Public Comment Responses Received During the WPS BOE Meeting on 8/17/2020

Below is the pubic record of public comment responses received during the 8/17/2020 BOE meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - Comments are posted exactly as received.

Athena McAlenney	26 Bauer Place	Good evening. I would like to remind the Board, particularly those who sit on the Teaching and Learning subcommittee, that the district adopted a replacement phonics curriculum in 2019-2020, called “Units of Phonics”. As the foundation for reading for all of our students, a strong phonics curriculum is critical. Given the COVID closures, adequate measurement of the efficacy of the phonics curriculum was not completed in Spring 2020. This new phonics program has received poor ratings and been criticized as lacking in appropriate phonics instruction and promoting poor strategy use, so I would like to ask the Board to follow up on this during this school year to ensure that appropriate assessments are completed to determine the efficacy of this program for our district. I am happy to provide any additional information about this that you may need. Thank you.

DISCUSSION:

1. **Update from the Coleytown Middle School Building Committee** - Comments are posted exactly as received.

Harris Falk	Overlook Road	November 18th is a week before Thanksgiving. If we're suddenly lucky, CMS will open the second week of December, two and a half weeks before winter break.
Harris Falk	Overlook Road	Why are all the books and media for the CMS library being selected by a third party chosen from bidders on an RFP by the Director of Technology and not the CMS librarian and teachers? The Coleytown Middle School library should be curated by a trained school librarian who has experience with the school, students, and staff of Coleytown Middle School and who will

		be working with them.
Sue Herrmann	5 Spring Hill Rd	Were the windows open during the storm last week?

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. **Discussion and Possible Vote on School Reopening Recommendation** - Comments are posted exactly as received.

Melanie Heiser	6 Smokey Lane	With the new AM/PM swap for the elementary level, I can't help but notice there are a handful of Mondays/Tuesdays with holidays where A-K will miss out on being in school in the morning. Would it be possible to use the Wednesdays to adjust for this and not just blindly flip every other week?
Marge Manoff	SHS Spanish teacher and 22 year Westport resident, prefer not to give address	In the spirit of transparency and information for both staff and students , I would like to direct the board and the administration to the website of our new superintendent's former district of Madison. Not only do they have the school reopening plan clearly described, they also have a set of FAQs on the website which detail important items such as how families will be notified of a positive Covid 19 among staff or students and what specific steps are being taken to increase airflow in buildings. I respectfully urge the district of Westport to take similar steps in posting all key information on the district website with FAQs so as to keep all stakeholders in Westport , including teachers, similarly informed and that the website be updated regularly.
Gery Grove	20 Crooked Mile Road	There is going to be an astounding amount of difficulty for small kids (especially the youngest elementary schoolers) And their parents adjusting to that kind of shifting schedule. They need consistency. Two weeks on a schedule. Or a month on a schedule. Remember that many of these parents managing them also have jobs and kids in the older grades they are also juggling. The new schedule is too complicated.
Elizabeth Coe	16 Baker Ave	With this newest plan for elementary kids, don’t you take away from your intended goal of giving kids a consistent schedule? Also, how are two parent working families and single parent families supposed to accommodate this ever shifting schedule? Have you given thought to the outsized impact this will have on those families? Especially working moms?
Anna Rycenga	20 Westfair Drivw	Can the BOE or aomeone from the BOE administration please explain the Wednesday Els schedule before voting? It was very confusing as discussed and presented

