

From: **Gaynor, Jeff** gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: Re: Care for Teachers

Date: March 16, 2021 at 12:02 PM

To: Metz, Pamela metzp@aaps.k12.mi.us

Cc: Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us, Susan Baskett baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us, Bryan Johnson johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Tamala Bell bellt@aaps.k12.mi.us, Fred Klein mrklein@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jazz Parks parks@aaps.k12.mi.us

JG

Dear Pamela,

Note that this is my personal response. Trustee Baskett, as Secretary, will reply on behalf of the entire School Board.

At the last school board meeting, and just this morning, I asked Dr. Swift about this specific issue. She talked about the need to have teachers in the building in case of problems given that there will be some students, esp. in self-contained classrooms, in the schools during the afternoon. But then she said there was still room for discussion on this point. I see several valid reasons why teachers should have the option to teach virtually from home, once the majority of students are dismissed.

I would propose that staffing needs after general dismissal be clarified and then see if there are staff who would volunteer to remain at the school to meet this number. I expect many teachers would choose this option in any case. If there are not, then there would be a system to assign staff on a rotating basis. I will say that as a classroom teacher at elementary and middle school or 30 years in AAPS I was never needed in this capacity. At best there might be a short emergency staff mtg called after dismissal, but even this was rare. And of course now schools have ways to meet virtually.

I hope discussions between the administration and the AAEA will help resolve this issue; hopefully reason will prevail - along with a sufficient degree of trust and autonomy that teachers well deserve.

Best,
Jeff

Jeff Gaynor

Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us

cell: [REDACTED]

On Tue, Mar 16, 2021 at 10:39 AM Metz, Pamela <metzp@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello.

I am writing to address continued concerns. Since the start of the school year I have heard via emails and meetings how the district cares for teachers. I have attended self care professional development, done "square breathing", and have been given reassurance that the district cares for teachers' physical, mental, and emotional health. Has this all just been lip service? Does the district really care about the needs and concerns of teachers? At this point, I am disheartened to hear that the district not only is not negotiating flexibility for the time when students are not in the building, but are refusing to give reasoning behind such a choice. With the consistent message of "we care", perhaps now is the time AAPS puts their words into action.

This, nor any in my opinion, is not a time for it to be the union vs central administration. We should be working together. We should be compromising and seeking understanding. With the message from Dr. Swift and the board being that the return to school will be safe, I was always under the impression that included safety for teachers.

It is my understanding that changes are happening on a regular basis, but as of now this is how I understand the afternoon will look. Kids go home, but a small amount of self-contained kids will remain in the building with TAs and lead teachers. The rest of the staff is to remain in their classroom, on zoom, in a mask. My children attend Brighton schools. The one thing I remember was how much they hated having their teachers in masks on zoom. Furthermore, you are bringing teachers back when the weather is going to be getting increasingly hotter (and let's not forget the humidity in Michigan), but asking them to be in a mask in a room without air conditioning. For what reason?

You have asked teachers to be flexible in every situation this year, and we have not missed a beat. You have said you care about our health and wellness. If that is true, allow teachers to be in an environment where they are most comfortable delivering lessons in the afternoons. Many of my colleagues are happy to have the option to stay in the building, as they do not have stable wifi at home or would rather have a space outside the home to do their work. I implore AAPS to demonstrate trust and autonomy to the teachers who make AAPS what it is! We are well-educated professionals and deserve to be given the **OPTIONS TO CHOOSE** how to work in the afternoon.

My doctorate is in educational leadership. As I am sure many of you also have read, autonomy and trust are paramount to creating a productive work environment. I have always given my students the opportunity to choose how to work when available; this practice has not only been supported by research, but also supported by the district. This action of you

jailing teachers to their classrooms and not allowing them to work in the environment that serves them best demonstrates to me that I am to grant my students more choice, trust, and autonomy than I am being granted as a professional.

We have given grace and flexibility; now it is your turn. Show that you trust the professionals you have hired. Show that your words or care and support actually mean something. Show that you care about the concerns of your staff.

Respectfully yours,
Pamela Metz

Pamela Metz

Forsythe Middle School

1655 Newport Road

(734) 994-1989 ext 32476

metzp@aaps.k12.mi.us

Who dares to teach must never cease to learn. ~John Cotton Dana



From: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: AAEA meeting schedule
Date: February 3, 2021 at 3:46 PM
To: Querijero, Ernesto querijeroe@aaps.k12.mi.us
Cc: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Krystle DuPree dupreek@aaps.k12.mi.us, Bryan Johnson johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Frederick Klein fklein@mymea.org

That's great Ernesto. Fred says he'll send the link out to everyone. Pay attention to the one tomorrow as it might be the same one he'll use every week.

Also, I plan to do another community coffee - I have 20+ people for tomorrow - and am about to cap it. If there's an evening or weekend time that's good for you, let me know.

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Wed, Feb 3, 2021 at 2:58 PM Querijero, Ernesto <querijeroe@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good afternoon fellow trustees;

A while back, Fred sent a message out requesting we coordinate a schedule for our Thursday afternoon conversations with AAEA leadership. I cannot attend tomorrow, but I would like to attend the following three meetings listed below:

Feb 11, 2021 12:00 PM
Feb 18, 2021 12:00 PM
Feb 25, 2021 12:00 PM

If it creates a conflict, I would be happy to duck out of one. Thanks, all!

Ernesto

From: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: Re: AAEA/BoE

Date: December 10, 2020 at 3:03 PM

To: Klein, Fred mrklein@aaps.k12.mi.us

Cc: Ernesto Querijero [REDACTED], Krystle Rose krystledupree@gmail.com, Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Przygodski, George gprzygodski@mea.org, Tamala Bell tbell@mymea.org

JG

I apologize for missing the zoom meeting today. I have no excuse; I just lost track of the time. (Alas, I was responding to parents following up on the board meeting last night).
Rebecca sends her apology as well; she was in another meeting at the time. She even texted me at the time, but I missed that cue as well.

Ernesto and Krystal - I look forward to catching up with you, either individually or together, at your convenience.

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor

Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us

cell: [REDACTED]

On Thu, Dec 10, 2020 at 10:59 AM Klein, Fred <mrklein@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Ernesto and Krystle,
Here's the link - we'd love to have you join if you're able:
Fred Klein is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: AAEA/BoE

Time: Dec 10, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, until Dec 24, 2020, 3 occurrence(s)

Dec 10, 2020 12:00 PM

Dec 17, 2020 12:00 PM

Dec 24, 2020 12:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://a2schools.zoom.us/meeting/tJYqc-6urD0sG9DNwmwObiPPtlqvO3K8l6Bn/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCqqT8tHNaTthiDRowQB4-gKO7zpiFdjfp5sjoFA9RazPGlu5TJJ0sO4Dc>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://a2schools.zoom.us/j/92747626614>

Meeting ID: 927 4762 6614

Passcode: 454034

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,92747626614# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,92747626614# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

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+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 927 4762 6614

Find your local number: <https://a2schools.zoom.us/u/abePbe0lJV>

On Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 6:34 PM Ernesto Querijero [REDACTED] > wrote:

Good evening all;

Is there an informal chat scheduled for tomorrow?

Ernesto

On Thursday, November 12, 2020, 1:06:55 PM EST, Gaynor, Jeff <gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hi Krystle and Ernesto,

The AAEA has invited members of the School Board to have informal chats with them on a weekly basis - Thursday at noon has been standard - and Rebecca Lazarus and I have taken them up on their offer. Today, George and Fred suggested that the two of you be included in the invitation.

While we can only have 3 board members at most be involved due to the Open Meetings Act, until you are seated on the Board in January this does not apply to you. Please let the AAEA leadership know if you'd be interested and able to attend, though no commitment is required.

Best,
Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 10:53 AM Klein, Fred <mrklein@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

All, here is the recurring link for our weekly Thursday meeting:
Fred Klein is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: AAEA/BoE

Time: Nov 12, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, until Dec 24, 2020, 7 occurrence(s)

Nov 12, 2020 12:00 PM

Nov 19, 2020 12:00 PM

Nov 26, 2020 12:00 PM

Dec 3, 2020 12:00 PM

Dec 10, 2020 12:00 PM

Dec 17, 2020 12:00 PM

Dec 24, 2020 12:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://a2schools.zoom.us/meeting/tJYqc-6urD0sG9DNwmwObiPptIqvO3K8l6Bn/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCqgT8tHNaTthiDRowQB4-gKO7zpiFdjfp5sgjoFA9RazPGlu5TJJ0sO4Dc>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://a2schools.zoom.us/j/92747626614>

Meeting ID: 927 4762 6614

Passcode: 454034

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,92747626614# US (Washington D.C)

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Dial by your location

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+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 927 4762 6614

Find your local number: <https://a2schools.zoom.us/j/92747626614>

find your local number. <https://azschools.zoom.us/j/av107AK110>

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Are we not drawn onward, we few, drawn onward to new era?
Palindrome

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Are we not drawn onward, we few, drawn onward to new era?
Palindrome

From: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: Re: AAEA/BoE

Date: November 5, 2020 at 10:55 AM

To: Klein, Fred mrklein@aaps.k12.mi.us

Cc: Jeff Gaynor gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us, Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Przygodski, George gprzygodski@mea.org, Tamala Bell tbell@mymea.org

BJ

Hi Everyone!

Long time no see. Sorry I haven't been able to attend recent meetings. Unfortunately, my work schedule hasn't accommodated these meetings. Feel free to reach out to me directly via email or cell with any questions or concerns. My cell is [REDACTED].

Best,

Bryan

Bryan L. Johnson

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board

Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Phone: [REDACTED]

On Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 10:33 AM Klein, Fred <mrklein@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Fred Klein is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: AAEA/BoE

Time: Nov 5, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://a2schools.zoom.us/j/93880456644>

Meeting ID: 938 8045 6644

Passcode: 050116

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,93880456644# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,93880456644# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 938 8045 6644

Find your local number: <https://a2schools.zoom.us/j/93880456644>

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Are we not drawn onward, we few, drawn onward to new era?

Palindrome

From: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: AAPS BoE clarification
Date: February 19, 2021 at 4:19 PM
To: Briggs, Erica EBriggs@a2gov.org
Cc: Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us



Hello Erica,
"I have lost faith that the board is following a carefully considered evidence-based plan." Really, Erica?
I know we have not yet worked with each other, but this did ring well w/me, especially another elected official.

Pls find the set of measurements that the district has been following on the FRONT page of our website:
<https://www.a2schools.org/Page/16512>

I am very sorry that the family you encountered has not received extra support. Does the school team know how to reach them? Is there a current address on file?
Has the family reached out to the school team? Please let me know who and where they are so that we may follow up, assuming they are comfortable with this.

We have ALL been dealing in a time of uncertainty. Not making excuses, just hoping that you understand. I do not know how the pandemic is affecting your work as a council person, but this has been the most difficult in my nearly 20 years on the school board. We are ALL stressed out.

I am in a conference today and tomorrow, but will welcome a conversation with you on or after. Sunday.

Please stay safe and warm,
Susan Baskett

On Fri, Feb 19, 2021 at 2:27 PM Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org> wrote:

Hi Susan,

I would welcome an opportunity to discuss this matter. One of the digits in your phone number is missing—can you please share it with me again.

I fully support the emphasis on vulnerable students and agree they must be prioritized. When I recently reached out to a family I know that recently experienced homelessness, I found they have received no extra support this year. One child is fine, the other is struggling. That is incredibly sad to hear, it also makes me angry that in a community as resource-rich as our own that we don't do a better job of supporting the kids who need it most.

I would, however, contend that what happened this week was a significant deviation from the currently communicated AAPS plan (see the attached screenshot) that parents have been relying on. And it runs contrary to the guidance we are receiving from the State and CDC. Elementary school staff were actively planning for the return of students. Families were attending information sessions on the hybrid instruction model. It has been incredibly important for parents of little kids in our community, who have been struggling to educate their little kids in a virtual format, to have an option of returning them to the classroom. Many in our community are highly uncomfortable with a return to a classroom, the hybrid model offered them the opportunity to stay home.

Parents have been operating in an uncertain environment for too long. They have been struggling to understand the criteria that will allow the board to authorize the return of different populations to school. To shift the plan with no community discussion, no facts, and clearly no coordination with our Superintendent was shocking to say the least. Parents have no confidence that the AAPS board is committed to full return in the fall for all students. And honestly, I have lost faith that the board is following a carefully considered evidence-based plan.

I look forward to discussing this matter. I have many, many families reaching out to me.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: [REDACTED]

www.a2gov.org

From: Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us>

Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 6:30 AM

To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>

Cc: BOE <boardofed@a2schools.org>; Jeanice Swift <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us>; FeliciaBrabec@house.mi.gov; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Rep. Yousef Rabhi (District 53) <YousefRabhi@house.mi.gov>

Subject: AAPS BoE clarification

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good morning friends,

After a productive conversation with Council person Radina, I've decided that it may be helpful to clarify the actions of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education.

Starting on Wednesday night, The Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education voted to direct Superintendent Jeanice Kerr Swift to explore the feasibility of modifying its current [Reimagine Learning Plan Return to School 3 Phase Plan](#).

The intent of the Board's motion is to:

- Establish a date by which the most vulnerable students may safely return to the school buildings (later determined to be March 22, 2021)
- Assist students who are struggling the most under the current distance learning model
- Help parents/caregivers who have requested assistance with their students' learning
- Assist families in planning for the rest of the school year
- Focus the district's efforts on a summer enhanced program and a strong and safe return to our buildings in the Fall.

The Board's vote did not change or alter the District's approved

~~The Board's vote did not change or after the District's approved~~
Reimagine Learning Plan Return to School 3 Phase Plan.

The Board looks forward to receiving Dr. Swift's recommendation at its next meeting on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

It was never my intention to cast doubt on the work of Dr. Swift and her team. As you know, I personally have been and will continue to be her champion.

Recently, I have had productive conversations with Council persons Ramlawi, Grand and Radina. I welcome others to discuss this and any other school related issues. I brought the motion forward and thus am the most qualified to answer any questions regarding it.

Please feel free to call me at [REDACTED].

Please stay safe and warm,

Susan Baskett

Secretary, Ann Arbor Board of Education

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All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Clarification on statements made last night
Date: November 16, 2020 at 7:07 AM
To: Swift, Jeanice swift@aaps.k12.mi.us
Cc: bacolor@aaps.k12.mi.us, Superintendent's Cabinet dst_sup_cabinet@aaps.k12.mi.us, Simone Lightfoot lightfos@aaps.k12.mi.us, Nelson, Glenn nelsong@aaps.k12.mi.us, Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us

SB

Good morning Dr. Swift,

As I prepare to meet w/some concerned parents, I re-read this email and remain so impressed.

Your ability to be so concise and patient with a small, but vocal group of 'haters', just amazes me.

Personally, I don't think there will be ANYTHING that we do that will appease this small group of parents. Even when we return to the buildings, they will find flaws.

As you know, I take the stance of, 'you don't argue with drunks'. They won't remember your arguments in the morning, no matter how well-prepared or intelligent the arguments are. It's a waste of time. You are my role model in learning patience and poise.

I continue to say that we are lucky to have you especially during these crazy times.

Thank you and enjoy the day,
S

On Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 8:57 PM Swift, Jeanice <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED],

Thank you for reaching out to share your clarifications; we appreciate hearing from you.

Rec & Ed Registration Form

To further clarify, there is indeed a special needs question already on the registration form for free programs. I've attached the registration form; the question about special needs is 9(1). It is the same one we use for all youth programs.

We call parents who fill this in and talk with them directly about their child's needs in relation to the program they are registering for, and also follow up with their SISS service providers, if this is needed. Sometimes parents request additional staffing assistance, and sometimes not. During the Fall 1 session, we were able to address requests for additional para support using existing Rec & Ed staff who have experience working with special needs children.

Social Emotional Impact Impact on Students Not in Schools

The primary focus of the more than 2.5 hour Board Learning Plan Update and most of the discussion and work at the Board table last evening was the social and emotional impact of students not being in school and the work we are engaged in because we do understand these significant impacts. We heard from a variety of education professionals, all focused on providing supports for students, including: an Intervention Specialist, a Dean and Principal, as well as the Executive Director of Special Education and the Volunteer Coordinator about both the wide variety of challenges students and families are facing and the many steps we are taking to support them. This discussion included references to support groups for social emotional wellness, mental health and coping, mindfulness practice, home visits to students and families, counseling outreach and support, clubs and activities, use of volunteers in virtual classrooms, Rec & Ed outdoor activities, and more.

We recognized the public comments from the community and reiterated that the current situation during this pandemic is very challenging for children and families, as well as for teachers and school teams. Our work every day is focused on continuing to wrap additional support around our students in every way we possibly can.

Further, in Ms. Bacolor's presentation, she included (on slide 9) the link to the October 21st *World Health Organization Report*, and she read aloud specifically from the section, *School Closures Can Affect Children in Other Ways*, referencing the subsection titled: **School absence affects equity, education, child health and development**, pointing to the "ability to learn, school-based services such as mental health and psychosocial support, and the impact of a loss of peer interaction and disrupted routines." I have attached the report below.

The disconnect I heard discussed at the Board table was regarding the *communication* of supports and ensuring those students and parents most in need of additional support are directly receiving contacts, and we will continue to work on this every day at every level of the organization. If you were tuned in during this portion of the meeting, you could hear the kinds of extensive steps members of our team are taking every day to ensure direct outreach and support to students and families.

The Board regularly reviews student performance data; this work and in-depth discussion occurs in the Board Performance Committee as well as other Committee and Board meetings. The Performance Committee has been reviewing the results of the Fall survey. Grade reports are being recorded by teachers this week, and a quarter 1 report will be forthcoming illustrating student performance and how it compares to prior year 1st quarter student performance. NWEA will be reported similarly. The Trustees review student achievement data and ask in-depth questions; this is the rhythm of how we work together to make our work stronger.

While it is clear that you do not support the decision to be fully virtual in the AAPS, and I do hear and understand your rationale, we absolutely do understand and take very seriously the impacts of absence from school for students. This issue weighs heavily

on the Board, the Leadership team, and on me, and we remain focused on mobilizing as many supports as we possibly can for our students while they are currently in virtual learning. At the same time, we continue a state of preparation and readiness to transition our youngest, highest level special needs, and most vulnerable students to a return to in-school learning first, just as soon as we safely can. During the hybrid phase of our return to in-school learning, these most vulnerable students will receive more, as much as double the in-person learning time, in order to support their needs; this is the design of the return to in school learning plan.

Thank you for taking the time to reach out with your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeanice Swift



Jeanice Kerr Swift

Superintendent of Schools
Ann Arbor Public Schools

p: (734) 994-2232

a: 2555 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

w: a2schools.org **e:** swift@a2schools.org



On Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 11:24 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Good afternoon,

I would like to clarify two statements that were made last night that are incorrect. Ms. Bacolor indicated that there is a place on the Rec and Ed registration form to indicate whether parapro support would be needed for a student. This is not true, there is no place on the registration form where this is asked, so how does the Rec and Ed staff know if students with disabilities will need additional support during these classes?

Secondly, Trustee Nelson asked for research regarding the social and emotional impact of students not being in school and Ms. Bacolor said she wasn't sure if that existed. It does, and you have had countless parents, families, physicians, and behavioral scientists share this research with you-so I am completely dumfounded as to why this is not also shared during the BOE meeting. It is clear that the school administration is only presenting one side to the board, the side that fits the narrative of keeping schools closed. It seems some of the board members began to pick up on this last night with their mention of a disconnect between what is being reported by families and what is shared by the administration. The only way you will understand the disconnect is by starting to ask the hard questions and demand answers.

There has been no discussion of the damage and harm done to students as a result. My question is why? Why is the board not asking for this? Rather than spending excessive amounts of time reviewing PowerPoints, why is there no meaningful discussion about the mental and social well being of AAPS students? Why is the administration not assessing this. Why have you not asked about the number of students who are not getting the supports they need from their IEP? Who are the experts advising Ms. Bacolor and why is it we don't have an expert panel of clinicians advising the board of education? How many students are ACTUALLY engaging in online learning, not just logging in? How are absentee and truancy referrals and investigation numbers and how do they compare to pre-covid levels? What are the ACTUAL results of the teacher survey?

The information you are getting is one sided and after hearing nearly 50 parents literally beg for help for their children, it is insulting to all of us that the board is not speaking up on our behalf and demanding answers to these meaningful questions so many of us have.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Concerns about 2/10 board meeting
Date: February 11, 2021 at 10:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: gaynor@a2schools.org, johnsonbr@a2schools.org, Susan Baskett baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us

BJ

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. I'm sorry that you found the Trustees' comments "divisive." I won't dispute your right to have an opinion about what you heard or the validity of your feelings. Trustees' Gaynor and Kelly can speak for themselves but I believe they were generally saying 1) this is a very complex challenge that no one truly has an answer for, 2) we should trust Doctors to give medical recommendations and we should trust school leaders to make school operations decisions 3) doctors conduct your professions under radically different circumstances than teachers and 4) all Doctors in the area have had access to vaccines while the majority of our teachers haven't. They never used derogatory, disrespectful, or inflammatory language so though there are plenty who disagree with the trustees and many who agree with the trustees, I don't believe the statements were inherently divisive. I'm proud that Trustees are willing to share their thoughts with the public even when there's discourse.

Our team is advised by the Washtenaw County Health Department, State health officials, local superintendents, and members of the Governor's medical team on a regular basis. Dr. Swift's team has been very clear about this in their presentations. I'm sorry that you don't believe these assertions. I cannot control what you believe. All I can do is tell you the truth and continue to work in the best interest of the students, families, and teachers in our district. I believe the risks of COVID warrant our careful and cautious approach. I'm confident that one day we'll look back at our actions favorably. Much like pre-COVID times, we have work to do to ensure all of our students are learning and commiserate with their full potential. However, most of our children are learning in the district. We are very close to being able to ensure we can start hybrid learning safely and sustainably. I believe our students will benefit from having teachers who can do their best work because they feel valued and protected. We should all want that outcome. Thanks for your time.

Regards,
Bryan

Bryan L. Johnson
President, Ann Arbor Public School Board
Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Phone: [REDACTED]

On Thu, Feb 11, 2021 at 9:04 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr. Gaynor and Mr. Johnson,

I was a part of the small group that met with you about 1 month ago to discuss COVID concerns around re-opening of our schools. Today I write to you regarding comments made by several board members last night. First and foremost, I wish to thank you for your continued work on safely returning AAPS staff and students to in-person learning and appreciate the commitment of Mr. Johnson to communicating more openly with the AAPS community. However, the overall tenor of the board's discussion was concerning on multiple levels.

Mr. Gaynor, you noted that in your review of the scientific literature that you do not see a path back to in-person learning at this point. As an infectious disease physician I have kept myself well apprised of the published data and do not understand this interpretation of the available data. Several recent studies, 2 from the CDC and one from the University of North Carolina, have found schools not to be a significant source for spread of Sars-CoV-2. To briefly summarize:

1. Among 400 participants aged <18 years in Mississippi in late 2020, in-person school or child care attendance was not associated with a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result. Factors associated with Sars-CoV-2 infection were attending out of school social functions. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6950e3.htm>
2. Among 90,000 students and staff in 11 school districts in North Carolina over a 3 month period in the fall of 2020 there were 773 community-acquired SARS-CoV-2 infections. Through contact tracing, NC health department staff determined an additional 32 infections were acquired within schools with no instances of child-to-adult transmission of SARS-CoV-2 within schools. <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2021/01/06/peds.2020-048090.full.pdf>
3. Among 17 Wisconsin schools, COVID-19 incidence among students and staff members was lower than in the county and among 191 cases identified in students and staff members, only seven (3.7%) cases, all among students, were linked to in-school spread. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7004e3.htm>

There are numerous international studies that also show low-risk of spread of Sars-CoV-2 in schools. While I understand that there are many factors related to returning to in-person learning, I am curious as to what you see as the primary barriers to returning or if there are contradictory data you are referencing. If so can you please provide these references.

Additionally, there was distinct messaging, principally from Ms. Kelly, that the opinions of local physicians, epidemiologists and psychologists, of which I am a part, are not welcome from AAPS. Ms. Kelly essentially dismissed the front-facing work we have all done for 12 months to aid and provide care for our community. In doing so, she tacitly dismissed the services of all essential workers that have performed their duties in person, suggesting that none of us would understand what it would be like to set foot in a classroom in the COVID era. I am not a teacher, but I have been a front-line worker throughout the pandemic, caring for COVID+ patients and engaging in research to find treatments and effective vaccines for this infection. I am also the son of 2 public school teachers and a product of public schools from kindergarten through my undergraduate degree, so it was incredibly disappointing to hear such divisive rhetoric from an AAPS board member, particularly in a public forum.

Myself and many people I know have concerns that AAPS has not and is not consulting with public health and medical experts - to my knowledge none have

been publicly named as consultants since the pandemic began. The comments made last night can only be taken as a message that the board believes its opinions are superior to those of the community it serves and unfortunately some of the opinions expressed were at odds with the current scientific evidence. In medicine we routinely utilize consultants when issues veer outside of our expertise, and we do so to ensure we are making the best decisions for our patients at all time. I hope that the board considers this strategy for the district.

We all want the best for our students and teachers and community; I hope that yourselves and the board do reach out to experts in various fields to help with these difficult decisions. If I can be of any assistance please let me know.

Best,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Electronic Mail is not secure, may not be read every day, and should not be used for urgent or sensitive issues

From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Concerns about September/how we can help
Date: February 16, 2021 at 3:38 PM
To: Grand, Julie JGrand@a2gov.org
Cc: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us, Song, Linh LSong@a2gov.org



Hello Julie,

I too missed your email in the midst of all of the other emails, and I thank Jeff for bringing it back to the top.

This is a hot topic given the time of year when parents make decisions for fall. The season for school shopping is quickly passing.

I mirror Jeff's requests for more vaccines for our teachers, staff and contractors (food, custodial, and transportation) who work closely with our students. The vaccine rollout in Washtenaw County has lagged far behind other counties in Michigan. Receiving testing kits and additional funding to support the need to hire new staff members (i.e. nurses and counselors) to perform COVID related services would also be greatly appreciated.

Given where we are now with this pandemic, hopefully by fall a large share of adults will be vaccinated, and certainly all teachers and school staff should have access to vaccines. Even with new variants of the coronavirus spreading, high vaccination rates will likely drive COVID-19 rates down. However, children, especially those under 12, are very unlikely to be immunized by the fall. Therefore, we are realistic and do not expect to see COVID-19 rates at zero.

Should these fall predictions become reality, please keep in mind schools will face a different set of challenges and or situations in the fall. At that time, the CDC will have hopefully updated their guidance information, community infection rates would have dropped, and high inoculation rates of 16 years and older will allow for the largest number of children to be educated in person when the next academic year begins in September.

Unvaccinated children and the presence of some COVID-19 should not prevent us from reopening somewhat normally. Current data does not support the need to wait for children to be vaccinated in order for them to return to school. However, we continue to keep a watchful eye for any changes in the science and data.

I look forward to talking more about this topic during our next C/S meeting. In the meantime should you wish to reach out, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you,

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . I . lazarusr@a2schools.org . I . www.a2schools.org

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On Mon, Feb 15, 2021 at 10:16 PM Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org> wrote:

Thank you so much for your email, Jeff.

I'm hopeful that we can discuss some messaging around the Fall at our meeting next week.

I will continue to push for getting our school staff vaccinated! I am cautiously optimistic that the supply issues will change for the better soon.

Looking forward to seeing everyone next week.

Best,
Julie

From: Gaynor, Jeff <gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 11:50 PM

Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 11:00 PM

To: Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>

Cc: Rebecca Lazarus <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us>; Song, Linh <LSong@a2gov.org>

Subject: Re: Concerns about September/how we can help

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Julie,

I'm so sorry - I lost track of your email in the avalanche we have been receiving. I apologize for the late reply.

