two days - every teacher says they are last to know info and want to be in

19:54:17 From Raychel " The Machine" Aronofsky to All panelists : why are we not following the CDC??? They are the ones behind all of this

19:54:26 From Stephanie Wade-Monchik to All panelists : very hard to hear him

19:55:11 From Raychel " The Machine" Aronofsky to All panelists : Why private???

19:55:15 From cindy santora to All panelists : what about the districts that are open? are they ignoring the dept of health

19:55:21 From cindy santora to All panelists : so don't trust the test

19:55:24 From cindy santora to All panelists : got it

19:55:26 From Raychel " The Machine" Aronofsky to All panelists : these kids are going to suffer

19:55:35 From cindy santora to All panelists : good thing that was cleared up

19:56:05 From tina jimenez to All panelists : why is it not to quarantine for two weeks only? why are you closing for six weeks? the cdc can out and stated" the transmission rate is low in schools.

19:56:16 From cindy santora to All panelists : I will sign a waiver

19:56:16 From j abeywardena to All panelists : just to clarify a statement by the board president, not every teacher who has been teaching remotely is on a state mandated quarantine. there are a large number of teachers who have been teaching remotely since September for their own personal reasons. remotely

19:56:28 From cindy santora to All panelists : just like when we go para gliding

19:56:44 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : Sounds like never is good and safe

19:57:05 From cindy santora to All panelists : so you are worried about getting sued

19:57:05 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : If liability is the issue we are done

19:57:07 From cindy santora to All panelists : got it

19:57:10 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : this is RIDICULOUS

19:57:51 From Larissa Loua to All panelists : Cleary, we do not want staff or students positive with COVID coming back without a negative test; however, someone with a sniffle or allergies should no have to be quarantined. That just sounds so absurd. The NJHD needs to be questioned because their guidelines are unreasonable.

19:58:17 From cindy santora to All panelists : everyone is so sorry.. please don't be sorry

19:58:44 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : THANK YOU MS. WHALEN

19:58:45 From Amy to All panelists : The school is also responsible for what is happening to the mental health of these children.

19:58:50 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : YES YES

19:59:00 From cindy santora to All panelists : finally a voice of reason!!

19:59:00 From j abeywardena to All panelists : since the plan is for students to be virtual through January, why are the upper schools still following the split days rather than a standard schedule

19:59:04 From Raychel " The Machine" Aronofsky to All panelists : thank you Mrs whalen!!!

19:59:06 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : I'll sign a waiver

19:59:15 From Mary Elizabeth Germaine to All panelists : Exactly - make it so parents can make the choice

19:59:24 From cindy santora to All panelists : agree!!!!

19:59:27 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : THANK YOU THANK YOU

19:59:49 From Jessica Crimi to All panelists : whalen is the only normal thinking person ! stop your fear mongerinh

19:59:54 From Larissa Loua to All panelists : I agree with you, Ms. Whalen !!! Thank you! You are exactly right!

20:00:07 From cindy santora to All panelists : get negative test and get back to work!!

20:00:31 From Jessica Crimi to All panelists : you are failing our kids and you are not giving us what our extremely high taxes are paying for

20:00:38 From tina jimenez to All panelists : why is it okay for kids to die from flu every year but you now say they can't go to school because of covid?

20:00:58 From cindy santora to All panelists : negative tests are the answer

20:01:18 From cindy santora to All panelists : quarantining healthy people are asinine

20:02:40 From stephanieb to All panelists : What is the plan when January 19th rolls around? Are you still planning on two HALF days and alternating Wednesday?

20:06:49 From ann delucia to All panelists : what accommodations are being made for children that have a 504 or an IEP and need special services for PT, OT or Speech Therapy.

20:07:35 From Nicole to All panelists : thank you for explaining

20:07:39 From stephanieb to All panelists : how are other schools in Monmouth county that are larger than MARSD staying open and have been open since September? Howell school district has been open since September two half days and for the last month are open 4 half days. How are they able to operate and we aren't?

20:08:31 From stephanieb to All panelists : How are local private schools able to operate and run according to NJ dept of health?

20:09:23 From cindy santora to All panelists : are guys hearing this?!! YOU ARE FAILING OUR CHILDREN

20:09:26 From stephanieb to All panelists : can you only get coronavirus after 1pm?

20:09:37 From cindy santora to All panelists : ITS THE COMMON THEME

20:09:55 From Melissa to All panelists : I completely sympathize with the situation that is upon us. I would like my children in school and understand the risks. I have two children in the district. One of which does have special needs. It is truly difficult to effectively enforce virtual schooling with a child who has disabilities. Not to mention, a parent who has had to pass up employment to stay home with the children. This is mentally, emotionally and financially upsetting. The expectation of these children with special needs to be on and off a screen for 6 hours is unrealistic. The loss and regression of all children will be massive.

20:11:45 From cindy santora to All panelists : disappointed disgusted.. great words to explain your actions

20:12:36 From Olivia Colavito to All panelists : it is very hard to hear. Sound is very garbled.

20:12:37 From cindy santora to All panelists : wow! facts.. follow the science

20:16:38 From tina jimenez to All panelists : no one can understand what you are saying

20:16:39 From S. Whalen : It is very unclear. You are difficult to hear and understand.

20:17:09 From Larissa Loua to All panelists : Yes. The audio is very muffled.

20:17:25 From Rich Okolsky to All panelists : to close to the mic

20:17:40 From Stephanie Wade-Monchik to All panelists : better thank u

20:19:25 From Kerianne Catalano to All panelists : No one wants MORE screen time for these poor kids! Ending at 1:20 is MORE than enough !!!!!!! my seven year old can barely make it from 9:20-1:20

20:20:14 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : What is the liability concern for a kid who decides to throw in the towel?