Benjamin Craig	292 Compo Rd South, Westport, CT 06880	I am strongly opposed to the newly proposed split elementary schedule. I strongly prefer students remain in either a.m. or p.m. for multiple months at a time rather than switch back and forth during the week. My family has two working parents and a child also in preschool. This new proposal will put incredible pressure on us and make it incredibly difficult to establish consistent scheduling of childcare. This proposal may be equitable to households with only one working parent or significant childcare help, it is incredible inequitable to parents who work full-time and have limited childcare assistance. This proposal also makes it difficult for the students to establish any sort of consistency in expectations as children will be going to school at different times on different days during the week. I strongly request that you reconsider having separate a.m. and p.m. cohorts and keep it that way for several months at a time.
Tracy Brenner	292 Compo Rd S	I want to voice my opposition to tonight's proposed AM/PM schedule. For working parents, those without full time help, and those with younger children in preschool the change within a week becomes impossible to manage. While it may take more time to organize the logistics I believe the elementary schools need to survey families and prioritize schedule based on need and not want. For example, I would propose that if families have the following: a) a child in AM-only preschool b) both parents work (or if single parent, if single parent works) c) no full time child care If all conditions are met, allow those families priority in AM slots.
Brian Kane	8 Sunnyside Lane	Regarding the change to the elementary hybrid schedule, the original plan may have been disappointing to 50% of families but the changes suggested will likely increase that dissatisfaction to 100%. The impact of this switching schedule on working families is totally unworkable. You have indicated that the science, data and state health official recommendations are for schools to be open for full-time in-person attendance. However, you are recommending the hybrid model based on being conservative. To support this approach, you have referenced the states limit of 25 individuals inside a building at a time. The hybrid model will not achieve this goal so your rationale to ignore the science is not valid. The only reasonable option is to provide full-time in-person education. For those parents who are not ready to return to school an online option is available.
Melanie Heiser	6 Smokey Lane	When will the BOE acknowledge that there are many households in Westport that have two working parents? It seems to be a consistent theme - whether it be making start times later for elementary students - to this new inconsistent and highly confusing AM/PM swap - that the needs of these households do not matter as much as the needs of those who make the loudest noise.
Joe Nader	36 Westfair Dr	Thank you for making the adjustment to the Elementary school plan, and giving all students equal access to instruction delivery.

Harris Falk	Overlook Road	Without those cameras the distance learning students will be receiving an inferior education to the in school students. What is the current distance learning plan for when the schools are completely shut down? Why is that not being implemented immediately to provide parity for both sets of students? Thank you. Harris Falk RTM Member District 2
Shruti Gupta	49 Treadwell Avenue, Westport	As a working parent I am hugely disappointed in the recommended switch between AM/PM through the week. I can't say I am surprised since Westport has never considered the challenges that dual working families have to go through. I just want to say that Wednesdays are going to be a nightmare for us with one week AM, one week PM and one week no school. The school better be prepared to receive kids that will show up on wrong days unless the teachers send reminders . Can this super confusing schedule of when my child goes to school be released as soon as possible so can start planning.
Denise Sheedy	20 highland rd	New plan better for my son - not fair for him to go to school at 1 pm. Learning is not an option at that point in the day for a 5 year old.
Katherine O'Brien	7 Woods Grove Road	Please, for once, think of the working parents - it will be hard enough to find someone to work afternoons who is then able to switch to mornings mid-way through the year, but to find someone able to flip-flop throughout the week is a unicorn in a corn maze! We may be an affluent town, but you clearly do not have a pulse on the number of working parents this will negatively impact.
Clark Thiemann	5 Wheeler Gate	I support this new plan. Hybrid schooling is not an ideal plan but there are no ideal plans in this environment. This seems as fair to the students as is possible. Can you further elaborate on what this would mean for students who are doing the full-time distance model?
Anna Zhu	3 Spruce Street	Please go back to original AM/ PM split and flipping in Feb. Kids need a more consistent schedule. The new schedule is very unfair for working parents to plan for work.... and I don't even work!!. But I know that a lot of working parents wont be able to work with this " flipping within the week" schedule.
Lisa Calabro	32 Arlen Road	Consistency is key for our young learners. What happened to this as it was basis for the initial Elementary model based on your own research? I don't care if mine are in the afternoon or morning. I would be happy to opt in to afternoons for it to remain the same. In addition, SPED kids are really going to struggle with the constant