I too have been hearing these concerns from parents. Dr. Swift and the other trustees are aware of these as well. I agree that it would be wise for the district to reassure people about the Fall, as best as we are able to.

Of course communication is key. I held one community 'coffee on zoom and will be doing another one this Thursday, at 7pm. The invitation is below.

Any help with vaccinations would be greatly appreciated. You saw that yesterday Washtenaw had the highest number of cases in the state, has had the highest rate other than 2 counties in the U.P., yet has the lowest rate of teacher vaccinations. And as you know U-M is in a bit of hot water by virtue of their decision to vaccinate employees outside the medical system, even those who have been guaranteed to be working virtually for a long time. Now they report they don't have vaccines to do any 1st vaccinations soon. Right. Check.

Looking forward to our meeting as well.

Take care,
Jeff

Next AAPS BOE Coffee with Trustee Jeff Gaynor:

Thursday, Feb. 18, 7:00-8:00 pm

Open conversation - What are your questions and concerns?

Everyone will be civil and issues will not be debated.

This will be limited to 24 people.

You must ask for the zoom link by emailing Jeff at gaynor@a2schools.org

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us

cell: [REDACTED]

cc: [REDACTED]

On Mon, Feb 8, 2021 at 9:58 PM Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org> wrote:

Hi Jeff and Rebecca,

While I'm sure you continue to get plenty of email communications, I did want to raise a timely concern. I continue to receive communications from parents who are hoping for some basic information regarding the plan for September. While I understand that the plan for this year continues to evolve, there is a persistent and increasing belief that there is no intention of sending kids back to school in the Fall. Based on our conversations, I know that this is not true, but am not in a position to share anything further.

As I navigate these conversations, I continue to stress the importance of maintaining open and transparent communications between our groups instead of taking a side. That said, when there is a more "reasonable" request for information, especially during the time of year when parents are making plans for the Fall, I do think it is critical that some information is pushed out.

In terms of assistance, I am also hoping that we can discuss at our next meeting how we can proactively highlight the regular communication and collaboration between AAPS and the City. Can we help promote listening/information sessions about plans for return to school? Can we provide links on the City's website to common FAQs?

I would also like to consider at our next meeting how we can work together to help get teachers vaccinated. I have already expressed my concerns to the University, but if there is a way that we can help move the needle towards this type of advocacy, I am all in.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon.

All the best,
Julie

From: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: COVID data discussed last night
Date: November 3, 2020 at 8:15 PM
To: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us



Right now I have NPR on (I usually have the radio on rather than the TV - but of course it's all blather at the moment) and I'm on several news sites on-line. But a British friend sent me a British comedy to watch if I need a break. Hopefully we'll be in more positive spirits soon.

And thanks.

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 8:01 PM Johnson, Bryan <johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

I'm going to have a few stiff drinks, listen to some gospel, and watch South Korean action movies! How about you?

Good luck in your race tonight.

BJ

On Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 19:45 Gaynor, Jeff <gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Thanks, Bryan. I have been in extensive conversations with 4 of the parents (though not [REDACTED] not sure about [REDACTED]). Thanks for meeting with them.

If you don't know, they sent a questionnaire to all of the BOE candidates and published the answers: <https://a2reasonablereturn.org/f/where-do-board-of-education-candidates-stand-on-in-person-school>

So what else are you doing to deal with the anxiety tonight? :)

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 5:44 PM Johnson, Bryan <johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good morning Trustees, and Dr. Swift

I hope you're doing well on this election day. Last week I met with a few parents from a group that's calling themselves [A2 Reasonable Return](#) and they're advocating a safe return to in-person instruction. The parents [REDACTED]. They argue that it's safe to return now and some of them believe we created a dashboard and metrics intentionally high to ensure we will never return to face to face instruction. I empathized with their position and their struggles while pushing back on several of their points. While they shared some interesting arguments, I was clear that I feel at this point the risks of face to face instruction outweigh the potential rewards.

I thanked them for their input, assured them that we consider all feedback and suggestions we receive from community members, and I promised to share their concerns and the information they cited with the Board and our administrative team. Please feel free to review the info included in the email below. They may reach out to more trustees at some point and this should provide a heads up.

I sent this to the full board so please do not reply all in an abundance of caution of OMA. Feel free to contact me if you'd like any additional details or context from my conversation with the group.

Thanks!
Bryan

Bryan L. Johnson
President, Ann Arbor Public School Board
Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Phone: [REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 5:34 PM
Subject: COVID data discussed last night
To: <johnsonbr@a2schools.org>

Bryan,

Thank you again for taking the time to talk with our group last night, and to engage in conversation with us. As promised, I wanted to share some of the data we touched on last night. I'll describe some of the results and include a list of references at the bottom.

One of the pieces of information that I think is important to think about is whether or not we should even expect what AAPS is doing to work - both from an educational standpoint and from a COVID standpoint. There is evidence that virtual learning doesn't work as well as face to face learning (1,2), which isn't surprising. Five and six year olds have only a fraction of what fully-developed adult brains have in attentional control and only half the skill set needed to translate online material into real world applications (3). Meanwhile, data on whether school closures affect community transmission of COVID is mixed at best, with some studies showing it didn't help at all (4). So, what we're doing likely doesn't adequately provide an education for our kids, and may not affect community spread either (we'll talk more about that last point in a bit). We do know for certain that school closures have significant negative impacts:

- One statistical modeling study found that school closures may lead to a greater number of COVID deaths than they prevent, given how many members of the health care workforce are lost to supervising their school aged children at home (5). I don't have any data to support this next point as it is purely anecdotal, but I worry about how this impacts other deaths as well - particularly influenza. I know in my own office we're only able to vaccinate a small fraction of the families we normally vaccinate for influenza this year because we've lost so many of our medical assistants because they have to stay home and care for their school aged children.
- Studies of previous epidemics suggests that school closures increase school dropouts, violence against children, teen pregnancies, and socioeconomic and gender disparities (6).
- One institution found a greater than 1000% increase in abusive head trauma of children during quarantine (7) and it is estimated that 20,000-40,000 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect went unreported in March and April 2020 alone due to school closures (8).
- Decreases in physical activity have been documented since school closures occurred (10), which is expected to exponentially increase the prevalence of childhood obesity (11). This is not surprising, as we know that excessive screen time is associated with obesity, high blood pressure, and diabetes risk (12), all of which lower life expectancy.
- One group estimates that the educational losses that result from 4 months of school closures in the US translates to \$2.5 trillion in lost future earnings. These losses are likely to be more than just financial, as we know that income and health/life expectancy are highly intertwined (13, 14).

Many of these studies came out in the summer or early fall, before we had any good data on what it would be like to reopen schools here in the US. So at the time, it was hard to compare these negative impacts of school closures to the potential negative impacts of school openings. Thankfully, we now have that data too. That data shows that schools are not spreading COVID in the ways that we once feared they would:

- Schools in New York City have a random testing program in place for students and staff. In the data they released from the first several weeks of school, there were only 28 positive tests out of the 16,348 performed (15).
- Emily Oster in partnership with Brown University has developed an incredible dashboard of school infections. This article <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/10/schools-arent-superspreaders/616669/> does an excellent job of describing the data and what it means. You can also find the actual dashboard here: https://statsiq.co1.qualtrics.com/public-dashboard/v0/dashboard/5f62eae4451ae001535c839#/dashboard/5f62eae4451ae001535c839?pageId=Page_1ac6a6bc-92b6-423e-9f7a-259a18648318 - you can actively filter the data to get information on what you're interested in (ie public schools, learning model, grade levels, etc). Her data shows that even for schools that are in-person at full capacity, the infection rates are incredibly low. For the most recent 2 week block of data, the infection rate for staff is only 0.23% and for students it is only 0.091% (16, 17).
- Although Emily Oster's data doesn't include every school district in the country since reporting to it is voluntary, the results nicely model what we're seeing published elsewhere, suggesting that it's pretty accurate. According to the dashboard maintained by Texas, their current infection rate for staff is 0.19% and students is 0.12% (18). And a study of >57,000 childcare providers during the height of the pandemic showed that there was no increased risk of COVID for those who continued to provide care in childcare centers (19)
- As mentioned above, we are not finding that school reopenings are contributing to community spread. After California reopened their schools, they announced that they were not seeing any evidence of increased COVID transmission. This is notable because their reopening criteria have been set by the state and are significantly less stringent than ours are here in AAPS. K-12 schools can even open with case positivity rates of 5-8%, and they allow waivers for reopening for K-2nd grade and vulnerable students with >7 cases/100,000 and >8% case positivity rates (20, 21).
- In response to this data, the majority of the nation's 50 largest school districts are resuming at least some in person learning (22) and many experts, including University of Michigan Infectious Disease specialist Dr. Preeti Malani, are publicly stating that it's important and safe to get kids back to school, particularly the youngest and most vulnerable students (23).

Taken altogether, many experts are considering the decisions about reopening schools to truly fall into the category of ethics. I know I'm presenting you with a lot of articles and you're incredibly busy, so if you only have time to read one this would be the one to read:

one to read.

Ethics of COVID-19-Related School Closures

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7412780/>

I think it does an excellent job of weighing the risk/benefit analysis of school closures by looking at the issue from a multitude of angles. References 15, 16, 22, and 23 below are also some excellent news articles that are less dense to read than the scientific publications in most of the other references.

As you know all too well, there's a lot of information to weigh, both the issues presented here and many additional issues that you are considering. I want to make it clear that I am not saying we should ignore infection rates altogether and just focus on this data. I just think we need to think about the decision more globally than just whether or not case count metrics are met. Saying we won't go back until specific infection metrics are met, doesn't allow us to take into account these factors in the risk benefit analysis so we should consider being more fluid in our decision making, particularly for vulnerable and young learners, who we know have significantly higher negative effects of virtual learning and significantly lower negative effects of COVID19.

If there is anything I can clarify or find additional data on, please don't hesitate to let me know.

██████████

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Bryan L. Johnson

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board

Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Phone: ██████████

From: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Elementary Schoology Issues and Concerns
Date: August 3, 2020 at 12:26 PM
To: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us



I did NOT receive Tamala's email on July 31. No idea why. Thanks for sending it today. And yeah, I (we) got the same brush off from Kevin and Sarah etc. about our concerns about Schoology. It's disheartening.

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 9:55 AM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Morning. Did you see this email?

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

From: Bell, Tamala <bellt@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2020 at 2:57 PM
Subject: Elementary Schoology Issues and Concerns
To: Jeanice Swift <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Kevin Karr <karrk@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Dawn Linden <lindend@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Heather Kellstrom <kellstromh@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Board of Education <boe@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Cc: Sean Eldon <eldon@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Roberta Cole <coler@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Tierra Jackson <jacksont@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Maggi Rohde <rohdem@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Christy Yee <yee@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Christopher Thomas <thomasc@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Kristal Jaaskelainen <jaaskela@aaps.k12.mi.us>, E Daniel <daniele@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Desiree Cross <crossd@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Frederick Klein <Fklein@mymea.org>, Przygodski, George <GPrzygodski@mea.org>

Good afternoon everyone,

Well, here I am on the very last day of SLI 2020. If I were to say this experience has been quite the adventure that would be an understatement. But, it was, after all, the Summer Adventure Games and boy was it ever an adventure. We worked hard to provide quality instruction for our students and I genuinely feel we did that successfully. I am honored and proud to be a part of this dynamic group of teachers for my sixteenth straight summer. There is a reason I continue to come back and teach, year after year, the connections we make with children, their families and our staff from around the district are just a few of them. I want to give a huge thank you and shout out to the curriculum leaders this summer. They truly created a dynamic and engaging curriculum that benefitted each and every child that attended.

However, I would be remiss as a teacher in this program and a leader in this district if I did not address the many challenges we had with our potential new distance learning platform Schoology. I have done my due diligence, and entered into the training with an open mind because I didn't have any prior knowledge of Schoology. I wanted to make my own decision about it. I was excited about the many features that it offered and I looked forward to using them with students. I have attended eight PD sessions to learn how to use this platform. The PD's themselves had many issues, and since that has been addressed I will not go into it any further. However, the many issues with Schoology have not been. I have been patient throughout this process. I am patient no more.

I am speaking for the overwhelming majority of elementary teachers when we say, this

platform is not what is best for students or their families at this time. There were many families and students that struggled with simple issues such as logging in, uploading basic assignments and much more. We have spoken at length to several of you. We do not feel our voices are being heard. In fact, many of us feel dismissed, as though our struggles and challenges weren't real, but instead just user error. And yet, there are very specific issues we all encountered this summer. Every. Single. One. Of. Us. We are asking that you hear us, and address each of these issues before we roll schoology out to our youngest and most vulnerable students.

Kevin and Heather met with grade level teams this week to ask about our experiences with Schoology. I was unable to attend that meeting due to a prior commitment. I was encouraged by the fact that teachers were being asked to share their thoughts and experiences. However, I was shocked when I began hearing from teachers after the meeting that a comment was made and I'll paraphrase "If students can click 10, 000 times in a video game they can click through Schoology and figure it out." Several teachers expressed they were offended by this statement. Afterall, to compare a video game to the platform we may be using in the fall is dismissive of the challenges students, their families, and teachers have faced. We all know that video games are full of graphics and symbols to help guide students to success. Schoology doesn't have that function. It is also dismaying to hear a district employee dismiss the many special needs and ELL families that cannot simply "click" through the many steps it takes to navigate the most basic parts of this platform.

I also have concerns about how the middle school experience is being compared to the elementary experience. If you look at our curriculum and the expectations of student's daily output for both programs, you will see that they were drastically different. The many tools that our elementary students had to use within Schoology were not used during the middle school program this summer. My experience with these differences is first hand, as I had a middle schooler in my home doing the MSChallenge program.

I have attached the many comments from teachers who worked the SLI program concerning the challenges we faced. Each of us are excited to use Schoology if and when this platform is streamlined in a way that it was presented to us. It needs to be clear and transparent enough that our Kindergartners through 2nd graders can use it, because that is exactly who will be using it in just a few short weeks. I know that there is daily teaming and communication about Schoology and these issues. However, after hearing these sorts of things said at meetings, I am concerned about our progress. I am asking for specifics of how each of these issues have been addressed including a timeline for fixes.

I am looking forward to our continued progress toward creating an amazing virtual program for our students this fall.

Tamala Bell
AAFA Vice President

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Tamala Bell
Fourth Grade Teacher
Thurston Elementary

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Tamala Bell
Fourth Grade Teacher
Thurston Elementary

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Rebecca Lazarus
Trustee
Board of Education Ann Arbor Public Schools


lazarusr@a2schools.org
www.a2schools.org

From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Fwd: Elementary Schoology Issues and Concerns
Date: August 3, 2020 at 9:59 AM
To: Bryan Johnson johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us



Good morning. Have you seen this email? It looks like it was sent to the full board, but I never received it. I asked Tamala to forward it to me after we spoke.

Elementary teachers are still having issues.

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

From: Bell, Tamala <bellt@aaps.k12.mi.us>

Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2020 at 2:57 PM

Subject: Elementary Schoology Issues and Concerns

To: Jeanice Swift <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Kevin Karr <karrk@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Dawn Linden <lindend@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Heather Kellstrom <kellstromh@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Board of Education <boe@aaps.k12.mi.us>

Cc: Sean Eldon <eldon@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Roberta Cole <coler@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Tierra Jackson <jacksont@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Maggi Rohde <rohdem@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Christy Yee <yee@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Christopher Thomas <thomasc@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Kristal Jaaskelainen <jaaskela@aaps.k12.mi.us>, E Daniel <daniele@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Desiree Cross <crossd@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Frederick Klein <Fklein@mymea.org>, Przygodski, George <GPrzygodski@mea.org>

Good afternoon everyone,

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specific issues we all encountered this summer. Every. Single. One. Of. Us. We are asking that you hear us, and address each of these issues before we roll Schoology out to our youngest and most vulnerable students.

Kevin and Heather met with grade level teams this week to ask about our experiences with Schoology. I was unable to attend that meeting due to a prior commitment. I was encouraged by the fact that teachers were being asked to share their thoughts and experiences. However, I was shocked when I began hearing from teachers after the meeting that a comment was made and I'll paraphrase "If students can click 10, 000 times in a video game they can click through Schoology and figure it out." Several teachers expressed they were offended by this statement. After all, to compare a video game to the platform we may be using in the fall is dismissive of the challenges students, their families, and teachers have faced. We all know that video games are full of graphics and symbols to help guide students to success. Schoology doesn't have that function. It is also dismaying to hear a district employee dismiss the many special needs and ELL families that cannot simply "click" through the many steps it takes to navigate the most basic parts of this platform.

I also have concerns about how the middle school experience is being compared to the elementary experience. If you look at our curriculum and the expectations of student's daily output for both programs, you will see that they were drastically different. The many tools that our elementary students had to use within Schoology were not used during the middle school program this summer. My experience with these differences is first hand, as I had a middle schooler in my home doing the MSChallenge program.

I have attached the many comments from teachers who worked the SLI program concerning the challenges we faced. Each of us are excited to use Schoology if and when this platform is streamlined in a way that it was presented to us. It needs to be clear and transparent enough that our Kindergartners through 2nd graders can use it, because that is exactly who will be using it in just a few short weeks. I know that there is daily teaming and communication about Schoology and these issues. However, after hearing these sorts of things said at meetings, I am concerned about our progress. I am asking for specifics of how each of these issues have been addressed including a timeline for fixes.

I am looking forward to our continued progress toward creating an amazing virtual program for our students this fall.

Tamala Bell
AAEA Vice President

--
Tamala Bell
Fourth Grade Teacher
Thurston Elementary

--
Tamala Bell

Latasha Bell
Fourth Grade Teacher
Thurston Elementary

--
Rebecca Lazarus
Trustee
Board of Education Ann Arbor Public Schools

lazarusr@a2schools.org
www.a2schools.org



Schoology
Engag...0.docx

From: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Facebook
Date: February 15, 2021 at 10:53 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Susan Baskett basketta@aaps.k12.mi.us



Hello [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email. We believe the public needs to understand what the hybrid option looks like before we can survey to ask for parent/teacher interest. If we shared a survey now, the responses would be irrelevant because there is a wide variation of public perception about how hybrid education is delivered. We are currently engaged in a series of meetings at the school level to educate our families about the available options. You will see a survey once the public is properly educated about the options. As we shared in a January meeting, we plan to complete these meetings this month.

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Thanks!
Bryan

Bryan L. Johnson

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board

Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Phone: [REDACTED]

On Mon, Feb 15, 2021 at 10:03 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Still waiting on a parent/teacher survey

[REDACTED]

> On Feb 11, 2021, at 2:19 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> This video is absolutely disturbing! I think the BOE has forgotten the months of sacrifice healthcare workers and essential workers endured at the start of the pandemic. There were thousands of unknowns, but yet we showed up every day to care for potentially your loved ones, families and friends, without a minute of hesitation. We sacrificed the safety of our own families to tend to yours or even these teachers families. We have never signed up to work in a pandemic just like these teachers have been voicing.

>

> It's shocking to think you are ok with contact sports being played amongst the highest at risk population of our school community (high schoolers) but you are not ok with socially distanced, masked elementary school level kids in the buildings to learn. We are allowing participation amongst other schools and districts where they are holding in person learning 3-5 days week. This is deemed as high risk in your boards opinion but we are ok with having these students roll around on a mat for more then the 15 min we count as an exposure according to the CDC.

>

> Dr. Swift mentioned last night during the board meeting, one of the reasons sports were going to be allowed was because we were talking about 100 student athletes versus 1,000 students. And 1-2 hrs of interaction vs a 7 hour school day. But doesn't science say it doesn't matter 1 hour or 7 hours, it still classified as an exposure.

>

> Maybe you should donate the \$500,000 worth of PPE stock piled in the buildings from the fall that will never be used this year.

>

> I honestly can't believe a board can be so ignorant and knock our healthcare that resides right in our backyard. Shame on you!

>

> <Facebook.png>

>

>

> [REDACTED]

From: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: high school instruction
Date: February 11, 2021 at 9:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Susan Baskett baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us



[REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. We don't believe we've "realistically run out of time for a return to hybrid instruction for high schoolers for this year." As we have stated, our goal is to start hybrid learning for our youngest and most vulnerable students beginning in early March, then steadily expanding the hybrid throughout March and April. If all goes as we hope (community spread is consistently declining, vaccines are made available for staff, etc) high school would resume shortly after spring break. We believe this is possible but if we don't meet these conditions, we are prepared to continue to operate in our present virtual mode. We remain consistent in our assertion that the virus doesn't follow a calendar and we **will not state a specific date**. We will provide plenty of notice to allow families to plan for the transition to hybrid learning.

Hopefully this is a clear response. Thanks for your question and stay safe.

Best,
Bryan

Bryan L. Johnson

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board
Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Phone: [REDACTED]

On Thu, Feb 11, 2021 at 6:56 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello, Superintendent Swift and Trustees. By asking this question publicly at the School Board meeting, I had hoped to relieve you of the burden of answering parent questions individually. Since it was not addressed last night, can you please answer it now?

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

Hello, folks. I've seen the plans for opening to hybrid instruction of several weeks ago. Given the phasing planned for elementary school, can board members please ask the superintendent directly what the earliest date AAPS envisions we could open to high school juniors? The *earliest* if everything goes perfectly and then maybe a realistic possible earliest date.

If we have already realistically run out of time for a return to hybrid instruction for high schoolers for this year, AAPS should say so now.

Thanks for your time.

From: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: If transfer to private school amidst Covid/AAPS closure, is our in district transfer status secure?
Date: September 26, 2020 at 10:08 AM
To: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us
Cc: Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us, BOE boardofed@a2schools.org



Susan, I thought I was recognizing you for responding to e-mails - I assume you have been, even though you rarely cc the board on them - but in this case I was referring the question to Dr. Swift.

While I am indeed campaigning, my first priority is to my work on the school board.

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Sat, Sep 26, 2020 at 8:12 AM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Jeff,
What makes you think that i wasn't already working on this?

Don't you have a campaign to run?
S

On Fri, Sep 25, 2020, 9:44 PM Gaynor, Jeff <gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED],

While Trustee Baskett, as Board Secretary, has the responsibility to respond to emails addressed to the Board, your specific question would be best addressed by Dr. Swift. I trust she will reply or forward you to a member of the administration to do so.

I will say that Board members are having conversations with the superintendent, and the issue of a return to in person learning, while still dependent on data indicating this would be safe for the community, will be on the agenda at this coming Wednesday's Board meeting.

Sincerely,
Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 4:45 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello,

I wrote a few days back re the (emotional & academic) struggles that my [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] are having with the virtual learning.

I do not feel this is sustainable for them, and I worry that (unlike Dexter & Saline) AAPS will not set a return to school date and the [REDACTED] may be stuck with virtual learning the entire year.

So, we are exploring private schools ([REDACTED] & [REDACTED] currently open, no Covid outbreaks) and [REDACTED] planning to open October 5th.

We are an in district transfer for [REDACTED].

Can I assume if I pull my younger [REDACTED] & pursue private school this year, but want to return to [REDACTED] when fully reopen (post pandemic) that will be allowed?
Or, would we have to reapply for the in district transfer again?

I have talked with some parents who did a week or two of the AAPS virtual learning and then transferred to private for real in classroom learning.
They (and their kids) are much happier at the private school.

My husband and I are lucky enough to be able to afford private school, so seriously considering the transfer out (at least

My husband and I are lucky enough to be able to afford private school, so seriously considering the transfer out (at least temporarily).

I do feel for those families that may not be able to afford such option.

I really think AAPS just need to make a start date, like mid Oct or early November and try the hybrid with safety precautions. Restaurants, gyms and other "less essential" businesses (than school in my view) are succeeding at such.

As are local daycare centers (like [REDACTED] where my [REDACTED] goes a couple days per week when no parent at home to supervise).

My [REDACTED] just chose to be home alone, feeling [REDACTED] is "too old" for daycare. But I do not find that sustainable.

If I knew AAPS had a start date, like Nov 1st, I would be willing to try the hybrid. Knowing the [REDACTED] could have classroom learning at least 2 days per week.

Appreciate your continued work addressing these issues and answer to my question re if an in district transfer remains intact if leave public school for a year or more. But then wish to return in future.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Fwd: Important: Local COVID-19 vaccine distribution info and new quarantine guidance
Date: December 11, 2020 at 3:22 PM
To: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us



Hi Jeff,

Here is the response from Jenna regarding the increased cases in Washtenaw County by age group over the past couple of months.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer
Ann Arbor Public Schools
Board of Education
Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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

From: Swift, Jeanice <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Date: Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 5:30 PM
Subject: Re: Important: Local COVID-19 vaccine distribution info and new quarantine guidance
To: Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Cc: Bacolor, Jenna <bacolor@aaps.k12.mi.us>

Thank you, Jenna - & thanks for the charts - knew you had them to quantify what we have heard and are saying.

Thanks Much,
Jeanice



Jeanice Kerr Swift
Superintendent of Schools
Ann Arbor Public Schools
p: (734) 994-2232
a: 2555 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
w: a2schools.org e: swift@a2schools.org
 

On Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 1:46 PM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Hello Jenna,

This clarification is very helpful in quantifying general statements, such as "a lot." In addition it helps me to have better confidence when speaking with individuals who vigorously question our position regarding virtual learning.

Thank you and I appreciate all the many hours you've worked to keep us all informed on the constant changes during this pandemic.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer
Ann Arbor Public Schools
Board of Education
Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 12:36 PM Bacolor, Jenna <jbacolor@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hi Trustee Lazarus and Dr. Swift,
Happy to help explain those two bullet points a bit more.

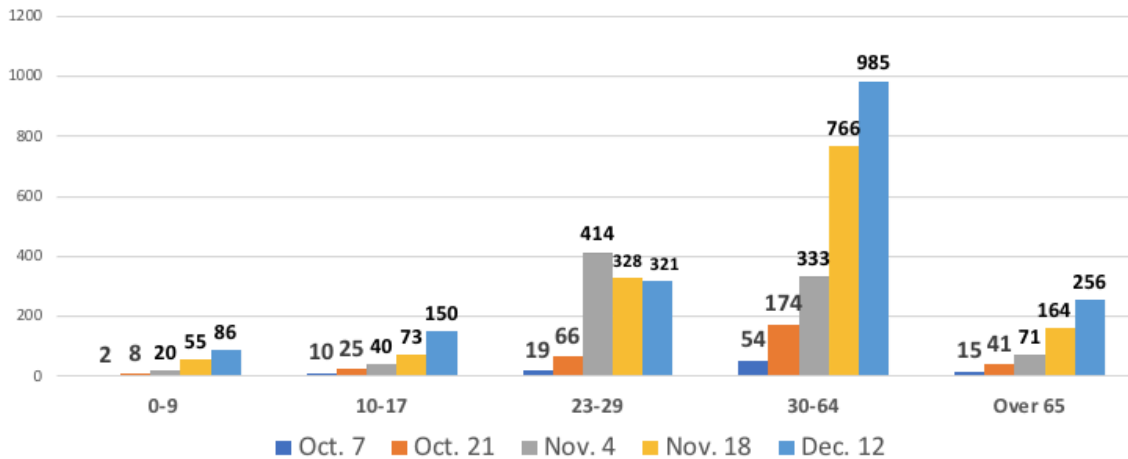
Cases in Preschoolers:

Ruth Kraut, the Deputy Health Office for WCHD, shared on Friday that they're seeing more cases in preschoolers. This was a comment she made during our usual Friday meeting.