20:20:38 From BrianHoward to All panelists : i'm just wondering...these women that are voting or agreeing with the board to keep school closed and continue with remote learning, do they have children in the district and WHERE DO THEY GET THEIR NAILS DONE? Afraid to have in school attendance, but will be out shopping and sitting in a salon. Hypocrites

20:24:33 From Tami Trani to All panelists : the room acoustics are terrible.

20:24:50 From cindy santora to All panelists : she's mumbling.. can some one else take over for her?

20:25:35 From tina jimenez to All panelists : unclear again

20:26:02 From cindy santora to All panelists : COVID slide? mental health issues?? hmmm

20:27:01 From Jessica Crimi to All panelists : you are still coming through unclear

20:27:19 From Dianna Pell to All panelists : if the sound doesn't improve, perhaps the Board can publish the public comments?

20:28:03 From shari to All panelists : Its really hard to hear.

20:30:48 From cindy santora to All panelists : <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

20:34:48 From cindy santora to All panelists : sounds like a lot of angry parents?

20:36:28 From Frank Whalen to All panelists : Mrs Freidman"

20:41:52 From cindy santora to All panelists : ☐☐ my kid is not sky crying .. excited to log on..

20:46:33 From Larissa Loua to All panelists : Still very muffled.

20:47:11 From j abeywardena to All panelists : you have discussed picking up in January, why can't this time be used to prepare to bring hybrid students back 5 days per week in January - alternate Wednesday contributed very little

20:47:16 From cindy santora to All panelists : good idea! Blame the parents

20:49:58 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : NO we are not the minority

20:50:03 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : there are 300 parents
20:51:51 From ann delucia to All panelists : also would like to know what about the children that are falling behind? I speak for my son here as he is not good at virtual. once we go back to "normal" and the children aren't where they are suppose to be academically, what will be put in place for them?
20:52:53 From cindy santora to All panelists : another voice of reason
20:53:59 From cindy santora to All panelists : are you hanging your hope on a vaccine? and will it be mandatory?
21:00:10 From Peter Laudati to All panelists : Multiple parents have commented giving examples of other locations and countries where schools are open.

They question the need to close schools when "it's okay" to go shopping or eating indoors at a restaurant.

The people asking this question or attempting to point out some sort of hypocrisy seem to miss the nuance that the reason we have to keep the schools closed is BECAUSE everyone thinks it's okay to go shopping, eat in restaurants, or go to the gym, etc.

None of those things are okay if our goal is to reduce community spread of Covid19.

In many European countries, they have indeed kept schools open. They did it by changing their behaviors and restricting retail, restaurants, and gyms, etc to keep community spread to a low level where it is possible to open schools.

If our country banded together for a short period and hunkered down until the vaccine arrives (couple of more months... not indefinitely), then we COULD keep the schools open. Unfortunately, that is not the reality we are facing.

21:00:15 From Peter Laudati to All panelists : There seems to be no political will to do what needs to be done. Thus, cases and community spread have risen to a level that is overwhelming our hospitals and making it logistically impossible to open the schools.

I fully support the board's tough decision to close in-person schooling. We all want to see schools open as soon as possible. But since we as a country/state/town can't agree on hunkering down for the next couple of months, then this is where we are at unfortunately.

Thank you to the board, Dr Majka, and the teachers of this district for working so hard to keep our children in school and safe!

21:03:24 From cindy santora to All panelists : if you didn't quarantine healthy people that would be money saved. I'm still unsure why you can't mandate Covid tests and when the test is negative the staff and student returns to school

21:03:57 From Dianna Pell to All panelists : my email wasn't read

21:04:08 From Vanessa Fredericks to All panelists : Have any of the board members sat in on a virtual class with each grade? I'm lucky to work from home and have my son right next to me, these kids are not focused, not paying attention, and definitely not learning a thing. I guarantee if you test them on what they should have learned over the past months, they will fail. If this is about families not being honest, perhaps you should allow kids going on vacation to inform the school and go virtual for 2 weeks while those who are staying put can keep their kids in school. Doesn't help that kids who are hybrid are marked absent even if they sign in to the virtual class. It shouldn't matter if the kid is in person or virtual, if they are in the "classroom" they should be marked present. Overall this whole situation is terrible, just don't understand how decisions can be made without parents input.

21:04:30 From Dianna Pell to All panelists : I sent it to public comments@marsd.org at about 4:00 today

21:10:42 From Amy to All panelists : How many children and teachers (out of the 11) that were actually in person school tested positive? I can tell you as a healthcare worker we have seen many false positives. Can you please tell us the ratio? Thank you

21:13:29 From Michelle Sassa to All panelists : Could you please answer my previous question about reevaluating the policy of cameras, to encourage having student's cameras on

21:17:56 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : My name is pronounced Seetuhl Werneck ee

21:24:30 From tina jimenez to All panelists : I would like to understand what degrees besides being elected officials makes the boe experts in interpretation on what the states recommendations are?

21:28:19 From Dianna Pell to All panelists : my email sent to public comments@marsd.org at 4:35 today was not read

21:28:31 From Dianna Pell to All panelists : that was my public comment

21:28:42 From tina jimenez to All panelists : 19 positives- what is the total population of students

21:31:40 From tina jimenez to All panelists : .00475 % of the population

21:33:44 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : THANK YOU!

21:37:34 From Sheetal Werneke to All panelists : AMEN DIANNA

Zoom audio

M. Chamberlain - question on remote learning timeline

D. Pell - comments on the list obtained of parent concerns regarding remote learning