		flip/flop. I do not have a SPED child in EI, but really this will be a challenge. Our youngest learners & SPED kids in particular thrive on consistency.
Scott Weiner	28 Rayfield	First, I would urge the board and the superintendent to consider an opportunity for middle schoolers who choose full distance learning to be able to meet their teachers in person at the beginning of the year, perhaps in a separate orientation. The personal connection would be very important for some students and would allow parents who don't want to send their kids to the school on a frequent basis to give their kids an element of connecting to the teacher. Two questions: 1. I would like to voice my opinion in favor of geographic splits by neighborhood as opposed to last names. Seems far more efficient, less expensive, and makes it easier for neighbors to connect in small pods, watch others' kids, etc. Can we split by bus routes? 2. If an elementary student starts in the classroom and then after the start of the year his or her parent chooses to keep their child home, does the child leave their classroom and then go to a different teacher/full remote teacher at that time?
Michelle Friedman	4 Oxbow Road	I have a first grader going to LLS. I also am a school counselor, and I have worked across all grade levels, K-12. Children thrive when they have a consistent routine. Changes to routines and schedules can have negative impacts on child sleep, behavior, and overall sense of security. This would be even more difficult for a child who has some learning and behavioral needs. I am very concerned about the inconsistent schedule throughout the week at the elementary school. I am in support if the model that was initially proposed, with one change mid year.
Brian DeBoer	15 Pleasant Valley Lane	This new plan is extremely unfair to the working parents. Although not in the same DRG, Norwalk Elementary Schools are fully reopening for ALL students, and is only a town over. For working families, what is the district doing to address child care options?
Beth Dorfman	Cross Highway	The proposed schedule switch for am/pm groups at the elementary school level is completely untenable for working parents. It is also very confusing for children. Please do not vote for this model.
Betsy Amitin	8 Colony Road	Children need consistency in their schedules. The current proposal to flip flop midweek and every other Wednesday will not support their bodies natural rhythms while the lack of consistency will be confusing for their minds. If we must vote on a hybrid plan, please reconsider the original hybrid proposal of switching AM/PM learning mid year or come up with a better plan than this new hybrid proposal.

Netta levy	11 blue ribbon drive	Hi - i have three kids - one in elementary school, middle and high school. I think the am and pm schedule you proposed for the elementary school last week was good and if parents weren't happy with the flip on February then we should look at flipping the am and pm every other week or weekly, not mid week every week! During this time when parents and kids have so much to keep track of and the world is so uncertain, consistency is important. structure is important. This proposed schedule is confusing and one more thing for us as parents to get wrong. If you're thinking about what's best for kids and parents, this isn't it. Thank you for all the time and work the committee, administration and board has put into this.
Scott Weiner	28 Rayfield	First, I would urge the board and the superintendent to consider an opportunity for middle schoolers who choose full distance learning to be able to meet their teachers in person at the beginning of the year, perhaps in a separate orientation. The personal connection would be very important for some students and would allow parents who don't want to send their kids to the school on a frequent basis to give their kids an element of connecting to the teacher. Two questions: 1. I would like to voice my opinion in favor of geographic splits by neighborhood as opposed to last names. Seems far more efficient, less expensive, and makes it easier for neighbors to connect in small pods, watch others' kids, etc. Can we split by bus routes? 2. If an elementary student starts in the classroom and then after the start of the year his or her parent chooses to keep their child home, does the child leave their classroom and then go to a different teacher/full remote teacher at that time?
George Nanos	16 Taylor Lane	Can you please elaborate on the plan for when a student inevitably tests positive for covid? Also, what is the plan for when a student inevitably comes to school visibly ill?
Sarah Caro	7 Eno Lane, Westport, CT	The recommended change for elementary schools with switching AM + PM cohorts will make it extremely difficult to find childcare and/or additional academic support particularly for households with two working parents. Please do not vote in favor of this schedule.
Tyrene Mack	142 Compo Road north	This board and administration has taken an already complex proposed plan and made it next to impossible for children, Teachers and parents - simply because a few parents made the loudest noise. This has sincerely become madness. It's the tail wagging the dog!
Katie Wilkinson	11 Mallard Lane	The revised plan for elementary schools seems very complex and creates so much inconsistency for the children on a week by week basis. As a family in the L-Z afternoon group, I feel that this is a bad compromise to the plan presented on 8/13. I would propose having the AM/PM groups flip bi-weekly or monthly.