I've been tracking cases across age groups in Washtenaw County and have noticed an increase in the 0-17 population. This chart is one I've been using to track cases using Washtenaw County data:

Cases by Age Group in Washtenaw County *Excluding the 18-22 year old age group*

In two-week snapshots ending: **Oct 7**, **Oct. 21**, **Nov. 4**, **Nov. 18**, and **Dec. 2**, 2020



Source: Washtenaw County Health Department

WCHD Contact Tracing

On November 12, the WCHD sent out a press release (attached) explaining that with the surge in cases, they would be prioritizing contact tracing for certain groups:

Washtenaw County Health Department is prioritizing Health Department case investigations in line with state guidelines and local data as follows:

- Individuals age 0-17 years,
- Individuals age 60 years and above,
- Individuals living in local zip codes 48197 and 48198,
- Individuals residing in high-risk congregate settings such as long-term care facilities, and
- Individuals of any age who are at higher risk of severe illness or complications.

At last Friday's meeting, Ruth mentioned that with the steep increase in cases, they are struggling to reach even these groups. She said once again that school districts can do our own isolation and quarantine notifications for our staff and students. My team and I have been doing so for several weeks, since most of the recent cases haven't fallen into any of those categories.

I'm happy to answer any other questions you may have!

Best regards,
Jenna

On Tue, Dec 8, 2020 at 3:54 PM Swift, Jeanice <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello Trustee Lazarus,

I can share more here, as I have had conversations directly with the Director of WCHD on both of these topics, and Jenna can add information, also.

The WCHD data, that Jenna can share in her Friday updated graph, shows more and more children in the 0-17 group infected each week over previous weeks.

Numbers are not available as to how many preschoolers are currently in quarantine, yet the Monday MDHHS report shows an uptick in cases at the preschool level. Also, the case numbers continue to escalate at that level, a report that is mirrored in the stories from other county Superintendents.

Leadership of the WCHD have stated that at this current time, they cannot keep up with the contact tracing effort; they have issued the DIY guidance on what to do if you believe you have been exposed.

They are overwhelmed, and indicated it would likely be this way as long as case numbers are as high as they currently are. \

Jenna, what would you add to this response, please?

Hope this information is helpful, thanks,

Jeanice



Jeanice Kerr Swift

Superintendent of Schools
Ann Arbor Public Schools

p: (734) 994-2232

a: 2555 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

w: a2schools.org **e:** swift@a2schools.org



On Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 4:41 PM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Hello Dr. Swift,

Can you please ask Jenna to provide a little more clarification on the 2 WCHD bullet points below?

- They're seeing a lot of cases in preschoolers. (We have heard that they are currently putting lots of 4 year olds in quarantine.)
- They are not able to complete case investigations even for their "priority" groups (0-17 year olds, 65+ year olds, 48197/98, etc.).

Specifically, what does she mean by "a lot"? And is she implying that we will have no (zero) support from WCHD regarding contact tracing if we open?

Thank you.

Rebecca

On Friday, December 4, 2020, Swift, Jeanice <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Hello Trustees,

I appreciate this comprehensive update from Jenna, based on today's meeting with the WCHD.

Lots of movement in progress now - and appears to be the 'Best' and the 'Worst' all occurring at one time.

Thank You, and I know that Jenna will assist us with any questions.

Take Care,

Jeanice

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

From: **Bacolor, Jenna** <bacolor@aaps.k12.mi.us>

Date: Fri, Dec 4, 2020 at 1:09 PM

Subject: Important: Local COVID-19 vaccine distribution info and new quarantine guidance

To: Superintendent's Cabinet <dst_sup_cabinet@aaps.k12.mi.us>

Good afternoon,

Below is a summary of local implications of this week's new CDC quarantine guidance and how vaccine distribution will occur in our Washtenaw County region.

First: Apparently Gov. Whitmer and MDHHS Director Gordon are waiting until the last minute to make a decision re: if MDHHS will extend their order -- expect a press conference likely Sunday or Monday

Vaccine approval, prioritization, and distribution

- It appears pretty likely that the Pfizer vaccine will receive Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) soon. This is a two-dose vaccine with a 2nd dose given 21 days after the first. This vaccine requires ultra cold storage, and the Washtenaw County Health Dept. is one of 9 regional hubs that is getting a big freezer to receive the vaccine. WCHD reports that if the EUA goes through, Michigan will receive <81,000 doses in Dec. (they were hoping for much more).
- Group 1A for receiving the vaccine includes health care workers and nursing home residents. Group 1B includes other essential workers such as teachers and school administrators. Lots still to be sorted out re: who is prioritized within these groups.
- Arnold Monto, esteemed professor emeritus at the U of M SPH who is leading the FDA safety committee for COVID-19 vaccines, noted this week that there has been a huge amount spent on vaccine development and comparatively little on distribution plans/needs.
- Dr. Monto also said that there will not be a pediatric vaccine anytime soon. Clinical trials for 12+ year olds haven't started yet.
- Just like with H1N1 in 2009, the WCHD will temp hire school nurses to assist with mass COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

NEW quarantine "options" from the CDC

- At the national level, estimates of the COVID-19 incubation period have been refined based on a review of case data for hundreds of thousands of cases. Data from that assessment indicate that 99% of all infections will present within ten days of exposure. While a fourteen-day quarantine period is still standard, under certain conditions the CDC has presented an option for reducing the quarantine period for exposed individuals to ten days after exposure.
- The WCHD has released these instructions: While the standard fourteen-day quarantine period remains, individuals have an opportunity to reduce that to ten days provided:
 - The individual does not develop any symptoms or clinical evidence of COVID-19 infection during daily symptom monitoring for the 10 days after the last exposure; and,
 - Daily symptom monitoring continues through day 14 after the last exposure.
- Based on individual assessment, public health may continue to require individuals to quarantine for the full 14 days per existing CDC recommendations. The fourteen day option most greatly mitigates the possibility of post-quarantine transmission and continues to be the strategy with the most evidence for reducing risk to others at present. Thus, for the majority of close contacts, if the individual meets the above criteria, they can discontinue quarantine after 10 days after the last exposure.

What's happening in Washtenaw County

- They're seeing a lot of cases in preschoolers. (We have heard that they are currently putting lots of 4 year olds in quarantine.)
- They are not able to complete case investigations even for their "priority" groups (0-17 year olds, 65+ year olds, 48197/98, etc.).
- They continue to rely on school districts to DIY with contact tracing and putting our staff in quarantine. They said to communicate to staff that the WCHD will probably NOT be calling them.

Let me know if you have questions and have a great weekend.

Jenna

--

Jenna Bacolor, MPH, LMSW
Executive Director
Community Division
Ann Arbor Public Schools
bacolor@a2schools.org

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

"It is not enough to be compassionate - you must act." -- The Dalai Lama

--

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"It is not enough to be compassionate - you must act." -- The Dalai Lama

From: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: In-Person learning
Date: February 4, 2021 at 1:44 PM
To: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us

SB

Stay strong, trustee! 😊😊

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 12:37 PM Gaynor, Jeff <gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Thanks, Susan. I knew what I signed up for -- though certainly no one expected the Spanish Inquisition* - I mean, Covid.

-Jeff

* A Monty Python reference.

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 3:05 AM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Stay strong Jeff.

As you know, this is not a very affirming job.

S

On Wed, Feb 3, 2021 at 9:19 PM Gaynor, Jeff <gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Colleagues,

[REDACTED] last sentence reads, "I look forward to your response and more importantly the boards. I have written several emails and not once heard from them. I believe your team owes it to the district to respond to us parents."

This is not accurate. My records show that along with Dr. Swift's five responses, I have replied to her eight times since September.

(I don't even want to think about what her statement does to my self-esteem!)

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Wed, Feb 3, 2021 at 12:53 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Dr. Swift and BOE members,

226 days! 226 days since the last time [REDACTED] have stepped foot in an AAPS building for school.

March 12 was the last day they saw their teachers F2F or played on the playground with their friends. I remember sitting in a coffee shop waiting for [REDACTED] to finish [REDACTED] tutoring session with an old teacher of [REDACTED] when the announcement was made. Schools were to close while we got a handle on exactly what this virus was about and the impact it would have on our community. At the time, it was a wise and safe choice. We had zero evidence of the impact and certainly had no clue as to how contagious it could become. But here we are, 9 months later. We have gained a tremendous amount of learnings these past several months. Especially over the last 5 months, while some children have been fortunate enough to return to school for in-person learning or at least a hybrid model.

Not only has the CDC, state health departments, POTUS, and Governor Whitmer announced their evidenced based opinion to encourage the re-opening of schools, but so have many epidemiologist and doctors in the area. Even the state superintendent recently announced his desire for in person learning. I understand we have a very large district, the 4th largest in the state, but that actually lends to have the ability for in person learning, specifically the youngest and most in need. We have several buildings and open space to utilize as make shift classrooms. It seems like it will be a long shot for middle and high school aged kids to return F2F this school year, so use their school buildings/classrooms for elementary level kids.

I understand the need for teachers to be vaccinated and I agree, it would give them a peace of mind while F2F. It seems like clinics are set up to vaccinate teachers, but how is the district prioritizing and implementing a plan to administer these shots to this very important group? Are you completing this by grade level? Or just by age? Some of the teachers i have heard

were able to receive the vaccine through their home town health department - which is great. Teachers should be done immediately to get these kids into the classroom. But to be honest, if they are receiving shots and working remotely, don't you and the board feel these vaccines would be better used for people within the community that are at high risk or do not have the ability to demand working remotely like our teachers have done. I believe these are wasted vaccines during a time that a vaccine is needed for other essential workers that are forward facing with the pandemic. With the weekly newsletter, are you able to provide an update on the number of teachers vaccinated in the district each week?

As a healthcare worker during this pandemic, there is nothing more I can relate to then the stress of working in this environment. I spend every day swabbing and treating symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. I walk into the hospital not knowing whether or not I will contract the virus. But I go every single day. People are relying on me, just like us parents are relying on our teachers and school administrators to educate our children. No, I do not think of the school system and teachers as childcare. Whether we are F2F or virtual, I am paying for childcare. I think of school as a place for my children to learn, socially and academically. It's a place to grow as a person and learn independence. So shame on those that believe us parents look to teachers and school as a daycare just because we want our kids taught in a school building versus zoom.

Do any of the board members know what it's like to have [REDACTED] home virtually learning while working 3 jobs and my husband working full-time? I believe most of you either don't have school aged kids or if you do, they are middle school or high school aged (much more independent). The stress of making sure these little ones are logged in and actually interacting with their peers/teachers is unachievable most days. These kids no longer have their home as their safe zone - it has become their school, their home, their extracurricular environment. Zero separation for them to breath. This leads to just a very unhappy family 24/7.

During the last BOE meeting, the board mentioned that many parents are referencing other districts are open and operating well. But, the board mentioned AAPS is different because of the size. But have you looked at research from several different district sizes and operations. Schools with 22 kids in a classroom have not had to shutdown 1x. They are attending 5 full days! Sure cases have come up, but the school was able to mitigate without the testing AA schools will have in place. We have far more tools then most districts because we have the funding. We should be able to implement this safely. Also, you pride yourself on the technology that we spent so much money on (and I'm sure that is why you feel committed to using it all year). If we do have to quarantine all families are well aware of how to use the platform and would handle it very well for the 10 days.

Your recent email outlines the reasoning behind not providing a date for the hybrid plan. It seems the reasoning continues to change after certain points are met to open. Something else is used to blame to not open. In December, you mentioned not waiting on the vaccine but now you are committed to getting the staff vaccinated before opening. It's a key point in your decision. And secondly, the new variant. This is a virus and viruses will mutate. Think of the flu, a virus that definitely impacts many children, but yet we leave the doors open when several cases are diagnosed in a school. I remember last winter my daughters class had 8 kids out with the flu. Did we switch to remote learning, no! What will AAPS do when there is yet another variant in the fall, will you close down?

As we know based on research, elementary schools are not super-spreaders. To disregard this research is ignorant and arrogant on you and your boards part. You can't argue science. I understand you believe you are science driven but your actions do not correlate.

The children's needs and mental health have never been truly addressed. Everything looks wonderful on paper but have you listened to any of the pediatricians and therapist that have reached out? Kids are struggling mentally more then ever right now. Fauci even stated the risk and long term effects of being remote far outweigh the risks of contracting COVID and any long-term effects from Covid. We will look back on these times and know you and your team never did their job and that is to provide an education to our children of Ann Arbor. I will tell you, your actions will have a major impact on the district as a whole and we will spend years trying to land back to where we were prior to the pandemic.

So, the reason I write is for answers. Answers as to why a survey has not been sent since the beginning of the school year. If 50% of the students/parents and 50% of teachers want to go back, can't you make that work? You have a \$1B bond to help with buildings and the space to safely set the kids up. I'm confused. Is there a chance these kids are going to return in the fall as hybrid? If that's the case you owe it to us families that want in person learning 5 days a week, so we can make other arrangements. It's clear these fall hybrid plans could be in the future; your team mentioned at the last meeting, that we will have to implement the 6 mitigation strategies even after the community has overall been vaccinated because the kids will not be. And 1 of the 6 strategies are cohorts and that means a hybrid model. Please just be transparent. Tell us if in person is not going to be done this year. Just like you are catering to the teachers and families that want virtual let us parents who want in person know the truth. Will our kids enter a building this year? The pandemic is not going anywhere anytime soon, if you didn't open back in the fall when numbers were lower then now, why would you ever do it now. So just tell us vs letting us build hope with each email and just letting us down in the end.

I look forward to your response and more importantly the boards. I have written several emails and not once heard from them. I believe your team owes it to the district to respond to us parents.

Thank you!

[REDACTED]

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

--

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: Re: Invitation to AAEA Elementary Caucus

Date: December 11, 2020 at 6:29 PM

To: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Cc: RINGO, ANITA ringo@aaps.k12.mi.us, BOE boardofed@a2schools.org, Board of Education boe@aaps.k12.mi.us, Tamala Bell bellt@aaps.k12.mi.us, Fred Klein mrklein@aaps.k12.mi.us, George Przygodski gprzygodski@mea.org, Ernesto Querijero [REDACTED], Krystle Rose [REDACTED]

JG

Anita, I would like to attend - though I'll yield my spot. I am cc'ing the two incoming board members - hope you don't mind.

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor

Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us

cell: [REDACTED]

On Fri, Dec 11, 2020 at 4:58 PM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello Anita,

I will be happy to attend.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Fri, Dec 11, 2020 at 2:55 PM RINGO, ANITA <ringo@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Dear Members of the AA Board of Education,

The Elementary Caucus of the AAEA would like to invite you to join us for a discussion about issues affecting elementary schools in Ann Arbor. During this unusual virtual school year, it will be very helpful for us to share perspectives and information. We have no preplanned agenda. Please come prepared for a dialogue.

To avoid a quorum of Board members, the first three to reply will be accepted. We would especially appreciate seeing those trustees who are new to the Board this year. Please feel free to send three representatives to speak on behalf of those who cannot attend.

AAEA Elementary Caucus
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
10:30-11:15 a.m.
via zoom at

<https://a2schools.zoom.us/j/8641971286>

Please "Reply All" so others can see when our limit is reached. I will email when we have a set of attending members.

Thanks in advance for your participation,
Anita Ringo
AAEA Elementary Caucus Chair

From: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: invitation to AAEA SISS Caucus meeting 03/16/2021
Date: January 26, 2021 at 9:59 PM

SB

To: Yee, Christy yee@aaps.k12.mi.us

Cc: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Loveland, Tracy loveland@aaps.k12.mi.us, Susan Baskett baskett@a2schools.org, dupreek@a2schools.org, Jeff Gaynor gaynor@a2schools.org, Bryan Johnson johnsonbr@a2schools.org, Jessica Kelly kellyj@a2schools.org, Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@a2schools.org, querijeroe@a2schools.org

Darn!
So sorry to have missed a spot.
Please keep us informed of the next opportunity.

Stay warm,
S

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 11:43 AM Yee, Christy <yee@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good Morning Rebecca! You made the cut! We have three board members and will send the link for the March 16 SISS Caucus as the date gets closer.

Thank You all.
Christy

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 11:41 AM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello Tracy and Christy,

I would be happy to attend your upcoming caucus. Please let me know if I've made the cut.

Thank you.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 4:58 PM Loveland, Tracy <loveland@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good afternoon Trustees~

We hope that the start of the new year is treating you well! As co-chairs of the AAEA SISS Caucus, we would like to extend an invitation to our zoom meeting on Tuesday, March 16th from 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. to the first three board members that respond to this email.

We intend to use this meeting time to share our priorities in striving to best meet the needs of the students with disabilities in our district as well as the teachers and support staff that educate them.

We look forward to hearing from and having the opportunity to meet with some of you.

Kind regards,

Tracy Loveland and Christy Yee

--

Tracy Loveland, Ph.D.

School Psychologist

A2 Steam @ Northside: 994-1958 ext. 26423 (Mon. afternoon, T, W, F)

Haisley Elementary: 994-1937 (Mon. morning, Th)

--

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: invitation to AAEA SISS Caucus meeting 03/16/2021
Date: January 26, 2021 at 12:01 PM
To: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us



Rebecca, I am the 3rd trustee, along with Jessica and you.

When are you talking to Swift today? I am at 2:15.

I talked with [REDACTED] yesterday (from the [REDACTED]) about the [REDACTED]. Yeah, it was ok for me to do so. Call if you want a summary.

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 11:41 AM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello Tracy and Christy,

I would be happy to attend your upcoming caucus. Please let me know if I've made the cut.

Thank you.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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Good afternoon Trustees~

We hope that the start of the new year is treating you well! As co-chairs of the AAEA SISS Caucus, we would like to extend an invitation to our zoom meeting on Tuesday, March 16th from 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. to the first three board members that respond to this email.

We intend to use this meeting time to share our priorities in striving to best meet the needs of the students with disabilities in our district as well as the teachers and support staff that educate them.

We look forward to hearing from and having the opportunity to meet with some of you.

Kind regards,

Tracy Loveland and Christy Yee

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Tracy Loveland, Ph.D.

School Psychologist

A2 Steam @ Northside: 994-1958 ext. 26423 (Mon. afternoon, T, W, F)

Haisley Elementary: 994-1937 (Mon. morning, Th)

From: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: invitation to AAEA SISS Caucus meeting 03/16/2021
Date: January 27, 2021 at 10:45 AM
To: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us



Any time now. (At some point - not too soon - I'm heading out for a walk, but leave a msg and I'll call back.)

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Wed, Jan 27, 2021 at 9:30 AM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
I would. Can you talk around 10:30?

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer
Ann Arbor Public Schools
Board of Education
Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 12:01 PM Gaynor, Jeff <gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Rebecca, I am the 3rd trustee, along with Jessica and you.

When are you talking to Swift today? I am at 2:15.

I talked with [REDACTED] yesterday (from the [REDACTED]) about the [REDACTED]. Yeah, it was ok for me to do so. Call if you want a summary.

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 11:41 AM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Hello Tracy and Christy,

I would be happy to attend your upcoming caucus. Please let me know if I've made the cut.

Thank you.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer
Ann Arbor Public Schools
Board of Education
Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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We intend to use this meeting time to share our priorities in striving to best meet the needs of the students with disabilities in our district as well as the teachers and support staff that educate them.

We look forward to hearing from and having the opportunity to meet with some of you.

Kind regards,

Tracy Loveland and Christy Yee

--

Tracy Loveland, Ph.D.
School Psychologist

[A2 Steam @ Northside: 994-1958 ext. 26423 \(Mon. afternoon, T, W, F\)](#)

[Haisley Elementary: 994-1937 \(Mon. morning, Th\)](#)

From: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Invite to This Afternoon's Filming of the Elementary Hybrid Option Information Session
Date: February 5, 2021 at 4:53 PM
To: Cluley, Andrew cluleya@aaps.k12.mi.us
Cc: Jessica Kelly kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us, Ernesto Querijero querijeroe@aaps.k12.mi.us



Thanks for allowing me to join in. If you wondered why I was hanging on at the end, it was because I got 2 phone calls, long ones actually, both about our schools, and missed much of the last half of the session, and wasn't listening at the end anyway. But I'll tune in to the information sessions. Thanks again.

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 11:34 AM Cluley, Andrew <cluleya@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

We changed the start time from 1 PM to 2 PM since I created this zoom meeting, so if you would like to join please do so at 2 PM.

I ask that you please keep off your camera and microphone, so our video guy won't have to edit the recording of the Informational session.

Thanks.

Andrew

Topic: Elementary Hybrid Community Info Filming
Time: Feb 4, 2021 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://a2schools.zoom.us/j/93497799982>

Meeting ID: 934 9779 9982
Passcode: 477560

From: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Letter of support
Date: December 11, 2020 at 6:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Susan Baskett baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us

BJ

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks so much for your email. I really appreciate your support and the details about your experience. One of our main goals in drafting our COVID plan was to create stability for families despite the very painful circumstances. Rest assured, the Board of Education is committed to resuming face to face instruction as soon as possible, prioritizing our youngest and most vulnerable learners. We listen to and value commentary from parents and members of the community. We consider suggestions and use what we can to improve our plans. But we will not be pressured to resume face to face instruction by a subset of loud voices on one side of the debate. We're confident that we have established thoughtful metrics and processes that allow us to somewhat objectively assess safety and to adjust our strategy as we learn more about the virus and it's short and long term effects.

We understand there's a concerted effort to gather more support for face to face instruction. As someone with a social justice background, I fully understand the strategy. That said, our decisions won't be based on the number of people who submit public commentary. They will be based on infection rates, testing and contact tracing capability, better therapeutics, vaccines, etc. We believe that's the only way to fulfil our duty to the community. Thanks again for your thoughtful note, have a wonderful weekend and I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday!

Sincerely,
Bryan

Bryan L. Johnson

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board
Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Phone: [REDACTED]

On Thu, Dec 10, 2020 at 8:58 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Board of Education Members-

I am an Ann Arbor resident and my [REDACTED] attend the [REDACTED] school. We moved to this district in 2019 from a smaller district in Washtenaw County. I am writing to express my utmost support for your current remote processes for learning. It is my understanding you have been inundated with loud requests to return to face to face learning and was compelled to contact you to help express this is NOT a consistent, nor popular stance amongst many parents and health professionals -despite those organizing pediatricians, a wealthy voice in a very imbalanced system. Please remember, there is more to health care than doctors.

Since entering this district, I've been incredibly satisfied and reassured that my children receive excellent services, despite the pandemic. I am a [REDACTED] and work in [REDACTED]. I have seen the effects of COVID 19, not only in adults, but in children. I am greatly fearful of the increased exposure that will come to my children if they return to in person learning. There is minimal to no research regarding how children respond/spread to COVID because so many children have not had to return to pre-pandemic activities, as adults have. There are functional impairments (stroke, cognitive impairments, motor weakness, endurance problems) that are outcomes in children with severe responses to COVID. These are life changing disabilities and as a physical therapist, I directly see the effects. Not all kids bounce back.

Based on how other schools in Washtenaw have bounced back and forth from in person/remote, I anecdotally have observed friend's children exhibit higher stress and anxiety behaviors than my own. After meeting with friends from Dexter, Manchester, Saline and comparing notes, it is clear that Ann Arbor is doing this right. Because your actions are reliable, I have a more reliable work schedule. Because your actions are

safe, my children are safe. Because your actions are consistent, my children feel confident and supported. I do greatly appreciate the efforts of our school to help with interaction, support, and development.

Additionally, I should mention that my children do not receive IEP/504 supports. As a pediatric physical therapist, it would be wrong of me not to mention that I do fully support ways to meet the individualized plans for children who do require additional support for their learning.

Ann Arbor is a much larger district in comparison to smaller school districts. As these small districts have failed to keep students safe and have such a variable schedule, I have no desire to repeat their mistakes in this larger district. School is much more than childcare. It is a place of creativity, exploration and growth. It is a place where professional, educated adults pass knowledge to the next generation. And it needs to be a safe haven without increased risk to both children and staff.

Thank you very much for the actions and communications thus far. I am thankful for the safe, secure plan.

████████████████████
████████████████████
████████████████████

From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Meeting next week with [REDACTED]
Date: November 16, 2020 at 5:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Nelson, Glenn nelsong@aaps.k12.mi.us, Kelly, Jessica kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us



Hello [REDACTED],

I apologize for the late notice, but my power is out so I won't be able to join you tonight as planned. I am sure Trustees Kelly and Nelson will be wonderful and I look forward to their update.

Thank you for reaching out. Please stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lazarus
Trustee AAPS

On Sunday, November 15, 2020, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Trustees Kelly, Lazarus, and Nelson,

We look forward to meeting with you on Zoom tomorrow (Monday Nov 16) at 6:00 pm. Our group will consist of the following AAPS parents - [REDACTED].

The Zoom joining information is below. Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Topic: [REDACTED]
Time: Nov 16, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82087842499?pwd=cE5yWm4wVDVadmVDRWdNTERwVUFmUT09>

Meeting ID: 820 8784 2499

Passcode: 942132

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,82087842499#,,,,,0#,,942132# US (New York)

+13017158592,,82087842499#,,,,,0#,,942132# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 820 8784 2499

Passcode: 942132

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keBNDWjeTs>

On Sun, Nov 15, 2020 at 1:41 PM Nelson, Glenn <nelsong@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Happy to do so!

Glenn

On Sun, Nov 15, 2020 at 1:29 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello, Trustees,
Absolutely, thank you for joining us, Trustee Nelson!

I will be sending you meeting invite shortly. Thanks!

Best,
[REDACTED]

On Sunday, November 15, 2020, Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good Morning [REDACTED],

Trustee Nelson would like to join us tomorrow. Would you please include him on the Zoom invitation. I have copied him in this email.

Thank you.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 1:47 PM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Looking forward to it. Talk to you soon.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 12:58 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Trustees Kelly and Lazarus,

Thank you for your patience. **6:00 - 7:00 pm on Monday Nov 16** works for us (we'll be a group of 6 AAPS parents) and we are looking forward to our conversation with you both. I will send out the zoom joining information shortly.

Thank you and best wishes,
[REDACTED]

On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 12:00 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you both! I am waiting on responses from other group members and will get back to you ASAP. I have let them know that we are holding Nov 16. Thanks so much!

[REDACTED]

On Friday, November 13, 2020, Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for looping me in on this discussion. I am available to meet on Monday 11/16. Please let me know if this works.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools
Board of Education
Cell: [REDACTED] . I . lazarusr@a2schools.org . I . www.a2schools.org

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On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 11:31 AM Kelly, Jessica <kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Monday and Tuesday are my 2 available evenings next week. I've cc'd Trustee Lazarus here. I know how busy everyone is, so coordinating would help your group not have to do multiple meetings.



Jessica Kelly, Vice President
she/her/hers
Board of Education
Ann Arbor Public Schools
c: [REDACTED]



On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 11:23 AM [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear Vice President Kelly,
Might you be available for a meeting at 6 pm or later on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday next week? For the sake of full transparency, I am also sending a meeting request to Trustee Lazarus. I say this not to ask you to coordinate, but just to let you know in case you would like to coordinate with her.

Please let me know if an evening meeting next week will work.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

On Wed, Nov 11, 2020 at 11:33 AM [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear VP Kelly,
Sorry to ask but might late evening some days (like 7 pm or so) work at all?

Best,
[REDACTED]

On Tuesday, November 10, 2020, [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear VP Kelly,
Sorry for the slight delay in my response. Thank you so much for your email and for your willingness to meet. We can certainly make mornings work for a Zoom meeting. We have not invited any other trustees to this meeting, but we are certainly open to you inviting your Board colleagues.

Would you like me to send you certain dates that work, or would you prefer to send me a couple options that are best for you? Either way is fine.

Thanks again and we are looking forward to meeting with you.

Best wishes,
[REDACTED]

On Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 1:52 PM Kelly, Jessica <kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Hi - thank you so much for your follow up!

I was maxed out on GOTV efforts last week, so I very much appreciate the reminder of your offer.

Zoom is perfect. Are you hoping to have several (up to 3, for Open Meetings Act reasons) trustees/trustees-elect attend? Generally, mornings are best for me, and I'm sure you know that Wednesday evenings are almost always booked. :-)

Thanks again,
Jessica



Jessica Kelly, Vice President

she/her/hers
Board of Education
Ann Arbor Public Schools
c: [REDACTED]



On Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 1:17 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Vice President Kelly,

I'm writing to follow up on my request for a meeting with a group of parents who are part of Ann Arbor Reasonable Return. Please see my initial email below for details. I hope to hear from you regarding this request, and thank you for your time.

Best wishes,
[REDACTED]

On Sat, Oct 31, 2020 at 9:28 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Vice President Kelly,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am an AAPS parent. I have [REDACTED]. I am reaching out today on behalf of [REDACTED] to request your time for a meeting with members of our group.

Background [REDACTED] is a grassroots group that is advocating for a risk-balanced and reasonable approach to resuming in-person learning for students who need and want this choice. We are Ann Arbor students, parents, teachers, scientists, educators, and professionals in the fields of medicine, public health, psychology, law, etc., who are deeply concerned that 100% online schooling is leading to serious loss of learning and impaired wellbeing for many children and families in our community.

Goal for the meeting: We are keen to meet with you to share our perspective, learn more about your perspective, and offer our support and resources in moving toward our common goal of resuming in-person schooling. We recently had a meeting with Board President Bryan Johnson and he encouraged us to continue reaching out for conversations with him and with other members of the AAPS school board.

Logistics: Our group will comprise 4-6 members and we will be happy to organize this Zoom meeting around your schedule. We hope you will be willing to meet with us for this important conversation. If so, please share times that work for you in the next week or so.

Thank you for considering this request.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] (on behalf of [REDACTED])

--

Rebecca Lazarus
Trustee
Board of Education Ann Arbor Public Schools

[REDACTED]
lazarusr@a2schools.org

From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Meeting next week with Ann Arbor Reasonable Return
Date: November 19, 2020 at 9:31 AM
To: ██████████
Cc: Glenn Nelson nelsong@aaps.k12.mi.us, ██████████, Susan Baskett baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us



Good Morning ██████████,

I appreciate the clarification. I welcome the opportunity to meet with both groups. Please provide us with a few available dates and time (after 4pm) to meet with the infectious disease experts. In the meantime, wishing you and your family a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: ██████████ . | lazarusr@a2schools.org . | www.a2schools.org

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On Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 8:35 PM ██████████ wrote:

Trustees,

Thank you for your willingness to meet with us and continually weigh and re-weigh these risks and benefits. I just wanted to offer a point of clarity. ██████████ and I had both reached out to you separately, because it's actually 2 separate groups requesting a meeting. I'm involved in both, which is I think understandably creating a bit of confusion.

██████████ is organizing a meeting with the ██████████ group. This meeting will include physician and public health expertise, along with the perspective of some parents with a variety of needs in the AAPS community.

In addition to being part of a meeting with ██████████, I'm organizing a meeting that is separate from ██████████ that includes some Infectious Disease physicians and a pediatric neuropsychologist. These folks aren't part of ██████████ but do want to offer their expertise if you would find that beneficial.

We know your time is valuable and limited, so understand if it isn't feasible to meet with both groups. However, I think it could be valuable to have a discussion with ██████████ to get their perspective and also utilize some of the expertise in the ID and pediatric neuropsychologist meeting to talk through any questions/concerns you might have. I think time constraints on the folks in the meeting I'm organizing won't allow for anything until after Thanksgiving, so I'll let ██████████ discuss scheduling on the dates you mentioned and I'll reach out separately once I nail down some availability of my group about that meeting if you are interested.

Please let us know if you have questions/ concerns.

On Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 10:36 AM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello ██████████

Again I apologize for my late cancellation to Monday's meeting with Trustees Kelly and Trustee Nelson. Clearly I would have preferred to have been there vs freezing in the dark. ;)

For efficiency reasons, I have looped in Trustee Baskett and Trustee Gaynor into this email. They would like to join us to discuss issues and concerns surrounding the risks and benefits of returning to school during the COVID19 pandemic.

With the holidays approaching soon, it may be a bit difficult to schedule something quickly but we are available this Friday 11/20 after 4:30 and Tuesday 11/24 after 4 pm. If these dates do not work for you, please provide a few alternate dates following December 1 in the afternoon after 4 pm.

In the meantime be safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 10:12 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Trustee Lazarus,

I am so sorry to hear about the loss of power in your home. I hope it has been restored! We missed talking with you this evening and I wanted to ask if you might be willing to reschedule and meet with our group soon?

Please let me know and thank you so much for considering this.

Best,

[REDACTED]

On Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 5:36 PM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED],

I apologize fir the late notice, but my power is out so I won't be able join you tonight as planned. I am sure Trustees Kelly and Nelson will be wonderful and I look forward to their update.

Thank you for reaching out. Please stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lazarus
Trustee AAPS

On Sunday, November 15, 2020 [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Trustees Kelly, Lazarus, and Nelson,

We look forward to meeting with you on Zoom tomorrow (Monday Nov 16) at 6:00 pm. Our group will consist of the following AAPS parents - [REDACTED]

The Zoom joining information is below. Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Topic: [REDACTED]

Time: Nov 16, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82087842499?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82087842499?pwd=cE5yWm4wVDVadmVDRWdNTERwVUFmUT09)

[pwd=cE5yWm4wVDVadmVDRWdNTERwVUFmUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82087842499?pwd=cE5yWm4wVDVadmVDRWdNTERwVUFmUT09)

Meeting ID: 820 8784 2499

Passcode: 942132

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,82087842499#,,,,,0#,,942132# US (New York)

+13017158592,,82087842499#,,,,,0#,,942132# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6700 US (Chicago)

+1 312 626 0799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 820 8784 2499

Passcode: 942132

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keBNDWjeTs>

On Sun, Nov 15, 2020 at 1:41 PM Nelson, Glenn <nelsong@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Happy to do so!
Glenn

On Sun, Nov 15, 2020 at 1:29 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello, Trustees,
Absolutely, thank you for joining us, Trustee Nelson!

I will be sending you meeting invite shortly. Thanks!

Best,
[REDACTED]

On Sunday, November 15, 2020, Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Trustee Nelson would like to join us tomorrow. Would you please include him on the Zoom invitation. I have copied him in this email.

Thank you.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 1:47 PM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Looking forward to it. Talk to you soon.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 12:58 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Trustees Kelly and Lazarus,

Thank you for your patience. **6:00 - 7:00 pm on Monday Nov 16** works for us (we'll be a group of 6 AAPS parents) and we are looking forward to our conversation with you both. I will send out the zoom joining information shortly.

Thank you and best wishes.

On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 12:00 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
Thank you both! I am waiting on responses from other group members and will get back to you ASAP. I have let them know that we are holding Nov 16. Thanks so much!

On Friday, November 13, 2020, Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Hello [REDACTED],

Thank you for looping me in on this discussion. I am available to meet on Monday 11/16. Please let me know if this works.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 11:31 AM Kelly, Jessica <kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Monday and Tuesday are my 2 available evenings next week. I've cc'd Trustee Lazarus here. I know how busy everyone is, so coordinating would help your group not have to do multiple meetings.



Jessica Kelly, Vice President

she/her/hers

Board of Education

Ann Arbor Public Schools

c: [REDACTED]



On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 11:23 AM [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear Vice President Kelly,
Might you be available for a meeting at 6 pm or later on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday next week? For the sake of full transparency, I am also sending a meeting request to Trustee Lazarus. I say this not to ask you to coordinate, but just to let you know in case you would like to coordinate with her.

Please let me know if an evening meeting next week will work.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

On Wed, Nov 11, 2020 at 11:33 AM [REDACTED] > wrote:
Dear VP Kelly,
Sorry to ask but might late evening some days (like 7 pm or so) work at all?

Best,
[REDACTED]

On Tuesday, November 10, 2020, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear VP Kelly,

Sorry for the slight delay in my response. Thank you so much for your email and for your willingness to meet. We can certainly make mornings work for a Zoom meeting. We have not invited any other trustees to this meeting, but we are certainly open to you inviting your Board colleagues.

Would you like me to send you certain dates that work, or would you prefer to send me a couple options that are best for you? Either way is fine.

Thanks again and we are looking forward to meeting with you.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

On Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 1:52 PM Kelly, Jessica <kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hi - thank you so much for your follow up!

I was maxed out on GOTV efforts last week, so I very much appreciate the reminder of your offer.

Zoom is perfect. Are you hoping to have several (up to 3, for Open Meetings Act reasons) trustees/trustees-elect attend? Generally, mornings are best for me, and I'm sure you know that Wednesday evenings are almost always booked. :-)

Thanks again,
Jessica



Jessica Kelly, Vice President

she/her/hers

Board of Education

Ann Arbor Public Schools

c: [REDACTED]



On Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 1:17 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Vice President Kelly,

I'm writing to follow up on my request for a meeting with a group of parents who are part of [REDACTED]. Please see my initial email below for details. I hope to hear from you regarding this request, and thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

On Sat, Oct 31, 2020 at 9:28 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Vice President Kelly,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am an AAPS parent. I have [REDACTED]. I am reaching out today on behalf of [REDACTED] to request your time for a meeting with members of our group.

Background: [REDACTED] is a grassroots group that is advocating for a risk-balanced and reasonable approach to resuming in-person learning for students who need and want this choice. We are Ann Arbor students, parents, teachers, scientists, educators, and professionals in the fields of medicine, public health, psychology, law, etc., who are deeply concerned that 100% online schooling is leading to serious loss of learning and

impaired wellbeing for many children and families in our community.

Goal for the meeting: We are keen to meet with you to share our perspective, learn more about your perspective, and offer our support and resources in moving toward our common goal of resuming in-person schooling. We recently had a meeting with Board President Bryan Johnson and he encouraged us to continue reaching out for conversations with him and with other members of the AAPS school board.

Logistics: Our group will comprise 4-6 members and we will be happy to organize this Zoom meeting around your schedule. We hope you will be willing to meet with us for this important conversation. If so, please share times that work for you in the next week or so.

Thank you for considering this request.

Best wishes,

██████████ (on behalf of ██████████)

--
Rebecca Lazarus
Trustee
Board of Education Ann Arbor Public Schools
██████████
lazarusr@a2schools.org
www.a2schools.org

From: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Mental Health
Date: November 14, 2020 at 10:16 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jessica Kelly kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us



Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for your thoughtful message! I'm glad to hear that you're so interested in mental health and I share your concerns about the mental health of our students during COVID. Mental health is definitely as important as physical health.

Over the two years that I have been on the school board, we've seen an increase in the need for more mental health resources, including social workers, in our schools. COVID has made these challenges a bit more apparent as we will absolutely consider the impact it will have on the mental health of our students when we return to face to face instruction.

I really appreciate you taking the time to write to me. Please continue to engage with public officials. It makes a real difference.

Sincerely,
Bryan

Bryan L. Johnson
President, Ann Arbor Public School Board
Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Phone: [REDACTED]

On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 11:48 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Today's date: 11/10/20

Dear Mr. Bryan Johnson,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] School in Ann Arbor. I am writing to you about Mental Health.

This issue is very important to me because I think during these uncertain times of COVID, we all are feeling stressed out. I am sure more kids are feeling the same way about it. I believe Mental Health is as important as Physical Health. We all feel alone and sad sometimes. A lot of people don't want to share this feeling with others.

Another reason that makes me concerned is that not everyone expresses their feelings the same way. When people don't have good support these feelings become worse. Hopefully, whenever we go back to face to face learning, having tools ready to boost kids Mental Health, will be a good

idea.

I would like for you to ask the school to hire more counselors that can help students. Students should always have someone to talk to in the school so they can go ask for help whenever they need. Also, the school should include more fun activities, yoga, meditation and other mental health wellness programs to keep students happy and stress free.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: New study from the CDC
Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:37 AM
To: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us



Great response!!!

BJ

Bryan L. Johnson

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board

Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Phone: [REDACTED]

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 9:06 PM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good evening [REDACTED],

Thank you for the information.

After reading the study, I noted a few limitations that would make one wonder about its applicability to our school district:

- The study was done in rural settings
- District sizes are much smaller (4,876 or 5,530 students (both numbers were cited) from 5 school districts
- The lack of diversity (racial and economical) is a great contrast of AAPS
- Mask usage was reported from the memories of teachers (the ones who were responsible for enforcing mask wearing compliance?)

Of course I am not asking you to address the limitations, just noting them to assure you that the information was received and read.

As always, we appreciate your dedication to the wellness of our students, our teachers and the rest of our community.

Please stay safe and warm,
Susan Baskett, MBA
Secretary, Ann Arbor Board of Education
[REDACTED]

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 8:23 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
Trustee,

As a follow-up to the data we discussed when we met with you, we wanted to share this new study published just today in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (link at the bottom of this email).

To summarize, the study followed 17 out of 18 selected school districts in one Wisconsin county as they conducted in-person learning over a period of 13 weeks. Data from the study showed:

- Teacher reported student mask wearing rates were high (>92%).
- COVID19 incidence among students and staff was 37% lower than in the surrounding community.
- Only 7 cases of COVID19 were attributable to in-school transmission. There were zero cases of in-school transmission to staff.
- This was despite widespread community transmission. During the study period, the county had positivity rates from 7-40% and case rates of 5-170 per 100,000 per day.
- Cohorting size was 11-20 students.

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7004e3.htm?s_cid=mm7004e3_w#F2_up

K-12 schools can have in-person learning with limited in-school COVID-19 spread

17 K-12 schools in rural Wisconsin opened and implemented measures to limit spread:

- Used masks
- Established groups of 11-20 students
- Staff maintained 6 feet of distance, if possible
- Quarantined after exposures

* Weekly incidence of 34 to 1,189 per 100,000 persons in the community; 7-40% positive COVID-19 tests

Teachers reported more than 92% of students used masks



During 13 weeks of in-person learning

7 of 4,876 students and

0 of 654 staff

are known to have gotten COVID-19 at school

No spread is known to have occurred to or from staff in school despite some time with high community spread*

CDC.GOV

bit.ly/MMWR12621

MMWR

Please let us know if there are any ways in which we can be helpful.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

--

All the best,
Susan Baskettt
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Fwd: OCSBA Survey
Date: November 4, 2020 at 2:29 PM
To: Bryan Johnson johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jessica Kelly kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us
Cc: Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us



PS: Hi and sorry, I intended to send this email to Dr. Swift and the Exec Team. See below. Thank you.

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

From: Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Date: Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 2:27 PM
Subject: OCSBA Survey
To: Jeanice Swift <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us>

Hello Dr. Swift,

You may have already seen the attached information on OCSBA, but if not, I wanted to pass it along. Attached are a few survey results from 8 out of 28 Oakland County School district's regarding their discussion on virtual/return to in-person learning. It is my understanding that this is all the schools who responded. The information came from Carol Finkelstein, President of OCSBA.

Question, has Washtenaw County done a similar type of survey? If so, is it possible to have access to the results? Reviewing this information could be helpful to the Board in better understanding how our district compares; versus glenning information from multiple news sources and biased street conversations.

Please let me know. Thank you.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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Questions for
OCSBA...es.PDF

From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Offer to meet - panel of experts
Date: December 17, 2020 at 2:34 PM
To: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Cc: Susan Baskett baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us



Hi Bryan,

Attached is [REDACTED] Powerpoint. I would be happy to share my thoughts on the meeting with you if you are interested.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Thu, Dec 17, 2020 at 2:09 PM Johnson, Bryan <johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. I'm glad to hear the meeting with Trustees Baskett, Nelson, and Lazarus went well. I'll talk with at least one of the Trustees you met with this week so I look forward to their briefing. Did the group of physicians share any specific documentation? If so, please send it to me and I'll take a look.

I read the letter from you and the other physicians and noticed it focused centrally on whether or not COVID spread in school environments. It did not focus much on the negative impacts of virtual learning and when it did, the evidence share was more anecdotal. Given that we, hopefully, agree we're nowhere close to being able to safely resume 100% in-person learning, I'm specifically interested in any comparisons you have between fully virtual and hybrid learning and the associated negative impacts. We have not been able to locate data that compares these two scenarios, especially within the same school system, so any thoughts/insights/evidence you can share would be extremely helpful.

I'm happy to meet with your group in January. Please let me know which dates and times you/they are available, and I'll do my best to accommodate their schedule. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Sincerely,
Bryan

Bryan L. Johnson

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board

Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Phone: [REDACTED]

On Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 9:05 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Trustee Johnson,

We spoke previously about potentially arranging a meeting with a panel of experts, including infectious disease doctors, a pediatric hospitalist, a pediatric neuropsychologist, and an AAPS social worker. This panel met with Trustees Baskett, Nelson, and Lazarus last night. I'd encourage you to speak with them regarding their thoughts on the meeting, but I think we had a valuable and collegial conversation. I know the decisions you are grappling with are incredibly difficult and you are feeling pressure from a lot of different groups. This panel truly just wants to share their expertise and be a resource to you as you work through the constantly evolving evidence on COVID, kids, and schools.

If you think this type of meeting would be helpful, please let me know and we'd be happy to find a time to meet with you.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]



BOE Meeting

From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Fwd: Offer to meet
Date: December 16, 2020 at 2:35 PM
To: Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us
Cc: Glenn Nelson nelsong@aaps.k12.mi.us, Susan Baskett baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us

RL

Hello Dr. Swift,

Attached is the PowerPoint from our 2-hour meeting with the Doctor's last night. Not much new happened except there were some interesting comments about their letter and its intent. When you have a moment to talk, I will be happy to brief you on the takeaways as I see them.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | lazarusr@a2schools.org . | www.a2schools.org

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

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 1:14 PM
Subject: Re: Offer to meet
To: Nelson, Glenn <nelsong@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us>, Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us>

Trustees Lazarus, Baskett, and Nelson,

Thank you again so much for your time and engagement last night. I hope that the discussion held some value for you and, as noted, we would be happy to meet again at any point in the future if it would be helpful, particularly as it comes to problem solving and logistical planning for some of these hurdles that will have to be overcome.

As promised, I'm sending you the deck from our presentation. I did adjust some of the slides to make things more readable and included notes on most slides regarding what was said/explained within those slides in case points aren't clear from the slides alone. Of note, slide 2 does now include many of our email addresses so please feel free to reach out to us as a group or individually with questions/concerns. Of note, not everyone's email is listed - I am waiting to hear back from folks about if they are ok sharing. I anticipate they will be and plan to forward on to you at that time, but wanted to prioritize being timely in giving you access to this deck.

Thank you again and good luck as you continue to navigate this process in the weeks and months ahead.

[REDACTED]
On Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 11:10 AM Nelson, Glenn <nelsong@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

[REDACTED],
I echo the sentiments of Susan and Rebecca. Thank you for arranging the constructive meeting. It increased my understanding of multiple issues. Please forward the PowerPoint when you have the opportunity.
Glenn

On Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 9:06 AM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for pulling the meeting together last night. I appreciate everyone's time and willingness to share their individual perspective on this unprecedented situation and I hope we can continue to have cordial communications going forward.

Again, I apologize that I had to leave early, but I am sure you were in good hands with Trustee Baskett and Trustee Nelson.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Be Safe and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 11:23 AM [REDACTED] wrote:
Trustees,

We are looking forward to tonight's meeting as well. We are still on for 6pm today if that works for you. Below you will find the zoom link to the meeting. Please reach out if any issues arise.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://umich-health.zoom.us/j/99428278672?
pwd=cG84MURJM3hqTEEwOGpJTHlydWxUQT09](https://umich-health.zoom.us/j/99428278672?pwd=cG84MURJM3hqTEEwOGpJTHlydWxUQT09)

Meeting ID: 994 2827 8672

Passcode: 624856

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,99428278672#,,,,,0#,,624856# US (New York)

+13017158592,,99428278672#,,,,,0#,,624856# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 994 2827 8672

Passcode: 624856

Find your local number: <https://umich-health.zoom.us/u/auIMri1d6>

Join by SIP

99428278672@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323

162.255.37.11 (US West)

162.255.36.11 (US East)

115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)

115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)

213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)

213.244.140.110 (Germany)

103.122.166.55 (Australia)

149.137.40.110 (Singapore)

64.211.144.160 (Brazil)

69.174.57.160 (Canada)

05.174.07.100 (Canada)
207.226.132.110 (Japan)
Meeting ID: 994 2827 8672
Passcode: 624856

On Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 4:50 AM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good morning [REDACTED],
Pls confirm our mtg tonight at 6pm.
As my colleagues have already indicated, we are looking forward to a positive conversation.

Stay safe,
S

On Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 9:44 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Trustees,

December 15th does still work for our panel. In addition to the folks I already mentioned, I believe one of the other [REDACTED], will also be able to join us that day. [REDACTED] will have some excellent knowledge to share as [REDACTED] is leading a study on one of the treatments for COVID19 so I'm glad [REDACTED] will be able to be there as well.

Let's plan on **6pm on December 15th**. I will be in touch closer to that date with zoom details, but please reach out before then if there are any specific questions or concerns you would like to highlight.

My understanding is that we need to limit the number of Trustees in our meeting to 3 if they are to remain non-public meetings (please correct me if that is not accurate). Trustee Gaynor has responded to my email about meeting as well. We will arrange a meeting with him separately, but if you talk to any of the other Trustees and they are interested, please encourage them to reach out and I can add them to a meeting with him.

Looking forward to meeting with you all,
[REDACTED]

On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 3:07 PM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good afternoon [REDACTED],
Thank you for your invitation to meet. I've taken the liberty to include trustees Lazarus and Nelson.
In reviewing our schedules, it looks like Dec 15 is best. Pls let us know if that still works for you and the panel.

Thank you,
S

On Sun, Nov 29, 2020 at 8:56 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:

Trustee Baskett,

I hope that you managed to have an enjoyable Thanksgiving despite all the challenges this year brings. I'm reaching out to try to schedule a meeting with the panel of experts I suggested previously. I apologize for the intermittent nature of my work on this - I'm being pulled a million different directions right now, which I'm sure you can relate to. The best dates/times for this group include:

- Thursday, December 3rd at 6pm or 7pm
- Tuesday, December 8th at 5pm, 6pm, or 7pm
- Thursday, December 10th at 6pm or 7pm
- Friday, December 11th at 6pm or 7pm
- Tuesday, December 15th at 6pm or 7pm
- Friday, December 19th at 6pm or 7pm

Included in the panel would be:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

I should note that none of us will be speaking on behalf of or representing the organizations for which we work. Our

opinions and expertise are our own. In the meeting, we would aim to share some of what we know and are observing, but would primarily like to serve as a resource to you for any questions or thoughts you would like to discuss.

If you are still interested in meeting with this group, please let me know if any of the times above would work for you. If you have specific questions/topics that would be helpful to discuss, feel free to let me know so that we can gather any information that might be helpful to those discussions ahead of time. However, we also welcome any topics that come up through the course of our conversation.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

On Sat, Nov 14, 2020 at 3:03 PM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

On behalf of our students, I would be happy to meet with you and others.

I am most available in the afternoons and would prefer to end any such meetings by 7pm.

Please let me know if there is any prep work that I need to do before such meetings.

S

On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 1:12 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Trustee Baskett,

I'm a [REDACTED] and parent to an AAPS student. I've been one of the folks advocating to bring some of our most vulnerable students back to in-person learning as soon as safely possible, so you've likely seen my name before. I'm currently organizing a meeting with some of the board members and was wondering if you would be interested in joining.

The meeting will be with a handful of people who are eager to offer their expertise to help the board weigh and manage the risks and benefits of return to school decisions. This group includes a few of the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who are actively studying and treating COVID19, a [REDACTED], a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] an AAPS social worker, and an AAPS school psychologist. Would you be interested in meeting with this group of people? I think it could be really valuable to get these experts all in the same (zoom) room to talk through how to balance both the educational needs of students and safety.

If you're interested, let me know and let me know if there are specific days of the week/times of the day that work well (or alternatively don't work well) for you. Once I hear back from a couple others, I'll reach out about date options.

Thanks for considering,

[REDACTED]

--

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

--

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

--

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education



BOE Meeting
(shared).pptx

From: **Gaynor, Jeff** gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Offer to meet
Date: November 17, 2020 at 5:08 PM
To: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us



Thanks for sending me Jessica's and Glenn's notes. For what it's worth, there's nothing new here to add to the conversations I've been having with individual members of the group. Everything is consistent. As you know I'm all for shortening the administration's presentations - if that increases the percentage of time we talk about returning, that's fine with me.

I'm not sure what is to be gained from another meeting with them, but I'm up for it if you are.

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 3:31 PM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

I'd like to meet with them, but I know Jessica and Glenn just met with them last night. I've copied Jessica and Glenn's notes at the bottom of this email.

With the holidays coming up and a 3 week semi-shutdown, it may be more fruitful for us to meet with [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] members after the MDHHS's order is over, there may be more new developments we can discuss. I am happy to respond to [REDACTED] email and [REDACTED] email in this fashion and copy you.

Please let me know what you think.

Thank you.

Jessica's email:

Trustee Nelson and I spent an hour with the [REDACTED] folks tonight (and I spent another hour after he left for a city council meeting), and I'd like to share these takeaways (with permission; we had a good candid conversation):

1. The fraction of time--and placement--on our agendas spent on updates about virtual programming vs. return plans gives the appearance that we are not prioritizing a return. There is a widespread opinion that AAPS will not be going back at all this year because we spend the front of our meeting on very long updates about virtual stuff.
My suggestion: shorten information items in duration, do not necessarily repeat highlights every week, allude to the later agenda items early in the night as they relate to the return plans. Perhaps there could be a very quick rundown of the agenda items when we approve it so that the FIRST thing the community hears is that we'll be talking about return plans during the briefings.
2. The absence of stickers and plexiglas was confused with lack of building readiness. I tried to correct that. The group suggested that Mr. Cluely do a piece on building readiness, even if the only visuals at this stage are boring ventilation ducts or something. Make it tangible.
My suggestion: Continue to include updates on building work at every meeting. Consider a checklist of where we are in the To Do List for Opening, or, more ambitiously, get an update on what calendar date our buildings would be ready for students if we stay on our current trajectory of work. Knowing that buildings won't prevent us from returning if we meet metrics next month would be a relief to all.
3. I heard that we spend a disproportionate amount of time digging into the dangers of covid and not enough time acknowledging the risks of virtual schooling.
My suggestion: include in our health update some studies that consider the harm of remote schooling, and acknowledge the urgency to safely return. We can acknowledge that along with our weighing of those risks and benefits if we are deciding to remain virtual.
4. If we find that our metrics become outdated in light of new information, modify them. I know that we would already do this, but I wanted to say it here.
My suggestion: we also say that aloud during the health update. Include new information as it becomes available.
5. Ask the community to donate PPE or money for PPE.
My suggestion: we do not do this. So few people understand how the bond money works that I believe we would be skewered if we were to say we needed money for PPE.

I would be happy to better explain these notes, if needed.

As always, thank you all for your hard work in this unprecedented time.

Jessica

Glenn's Email:

I would add several things to the good notes of Jessica. 1) The stories of struggling students and parents are heart breaking. I was reminded of my stress and dismay when our son dropped out of high school and when we did not know whether my daughter would graduate from high school until her final semester grades became available. And this was when parents were not struggling with COVID on top of everything else. The pain is real and acute.