Amy Herrera	3 Sandhopper Trail	Which schools HVAC systems are unable to receive the higher grade filters, and what is the plan for dealing with those schools?
Stephanie Kogan	18 Blue Ribbon Drive	The flip flopping AM/PM elementary school model you are proposing tonight is going to make it impossible for working parents to find childcare. The schedule is too much of an obstacle for working parents. Please consider your original AM/PM model - with the Feb 1 switch. This model is also extremely inconsistent for the children too.
Aini Rockwell	7 Melon Patch Ln	Firstly thank you for all of the hard work that all of you are doing in trying to navigate this process. I can't begin to imagine how difficult this has been, and continues to be. I have four children, 2 in elementary, 1 in middle school and 1 in high school. I am leaning towards distance learning for my 3 younger children. I appreciate that much of the discussion has been focused on the Hybrid model, but would very much like more detailed information on what distance learning will look like for all three schools. Also, in the event that a distance learner returns to in-person school, what steps will be taken to familiarize that student with their teacher if there is a separate distance learning teacher? In other words, in elementary school, in particular, will distance learners be assigned to a class at the start of the school year, even if they will be distance learning, to allow for the possibility that there may be a return? I know great care is taken to place kids in classes and so I would like to know if that same care will be taken with those kids who begin the year as distance learners. Also, if the entire model moves to distance learning will the separate cohort of distance learners be folded back into their own schools or kept separate as district-wide distance learning cohort? I want to make a decision that I feel keeps my kids safe but don't want them to lose the relationship they have with their particular school. Thank you for your time.
Kimberly DeBoer	15 Pleasant Valley Lane	While Norwalk is not in our DRG, it is right next door and their elementary students have the option of returning full time. While I appreciate providing our youngest learners with the opportunity to attend school 5 days per week, the newly proposed elementary schedule is a nightmare for working parents. Will before school and after school care be available based on the new school hours? Additionally, this shifting schedule model may be difficult for students who rely on routine. Please reconsider this recommendation. -Kimberly DeBoer, Ed.D.

Juliet Jackson	30 Marion Road	I strongly prefer having my child go either in the AM or PM all week with the swap in Feb. This is better for childcare planning purposes and consistency in routine for the kids. While I do have a last name that puts my child in the AM slot, I'd gladly give it up and send her in the PM if it could remain consistent.
Jennifer DeLeonardo	23 West Branch	How will students doing the in-school option access learning when they are out of school due to illness? In a normal year, sending work home works for most students, but it is likely that student absences will be more frequent this year given that COVID symptoms overlap with allergy and cold symptoms. Will there be any way to e.g. access per diem distance learning?
Lori Freemon	41 Highland Road	I understand the need to flip cohorts for equity but changing each month would simplify this process. Flipping within the week all year is truly a scheduling nightmare and I wonder if the teachers like this plan. This is a lot of emotional labor for a parent - imagine a family with students in each level - Elem, middle and high school. We have enough to manage right now.
Sugey Zimmer	5 Cross Brook Lane	As a parent of 2 kids at KHS and a last name that begins with the letter Z, I believe that you're previous plan with an AM and PM cohort, and a switch in Feb 1st was fair and provided more consistency for the kids. The new plan proposed today lacks consistency for the kids (especially those who thrive under structure in an especially different year), and is hard to manage for dual working parents. There is no winning solution, but this new plan is less ideal than the previous suggested plan.
Sofia Dumery	66 Kings Highway North	The proposed schedule is extremely difficult for dual-working and single-working parents. IWhile this community is a minority in Westport, the needs of working parents continuously get short shifted. We are repeatedly asked to be flexible and to bear any needed expenses. Ultimately, the stress on working parents of this schedule will impact their children negatively. While continuity is nice, this varied schedule will make lining up day care extremely challenging. Why not one group two full days, then virtual for all on Wed, then two days for second group?
Jeannette Floto	8 Colonial Road Westport, CT 06880	Thank you for all of your work on this! Switching the schedule mid week will make it very difficult for working parents to secure childcare and will make it tougher for younger children (and parents!) to get used to a schedule. Impossible to find childcare mornings 2 days a week and afternoons 2 days a week and alternating wednesdays.
John Diercksen	12 Dover Road	Strongly disagree with the new "plan" which was rolled out this evening as it lacks consistency for my children and all working parents in our town. The flip flopping of days / weeks is utterly ridiculous. Go back to the original proposal that was presented last week.