2) At the time I left (after one hour) my impression was that the members of [REDACTED] were resigned to the fact AAPS would not admit any students in calendar 2020. I cited a few projections of a hellish increase in conditions over the next six weeks. They agreed these were credible even as we all hope the governor's recent order mitigates infections. They are resigned for political reasons, that is, they understand most in our community do not expect a return to face to face instruction in this environment. They do NOT accept this policy decision as based on science. They believe the science shows the damages to the youngest and most vulnerable children and their parents of virtual schooling outweigh the risks of exposure in the return to school.

3) Flowing from 2), our claims that we base our decisions on science are not credible to them. Recalling the phrase "do not resort to malice when incompetence will do", my impression in this circumstance is that they are not sure whether we genuinely do not understand and appreciate the science or whether we are willfully ignoring it because of concerns about adult constituencies that override the interests of children

4). The loss of enrollment in AAPS is real. Two of the six households in their group have enrolled their children in private schools (St. Francis and St. Thomas). Both parents appreciate the face to face instruction their children receive. They report their children like the schools very much.

5). [REDACTED], Program Manager, [REDACTED] raised the possibility of redirecting the testing capacity built up by the University of Michigan to the community, and specifically to AAPS, now that the number of University students in residence is expected to drop. I asked her to let us know if there is something we could do as individuals or as an institution to give this initiative a push. I have not heard from her yet.

I thought it was a good meeting even as it left me somewhat exhausted emotionally.

Glenn

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 2:51 PM Gaynor, Jeff <gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

I figured there'd be up to three of us -- better that way I think.

Jeff Gaynor

Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us

cell: [REDACTED]

On Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 1:26 PM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Do you mind doing it together or do you want to meet them alone?

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 1:21 PM Gaynor, Jeff <gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
I've been invited to meet and said I would. Haven't heard back.

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 1:19 PM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Hi Jeff,

Have you met with [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] group yet? Even if you haven't, would you like to meet with them together? I also have a meeting request from [REDACTED]. I believe they are both working with the [REDACTED] group. Please let me know.

Thanks.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . I . lazarusr@a2schools.org . I . www.a2schools.org

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

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 1:12 PM
Subject: Offer to meet
To: <lazarusr@a2schools.org>

Trustee Lazarus,

I'm a [REDACTED] and parent to an AAPS student. I've been one of the folks advocating to bring some of our most vulnerable students back to in-person learning as soon as safely possible, so you've likely seen my name before. I'm currently organizing a meeting with some of the board members and was wondering if you would be interested in joining.

The meeting will be with a handful of people who are eager to offer their expertise to help the board weigh and manage the risks and benefits of return to school decisions. This group includes a few of the [REDACTED], [REDACTED] who are actively studying and treating COVID19, a [REDACTED], a [REDACTED], an AAPS social worker, and an AAPS school psychologist. Would you be interested in meeting with this group of people? I think it could be really valuable to get these experts all in the same (zoom) room to talk through how to balance both the educational needs of students and safety.

If you're interested, let me know and let me know if there are specific days of the week/times of the day that work well (or alternatively don't work well) for you. Once I hear back from a couple others, I'll reach out about date options.

Thanks for considering,
[REDACTED]

From: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: "Open Letter to Legislators" from ????

Date: March 12, 2021 at 8:19 AM

To: Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us, Krystle DuPree dupreek@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jessica Kelly kellyj@a2schools.org, Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us

SB

Friends,
No reply required, just an FYI.

Found this this morning:

An Open Letter to the Michigan Legislature and Governor Whitmer Calling for Sensible Return-to-School Legislation for Fall 2021

We the undersigned are Michigan parents of school-aged children. One year into the pandemic, we have seen school districts around the country open for in-person learning while also adopting measures to protect the health and safety of teachers and school personnel. Yet many Michigan school districts have not done the same.

We are gravely concerned about the learning loss and mental health harms arising from the ongoing closure of schools to in-person learning. And we have lost faith in our local districts to prioritize children in their decision-making, to align their decisions with public health guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, and to follow the accumulating evidence about the modest risks associated with the resumption of in-person learning.

In particular, we are worried that some school districts, if given the option, may refuse to provide five-days-a-week, in-person learning in the fall, long after every teacher has had a chance to receive the vaccine. We fear too that some districts may substitute “hybrid” classrooms for face-to-face instruction, seriously degrading the quality of the educational experience.

As our state lawmakers, you have a crucial role to play in ensuring that our children can get a high-quality education. In August 2020, you passed an appropriations measure affording districts “maximum flexibility” to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic for this academic year. See MCL 388.1698a. In our view, it would be inappropriate to give districts the same flexibility for the coming year. Though they may still need some latitude to accommodate students with health-related concerns, districts should be held accountable for the same quality and quantity of classroom hours that they provided before the pandemic.

We therefore encourage the legislature to adopt three clear guardrails in any appropriations law governing the 2021 to 2022 school year:

First, every district must provide five full days of in-person school per week—no half-days or shortened days, no Wednesday closures—for every child who elects to attend.

Second, instruction must be fully in person. Districts cannot mandate “hybrid” learning or otherwise require students to log into a remote-learning platform while in school.

Third, districts may provide virtual instruction to students who choose not to return in person, but local districts should otherwise not be granted authority to close

schools or limit in-school hours.

Without these guardrails, some school boards may continue to dismiss the concerns of parents who witness, every day, the damage that ongoing isolation and online education are inflicting on their children. With these guardrails, we believe we can get our kids and teachers back in the classroom safely.

[Link to sign the letter](#)

[Email to sign the letter](#)

Sincerely,

--

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: "Open Letter to Legislators" from ????
Date: March 12, 2021 at 10:46 AM
To: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us



What a Good Morning read for a Friday morning ...

Here is my 2.5 cent comment: We as a board need to reach out to other board members in similar sized districts to organize and lobby legislators, MASB, NSBO, MEAs, NEA, and all the other alphabet organizations to argue against this uneducated self-serving effort. If this movement continues to gain strength in Lansing, it will cripple districts even with more unfunded and nonsensical operational mandates. This constant nauseating meddling into local school operations needs to stop! Legislators do not know how to operate schools. Physicians do not know how to operate schools. City Council members do not know how to operate schools. Only school boards and superintendents know how to operate schools. But we've been quietly doing the work. We have failed to educate, not our students, but our community regarding what it takes to operate our public school district. The Board Members have to organize now.

As I read this letter, it reads as an educational reformer disguised as a parent group. They are shameless in seizing the global pandemic and the US government's incompetent handling of COVID as their excuse to point fingers at local school districts. This red herring supports their ultimate goal to use public educational dollars for private use. The Educational Reform Movement is alive and well. God help us all.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] 0 . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Fri, Mar 12, 2021 at 8:19 AM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Friends,
No reply required, just an FYI.

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An Open Letter to the Michigan Legislature and Governor Whitmer Calling for Sensible Return-to-School Legislation for Fall 2021

We the undersigned are Michigan parents of school-aged children. One year into the pandemic, we have seen school districts around the country open for in-person learning while also adopting measures to protect the health and safety of teachers and school personnel. Yet many Michigan school districts have not done the same.

We are gravely concerned about the learning loss and mental health harms arising from the ongoing closure of schools to in-person learning. And we have lost faith in our local districts to prioritize children in their decision-making, to align their decisions with public health guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, and to follow the accumulating evidence about the modest risks associated with the resumption of in-person learning.

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affording districts “maximum flexibility” to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic for this academic year. See MCL 388.1698a. In our view, it would be inappropriate to give districts the same flexibility for the coming year. Though they may still need some latitude to accommodate students with health-related concerns, districts should be held accountable for the same quality and quantity of classroom hours that they provided before the pandemic.

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Third, districts may provide virtual instruction to students who choose not to return in person, but local districts should otherwise not be granted authority to close schools or limit in-school hours.

Without these guardrails, some school boards may continue to dismiss the concerns of parents who witness, every day, the damage that ongoing isolation and online education are inflicting on their children. With these guardrails, we believe we can get our kids and teachers back in the classroom safely.

[Link to sign the letter](#)

[Email to sign the letter](#)

Sincerely,

--

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Please give us an update on hybrid in person school option for high schools!
Date: January 5, 2021 at 2:53 PM
To: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us

BJ

RIGHT!!!!

Bryan L. Johnson

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board
Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Phone: [REDACTED]

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 6:09 AM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Gees!

On Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 9:01 PM Swift, Jeanice <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Forwarded as an FYI, thank you.



Jeanice Kerr Swift

Superintendent of Schools
Ann Arbor Public Schools

p: (734) 994-2232

a: 2555 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

w: a2schools.org **e:** swift@a2schools.org



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

From: Swift, Jeanice <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Date: Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 9:00 PM
Subject: Re: Please give us an update on hybrid in person school option for high schools!
To: [REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED],

I appreciate your reaching out today with your concerns. I absolutely remain interested in hearing the perspectives of our parents, and very much appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts with me and with the Board during these COVID months.

We continue to work diligently toward the safe return to in-school learning for our students, and we are firmly committed to reopening school classrooms just as soon as we can safely do so. Our plans are in place for return, and we hope to be able to do so as soon as we can see community infection rates reduced.

Today, according to the MI Safe Start map, both Washtenaw County and Michigan remain at **'Level E,'** the highest level of risk; the good news, as you note, is that case numbers have reduced over previous days - let's hope this trend continues.

<https://www.mistartmap.info/?area=county%3Awashtenaw>

It surely is far from the truth that remaining in virtual school for this school year is easy in any way for anyone involved, and I truly hear that you feel virtual learning is not a worthwhile experience for your family. Our teachers, leaders and staff - alongside our students - have worked extremely hard under the most challenging circumstances and will continue to work together to support our students as well as we possibly can during this hard time. We will all be thrilled when we can begin the transition to return to in-school learning, and we are hopeful that we will be able to proceed to this next step sooner, rather than later.

I am in a Washtenaw County Health Department Update tomorrow along with other leaders from across the county so we will hear the real-time report and see what these early days of 2021 bring.

Very much appreciate your reaching out, and know we will continue to work together and focus on our shared goal of a safe and timely return to in-school learning for students and staff in the AAPS.

Sincerely,

Jeanice Swift



Jeanice Kerr Swift

Superintendent of Schools
Ann Arbor Public Schools

p: (734) 994-2232

a: 2555 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

w: a2schools.org **e:** swift@a2schools.org



On Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 4:33 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:
Dear Dr. Swift

I can still remember vividly when you first came on board in AAPS when you tried to make contact through numerous visits to schools and through many surveys to see how parents were feeling about our district. Well, it seems now that you are not at all interested in how parents think or feel and you are providing as little information as possible even though it was made clear in the last televised board meeting that many parents are extremely upset about the negative effects of kids being on screens all day as a means of learning. Virtual school is an absolute failure! It has been a disaster for our kids socially and very little is being learned. Also, as many highly respected infectious disease specialists have noted, k12 in person school covid spread is typically low so you are not doing the kids any favors by keeping them out of the classrooms. Mostly you are doing harm. I am trying so hard to understand why you would persist in decisions that are harmful to students? Could you please explain your rationale and let us know why you are not following the advise of experts like Dr. Fauci who strongly recommend keeping schools open whenever possible? Michigan and Washtenaw Cnty both have negative infection rates which indicate that the spread is being contained and not spreading quickly. Michigan has the third lowest number of daily cases of the 50 states as of today. What exactly is it that makes you feel that AAPS classrooms must remain closed? Do you have ANY plans to start up hybrid class options as promised? I am getting the feeling that you and the BOE have chosen the easiest path for the teachers. From the teachers I have talked to, they are fine with teaching from home and see no reason to change regardless of the poor outcomes for students. How can that be?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

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All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Fwd: Public Commentary 120920
Date: December 12, 2020 at 8:32 AM
To: Bryan Johnson johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us



This is why going forward we need to have a real strategy to our communications. Responding to public comments is necessary, but this situation needs a well thought out plan.

Let's pull a meeting together to discuss.

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

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, December 11, 2020
Subject: Public Commentary 120920
To: "Swift, Jeanice" <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Cc: Jeanice Swift <swift@a2schools.org>, BOE <boardofed@a2schools.org>

I am so pleased you sent this out. This will help our cause.

Merry Christmas

On Dec 11, 2020, at 18:50, Swift, Jeanice <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:



Ann Arbor Public Schools

Response to Outreach and Superintendent Update

Friday, December 11, 2020

In this Superintendent communication today, I am sharing both a response and an update on our AAPS progress during this 2020-21 COVID school year as well as next steps. We have provided headings and linked documents to serve readers in choosing to read only the summarized version or extend to read in more detail about a topic.

At Wednesday's Board meeting, I wanted to ensure, given the significant number of comments shared at the outset of the meeting, that I had reviewed the written comments and could organize an appropriate response to address the patterns of the issues raised. I regret that some perceived this approach as a lack of care or concern regarding the remarks shared; this is not at all the case. The Trustees and I are always grateful for thoughtful input and feedback, and we take seriously the experiences shared by our parents and all stakeholders. The bulk of the statements referred to a recent letter, signed by multiple physicians, regarding the district's COVID plan. We will address the stated concerns in the paragraphs below.

Community Engagement

Our community members' engagement in our schools is among the strongest assets of our Ann Arbor community. We appreciate contributions and thoughtful commentary from our AAPS students, parents, alumni, staff and community members during the Board of Education meetings and, importantly, from all who reach out in many ways; through email and various other regular district connections and community group meetings.

We understand this continues to be a very challenging time for everyone. We are grateful for the patience, understanding and hard work of our students and teachers, staff and leaders and our parents and community for all the diligent support of our students as we navigate this COVID time.

Returning Students and Staff to In-School Learning

We share a primary goal and a fundamental focus: we want our students, teachers and staff safely learning and growing together in our schools; this remains our priority for this 20-21 school year as we are safely, responsibly and sustainably able to do so.

No one understands better than our students, parents and educators the academic, social-emotional, mental health and other challenges inherent in virtual learning for many students and families. We understand this is particularly true for our youngest students and those at any age who are among the most vulnerable. We also know that all our students, staff, parents and families have experienced significant impact from this COVID time. We will need to plan for ongoing support and recovery in many areas moving forward over an extended time into the future.

Members of our AAPS team, including teachers, counselors, social workers, intervention specialists and all team members, are fully mobilized to ensure the ongoing support of our students in every way possible. This support has been in place and will continue virtually. When we are able, we will extend this support into the in-school setting. We recognize that the supports in a virtual environment, however robust, fall short of in-school learning.

Priority Return of Students with Specialized Learning Needs & Youngest Students

We have maintained in the design of our AAPS return plan the commitment to a priority return to in-school learning for our students who experience the greatest challenges in virtual learning; this includes our students with specialized learning needs at all levels and our youngest students. This commitment has not waived. You may review the [full plan for return here](#).

Current Decision on Return

At this current time, considering the exponential increase in COVID infections we are experiencing in Ann Arbor and across Michigan, characterized by high levels of

community spread and high positivity rates, an immediate return to in-school learning is not advisable. We base this decision on evidence and in close consultation with the Washtenaw County Health Department. Any statements that the WCHD is not supportive of the AAPS approach are inherently false. We value our partnership and work closely with members of the WCHD team on a daily and weekly basis, and their expert public health guidance informs our decision-making at every step. . I have included significant additional information later in this message to clarify this topic further.

I recognize that many students, parents and families are weary of this pandemic and exhausted with virtual learning. AAPS teachers, staff and school leaders are also carrying a heavy load to serve our students. I know very well that the decision to continue virtual learning for this current time will further exacerbate already existing anger among some. The issue of school reopening during the COVID pandemic is one that has proven deeply divisive in our Ann Arbor community, as is true now in so many communities across the country.

We will continue to monitor the data and update our community consistently according to the process we have shared; this pandemic situation will improve. We look forward to a day before too long when we can confidently implement our in-school reopening plans, beginning with small groups of students and moving through the [transition to in-school learning](#).

Hopeful Developments and Next Steps

While we are not necessarily waiting on a vaccine to move forward in the AAPS, encouragingly, we have received updated information recently regarding forthcoming vaccination processes. We are grateful that educators will be prioritized in this rollout in phase 1b, following the initial phase 1a focused on healthcare providers and those in long-term care facilities. We are currently just beginning to hear emergent information about anticipated timelines for vaccines for children and will share that information when those plans emerge.

For this moment, we must focus on first things first; our collective priority as a community now is to achieve a reduction in the high level of community spread in Ann Arbor in order to coordinate a safe and responsible return to in-school learning.

While Governor Whitmer has referred to this current time as ‘the worst moment’ so far in this COVID crisis, and Dr. Fauci has recently warned that Americans are facing a critical time, including a potentially [dark January](#), there are also encouraging signs emerging just ahead as we continue to wear masks, practice social distancing, work together to reduce rates of community spread and monitor the progress with COVID vaccines.

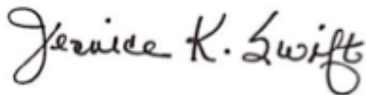
We have come over a long, arduous path through this COVID crisis, and we cannot let up now when we have some remaining distance ahead of us. We will continue to work

vigorously toward the shared goal of a safe, healthy and sustainable return of our students, teachers and staff to in-school learning; to our vibrant AAPS classrooms. Fundamentally, we share the enduring priority of our children, their growth, learning and development moving forward into the future for them and our Ann Arbor community.

Though it isn't possible to get to every detail in one communication, I have responded to the patterns of the most common topics raised from your engagement over recent days. I hope you will peruse the information according to your interests below or review the full [AAPS archived 20-21 presentations and documents](#).

Thank you for your continued support for the health and safety of our students and staff and of the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Jeanice K. Swift
Superintendent of Schools

More detailed information is available here on these topics:

- [AAPS COVID metrics](#)
- [Current COVID infection situation in Ann Arbor](#)
- [COVID infections among children 0-17 years and COVID in schools](#)
- [COVID cases in the AAPS](#)
- [COVID Vaccinations](#)
- [Additional challenges during this current surge, and additional context of a responsible reopening to in-school learning](#)
- [Clarification: AAPS and the WCHD](#)
- [Preparation of our AAPS buildings for a return to in-school learning](#)
- [Updates on AAPS Continuity of Learning Plan](#)



Jeanice Kerr Swift

Superintendent of Schools
Ann Arbor Public Schools



p: (734) 994-2232

a: [2555 S. State Street](#)
[Ann Arbor, MI 48104](#)

w: [a2schools.org](#) e: swift@a2schools.org



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Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee

Board of Education Ann Arbor Public Schools

larusr@a2schools.org

www.a2schools.org

From: **Gaynor, Jeff** gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: Re: quick question for Susan (and ilk)

Date: February 12, 2021 at 3:04 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: **Baskett, Susan** baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us, **BOE boardofed@a2schools.org**, **Jeanice Swift** swift@aaps.k12.mi.us

JG

Susan, Pardon me for jumping in here. I also don't believe a rude and obnoxious comment deserves a response, but I am willing to share some of the work I've done on the central issue here.

[REDACTED] (I assume you are [REDACTED] you did not sign your emails), here are a few of the articles and commentaries I've read to guide my thinking - along with many others that support a return to F2F. Again, I understand that opinions may differ. I will not engage in that debate. I look forward to hearing back from you after you have read all of this, as well as all of the linked articles. - Jeff

The first long entry is from a local social worker, and is followed by several more links and excerpts.

Dec. 16, 2020

As you know, over the course of this pandemic, schools and educators have found themselves as the favored scapegoat. Schools that have gone to virtual learning only are criticized for their inability to adequately teach and reach students, and often teachers are accused of not working hard enough. Schools in hybrid formats are having to contend with teachers who have to "zoom and room" and teach to virtual and face to face students at the same time, causing confusion and potentially inhibiting the ability to create a classroom community. Schools that are providing a majority of F2F instruction are dealing with staff shortages, school closures, and confusing rules about who quarantines and who does not. Much has been written about how school shutdowns have created a mental health crisis and created learning loss. However, the children of this generation have been struggling with mental health years before COVID hit. The opportunity gaps for minority students have been present for DECADES before COVID hit. While it is true that necessary school building closures have exacerbated these ills, what is more true is that the pandemic itself and the abysmal federal response in this country, coupled with half the country's citizens choosing freedom over public health is the real CAUSE of the school closures. Those who are blaming current school building closures as the cause for learning loss and increased mental health problems for children and teens are simplifying and overlooking the underlying crisis - the uncontrolled pandemic and the preexisting challenges schools were facing pre-pandemic.

As a parent of school-age children and as a [REDACTED], I have been trying to read as much as I can about Covid-19 transmission rates in schools, both from child to child, child to adult, and then to the greater community so that I can make informed decisions for my children and the families I serve. I have read articles and social media posts about the low rates of transmission for young children and that opening schools for face to face teaching is safe enough. I want nothing more than for that to be true. But is it? Do we have enough clear and convincing evidence?

COVID Transmission in Childcare Settings

Advocacy by some pediatricians in Ann Arbor, MI are calling for a return to F2F learning for younger children and special-needs students this academic year. Their letter to the AAPS Board of Education referenced this regarding transmission in childcare (not K-12). The study found that "exposure to child care was not associated with an elevated risk of spreading COVID-19 from children to adults, provided the child care programs took multiple safety measures — including disinfecting, handwashing, symptom screening, social distancing, mask-wearing, and limiting group size — and were located in communities where the spread of COVID-19 was contained."

This is important to note, because this advocacy letter was released in early December of 2020 when local transmission rates in Ann Arbor were rising on every metric. The Washtenaw County Health Department statistics as of 12/15/2020 show that 0-9 years of age represent 4% of cases and 10-17 years represent 7% of cases. The good news is that it is 0% hospitalizations for that age group, but the other concerning metric in our county currently is the test positivity rate is at 9% and the cases per 100,000 is 34.7 per 100,000. I have seen most recommendations for F2F learning is TPR less than 10% AND 10 cases or less per 100,000. We are not meeting that metric right now. Further The World Health Organization suggests communities hold off on opening until the rate of positive test results is below 5 percent in the previous two weeks.

Also, this study references a childcare setting, not a school building where there are hundreds of children and staff. This was noted in the Yale study, and it is very concerning, given that the hardest hit communities in the United States and in Washtenaw county are African-American and Latino communities: "The study found that Black, Latino, and Native American child care providers were more likely to test positive for COVID-19 and be hospitalized for it. And, in counties with higher rates of coronavirus deaths — the study's marker of community spread — child care workers were more likely to contract the virus." Childcare workers are some of the lowest-paid essential workers, and then add the pay disparities in general for Black, Latino, and Native American workers overall in this country and this could be potentially creating deeper problems for these communities.

This [study](#) regarding childcare workers and transmission rates was also referenced as rationale for returning to school. Drs. Heather Tubbs-Cooley, Emily Oster, and Katherine Auger summarized that "there were many methodological strengths of this study, including large sample size, high response rate, and rigorous statistical methods" (which is encouraging). However, they also note that "this survey was conducted early in the pandemic, when national testing capacity was limited and when COVID-19 rates in children were low." The article goes on further and warns that these findings, while promising, cannot be generalized into a school setting as "the policies and activities are different than those in child care settings." In Washtenaw county there have not been documented reports of outbreaks in childcare settings which is extremely promising news. However, child care centers are typically smaller, the children are more "containable" due to their ages, and small pods can be created much more efficiently than in a K-12 setting.

COVID transmission in K-12 Schools and transmission with children

The letter put forth by the pediatricians also noted this [study](#) and they argued that this research proves "at the current stage of the pandemic, it is widely recognized that children seem to be less susceptible to contracting and spreading the virus than adults. A recent metaanalysis examining over 40,000 children and 268,000 adults found children and adolescents under 20 to be nearly half as susceptible to COVID infection, with a much more marked reduction in children less than 10-14 years of age. This study showed no significant student-to-teacher transmission in the school setting."

However, again, the research listed was done at the beginning of the pandemic when many restrictions were put in place, and when testing and contact tracing was in its infancy. The article, in its conclusion states: "In this meta-analysis, there is preliminary evidence that children and adolescents have lower susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2,

with an odds ratio of 0.56 for being an infected contact compared with adults. There is weak evidence that children and adolescents play a lesser role than adults in transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at a population level. This study provides no information on the infectivity of children.”

Further, the article states “our study has a number of limitations. We remain early in the COVID-19 pandemic, and data continue to evolve. It is possible that unknown factors related to age, eg, transience of infection or waning of immunity, bias findings in ways we do not yet understand. “Some studies were low quality, and nearly all included studies were open to bias.” Further, “we included 2 recent large CTSSs from India and South Korea; however, numbers of children and data quality appeared low, making firm conclusions difficult.”

This [study](#) has also been referenced stating that “overall infection rate among children appears to be much lower than in adults.” However, when critically analyzed and read in more detail, the study points out “this study suggests that for most pediatric patients, the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection appears low, but higher concern may be warranted for patients with medically complex conditions or those of minority race/ethnicity.” The study goes on to say that “the recent onset of the pandemic limits our current understanding of rare or longer-term outcomes of coronaviral infection.”

Many advocates calling for the return to F2F are doing so because of the difficulty with remote learning for special-needs students and at-risk students, many of whom are minority students, which is valid and important. However, when COVID infections are more dangerous for medically fragile and minority students, calling for these students to return to F2F instruction without a detailed plan of more guarantees for their substantial reduction in their risk of contracting the virus in schools is terrifying and near-sighted. Are we not advocating for sending the students at highest risk of COVID complications back to buildings where they are at highest risk of contracting the virus? What can we do to support these students that mitigates the risk of illness and learning loss? Is it a return to face to face as we have always done it? Are we not

putting children who are at greatest risk of long-term complications from Covid-19 into a setting where they are more exposed to Covid-19? Shouldn't the mitigation and safety strategies be even more stringent for these students? Further, special-needs students are not monolithic. Children with IEP's can range from a healthy child with ADHD who needs support in academics, to a medically-fragile child who is in a wheelchair, tube-fed, and at risk of dying if contracting this or any other virus. If a return to buildings is being championed for special-needs students, then a comprehensive plan delineating and individualizing safety measures for our most medically-fragile and vulnerable students should also be outlined.

This [study](#) was also referenced stating there was “growing evidence that asymptomatic infection among young children is quite rare.” While “growing evidence” is hopeful, proven evidence is much more palatable when deciding to put hundreds of children and adults in a contained building. Again, the limitations of the study are worth noting. The children studied presented to health care settings and hospitals for planned procedures and had pre-op testing done. Given that economically disadvantaged children, children in rural areas, and minority children have a more difficult time accessing regular and specialty care, there is bias in this study in generalizing this to the greater population. Further, the study was done in May 2020 when children were not in school and lockdowns were in place. “Children without symptoms presented for elective care at children's hospitals may not represent the general pediatric population by age, health status, immunologic status, and demographic factors. Because of prolonged viral shedding, polymerase chain reaction test positivity in children without symptoms may not reflect contemporaneous community incidence. Variations in symptom screening and testing protocol existed between sites and over time, contributing to heterogeneity.”

The aforementioned studies were all done in the beginning of the pandemic when most schools across the world were closed for face to face learning. It has only been a few short months that restrictions have been lifted and schools have been in session and open. Now that it is December of 2020, more studies are emerging about school transmission in children which need to be closely analyzed and followed as we venture into the second half of the 2020-2021 school year. What is abundantly clear with these studies is that we need to know more about the risks to children and their ability to transmit the virus to adults and peers. See: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/covid-19-coronavirus-kids-schools-opening-when-how-risks>

“Children can certainly transmit the coronavirus, says Aubree Gordon, an epidemiologist at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. “But it seems fairly clear that, at least for young children, they probably transmit less” than other age groups. The details of how or why, however, are a moving target.” Gordon further states that because children are more likely to have mild symptoms or be asymptomatic “they can easily be overlooked as transmitters.” For instance, a preliminary study from Italy, found that children younger than 15 were more likely to transmit the virus than older age groups.

Further, “A study tracing nearly 60,000 contacts of 5,706 COVID-19 patients in South Korea, revealed that 10- to 19-year-olds may transmit the virus more like adults. But kids younger than 10 appeared less likely to pass the virus on to others — infecting only 5.3 percent of contacts living in the same home.

Even though the earlier research was pointing to lower transmission rates for children, again, as noted previously, [Laura Garabedian](#), a professor of population medicine at Harvard Medical School, said much of that research was conducted during lockdowns when children were home and testing wasn't being done on those with mild or symptomless cases. “I think the key question is whether being at school puts teachers at increased risk of getting COVID. I don't think we know that,” she said. But she added: “There are kids who definitely transmit it, and we know that.”

So, I ask, how much chance are we willing to take in returning kids and teachers to buildings? Are we truly capturing the number of cases in children and how they transmit to others both in and out of school and the community?

This [article](#) discusses the difficulties in truly knowing the answers to that question. “Although testing does not artificially increase case counts, the variation in access to and reporting of testing does have the consequence of artificially depressing case counts in children. We have opportunities to improve surveillance data by expanding the accessibility of tests to children, conducting active as well as passive surveillance, more fully integrating children into contact tracing, standardizing reporting criteria across states, and disaggregating pediatric data into more epidemiologically meaningful age brackets. Implementing these modifications would allow for a more data-driven, phased approach to reopening schools and other institutions on the basis of local transmission patterns.”

More research is emerging indicating that children are not being tested at adequate rates to truly know their infection rates and transmission rates. See: [Children may transmit coronavirus at the same rate as adults: What we know about school and](#)

COVID-19

[A Public Health Antibody Screening Indicates a 6-Fold Higher SARS-CoV-2 Exposure Rate than Reported Cases in Children](#)

<https://www.princeton.edu/news/2020/09/30/largest-covid-19-contact-tracing-study-date-finds-children-key-spread-evidence>

Some concerning [reports](#) from Quebec, Canada where it was shown that schools were the culprit for community spread is worth paying attention to for any plans in the second half of the 2020-2021 school year. "Schools were the driver to start the second wave in Quebec, although the government did not recognize it," said Dr. Karl Weiss, president of the Association des médecins microbiologistes-infectiologues du Québec. "The number of cases started to go up 14

days after the French-language schools opened and 14 days after the English ones opened in Montreal. These observations are consistent with a [study](#) examining the effect of imposing and lifting different restrictions in 131 countries. Researchers found school closures were associated with a reduction in R—the measure of how fast the virus is spreading—while reopening schools was associated with an increase. And then there is this [Austrian study](#) showing the virus can infect as many children as it does school personnel.

We all want nothing more than for every child to access in-person learning for the myriad benefits it provides. However, for those benefits to be present, school buildings need to be safe, and teachers and school personnel need to be healthy and safe. While it seems there is some preliminary evidence on the safety of younger children and their adults in schools, it is even more clear that more research needs to be done before truly safe decisions can be made. Many advocates for a return to face learning state the research is "clear" that it is safe to return, but it seems with all the limitations of the early studies and the surge in cases and new research emerging on children and COVID, the only thing that is clear is that we are still in uncertain, uncharted and dangerous times. With the vaccines being distributed as this is written, with a few months of the 2020-2021 school year left, is it worth putting children, their parents, teachers, and school staff at risk of contracting an unpredictable and sometimes deadly virus now when we are nearing the light at the end of this dark tunnel?

Perhaps what we can focus on is how to make the rest of this school year as safe as possible, get our teachers and staff vaccinated, and allow school districts to engage in proper planning and achieve funding to provide the necessary and critical remedial, compensatory, academic and mental health supports that will be so desperately needed in the 2021-2022 school year. For the rest of this year, perhaps there can be less emphasis on academics and test scores in all formats, virtual or otherwise, and more emphasis on building community in creative and safe ways virtually as well as F2F where it is safer.....planning for face to face group activities to build community and help kids integrate back into their school communities after being isolated for the last 9 months....outdoor band, theater, and choir concerts, outdoor sports, outdoor science projects, small group homeroom meet-ups outdoors or in large spaces in the community with good ventilation, volunteering in the community, the list could go on and on.....let's get all community stakeholders, including students, to think creatively to enhance the latter part of this school year.

Emily Popek speaks to this need eloquently in her [essay](#) here. If we as a society expect our schools and teachers to be everything we want them to be, we need to make sure they can do it.

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

The long-term effects of

COVID are well-documented. Every organ of the body can be affected. We still do not know the long-term effects even a mild covid infection has on children. But for some research on the effects on our bodies see these articles. So, even when it is reported that children have asymptomatic or mild cases, or that the adult death rate is low, there are still risks. And the risks are exponentially higher for our black and brown and special-needs children who are experiencing more illness than Caucasian and higher-income children. See these links for more information.

Lungs

<https://www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m2426>
https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/938683_4
<https://www.ersnet.org/.../covid-19-patients-suffer-long...>
<https://bmcpulmed.biomedcentral.com/...s12890-020-01286-5>
<https://www.ajronline.org/doi/pdf/10.2214/AJR.20.23034>
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02598-6#ref-CR1>
<https://radiologyassistant.nl/.../covid19-imaging-findings>

Heart

<https://jamanetwork.com/.../jamacardi.../fullarticle/2769182>
; <https://jamanetwork.com/.../jamacardi.../fullarticle/2768916>
; <https://www.heartrhythmjournal.com/.../S1547.../fulltext>

Nervous system

<https://academic.oup.com/.../www.../doi/10.7326/L20-0845>
https://jamanetwork.com/.../journals/jmcp/jmcp_ft95_5_18.pdf
<https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/L20-0845>
<https://cp.neurology.org/.../2020/06/30/CPJ.0000000000000897>
<https://cp.neurology.org/.../2020/06/30/CPJ.0000000000000897>

Kidney

<https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m1996>
<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/coronavirus-kidney-damage-caused-by-covid19>

Digestive System

[https://www.cghjournal.org/article/S1542-3565\(20\)30646-7/pdf](https://www.cghjournal.org/article/S1542-3565(20)30646-7/pdf)
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/.../2020.04.14.040204v1...>

Skin

<https://www.aad.org/.../diseases/hair-loss/causes/covid-19>

Blood

[https://www.thelancet.com/.../PIIS2589-5370\(20.../fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/.../PIIS2589-5370(20.../fulltext)
CDC IFR list

<https://www.cdc.gov/.../2019.../hcp/planning-scenarios.html>
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/.../coronavirus.../art-20490351>

New Variants: <https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/p/variant-update?fbclid=IwAR04e5mmz5HEiltqrxCBKqDlcZrm5sbK8v17XhLc1NgVrRWnSpqyUplsIDY>

"B.1.1.7 is spreading fast in the United States

Cases are doubling every 10 days. A new study just confirmed what we had hypothesized: the U.S. trajectory of variant spread is exactly mirroring the variant spread in the U.K.. It looks like our guesses will be correct... a U.S. surge in mid-March."

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/europes-schools-are-closing-again-on-concerns-they-spread-covid-19-11610805601>

"Closures have been announced recently in the U.K., Germany, Ireland, Austria, Denmark and the Netherlands on concerns about [a more infectious variant of the virus](#) first detected in the U.K. and rising case counts despite lockdowns.

While the debate continues, recent studies and outbreaks show that schoolchildren, even younger ones, can play a significant role in spreading infections.

"In the second wave we acquired much more evidence that schoolchildren are almost equally, if not more infected by SARS-CoV-2 than others," said Antoine Flahault, director of the University of Geneva's Institute of Global Health."

Long haul symptoms: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/09/long-haul-covid-symptoms-should-be-a-wake-up-call-for-young-people-texas-childrens-doctor-says.html>

- About 10 to 30% of all Covid patients will suffer from long haul symptoms, according to the latest research from Mt. Sinai's Center for Post-Covid Care.
- Medical researchers still don't know whether patients with post acute Covid syndrome will be dealing with the effects for the rest of their lives, or just a matter of months.
- Young people are less likely to die from the novel coronavirus, but severe long-haul symptoms should be a "wake-up call" to them, says Texas Children's Hospital Dr. Peter Hotez.

Consequences on minority communities: <https://www.metrotimes.com/detroit/opinion-before-children-go-back-to-school-leaders-must-acknowledge-covid-19s-disparate-impact-on-bipoc/Content>

"While COVID-19 has been an inconvenience for some, as noted by a Yale University epidemiologist, it has been more of **a genocide by default** for others. Children who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) account for 78% of all child deaths due to COVID-19 but only represent 41 percent of the U.S. child population, **according to U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**. As reported in the **New York Times**, BIPOC children are also infected at higher rates than white children, hospitalized at rates five to eight times that of white children, and make up the overwhelming majority of those who develop multisystem inflammatory syndrome, or MIS-C, a life-threatening condition where body parts become inflamed."

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 1:24 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
and one more thing - can you please justify your choice to ignore the advice of scores of respected local physicians (including my own) and psychiatrists, while adhering to your own expertise about how to cater to an influential minority of your affluent constituency and the teachers' union?

I'm not expecting an answer from a bunch of cowards, but maybe you'll take a few minutes of your "work day" (now that's a joke) to actually compose one? A boy can dream. I'm on pins and needles waiting for you to direct me to the covid dashboard!

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021, 1:15 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
by the way, The fact that we haven't communicated since late November and I'm asking the same questions now that I did then just highlights how little you've done in the almost 3 months since. You all are worse than worthless.

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021, 1:03 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
Are you going to answer my question or continue to not do your job as you've done over the rest of this school year? I'm guessing the latter. Still getting paid, though, unlike all the parents doing the work of the schools for them.

By the way, enjoyed Kommandant Swift's video message about the hybrid option. Her home looks so clean and orderly - almost as if she doesn't have children living there that she needs to teach.

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021, 12:59 PM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good afternoon,
Please see your email below, sent on Nov. 23, 2020.
You're back?

s

[REDACTED]
to me, Jeanice, BOE

Mon, Nov 23, 2020, 1:21 PM

You know what, you're not worth it. Please refrain from ever contacting me again, and I will do the same in return.

Also never get within 50 feet of my child or my home. Same for you, Swift. You people are trash.

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 12:55 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
Just wondering if you're close to being done inflicting emotional abuse on the children of Ann Arbor while simultaneously undermining their ability to learn? If that was your plan for the 2020-21 school year, you're doing an amazing job.
Just wondering if it might end soon, or if your plan is to just twist whatever survey data and statistics you have at your disposal to justify continuing this racist farce.

By the way, nice hypocrisy phasing back in contact sports and continuing with your lucrative Rec&Ed projects before kids can be back in school. You are the shame of this state.

--
All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Request to meet in person
Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:31 AM
To: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us



Hi Susan,

Thanks for sharing this. We should definitely consider this for Legislative action. While other districts are providing in-person instruction with little consideration of vaccination of their staff, AAPS is operating differently. We should figure out the best way to weigh in on this topic as a body.

BJ

Bryan L. Johnson

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board

Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Phone: [REDACTED]

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 10:15 PM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Trustees,

Just in case you did not receive this, attached is a letter from the MASB and the MASA requesting that BoE's meet in person.

This may or may not be an issue for legislative advocacy.

--

All the best,

Susan Baskett

Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: Re: Response to comments

Date: February 17, 2021 at 10:37 AM

To: Kelly, Jessica kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us

Cc: [REDACTED], Jessica Kelly kellyj@a2schools.org, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SB

Good morning ,

I have received and appreciate Trustee Kelly's request to have you at a future meeting of the very new Legislative Advocacy Committee.

It is a sincere request and invitation. For the record, all of our meetings are open to the public so no invitation is required to attend.

At this time, we have not put in place the infrastructure of this new committee nor its focus for this year. Please give us time to do this. At the moment, we have no set date as we are all trying to find a mutually convenient time.

Meanwhile, if you have suggestions as to how we can effectively advocate together to get the needed resources, like vaccines for our staff, please let me know.

Please stay safe and warm,
Susan Baskett
Chair, Legislative Advocacy Committee

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 5:28 PM Kelly, Jessica <kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Thank you for following up.

I will defer to Trustee Baskett as the chair of this committee. I'm also thinking about your suggestion to invite Dr. Swift as well. It might be most productive to have certain members of her team available - the ones closest to the topics. Perhaps you could share what you'd like to discuss at a meeting so that can have the right people together?

Jessica



Jessica Kelly, Vice President

she/her/hers

Board of Education

Ann Arbor Public Schools

c: [REDACTED]



On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 5:24 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello,

We are following up on this email and request to meet and discuss how to collaborate. We do hope the interest is genuine. Would you be able to suggest some available days and times?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Feb 11, 2021, at 5:34 PM, Kelly, Jessica <kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED],

I very much appreciate you reaching out to me giving me the opportunity for clarification and apology.

First, I was clear last night how much I appreciated the work of physicians and nurses in the health care of our children and that I absolutely shared the concerns around isolation and its impacts during COVID. I never intended to convey anything other than gratitude for the bravery and expertise of our medical community working in their various specialities during the pandemic. For anything short of that, I apologize.

My frustration, which may have been muddled in the emotion of the moment, is that schools and the complexities of education during a pandemic are being addressed by experts who are equally skilled in their own areas of expertise. We rely on a team of highly skilled professionals in instruction and curriculum delivery to 18,000+ students, human resources and the related legalities for 3,000+ employees, overall public health, building and facility management of 3.4 million ft2, transportation covering 7,000 miles a day, early childhood education, secondary education, and the list goes on. Additionally, we take very seriously the contributions of the physical and mental health communities (and others!) as it informs our overall work, and I appreciate the communication from both individuals and groups.

I believe the line is crossed when experts in one area attempt to compel experts in another area based solely on their own perspective. Educators are not in public directing physicians in their work. The exact opposite is true: we are relying on the published guidance around infection risk reduction and observing the best practice behaviors of health care workers and applying those things to our approach to schools. We only want what you already have so that we can serve our clients as well as you serve yours: vaccines, proper PPE, fast and reliable testing, contact tracing, and vetted protocols.

I would be interested in a meeting between the colleagues you mention and members of the Board's Legislative Advocacy committee because I am eager to find ways for us to work together in advocating for the necessary resources for a safe return to school to be available to our teachers and families. I believe focusing our energies in the same direction could yield meaningful progress toward safely returning to a form of face-to-face learning. Thank you for the invitation to collaborate. I have copied Trustee Baskett, the Leg. Ad. committee chair, on this email.

Please be well,
Jessica



Jessica Kelly, Vice President

she/her/hers

Board of Education

Ann Arbor Public Schools

c: [REDACTED]



On Thu, Feb 11, 2021 at 3:01 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Trustee Kelly,

To date we have not received any response from the Ann Arbor Public Schools leadership to our most recent letter signed by over 350 medical professionals in this community. Instead, at the end of the board meeting last night, the community heard your comments. These comments were perceived as insults to all those working in public facing jobs and, in particular, to healthcare workers who have worked tirelessly over the past 10 months, most of it unvaccinated, to care for our community. This kind of rhetoric serves to further divide our community rather than working towards all of our greater goal of returning kids to school safely.

Respectfully, we request a meeting between you and several authors of the recent letter in order to discuss this topic and attempt to work together. We would welcome other board of education members and Dr. Swift at that meeting, as well.

This has been our primary goal throughout this process: to increase communication and work together.

We hope you will accept this invitation.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

--
All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: Fwd: Return to buildings

Date: December 17, 2020 at 1:11 PM

To: Fred Klein mrklein@aaps.k12.mi.us, Tamala Bell tbell@mymea.org, Przygodski, George GPrzygodski@mea.org, Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us



This is the rebuttal of the [REDACTED] statement I was referring to. I haven't received permission from [REDACTED] to pass this on as of yet, but I expected she'll be ok with it. But for now I'd appreciate you keeping this for your own information.

Rebecca, I assumed she sent this to all of the trustees - would you let me know if you received it from her.

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 6:30 PM
Subject: Return to buildings
To: Jeff Gaynor <gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us>

Dear Mr. Gaynor,

Thank you for all that you do in serving the students of our community. As an Ann Arbor Public Schools parent, I would like to share my thoughts with you on planning for the 2nd semester of school and plans for returning to buildings.

I would also like to say that my children, while missing being at school, are learning through the virtual format and their teachers at [REDACTED] have done an admirable job of creating community for them. I am grateful for their teachers and that they have been able to learn and connect and stay safe. Next year will be better.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor Parent

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



ReturntoSchool
BOELetter.pdf

From: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Return to in person instruction?
Date: December 16, 2020 at 8:41 AM
To: Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us
Cc: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us



Good morning,
Pls, this was not for you to answer and especially not today.
I would appreciate you and Bryan just putting this on our list to be aware of and to later discuss w/me.
I want to make sure that we are all on the same page. I have my own thoughts, but want to review them before penning them in an email.

Thanks,
S

On Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 8:39 AM Jeanice Swift <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:
Hello Trustee Baskett,

Thank you, Trustee - I can't get to it today, yet I will respond directly to these questions.

Thank You,

Jeanice

On Dec 16, 2020, at 8:14 AM, Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Rising this email to your attention for further discussion.

S

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

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 7:57 AM
Subject: Re: Return to in person instruction?
To: Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Cc: boardofed@a2schools.org <boardofed@a2schools.org>

Trustee Baskett,

Thank you so much for your response. It is the first I've received from anyone in the district regarding this significant concern. I also recognize the difficult position you all are in.

I am not expecting a response here today but I would like to note that the district is still not acknowledging or explaining why they are not in the same position as other districts in our county to return to in-person instruction. AAPS is on average a highly educated and vocal community and omissions or refusal to address something this clear makes it seem as if something else is going on (i.e. there is another agenda of the district (to test run the expensive platforms they purchased) or the teacher's union is to blame (demanding 14 days with no cases), etc.). It would help our entire community if AAPS would even simply be transparent about why they are choosing to remain home while addressing other districts that are not. For instance, "AAPS is unwilling to take on the potential future litigation from a teacher if they were to fall ill as a result of a school-based COVID exposure..." etc., etc.

Additionally, many family members in our community are essential workers who have fought the virus on the frontlines in service or medical industries since day 1. Isn't it fair they expect the same type of sacrifices be made by teachers (who ARE essential workers) for their children, particularly now that we know much more about the virus and the risks it carries?

Thank you for your time and service. I hope that the board will be more transparent and open to the available data and community concerns in the very near future. Ann Arbor is an incredible community made up of lots of people who commit to working together for the collective good on many, many fronts. Transparency from the BOE and Superintendent would go a long way to support unification during this difficult period.

Best,

[REDACTED]

On Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 5:55 AM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good morning [REDACTED],
Thank you for voicing your concerns and requests.
We all look forward to welcoming everyone back into our school buildings.

Please stay safe and positive,
Susan Baskett, MBA
Secretary, Ann Arbor Board of Education

On Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 10:31 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello,

I hope this email finds each of you safe and well. I am the parent of a [REDACTED] student and [REDACTED] as well as an educator and the child and grandchild of lifelong Michigan educators. I write this fully and acutely aware of the rights of teachers to a safe work environment. And yet... I am writing to ask when you will return our district to in person instruction. My children have wonderful teachers - that's not the issue. The issue is that they are being denied the social emotional development of being with peers their age by a school district and teacher's union that is unwilling to assume a reasonable and incredibly low level of risk. To mitigate this, we have opted to enroll our children in an early childhood center. But many families do not have that choice.

Most of my friends are teaching in schools where universal masking is the policy. None of them have been ill OR seen any school based spread of the virus from a positive student or staff member to other students or staff members. My husband is a healthcare professional who has been exposed in a masked environment by a symptomatic coworker now three times (for an entire day). Not one person in his lab has been ill as a result of the three exposures. My children were exposed at their daycare center when a teacher was symptomatic and at work. Not a single COVID case among the children resulted from the daylong exposure to their symptomatic teacher (and the children in the prek class where we were exposed are unmasked the majority of the day with their teachers).

Currently, the bulk of anecdotal and empirical evidence is that schools are NOT the super spreaders that we thought they were in March. The AAPS is ignoring this evidence and directly going against guidance from the major health organizations in our country which advocate for young children in particular to be in schools. Local officials from the WCHD have allowed and supported other districts in the county to return. Local physicians and mental health officials have implored you to reopen.

I understand not everyone wants to take this low risk and return to school. Those families can or should choose the virtual schooling option. However, families should have this choice. I never thought I would stand in opposition to public education, but for the first time, I am vehemently opposed to our district's direction and the willful ignorance of our leadership (BOE, AAEA and district level administration). By forcing children to remain at home for the last 9 months (and what will likely be 18 or more), you are doing harm. Please strongly reconsider your stance and metrics at tonight's meeting and provide our community with a plan and timeline for the return to in person instruction that is achievable.

Take care,

[REDACTED]

--

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

--

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

--

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Return to school
Date: February 22, 2021 at 12:52 PM
To: Grand, Julie JGrand@a2gov.org
Cc: Song, Linh LSong@a2gov.org, Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us



Hello,

I've sent a Zoom invite to talk at 2pm.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 12:10 PM Song, Linh <LSong@a2gov.org> wrote:

Can we plan on 2:00? I see we are missing 12noon. I'm sure we can make quick work with Jeff's 15 minutes. I can talk for 30 minutes and am sorry I can't go over that today.

-Linh

From: Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 10:51 PM
To: Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Cc: Song, Linh <LSong@a2gov.org>; Gaynor, Jeff <gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Subject: Re: Return to school

Hi Rebecca,

I'm available at noon tomorrow or 2:00. I'm cc'ing Linh in case she is also available.

For a long time, I have understood and respected the lens of equity through which your decisions were made. I understood why we were different than neighboring districts in terms of the decisions in the Fall. I know that many families may choose to stay home, respect those choices, and expect that AAPS will provide support to those families. That may be the case with one of my children and I appreciate the ability to do so.

That said, I was honestly shocked by the events of last week. Fortunately, Trustee Baskett 's proposal can be reversed. As elected officials, we understand that policy made on the fly is rarely good policy.

We are simply asking for you to set a date to return to your original plan. It wasn't only parents that were blindsided by this - teachers and principals who were preparing for the in-person hybrid plan were, as well.

I still believe that it is absolutely critical to vaccinate our teachers and have been working with every partner I can to address our supply issues. At this same time, trust is eroding quickly between the BOE and the community. I fear that without a return to the hybrid plan and a clear and detailed path for full in-person school in September, our schools will be irrevocably harmed.

We wrote the letter because we believe that a window remains open to regain this trust. I am happy to talk tomorrow, but also look forward to our meeting on Wednesday.

Julie

From: Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 11:54 AM
To: Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>
Subject: Return to school

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello Julie,

I would like to talk with you about council publishing a statement regarding return to school as soon as possible. Please let me know your availability.

Thank you.

Rebecca Lazarus

--

Rebecca Lazarus
Trustee
Board of Education Ann Arbor Public Schools
lazarusr@a2schools.org

From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: Re: Return to School Plan Clarification

Date: September 6, 2020 at 9:31 PM

To: Lauzzana, Emile lauzzanae@aaps.k12.mi.us

Cc: Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us, Bryan Johnson johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jessica Kelly kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us, Bernerd Rice riceb@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jill Minnick minnickj@aaps.k12.mi.us

RL

Hello All,

Thank you for the proactive flushing practices while our buildings are closed. We look forward to your presentation on building preparedness. Our children, staff and community are very lucky to have a professional team keeping them safe. It is important to inform our community of this work and what it means to their health and safety. Great work!

Have a wonderful Labor Day.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Fri, Sep 4, 2020 at 6:52 PM Lauzzana, Emile <lauzzanae@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hi all,

We look forward to sharing a complete picture of our plans in September, but I thought it would be useful for this group to know that we have been flushing the building water systems weekly since the closure in March and that all filters have been changed this summer per our drinking water plan. We do not see at this time any recommendations for testing prior to reoccupancy from any of the agencies and organizations at this time including MEGLE, CDC, AIA or ASHRAE, but will continue to review these and other recommendations as they are frequently updating their information.

Have a wonderful weekend all,
Emile

On Fri, Sep 4, 2020, 5:46 PM Jeanice Swift <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello Trustee Lazarus,

Thank you for participating in that discussion today and I look forward to hearing more about this.

I have requested that Emile and Bernerd put together a comprehensive presentation to share all our efforts to prepare buildings for a return to in-person learning.

Certainly, ensuring safe water is one of those areas of work in which they are engaged.

We are hoping to bring this full information forward to the Board during September.

Also, as an aside, we look forward to the September School Projects Update that will be shared during September as well.

Thank You,

Jeanice

On Sep 4, 2020, at 5:31 PM, Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello Dr. Swift,

I was a part of Return to School - Safe Drinking Water Discussion today. I am seeking clarification on what our plan of action is regarding safe drinking water in our buildings during the COVID shutdown and in prep for student and staff return.

I noticed we have not made any reference to our safety/operational protocols for safe drinking water in our AAPS Return To School Plan. Although these practices are not referenced in our Return Plan, am I correct in understanding we will implement the necessary testing, flushing and water filter replacement prior to students and staff returning to our buildings and facilities. Please advise.

Thank you.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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[<egle-dwehd-flushing_guidance_memo_to_schools_during_executive_order_2020-35_688586_7.pdf>](#)
[<egle-dwehd-flushing_guidance_information_to_schools_688589_7.pdf>](#)

From: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Sports!
Date: September 13, 2020 at 7:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Bryan Johnson johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us



Hi [REDACTED],

Dr. Swift called me a few minutes before a committee meeting on Wed. to tell me she was going to make the announcement she did, about an hour later. She knew I was opposed. The next morning, a meeting with 3 trustees she admitted she jumped the gun by making the decision and announcement without fully discussing it with the trustees first. She said she would have those discussions throughout the day. I have not heard anything about them. Today I emailed Dr. Swift and asked her where things stand but haven't yet heard back. I do not know the will of the Board on this matter, but hope to find out by Wednesday's meeting.

I did not bring up the issue of HS Athletics at Friday's Planning Meeting as it was off topic, and I didn't want to put Dr. Swift in an awkward spot as she did seem sincere in stating she was going to have discussions with all of us.

I do happen to know parents who would like a return to in person learning - esp. for group 1 - are being marshalled to speak at Wed. public commentary. We have been receiving emails on both sides of the athletics issue - (many from parents who want 2 spectators allowed per athlete) and I reckon many will make a public comment. While we see the full comments on Board Docs, there likely will be a limit on the amount of time allowed for each one to be read.

I agree that any criticism is being directed to administration (and perhaps the Board), rather than teachers, which is good. I don't know if word is getting out as to how long and hard teachers are working, nor the obstacles they are having to deal with.

As always I appreciate your engagement!

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Sun, Sep 13, 2020 at 5:09 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hey Bryan and Jeff -

So I watched the planning meeting but there really wasn't any discussion about sports. Maybe it wasn't the place? Not sure. Just wanted you to know that I am still concerned about sports at AAPS. I still believe the District is not being truthful about cases, what is actually happening in terms of how practices are being conducted, and hasn't given sufficient thought to protocols. In addition, I believe that Superintendent Swift's statement that she will not stand in the way of the Governor's Executive Order is disingenuous at best. I am really disappointed.

During a track meet this weekend one of the Huron Track coaches encouraged parents to walk at the MetroPark which was an end-around to the number of allowed spectators. They were outside, probably still spread out but it feels like AAPS is not trying to comply with the guidelines in a deep and genuine way and sending a mixed message. I also see lots of runners in not socially distanced close groups both on [REDACTED] by my house when I am gardening (assume those are PiHi kids) and in the Arb when I walk. (Skyline kids because they leave all their shirts/sweatshirts on a bench down by the river and run shirtless).