Melanie Heiser	6 Smokey Lane	I feel very strongly that the AM/PM swapping aspect of the hybrid model should not be part of the vote tonight. It seems like a rash decision and more thought needs to be given to this point. I am in support of a more frequent swapping (monthly, quartlerly) but this is going to be an absolute nightmare for young children who thrive on consistency as well as working parents, and parents with multiple children in multiple schools.
Ellie Toneb	43 Park ln	I think the elementary hybrid split with switching days mid week is very challenging for working parents. We are already struggling with trying to manage our schedules to fit our kids needs and very few employers would be accommodating with such a schedule. It feels all over the place from a work consistency stand point. The better alternative would be to keep the cohorts only Am and PM and switch them in February.
Brooke Petrosino	11 Grove Point	Thank you all for your time and dedication on reopening our schools. It's clear you are listening to every viewpoint and responding to feedback. I'm glad Westport adopted New Canaan's Hybrid model for Elementary. I'm wondering why Westport is not following New Canaan's Middle and High school AM/PM Hybrid model as well? New Canaan's Hybrid model for Middle and High school gives the students 5 days of in person learning for core classes, has less screen time daily for students learning at home, relies less on live-streaming for learning new material from home, and coordinates same in school days for families across all three schools levels (elementary, middle, and high school). The New Canaan model seems to be a more student, teacher, and parent friendly model than what is being proposed for our Middle and High school hybrid model. Can you explain why this model doesn't work for Westport? Thank you! Best, Brooke
Amadeo Rodriguez	Concord Ln	I am sorry to say that those of us who support a full return to school in person full time are not being heard.
Lisa Emden	1 Ulbrick Lane	I am extremely worried about the new elementary school hybrid proposal. I was very pleased last week with the original plan and would have supported monthly or quarterly switches in AM/PM. This new hybrid offers no consistency or predictability that our youngest students thrive on and need. Please reconsider the original plan for

		our students. In our current world of confusion and unpredictability please give our students the consistency and predictability that they need- now more than ever.
Kathryn Gray	10 Brook Lane	We are a household of two full-time working parents, with children in both elementary and middle school. The proposed schedule will make it incredibly difficult for us to both continue to work full-time, as the childcare needs within the week are so inconsistent. Will there be some flexibility in order to take into account the needs of working parents, including the needs of the teaching and support staff working within WPS to care for their own children who may be at home a portion of time under a hybrid model.
Susana De Pinho	12 Daybreak Ln	The proposed plan for elementary school is very damaging for the kindergarten students and students with special needs. Very young kids need consistency. This is the same as having each kid start the week over, every 2 days.
Brian Carey	26 Reichert Circle	In four weeks, how will the Board of Education be assessing the situation? How is the Board acting in its mandate if letting the Superintendent make changes to the model unilaterally. The failure of the board of education to articulate the full criteria for a full opening of the schools is a dereliction of duty. Parents and taxpayers deserve better. If we have already established how low transmission rates and hospitalizations are in the state, how can we improve further on this number to enable full opening?
Maureen Choe	3 Jackie Lane	I understand the Westport School District will use metrics from the state and town re: active cases to determine school opening or closing district-wide. What happens if an individual school has a teacher, student or staff who tests COVID positive or has positive cases in their home and are waiting for test results. What will the protocol be for closing that school if there are positive cases within our individual school? If you could address this it would be great. Thank you.
John Toi	14 Fairport Rd	Can you please reconsider the hybrid model for elementary that was proposed last week? This latest proposal for elementary students completely removes what we understood to be the the core of the plan -consistency. While this creates a logistical nightmare for all members of a family, particularly working parents, do we not owe it to our children to what we can to maintain consistency? We were previously an afternoon family, but that would be a MUCH better solution than the latest over engineered plan that has been presented. Thank you.