That said, I plan to get off my soapbox and not continue to fill your inbox with my concerns for the safety of our students! I trust you know how I feel and when it is appropriate will have a discussion about it with the full board. Would it behoove me to organize parents to write some letters for public commentary? That wouldn't be hard! Would it make it easier to bring the topic forward for discussion?

During the meeting, I heard the concerns of the parents about on-line learning for the youngest students. I was pleased that there really was no teacher bashing and plenty of acknowledgment regarding how hard teachers were working just that the process is failing our youngest students for whom school is much more social than academic. I understand that part of your work at this time is to quantify the metrics of allowing students to return to the building safely. Group 1 is pre-school thru 2nd grade. You are giving careful consideration to how that is going to happen and I appreciate the decision-making process which places safety firmly at the forefront. However, it seems as if athletes have been allowed to cut the line and are Group 0 and more importantly, you are allowing them into buildings without the same careful attention to the metrics as to how that will happen.

I know tensions are high, there is so much at stake. I know it is exceedingly challenging even in the best of times and we all know that is the best of times is not the moment we are living in! These are definitely hard times. I am grateful to you both for continuing to do your part in helping us all to get our school community to the other side.

thankfully,
[REDACTED]

From: **Gaynor, Jeff** gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Summary of Feb. 4 BOE 'Coffee'
Date: February 7, 2021 at 4:14 PM
To: Jeff Gaynor gaynor@a2schools.org
Bcc:



[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted], Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Note: I've attached this in a word document for easier reading. And copied it here:

Thank you for signing up for the 'coffee' held on Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 4, and for attending if you could. I felt it went well, thanks to everyone's engagement.

I forgot to hit the record button, but here is a summary of the conversation, co-hosted by [Redacted], with AAPS Trustees Jeff Gaynor and Rebecca Lazarus. What follows are questions from the chat, and my comments. While there were live comments and questions, I believe this covers most topics adequately. In my responses I'll try to be clear about what I know, what I think I know, and what are my personal opinions. In all cases I'm speaking for myself, not on behalf of the school board as a whole. My responses begin with an asterisk. *

Note that AAPS has information sessions about the plan for a hybrid return this Tues. Feb. 9 at 6pm and Thurs, Feb. 11 at 4pm online at: <https://www.a2schools.org/ElementaryHybridOption>
There will then be school based meetings with even more specific details, followed by parents being contacted by the school about their intention to stay virtual or to return for 2 days each week to the classroom.

A. My questions are mostly about protocol once we are returned.
1. What kind of PPE will students, staff, and teachers be provided by the district?
How is AAPS budget for these safety protocols?

* Masks, and other PPE as needed – face shields, disposable gowns, etc.
Students and staff will be encouraged to come to school with their own masks, but these will be available.

* AAPS has sufficient funds to buy needed PPE. Though our budget is always subject to the whim of our state legislature, we have been able to build up our savings due to not having quite as high operating costs and with the addition of Federal CARES Act money.

2. How will mitigation strategies be enforced, such as mask wearing and social distancing, not coming to school ill or symptomatic?

* Gosh, this is what teachers do. Students will need reminders of course, but those who do not do so will be asked to return to virtual learning from home.

3. What happens when a student has symptoms at school? What about students who frequently have respiratory allergies?

* Each school will be staffed with a nurse or a "trained health professional" to deal with issues as they arise.

4. How will exposure to covid be determined, especially when little is known about what constitutes exposure to new variants?

* Students and staff will be required to fill out an on-line screening form before attending in person every day. Beyond that, I don't know.

5. How will notification of exposure and quarantine be handled?

* The school will notify families of students in that cohort, and anyone else as needed.

6. How will ventilation and air quality in classrooms be monitored?

* The facilities department has checked and adjusted every system for maximum airflow and assures us that ventilation is at or above all standards, measured in air changes per hour. A minimum of 5 is recommended by several organizations and ours are in the 5-11 range. We have also made sure effective filters are in place. The AAPS standard had been MERV 8 to 11, but now we have installed MERV 13 filters, with replacements 3 times a year.

What safety measures will put in place for when students and staff must unmask for drinking, snacks, and eating? Also, what considerations will there be for children with food allergies (especially lower elementary) that request allergen free classrooms?

* I have the same concerns about lunch. The plan at elementary had been for cohorts to remain in the classroom, but this is still under consideration. Other district have moved them in a staggered schedule to larger spaces. We have always been aware and made accommodations for students with allergies, and will continue to do so.

B. My first question - Across the country, black, brown and indigenous people are consistently indicating a reluctance to return to schools as they open at higher numbers than other groups, and not only due to risks related to COVID. What is the BOE doing to understand and address WHY families are making these decisions, and what will be done to address these issues for when school returns to "normal"?

My question is about families of color who have seen their communities suffering from this virus. My guess after seeing the poll that more than 70% of Black families are not taking the risk of sending their children. I atiny families are going through

are not taking the risk of sending their children. Latinx families are going through the same. What is the plan to assist every student to succeed academically if the minorities are not planning to take more risks?

* This is a hugely important question that we are working on and will continue to. We understand that this is so nationally but locally as well. Teachers, counselors and principals do reach out to families, but much more needs to be done. I know that, even beyond Covid, returning to 'normal' is not acceptable. I have talked with some local families and equity advocates, but I can't give you a specific report on all the district has done or plans to do.

C. Given what you shared about wanting teachers to be vaccinated, is it your sense that this is unlikely to be feasible this academic year? If we do not go back this academic year, is there a plan for summer in-person opportunities?

* Vaccination for teachers is rolling out more slowly than we hoped, both due to a shortage of supply and also that Washtenaw County has a huge number of health care staff that are in tier 1A. We did get self-contained classroom staff into that category. We are expecting teachers to start getting appointments (beyond those who have gone out of country or have somehow obtained links to get appts here). I expect the Board will give the go ahead to start a return no later than when teachers have had a chance to be fully immunized, and hopefully that will happen in March.

* Plans are already underway for an intensive summer program. I have no details as of now.

D. My question regards preparedness. Currently only Elementary is being prepped for return. I am concerned that we have waited until now (or forthcoming) to start surveying parents about plans to return or stay remote. What has been the thinking behind waiting so long to collect this information. I offer this question to the middle and high school levels - which have much more complicated schedules - as well.

Why are we delaying the start of middle and high schools?

* The question about when to return will be based on our best judgment regarding Covid risk – we understand people may disagree - and not in response to a popular vote or survey. The purpose of a survey to for planning purposes – asking whether a student will return to in person. Because of changing Covid case rates and other factors, a survey too far in advance will not be valid.

* We are returning in stages for three reasons. First, we want to make sure our protocols are properly in place and focus our oversight on each smaller group to make sure everything goes well. Also, the dynamics of secondary schools, where students move throughout the building and mix with each other, makes the risk much higher. Finally, older students seem to be able to handle virtual learning much better than younger students.

Note that these students will be brought back in stage 1:

1. Students with high-level specialized learning needs (self-contained classrooms) at all levels who choose a hybrid, in-school learning option,
 2. PK, Y5 and K students who choose a hybrid, in-school learning option, and
 3. Small groups of identified middle and high school students to receive in-school learning center support.
-

E. From [REDACTED]: I am a volunteer at the Ann Arbor [REDACTED]. We have helped up to 24 students from mixed status families, who are at risk. There should be more of these centers created if the school won't open. email me if you want to get one started for your community. Check out <https://www.lahuelga.com/learning-pod> and donate if you can or share the link. This is a 100% grassroots project. ... Other communities have pursued similar learning pods with the important difference of receiving public support (see this recent article https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/pandemic-learning-pod-montgomery-county/2020/12/25/9216f7c4-2de9-11eb-860d-f7999599cbc2_story.html)

* Thanks, [REDACTED]. I am assuming it's ok for me to share your name here. Note that the Connections+ program references students who we would possibly include in stage 1, #3.

F. I have a question about how teachers will manage a hybrid situation with some students in the classroom with them and others still learning remotely. I know what is involved in teaching in the regular classroom setting, and I see the extraordinary work our teachers are doing to engage with kids virtually. These are completely different methods of teaching and engaging with kids. Asking teachers to do both simultaneously seems to me to be asking them to do the impossible.

Has there been a discussion with teachers about how teaching in these hybrid environment will impact overall learning—especially for the lower elementary. If so, what are they saying?

I had to teach hybrid, short term, at UM to college students and it was miserable. And that was with 18-22 yos. I'm concerned the simultaneous in person and remote hybrid teaching will be really difficult for everyone. I know Jeff has highlighted some other models in discussions and I would love to learn more about any research into those.

* There are important reasons for students in return in person: the social isolation and the stress of being home for long periods can be harmful; a return to a more active routine where students at least see and talk with their peers in person should be helpful; parents being freed up to work and/or take care of their own needs or younger children is important. But I believe that teaching and learning are only at risk of being impeded, not enhanced, through our hybrid plan in which teachers need to attend to both in person and virtual students.

(You may hear the terms 'zoomies' and 'roomies.')

* Teachers I've talked with who are doing this in other districts as well as AAPS teachers have expressed a great deal of concern about teaching in this mode. Their attention swivels constantly; there are still limitations in person due to social distancing (an art teacher says she can get "up close" to work with students on Zoom, but will not be able to do so in person). Teachers can project the lesson onto a screen in the classroom, or have them on their device so roomies and zoomies can interact with each other in some situations.

* I have looked at every model imaginable and there are drawbacks to all of them, such as:

- Matching up the number of students and teachers who want to be in person will be unlikely;
 - Would need to mix classes, so teachers and students may not stay with each other;
 - Without hybrid, and smaller in person classes, virtual classes would be excessively large;
 - Half days only would be difficult due to busing, and for many parents.
 - Going in person 4 or 5 days a week would tend to sacrifice social distancing
-

G. I have a high school basketball player and as excited as we are to hear that contact practice and competition will begin next week it still gives a weird feeling that we can have contact sports inside the school but our high school students won't return to academics inside the school any earlier than after spring break. How do we reconcile these two? ...

I also question how contact sports are "safe" but school, theatre, band, etc. are somehow not safe? I have a high school senior wanting to join his school bowling team, which is meeting in person indoors now. But his homebuilding class which is half his school schedule, where he is supposed to be outdoors hands on learning to build a house, is still virtual. This doesn't make any sense to me.

Can we explore creative ideas for MS and HS if they can't return this school year? Similar to sports practice but for kids who aren't in sports (performing arts, for example)?

* Points understood. AAPS policy on winter sports has not yet been defined. Stay tuned.

There are HS theater groups active virtually. The Huron Players are performing Twelfth Night this weekend, and CET (Community HS) did The Tempest in the fall. But these are not in person. I also don't know if teachers have the time, energy or inclination to lead clubs in person.

H. Will before and after care be offered? If not offered, how do you expect will

this impact return rates?

* They will not be offered this year in part due to staffing difficulties, and also for safety concerns.

I. I have questions surrounding vaccinations, both in general and as it relates to Connections +

* There are 80,000 people in Washtenaw Co. who are in tier 1b which includes teachers. We have so many people in tier 1a (medical facilities staff, and apparently many other U-M employees) that we got a late start in 1b. Plus a short supply – for 2-3 weeks, vaccinating only 2,000 a week in tier 1b, that the vaccines aren't happening quickly here. Self-Contained classroom staff were moved to 1a. Teachers over 50 are prioritized now, and while we were told those appointments would start being made this last week, I haven't heard that they were. I have no information about Connections + staff.

J. Echoing a request for family surveys - even if not for planning this could be very in uncovering some of the concerns noted earlier re: hearing from families about what they're seeing in this lens into the classroom and how that may help us envision "the future."

* Our decision to return in based on our best judgment, not on surveys. Families will be asked about whether they'll return in person by each school, after the upcoming Information Sessions and school-based sessions occur, and as you say, this for planning purposes.

* But I believe your question is more general. I could have attached this to topic **B** above but it's worth repeating here. Covid is giving us an opportunity to examine everything we do as a society, and here, how our education system works. We can not just get back to 'normal.' We just look at issues of equity, of social justice, of mental health, of pedagogy (how we teach) and more. Surveys may be part of this, but it has to be a much broader community exploration. And as much as our administration and board is concerned about all of this, they also naturally have a leaning toward upholding the status quo. Due to this, this effort must include many community partners who can lend their unique knowledge and advocacy skills.

K. Specific to Bryant-Pattengill Elementary. I understand now that the IB Program is not being implemented. I am concerned about the long term investment in the school given the long history of B-P being a bit forgotten and left behind. With the focus of the B-P community during our re-envision being our diversity, culturally relevant curriculum, and so many other focal points that have become highlighted in our social landscape, it has been disappointed to see a continued lack of investment in building up this in our community at B-P. what is the vision for B-P?

.....

*I.B. is not being done this year at B-P due to the decision that it would be efficient this year for every teacher in the district to teach the same lesson at the same time, per grade and subject, with lessons developed by teachers that follow a strict prototype, the rationale being that teachers had so much to learn and adapt to teaching virtually that this would ease the load. (See <@>) But B-P had not forsaken IB. Just managing the basics has required so much of everyone in AAPS that many issues and routines have been put on the back burner.

<@> I was apoplectic when I first heard of this plan, as it greatly diminishes the ability of every teacher to use her professional skills and experience to teach to the needs of her students. But when I talked to 15-20 teachers they all said these prepared lessons were a life saver, as they simply would not have the time to prepare their own lessons in a new mode. I relented, then.

<@> I retired in 2016 after a 38-year classroom teaching career when I did mostly because of this effect the top down mandates and restrictions had on my teaching. Teachers have told me that they have less control year by year. I am very afraid of where this could be leading. Mechanical teaching and mechanical learning should not be our goal.

<@> I would be very interested in hearing from students (or from parents of younger students) what they think about the lessons centered around the long slide decks. Not so much the issues of screen time or technology – we all understand the problems with those, but how engaging the lessons are, as they all are.

L. I appreciate the board's efforts to protect teachers and keep them teaching in the district for the long term. As a parent, I worry about the quality of education moving forward if we lose teachers.

* This is a legitimate concern, nationally and locally. This is one of the reasons I feel we shouldn't force teachers back in person until they have had the chance to be fully immunized.

<@> Then again if we have standardized lessons for all grades and subjects that can be presented via video, why would we even need highly skilled teachers? (my snarky ending.)

Again, thank you, I'd be glad to receive comments and questions via email, at gaynor@a2schools.org I plan to have another session on Sunday, Feb. 14, at 3pm (football is over, right?). I will give priority to new people, and will cap it at 24 participants.

-Jeff Gaynor
February 7, 2021

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]



BOE Coffee
2.4.21...ry.docx

From: **Gaynor, Jeff** gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: Re: Teacher-led school pod for sale

Date: October 1, 2020 at 4:58 PM

To: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us

Cc: [REDACTED] BOE boardofed@a2schools.org, Jeanice Swift Swift@a2schools.org, [REDACTED]

JG

Susan, you are wonderful. Thank you!
- Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 2:21 PM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good afternoon [REDACTED],
Pls call [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] is hosting a learning pod for a small group of children.
There will be no charge to you. He is expecting your call.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Susan
Susan Baskett,
Ann Arbor Board of Education Secretary
[REDACTED]

On Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 1:02 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

To all members of the Board and to Dr. Swift,

I am including a picture of my [REDACTED] and myself so that you can picture us when you read this email. Because this is us. This is it. It's just the two of us. I'm not an angry, ranting, dissenting, entitled parent. I am a grieving, struggling parent and I'm not convinced anyone gets it. Certainly, not enough people get it. Please view both attachments before reading on.

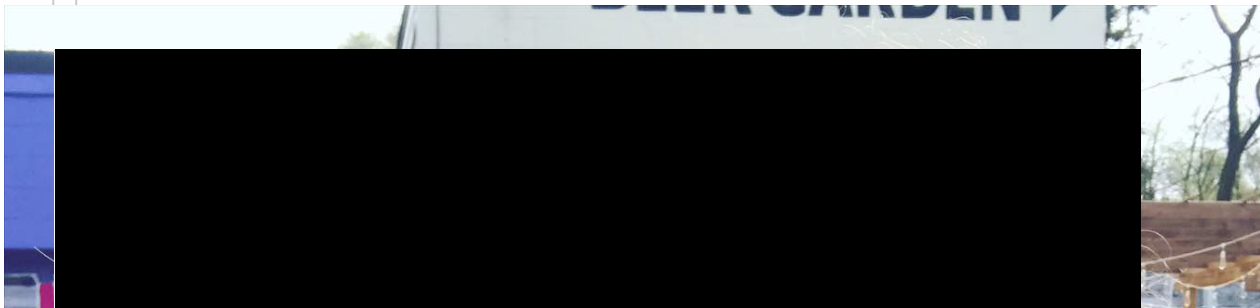
Public education is now a capitalistic endeavor more than ever. In-person learning is happening, indeed - for those hiring teachers who gather children in their homes. I don't care what kind of teacher it is, currently employed at AAPS, retired, newly trained, licensed, unlicensed. Some Ann Arbor families ARE getting to give their kids in-person learning 3+ days a week while some are left drowning. This right here is what single parents on tight budgets get to face every day, now and for the next year. We get to wake up and see other children getting educated, in person, in teachers' homes. We get to witness this stark contrast with our own flailing attempt to stay afloat, every single day.

It's not that kids in *other* districts are getting something that I am not. Kids in *my* district are. Kids in *my* neighborhood are. Kids whose parents can purchase it.

I don't send this to you with any hope it changes a single thing right now. Because I know that it won't. I know that I will be waiting indefinitely for the case numbers to fall to a degree that won't occur for a long time. I do not doubt your desire for the best for the students of your district nor your dedication to it. But even if I can't change a single thing in my circumstance right now, I at least want others to understand the reality on the ground. I want others to lose sleep over it. I want our leaders at every level to get sick from the anxiety of it the way that we parents who cannot hire a private teacher in our neighborhood do. If I cannot change it, I want to make sure people know what's really happening. Maybe if enough people lose as much sleep as the mothers and fathers who wrote into the board last night, more people in power will start advocating as hard as a parent would.

In-person learning is happening and some students are advancing. You know which ones will be and which will not.

[REDACTED]





Hello All, we have created a [redacted] with a great teacher in Ann Arbor and are looking for another 1st grader or two who are interested in joining us. We will be meeting Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am - 3pm at the teacher's home in the Allen neighborhood. She will be teaching the children the AAPS curriculum alongside a pacing schedule to minimize the amount of screen time associated with Virtual learning. Please let me know if you're interested in joining us!

...

Like · Reply · 4w



--
All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Teachers Vaccination and In-Person Learning
Date: February 4, 2021 at 3:14 AM
To: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
Cc: Swift, Jeanice swift@aaps.k12.mi.us, BOE boardofed@a2schools.org

SB

Good morning Jeff,
Thank you for your clarifying email.
As you know, we are all under intense scrutiny and must be prepared for anything thrown our way.

We all must be aware and prepared for nearly anything.

Stay safe and warm,
S

On Wed, Feb 3, 2021 at 10:40 PM Gaynor, Jeff <gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

As [REDACTED] cited my statements in his email I feel the duty to respond. First, note that my statements that he screen captured are my own, and in no way are represented as those of the Board as a whole.

Given I was quoted by [REDACTED] out of context, I want to clarify that my statement about in person learning refers to the AAPS hybrid plan. I stand by this statement. With teachers masked and socially distant from students in class, while also paying attention to their virtual student, I don't see any pedagogical advantage to this mode over an all virtual set up as AAPS has developed it. This opinion is based on what I have heard from teachers across the country who have taught in this hybrid fashion, along with concerns expressed by AAPS teachers. My own [REDACTED] years experience as a classroom teacher also informs my opinion.

Note that my opinion only applies when teachers, under these conditions, are teaching simultaneously to students in person and at home. In normal times, without the restrictive conditions due to Covid, I strongly prefer in person classroom instruction to virtual. Of course appropriate use of technology has a rightful place in the classroom.

I shall leave it to Trustee Baskett, as board secretary, to reply to [REDACTED] email on behalf of the board.

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Wed, Feb 3, 2021 at 4:53 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dr Swift and AAPS Board Members,

Apologies for the back-to-back emails, my intent is not to fill up your inboxes. I just came across a comment from Trustee Gaynor that raised a question - see below. In Trustee Gaynor's comment below, he states "I don't see how students who attend in person will benefit in learning."

Is it not the opinion of AAPS Board that the in-person learning experience far exceeds the quality of a virtual experience and is significantly better for students mental state? It is extremely troubling that some or all members of the AAPS board believe the current situation is anywhere near the same educational experience and optimal for students mental state.

Trustee Gaynor also goes on to state "families will get much needed relief..." For many, especially lower income families, they need schools for relief. However, I think it is ignorant to think the number one reason families want in-person learning is for the sake of "babysitting." For a majority of us, we are seeing first hand our children struggle academically and mentally. It's very unfortunate the AAPS Board is so blind to the reality of the decisions they're making. The devaluing of in-person learning by the board is the reason many of us, those that are fortunate enough to do so, are exploring alternative education options in the fall. It seems ever more evident that APPS is no longer living up to its mission of "...creating a world-class system of innovative teaching & learning."

Apologies for the constant emails. I look forward to hearing back on this question and the questions raised in my earlier email. Thanks in advance for the time.





MICHIGANDAILY.COM

Ann Arbor community members debate return to in-person instruction in K-12 schools



Like



Comment



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being left behind as he sees classmates returning to the building. He also suffers by either losing his teacher of five months or h... See More

16h Like Reply

4



Author

Jeff Gaynor AAPS BOE Trustee

It's really a no-win situation. I agree too many promises were made early - in an attempt to please everyone. But I'm not sure that would have changed the reality. I don't see how students who attend in person will benefit in learning - though families will get very needed relief, and I suppose just getting out of the

house will be helpful to kids some
- though the school day will be
nothing like normal.

16h **Angry** Reply

4 🤔 😡

On Feb 3, 2021, at 12:45 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dr. Swift,

Thank you for the response. I appreciate you taking the time to respond to some of the emails from the community. As often the case with your updates though, I'm left with more questions than answers. You confirmed my note that vaccines are slower than planned but provided no response to my questions to vaccines and their impact to returning to in-person learnings.

I believe I speak for so many in the community, we are DESPERATE for transparency and more information. At a time of emergency like this pandemic, Government and public officials must step in and take significant control over our lives - travel, recreation/dinning, education, etc. In the case of education, this is an immense amount of responsibility you and the board have as you are directly influence our kids education and their health and mental wellbeing. With this power comes a great deal of responsibility to be transparent and forthcoming with information. Otherwise, as is the situation now, we feel in the dark with no control over critical aspects of their lives and struggling to help our kids education or mental wellbeing. I desperately plead with you to share more information and be more transparent on your plans. Hiding behind vague updates and constantly moving targets (e.g. we won't wait for the vaccine to return, we will wait, we will return in early-March, we're remaining virtual, we're talking to officials all the way up to President Biden's team about *stuff*) is not leadership.

In the spirit of transparency and information, I ask for answers to these questions. I believe these are questions you owe to the public. Again, you are directly influencing the quality of education our kids receive and playing a significant role in the mental impact virtual learning is having on them. For that reason, you owe us answers to these questions.

- **Teachers Vaccines:** how many teachers have been vaccinated? In your parent newsletter, you mentioned vaccinations have not started, however, I know first hand a number of K-12 teachers have been vaccinated.
- **Timeline:** when do state/local health experts believe there will be enough vaccines to get a majority of the teacher population? Given all of the conversations you/your colleagues have had with officials all the way up to the Biden administration, I have to imagine there are more details than you shared in your email.
- **Return Plans:** based on the expected timeline, when is AAPS expecting to return to in-person? Your stance on teachers needing to be vaccinated or not has changed - originally you said we will not wait for teachers to be vaccinated but we are now waiting. Why is this changing?
- **Surveys:** do you plan to share survey results after this next survey? We deserve to know what the community wants. Why has a survey not been administered since the original one when this pandemic started 9 months ago? Are the opinions of the community you serve not important to the decisions you're making on our behalf??
- **Other districts:** in a community where 34% of the cases are from the university, and data has shown there is little transmission to the community, what is different about Ann Arbor that warrants a virtual learning when so many around us are in-person.

I plead with you to be more open and honest with the AA public. A growing majority of the population, as evident by the rally downtown Saturday, are demanding more information. While I support the need for public officials to take control in a time of emergency, that comes with a great deal of responsibility that I believe you have not lived up to.

Thanks for your time,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Jan 29, 2021, at 1:35 PM, Swift, Jeanice <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED],

Thank you for reaching out to me today regarding the vaccination of teachers.

I have addressed this issue directly in today's parent communication that you will receive later this afternoon, yet want to respond directly to your inquiry.

To be clear, we work closely in support of Washtenaw County Health Department - members of our team continue in close communication daily in this work. We strongly support their vaccination efforts, and the limitation that everyone is experiencing in this vaccination process just now **is a very limited supply of vaccine.**

In fact, I was in a local, state and national level leader briefing meeting just now, and the shortage of vaccine supply to meet the current need for essential workers is occurring in Michigan and across the country. Rep Dingell shared with a group of community leaders this morning - and she is fine with me sharing her update - that she was engaged in a meeting yesterday with President Biden's COVID czar, Jeff Zients, on this critical matter of vaccine supply.

I won't venture to speak for our partners at the WCHD, yet will share that I know they are working vigilantly and we continue to do everything we can in support of this effort. Being prioritized for a vaccine does not necessarily translate to receiving a vaccine at this current time, due to a nationwide shortage.

Our model for return does include most all teachers returning to the classroom, and as you can see below, the WCHD *has* prioritized teachers of our students most impacted with special education needs so that we can proceed as quickly as possible with Stage 1 of the planned return.

In every way that we possibly can, we are leveraging vaccines to return students and teachers to classrooms and prioritizing the students with greatest needs and the youngest learners first.

Sincerely,

Jeanice Swift

Below is the explanation that is included in today's AAPS parent update:

- **COVID Vaccination Process**

We are most grateful for the development of COVID vaccines that will surely support our progress through this pandemic.

We clearly understand and support the Governor's goal, shared on January 8th, of reopening PK12 schools. We appreciate the Governor's stated commitment to prioritize the vaccination of school personnel in Phase 1B to support the goal of a confident reopening of Michigan school buildings. However, the current reality is that the declaration of beginning vaccination processes for teachers on January 11th has not yet occurred in Washtenaw County due to the lack of supply of the vaccine. State and federal officials continue work to secure enough vaccines for everyone in phases 1A and 1B to obtain the first doses.

We appreciate the prioritization of self-contained classroom staff (a very small proportion of the overall AAPS team) in the vaccination process and supported the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) in a vaccine clinic in this effort just yesterday. While some individual AAPS teachers may have been able to get vaccinated at locations across Michigan, at this time, no systemic teacher vaccinations have been administered in Washtenaw County due to the lack of vaccine supply. As Gov. Whitmer stated just this week, ["The fact of the matter is, we don't yet have the kind of supply that we need."](#)

However, there is encouraging news coming from the Biden administration. They announced earlier this week a deal with Pfizer and Moderna to secure an additional 200 million vaccine doses. [As NPR reports](#), "On Tuesday, President Biden announced a plan to boost the COVID-19 vaccine supply by 20% over the next three weeks and by hundreds of millions of doses by summer."



Jeanice Kerr Swift

Superintendent of Schools
Ann Arbor Public Schools

p: (734) 994-2232

a: 2555 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

w: a2schools.org e: swift@a2schools.org



On Fri, Jan 29, 2021 at 10:54 AM [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear Dr. Swift,

I wanted to reach out regarding the vaccination of teachers in AAPS. I know you addressed this briefly at the school board meeting this week, but I was hoping for more details.

I continue to hear from teachers and see posts like the below confirming AAPS teachers are indeed getting vaccinated. This is great news as they are truly frontline workers when teaching in the classroom.