Laurel Syah	12 Cranbury Rd	Thank you for your hard work and continuing to iterate the hybrid models. Can the administration please provide a official date when the FAQ will be available? It is essential that a comprehensive FAQ be available before parents are asked to select hybrid vs distance learning. Similarly, and especially given the state's guidance on the limited scope of the board's role on operational details, it would be immensely useful if the administration held public town halls with parents now and at a regular cadence throughout the year to address a more complete set of information and take and answer parent questions about school plans as they are implemented. Namely, detailed information beyond the models and scheduling around such things as facilities, busing, lunch, sports, etc. is still unclear. Finally, there is not nearly enough information about how IEPs will be implemented while distanced either in that portion of a hybrid plan or a full distant model. How and when will plans for special ed be shared in more detail?
Alexis Bancroft	25 Gorham Ave	I understand people in the end of the alphabet are upset but this revised am/pm schedule is overly complicated, is not consistent for out children, and is a direct assault to dual working parents who are now forced into finding full time childcare due to the constantly changing flip/flopping of the schedule. I feel very strongly that a bunch of people complained about a perfectly reasonable solution and now we screw it up for the balance of the population rather than sticking with a simple plan that is BEST FOR THE KIDS. I know it may seem that I'm team "AM" and therefore biased, I honestly don't care whether my son goes in the AM or the PM, I just want it to be consistent for the kids and for parents so it is easy to follow and easy to plan for childcare. I don't believe the board should vote on the schedule change aspect without giving parents opportunity to respond to this change given it is so vastly different from what was proposed last week. I'd imagine that the number of emails you'll see will be similar to the numbers you've received from the "L-Z" folks last week in favor of the old plan.
Adelina Goliszewski	26 Warnock drive	New plan will have no consistency for the children , original plan much better!

GiGi New	1 Crow Hollow Lane	Thank you for all of your time and dedication during these unprecedented times. Today the Connecticut Education Association revised their safe learning plan for returning to school. They want to delay schools opening if the following requirements cannot be met. - testing for all students and staff - social distancing 6 feet apart instead of 3 feet - upgrade to HVAC systems The CEA President Jeff Leake made the following statement The primary consideration to any school reopening plan must be the safety, health, and wellbeing of students, teachers, and their families. The state must revise school reopening plans to protect our school communities, especially in light of new reports confirming that children can readily transmit COVID-19 and may be drivers of the pandemic. Remote learning is still the safest option. Any return to the classroom requires additional precautions, including strict social distancing and access to COVID-19 testing, that are not currently included in the state plan." What is in play to address these very serious concerns?
Jaime Pallai	23 Ellery Lane	I support the new elementary hybrid model presented. Each cohort consistently having 2 mornings and 2 afternoons per week solves the party problem and allows parents to plan for the year. Thank you for taking the concerns seriously.
Allison El-Gamal	70 Newtown Turnpike	As the parent of a neurodiverse, medically diagnosed elementary student, who does not qualify for an IEP based on your administration's rubric, I am not shocked by your lack of concern for westport's families. I am shocked by your lack of concern for your essential employees. How is this fair to our teachers? How are they supposed to keep track of 2 sets of kids switching around twice a week- many of them with special accommodations, and pharmaceutical therapies that are dependent on consistency? How are you doing this to them, and how is the teacher's union allowing this? Every single person I know in the United States- multiple states- has had a viable education plan in place for weeks, and Westport had zero plan in place as of last week, came up with a crazy one, and just caved to people upset their kids got the afternoon slot. I had a slight twinkle of hope for my children's education, but now that is gone. This is the biggest waste of time, taxes, and resources I have ever seen. This is a nightmare for everyone, and I realize there is no good solution, but this has to be the most ridiculous "plan" ever in educational existence.