I'm concerned though that AAPS still has no plans of returning to in person learning despite over 1,000 teachers, a significant chunk of the Ann Arbor population, being prioritized for the vaccine, at a time when there is still such limited supply and so many high risk individuals still waiting for their chance. With only 5 months left in the school year, the chance to get students back in school is fading. We are wasting an incredible opportunity to get students back to in person learning.

Vaccinating teachers that remain virtual seems like an incredible misalignment of priorities. **Why is AAPS not fully leveraging these critical vaccines to get students, especially younger students & students with special needs, back into the classroom. I would appreciate a response on this critical community matter.**

I'm copying a members from Washtenaw County Health department in hopes of getting their perspective on this misalignment of priorities.

<image0.jpeg>

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

--

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Gaynor, Jeff gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Thank you - please read :)
Date: February 25, 2021 at 11:33 AM
To: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us



Brava, Susan. I had sent a short personal reply that basically said that "though we didn't agree with you it didn't mean we didn't hear you."

You wrote a masterpiece!

-Jeff

Jeff Gaynor
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education
gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us
cell: [REDACTED]

On Thu, Feb 25, 2021 at 11:02 AM Baskett, Susan <baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Good morning [REDACTED],

We appreciate your email, now of kind words and appreciation.

At the risk of being, "canned and lacking," I will remind you that we HAD a plan. As legally required, our plan was submitted to the State and posted on our website months ago. The plan was consistently reviewed and approved by the Board of Education. The plan was (or depending on timing, will be) reviewed in the school-based discussions that are led by the school principals. We agree that our principals are wonderful, and possibly, our 'saving grace'. What you wanted and we did not authorize until yesterday were **dates** that accompanied the PLAN.

There is a difference between being cautious and paralyzed with fear. You assumed that we were acting per your own words, "in ignorance, theatrics, fear, and back-pedaling". While voices of your position were quite loud and in some cases, offensive and hurtful, there are other voices. Those who were not so loud, but equally worth hearing. Voices that were intimidated by your voices, but were and still are equally important for us to hear. Yes, some of the voices were afraid, but still worthy of hearing and understanding. We weren't then and are not now, deaf. We chose to be cautious knowing that you and your forces would weaponize anything said and would be totally unforgiving if target dates were not met due to a virus that is out of anyone's control.

We are proud to have stayed our course in order to offer the options of even safer educational environments to our entire school community.

- We now have a commitment from the Governor's office for additional vaccines, specifically for our educators. This forced Michigan Medicine to share their resources with our educators who were left on their own to obtain the vaccine. Often our teachers and support staff were unsuccessfully competing with the rest of our community and being shamed for even seeking the vaccine because the Board had not yet authorized a date to return to our buildings. Their lives and those of their families were threatened with being denied even the opportunity of the vaccine. Talk about shameful.
- We now have confirmed test kits for all of our students, (not just the athletes), as well as for our staff. Something we did not have before. Reminder, some of our students did not have the ability to get tested even if they were wanting to. We can now offer that to them.

You accused us of not following the science, simply because we interpreted the data with a broader lens of equity. Not fear, but the real experience of having loved ones affected by and even losing loved ones to this deadly virus. We also know from experience that not all families will properly follow safety protocols. For example, hosting protest rallies definitely contradicts the advice of avoiding mass gatherings even while wearing masks.

We WILL move forward. As trustees, we take our jobs quite seriously, often at great opportunity costs to ourselves and our families. We DO our jobs knowing that we cannot please everyone all of the time, but knowing that we can and do make a difference in our students' lives.

As well, this is longer than I intended. A simple, 'your welcome' probably would have sufficed, but I did not want to seem 'canned,' nor unappreciative.

We hope that you will grant us grace as we proceed in implementing our plan moving forward. ALL plans have unforeseen stumbles as they are rolled out. The Board of Education has full confidence in Dr. Swift and her team. We know that they have spent hours and hours working on delivering the best quality education possible with the goal of returning everyone to our school buildings as soon as possible. We know this because they have reviewed their thoughts with us as they worked. This is the best educational team that I have ever had the honor of working with.

When tension is high, trust is low. Hopefully, as the dates of returning have been released, tension will decrease, allowing for the

trust to return. We are committed.

Please stay safe and warm,
Susan Baskett
Secretary, Ann Arbor Board of Education

On Thu, Feb 25, 2021 at 8:33 AM [REDACTED] > wrote:
Dear, BOE and Dr. Swift -

I want to say thank you to each of you (both individually and as a group) for your decision to both resume the hybrid return to person plan this school year; and for your commitment to a full five day per week option for the fall.

For me it is an issue of families needing to have confidence in their leadership - that they will make evidence-based decisions and not allow fear to drive their decisions. **I sincerely hope that you all continue to try to rebuild the trust this community has lost in AAPS leadership these last few months after having our evidence-based urgings fall upon deaf ears repeatedly.**

- Credit to you ALL for making a good decision yesterday to give families a choice starting in March.
- Credit to the hundreds of dedicated parents who spoke out when it became clear you did not have a plan and were not following the science and/or experts.
- Credit to Michigan Medicine, the Health Department, and representatives at the local and State level (City Council, Taylor, Dingell, Irwin, Whitmer, etc.) for getting involved to help AAPS.
- **HUGE Credit to the wonderful teachers and principals of AAPS - they've been your saving grace** with their continued dedication to their students and families throughout the pandemic. They've communicated well and remained positive even when their leadership was leaving everyone in the dark and without a plan for the future.

I woke this morning with a tiny bit of faith restored, but the work is not done. Hopefully, like Dr. Swift's letter stated yesterday, we can all "move forward together."

This is getting longer than intended. THANK YOU all again.

--
[REDACTED]

--
All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: THANK YOU for setting a return-to-school date
Date: January 13, 2021 at 5:22 PM



To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email. It has always been our intention to return to face to face instruction when we felt we could do so safely and sustainably. Though we do see light at the end of the tunnel, I want to be very clear that we are not entirely out of the woods and our plan is **highly contingent on the availability of vaccines, the local infection rate, etc.**

We are not following the lead of several districts who decided to enter a hybrid phase this Fall and who faced challenges with COVID infections, staffing, and uncertainty around scheduling. I believe many schools returned to face to face instruction this fall were a lot more willing to take chances with community health than we were. I do not think the dangers of virtual learning outweigh the dangers of COVID, especially among Black and Hispanic populations who are most severely impacted. We were very intentional about creating the best virtual learning environment that we could so that families could learn the platforms while the world was learning more about the virus. Our hope is that now that our students and families are familiar with the virtual environment, it will make hybrid learning more successful. The science around whether schools spread COVID is not entirely conclusive and the science around the detriments of virtual learning are even less so. In some cases, contracting COVID means life or death for members of our community and those stakes deserve careful and deliberate thought.

Thanks again for your email. I do hope that we quickly gain access to vaccines and we continue to see reduced COVID spread so that we can enter the hybrid phase according to our projections. Please continue to encourage friends and neighbors to take actions to limit community spread and encourage our state executives to effectively distribute vaccines. Have a great night!

Sincerely,
Bryan

Bryan L. Johnson

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board

Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Phone: [REDACTED]

On Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 12:34 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Dr. Swift and Board Members:

Thank you for doing what's best for our children and setting a date for returning to school in a hybrid model. I am so happy to hear that AAPS is following the lead of other districts that have successfully returned to a hybrid education model and that you are listening to the science that shows that schools are not a significant source of community spread.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: Kelly, Jessica kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Fwd: Trustee Kelly
Date: March 7, 2021 at 3:22 PM
To: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us



Trustee Baskett,

Thank you for your supportive call this afternoon. I am reaching out to others as well asking for a conversation if anyone has any questions or concerns over the request from these folks.

To be clear, I have no intention of resigning. I was elected to advocate on behalf of students and educators; not yield to the demands of a select group of community members with a highly focused perspective. Do I value the input of our medical community? Of course I do. I hold our doctors and nurses in high esteem, and weigh their input with the same care as I weigh the input from our families and from our experts in teaching and learning, human resources, facility management, transportation--all of the areas that we must balance when we make the decisions we're faced with this spring.

It's unfortunate that they're so focused on my clumsy word choice rather than the dedication I have to ensuring that the decisions we make are well balanced and based on best educational practices. I have apologized for the impact that my word choice had in February, but I welcome any additional thoughts you have as you think about this letter.

Thank you again for reaching out today.

Jessica



Jessica Kelly, Vice President

she/her/hers
Board of Education
Ann Arbor Public Schools
c: [REDACTED]



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

From [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, Mar 6, 2021 at 9:27 PM
Subject: Trustee Kelly
To: <boardofed@a2schools.org>
Cc: Swift, Jeanice <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us>

Dear Ann Arbor Board of Education,

The physicians and psychologists who wrote to you over the past few weeks appreciate the announcement of hybrid learning to start in AAPS within the next month. As the data has demonstrated that face to face learning with appropriate mitigation procedures is safe and that many children are suffering in the virtual-only format, it was time to take this step. We also applaud the partnership with Michigan Medicine to accelerate teacher and staff vaccinations.

That said, there remains a lot of anger and hurt in the community over Trustee Kelly's words in response to our Open Letter, especially her statement that doctors would never do what we are asking teachers to do. This statement made into cowards those who have worked tirelessly to save lives during this pandemic while greatly exaggerating the risk of classroom transmission of COVID-19. And so, at the request of the physician community, a petition was started calling for Trustee Kelly's resignation. You will find it as an attachment to this email.

We made the decision not to circulate this petition widely and not to present it publicly because of the further divisions this could create in our community. This was a difficult decision, as physicians continue to come to us requesting accountability or at the very least a clear apology. You will see that despite the very limited circulation, the petition gathered more than 130 signatures.

The medical community remains ready as we have since the beginning of the pandemic to engage members of the BOE in conversation and to cooperate with you for the benefit of our children. Unfortunately, Trustee Kelly did not take up our good faith effort to open a dialogue. We feel saddened by the BOE's lack of interest in engaging with the community, as without understanding your

community, you will never be able to serve it well.

Sincerely,



Trustee JK
petition.docx

From: Baskett, Susan baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: Trustee Kelly
Date: March 9, 2021 at 12:23 PM
To: Kelly, Jessica kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us
Cc: BOE boardofed@a2schools.org, Swift, Jeanice swift@aaps.k12.mi.us

SB

Thank you, Trustee.
I am appalled at the level of mean-spiritedness that has risen in our community.
I think you have handled this well. I appreciate your level of professionalism and calmness.

As we discussed, if this silly request of your resignation comes up in public commentary, I will 'clarify' a few things during the "clarification" section of our meeting.

Take care,
S

On Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 9:15 PM Kelly, Jessica <kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for circling back on this topic and allowing me the opportunity to follow up.

I understand that there continues to be a high level of emotion. I have extended my apologies to every person who has contacted me directly by phone, text, and email to express their dismay. I have had very productive conversations with a number of the people who have signed your attached letter, in fact. I appreciate the outreach and opportunity for dialog. I regret that I haven't been in a position to accept every invitation for a meeting at this point. As you can imagine there is a significant amount of time dedicated to committee work, lengthy board meetings, and ongoing efforts to launch our reopening plan. These district commitments are in addition to the full time careers and full family lives that most board members, including myself, try to balance.

In addition to the personal contact I have had with many folks, you may be aware that I made a public apology at the [board meeting on February 17th](#). You can see it beginning at 1:42:25 in the recording from that date.

I was elected to advocate on behalf of students and educators while considering the input of all stakeholders. As I've said repeatedly, I hold our doctors and nurses in high esteem, and I weigh their input with the same care as I weigh the input from experts in teaching and learning, equity and inclusion, human resources, facility management, transportation--all of the areas that we must balance when we make the decisions we're faced with this spring.

As you note, the board did support Dr. Swift's recommendation to be a phased re-opening of our buildings. This recommendation and support came after careful collection and analysis of data and input from experts responsible for all aspects of community health and school administration. I hope that we can move past my clumsy word choice and come together as a community that is dedicated to ensuring that the decisions we make are well-balanced and based on best COVID-informed educational practices as we work to implement this re-opening.

As a practical matter, there does not appear to be contact information from the other folks who signed the letter either on the letter itself or in your email, so I hope you will share my reply accordingly.

Thank you,
Jessica



Jessica Kelly, Vice President

she/her/hers

Board of Education

Ann Arbor Public Schools

call/text: [REDACTED]



On Sat, Mar 6, 2021 at 9:27 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Ann Arbor Board of Education,

The physicians and psychologists who wrote to you over the past few weeks appreciate the announcement of hybrid learning to start in AAPS within the next month. As the data has demonstrated that face to face learning with appropriate mitigation procedures is safe and that many children are suffering in the virtual-only format, it was time to take this step. We also

applaud the partnership with Michigan Medicine to accelerate teacher and staff vaccinations.

That said, there remains a lot of anger and hurt in the community over Trustee Kelly's words in response to our Open Letter, especially her statement that doctors would never do what we are asking teachers to do. This statement made into cowards those who have worked tirelessly to save lives during this pandemic while greatly exaggerating the risk of classroom transmission of COVID-19. And so, at the request of the physician community, a petition was started calling for Trustee Kelly's resignation. You will find it as an attachment to this email.

We made the decision not to circulate this petition widely and not to present it publicly because of the further divisions this could create in our community. This was a difficult decision, as physicians continue to come to us requesting accountability or at the very least a clear apology. You will see that despite the very limited circulation, the petition gathered more than 130 signatures.

The medical community remains ready as we have since the beginning of the pandemic to engage members of the BOE in conversation and to cooperate with you for the benefit of our children. Unfortunately, Trustee Kelly did not take up our good faith effort to open a dialogue. We feel saddened by the BOE's lack of interest in engaging with the community, as without understanding your community, you will never be able to serve it well.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

--

All the best,
Susan Baskett
Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education

From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: we need a better plan
Date: March 12, 2021 at 12:56 PM
To: Swift, Jeanice swift@aaps.k12.mi.us
Cc: Bryan Johnson johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jessica Kelly kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us



I am also sure of it, but the University should be aware she is using her University credentials in her communications. Her communications are far beyond personal expression. They are to rally community support.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | lazarusr@a2schools.org . | www.a2schools.org

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On Fri, Mar 12, 2021 at 12:50 PM Swift, Jeanice <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

I am confident that these communications are not supported by the University.



Jeanice Kerr Swift

Superintendent of Schools

Ann Arbor Public Schools

p: (734) 994-2232

a: 2555 S. State Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

w: a2schools.org **e:** swift@a2schools.org



On Fri, Mar 12, 2021 at 11:39 AM Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Have we contacted the University of Michigan to verify if [REDACTED] many communications are sanctioned by the University as implied by her signature? She is definitely sending these communications using University resources and University of Michigan credentials. Seeking clarification.

Thank you.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell [REDACTED] . | lazarusr@a2schools.org . | www.a2schools.org

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

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Mar 11, 2021 at 2:47 PM
Subject: we need a better plan
To: <boardofed@a2schools.org>

Dear Trustees,

As I watched last night's school board meeting I was shocked and dismayed at the proposed hybrid plan for grades 6-12

The 7th period last night's school board meeting, I was shocked and dismayed at the proposed hybrid plan for grades 6-12.

Judging from the many questions trustees asked, this plan shocked you as well. It keeps all MS and HS students mostly remote, even after their families indicate a desire/need for in-person instruction. There are so many problems with this hybrid plan, it's hard to know where to begin. For starters:

1. Last night this new plan was explained as necessary to ensure strict adherence to 6 feet of social distancing among students, per the CDC. As you know, cases are falling precipitously in Washtenaw County, and the percent positive rate is already at a low of 1.17%. If current trends continue, when this hybrid plan launches April 19 we will be in the CDC's yellow zone, when the CDC recommends that "K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction." The CDC further advises that in yellow, physical distancing of 6 feet or more should be followed "to the greatest extent possible." In other words, when community transmission drops low enough, the CDC does not strictly require 6 feet of social distance, especially when other mitigation measures are in place (e.g., improved ventilation).
2. Under this new plan, students would receive only 1 day per week of F2F instruction, split across two mornings. In other words, 20% in-person, 80% remote. The way the district has talked about hybrid since last summer, families are expecting 2 full days per week of F2F instruction (40% in person).
3. This new schedule would have secondary students seeing each teacher F2F only 1 hour per week. By the end of the academic year, they will have seen each teacher for a total of 7-8 hours each. One exception: under this plan, HS students will never meet their 7th period teachers.
4. This plan would scrap the block schedule and replace it with a new schedule that has each class meeting twice per day, several hours apart. As an educator, I keep looking at this strange new schedule to figure out what pedagogical goals it serves. There are none that I can find.
5. This schedule assumes that students will log back on in the afternoon. Many will not. There will be a drop in afternoon attendance if the day is split up this way. Most absent will be the students who are most struggling—educationally, emotionally, economically. This plan works against equity.
6. The HS plan would keep all 7th hours 100% remote. However some core classes take place at 7th hour, including hands-on science classes such as AP Chemistry Lab at Pioneer. Also at Pioneer, Jazz Band only meets 7th hour. Ask any science or music teacher, and they will tell you that these subjects are best taught in person.
7. Many HS students dual-enroll across AAPS schools, and some receive education outside of AAPS (e.g., EMU, WCC). Changing daily schedules so drastically – for both hybrid and remote students – throws a giant wrench into their educations. The dual-enrolled students will have no choice but to stay remote. Some college-enrolled students will not be able to make this work.
8. Many HS students use city busses for transportation (especially those with working parents, or those whose families do not own cars). Students who do sports and other after-school activities would have to bus to and from school in the morning, and then repeat that trip in the afternoon—doubling the amount of time they spend on city busses. These busses do not enforce the same safety protocols as schools. Just last week I took the city bus to work, and there was no 6 feet or even 3 feet of distance being enforced among passengers (many strangers sitting side by side). Again, this plan does not have equity in mind.
9. This plan assumes that students will go home when dismissed at noon and have lunch there. Many will not. Older students will wander downtown to find lunch. Many will gather to eat with friends, unmasked and unmonitored. Those who leave with a bag lunch will unmask and eat. Some will eat on school busses (MS) and city busses (HS). This raises risks for other bus riders (many poor people who rely on the city bus) and for bus drivers (primarily people of color). This plan does not eliminate the "restaurant risk" that Swift described, it pushes it outside of AAPS boundaries. This plan does not have the community in mind, especially communities of color.
10. Last night Superintendent Swift stated that middle and high schools do not have enough space to provide lunch areas for the number of students who will be returning. That number is unknown, without a survey of secondary families. Grades 6-12 are so different from PK-5 that one cannot assume similar numbers will return. There are no good data to base this claim on. At one point Swift admitted as much: "It's early in our process. We'll see how many choose to return."
11. AAPS has large outdoor spaces and athletic fields, and the city and university have even more outdoor spaces. City Council members and UM leaders (including Mark Schlissel) have offered to Superintendent Swift a willingness to help support schools in reopening. Among all of these various properties, certainly there is space to move lunch outdoors, under tents as needed. It will be late April, May, and June. If a cold snap hits, students can bundle up. If it rains, they can have a quick lunch under tents and then return (masked) to their classrooms. The problem of lunch should not be what stands in the way of a wealthy school district offering a robust hybrid education. Districts larger and poorer than AAPS have figured this out.
12. In considering this new hybrid plan, there was no discussion last night of the mental health toll remote education is having on students, a toll that will continue under an 80% remote model. No discussion of the increases in youth depression, drug use, and suicidal ideation described by local physicians. No discussion of the decreases in child abuse/neglect reports. An equity lens would demand such discussions.

Trustees, you can no doubt see these problems just as well as I can. Secondary reopening is still over a month away, leaving plenty of time for the district to come up with a reasonable hybrid plan. Turn to other districts for models, looking outside the state as necessary. Partner with the City of Ann Arbor and University of Michigan. Hire consultants as needed. Follow the CDC guidance, which includes reduced social distances as community spread declines. Keep equity, community, and mental health in mind.

Please push for a better plan.

Thank you,

[Redacted]

--

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: **Kelly, Jessica** kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: Re: Weekly meeting with AAEEA Leadership

Date: February 3, 2021 at 8:27 PM

To: Klein, Fred mrklein@aaps.k12.mi.us

Cc: Jeff Gaynor gaynor@aaps.k12.mi.us, Susan Baskett baskett@aaps.k12.mi.us, Bryan Johnson johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Krystle DuPree dupreek@aaps.k12.mi.us, Ernesto Querijero querijeroe@aaps.k12.mi.us

JK

Hi Fred,

Thank you for the invitation! I'm not available tomorrow (2/4), but could I join you on the following week (2/11)?

Jessica



Jessica Kelly, Vice President

she/her/hers

Board of Education

Ann Arbor Public Schools

c: [REDACTED]



On Wed, Feb 3, 2021 at 4:05 PM Klein, Fred <mrklein@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

All,

We would like to expand the opportunity for all of you esteemed trustees to join our weekly Thursday noon AAEEA/BoE conversations. We understand that only 3 of you can attend each time, so I will defer to you to decide who is able to attend each week.

Here is the recurring link:

Fred Klein is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: AAEEA/BoE

Time: Feb 4, 2021 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, until Mar 4, 2021, 5 occurrence(s)

Feb 4, 2021 12:00 PM

Feb 11, 2021 12:00 PM

Feb 18, 2021 12:00 PM

Feb 25, 2021 12:00 PM

Mar 4, 2021 12:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://a2schools.zoom.us/meeting/tJErc-Cpqj0vHdeXgrHrKfYUCdu7pFgms_rz/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCtqD8jG9CTtR6ERowMBI-gXevwiCFYgqdYpBj3KzJ4ZDrDFeZXZaJZF9XD

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://a2schools.zoom.us/j/95649146573>

Meeting ID: 956 4914 6573

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 956 4914 6573

Find your local number: <https://a2schools.zoom.us/u/acOcQlxBtJ>

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Are we not drawn onward, we few, drawn onward to new era?

From: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: Re: WXYZ INQUIRY

Date: February 22, 2021 at 5:55 PM

To: wxyzdesk wxyzdesk@wxyz.com

Cc: Andrew Cluley cluleya@aaps.k12.mi.us

Bcc: Jessica Kelly kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us, Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us

BJ

Hi Chris,

Thanks for your email. The Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education has not made a decision about in-person learning at this time. As we have done every month since August, Superintendent Swift will share an update to our current continuity of learning plan and the full board will vote whether to adopt the plan.

I've copied our communications director, Andrew Cluley who can share a copy of our most recent continuity of learning plan. Thanks so much!

Regards,
Bryan

Bryan L. Johnson

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board

Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Phone: [REDACTED]

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 4:44 PM wxyzdesk <wxyzdesk@wxyz.com> wrote:

Good afternoon,

We are planning a story tonight on the decision for Ann Arbor Schools to not have in person learning for now.

Would you or someone from the board be able to speak to a reporter via Zoom this evening?

Thanks

Chris Farina



News Assignment Desk

W: 248.827.9407

News@wxyz.com

20777 West 10 Mile Road
Southfield, Michigan 48075

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From: Lazarus, Rebecca lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Subject: Re: Return to School Plan Clarification

Date: September 6, 2020 at 9:31 PM

To: Lauzzana, Emile lauzzanae@aaps.k12.mi.us

Cc: Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us, Bryan Johnson johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jessica Kelly kellyj@aaps.k12.mi.us, Bernerd Rice riceb@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jill Minnick minnickj@aaps.k12.mi.us

RL

Hello All,

Thank you for the proactive flushing practices while our buildings are closed. We look forward to your presentation on building preparedness. Our children, staff and community are very lucky to have a professional team keeping them safe. It is important to inform our community of this work and what it means to their health and safety. Great work!

Have a wonderful Labor Day.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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On Fri, Sep 4, 2020 at 6:52 PM Lauzzana, Emile <lauzzanae@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hi all,

We look forward to sharing a complete picture of our plans in September, but I thought it would be useful for this group to know that we have been flushing the building water systems weekly since the closure in March and that all filters have been changed this summer per our drinking water plan. We do not see at this time any recommendations for testing prior to reoccupancy from any of the agencies and organizations at this time including MEGLE, CDC, AIA or ASHRAE, but will continue to review these and other recommendations as they are frequently updating their information.

Have a wonderful weekend all,
Emile

On Fri, Sep 4, 2020, 5:46 PM Jeanice Swift <swift@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello Trustee Lazarus,

Thank you for participating in that discussion today and I look forward to hearing more about this.

I have requested that Emile and Bernerd put together a comprehensive presentation to share all our efforts to prepare buildings for a return to in-person learning.

Certainly, ensuring safe water is one of those areas of work in which they are engaged.

We are hoping to bring this full information forward to the Board during September.

Also, as an aside, we look forward to the September School Projects Update that will be shared during September as well.

Thank You,

Jeanice

On Sep 4, 2020, at 5:31 PM, Lazarus, Rebecca <lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hello Dr. Swift,

I was a part of Return to School - Safe Drinking Water Discussion today. I am seeking clarification on what our plan of action is regarding safe drinking water in our buildings during the COVID shutdown and in prep for student and staff return.

I noticed we have not made any reference to our safety/operational protocols for safe drinking water in our AAPS Return To School Plan. Although these practices are not referenced in our Return Plan, am I correct in understanding we will implement the necessary testing, flushing and water filter replacement prior to students and staff returning to our buildings and facilities. Please advise.

Thank you.

Rebecca Lazarus

Trustee & Treasurer

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Board of Education

Cell: [REDACTED] . | . lazarusr@a2schools.org . | . www.a2schools.org

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<egle-dwehd-flushing_guidance_memo_to_schools_during_executive_order_2020-35_688586_7.pdf>
<egle-dwehd-flushing_guidance_information_to_schools_688589_7.pdf>

From: Johnson, Bryan johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us
Subject: Re: THANK YOU for setting a return-to-school date
Date: January 13, 2021 at 5:22 PM



To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Rebecca Lazarus lazarusr@aaps.k12.mi.us, Jeanice Swift swift@aaps.k12.mi.us

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email. It has always been our intention to return to face to face instruction when we felt we could do so safely and sustainably. Though we do see light at the end of the tunnel, I want to be very clear that we are not entirely out of the woods and our plan is **highly contingent on the availability of vaccines, the local infection rate, etc.**

We are not following the lead of several districts who decided to enter a hybrid phase this Fall and who faced challenges with COVID infections, staffing, and uncertainty around scheduling. I believe many schools returned to face to face instruction this fall were a lot more willing to take chances with community health than we were. I do not think the dangers of virtual learning outweigh the dangers of COVID, especially among Black and Hispanic populations who are most severely impacted. We were very intentional about creating the best virtual learning environment that we could so that families could learn the platforms while the world was learning more about the virus. Our hope is that now that our students and families are familiar with the virtual environment, it will make hybrid learning more successful. The science around whether schools spread COVID is not entirely conclusive and the science around the detriments of virtual learning are even less so. In some cases, contracting COVID means life or death for members of our community and those stakes deserve careful and deliberate thought.

Thanks again for your email. I do hope that we quickly gain access to vaccines and we continue to see reduced COVID spread so that we can enter the hybrid phase according to our projections. Please continue to encourage friends and neighbors to take actions to limit community spread and encourage our state executives to effectively distribute vaccines. Have a great night!

Sincerely,
Bryan

Bryan L. Johnson

President, Ann Arbor Public School Board

Email: johnsonbr@aaps.k12.mi.us

Phone: [REDACTED]

On Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 12:34 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Dr. Swift and Board Members:

Thank you for doing what's best for our children and setting a date for returning to school in a hybrid model. I am so happy to hear that AAPS is following the lead of other districts that have successfully returned to a hybrid education model and that you are listening to the science that shows that schools are not a significant source of community spread.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]