Michelle Barman	32 Whitney St	I want to first say thank you to the Administration and the BOE. You have incredibly difficult jobs, and I do not envy the positions you're in right now. I would also like to make it clear that I am writing now as a parent, not as co-President of the SES PTA. I cannot believe you're even CONSIDERING the schedule proposed tonight for the elementary schools. This schedule would be a nightmare for both students and parents for so many reasons. Before you vote, I suggest you ask all the L-Z parents who complained about the previous schedule if this new schedule will make them happy. I don't think it will. I would rather my daughter go to school every afternoon than be subject to this schedule. If equity and fairness are to be achieved at all costs I have to wonder… on the facilities end, my understanding is that the air filtration systems were able to be improved in some schools, but not others. Will students move from school to school each day so each student gets the same amount of time in buildings with improved air filtration systems?
Alison Fagen	35 Silent Grove North	Please give our elementary school students the consistency they need. These children are craving all the consistency they can get in an uncertain time. This schedule is incredibly difficult for working families, for families with children in multiple schools and for those that cannot have full time child care. Most importantly, this is difficult on our children.
Maeke Paul	29 High St	I'm strongly opposed to this new K-5 schedule, because once again we are completely ignoring dual income families who will need childcare. Additionally kids need consistency and, quite frankly, so do parents. We are making this way more complicated than necessary. And yes, we would be in the PM group and I'd be happy to keep that all year instead of this new schedule. Consistency is key, and I would assume that teachers can keep these kids engaged in the afternoon with such small groups. Also regarding earlier comments, I believe Norwalk K-5 is planning to go back full time.

Susan Amble	131 Old Road	This proposed mid-week flip flop is needlessly complicated. If we do the mid-week flop, a few things will happen: 1. Working parents will need to leave their jobs. I know women who have already taken FMLA leave because of the hybrid model. This model will absolutely require more women to stop working because we will not be able to get consistent childcare. From an exposure perspective, that's the worst outcome. I'm fortunate to have an au pair. I will not need to leave my job. But this schedule makes my life a lot more difficult and will require childcare likely beyond what my au pair can provide, since she too needs to attend school to maintain her visa. This plan overlooks the needs of working parents. 2. It's confusing to the children. Imagine this: you need to schedule a doctor's appointment for the first week of November. When can you do it? How do you account for Thanksgiving Break? Imagine the logistical gymnastics a parent will have to do to figure out which of her kids will be at home, at which time. And if it's a Wednesday, just forget about it. Moreover, think of the children in this district who deal with anxiety-related issues. Anxiety has increased in this time of pandemic, and in large part it is due to the decrease in routine. Once the children get used to settling into "school work" at 9am or 1pm, there is no reason to shake that up on them intra-week. Why would we add one more transition point? 3. There will be exposure points. There should be no doubt, if children switch AM - PM times mid-week, there will be more sharing of babysitters, activity coordinators, etc. after school. This is because families will find one provider who can help in mornings and another for the afternoon. There is no reason for a mid-week flip. It creates anxiety for children, and it lacks all structure. It is complicated and frankly insensitive to the needs of working parents. Please vote against it and in favor of a Feb 1 switch. I would prefer my children to attend the afternoon session than do the mid-week switch.
Jenny Perlman	105 Hillandale Road	I appreciate all the consideration and thoughts given to the elementary hybrid model and fully support the even split proposed. As a family with two working parents, all hybrid learning options will be logistically challenging -and at least the new proposal will be equitable. Either way we will have disruption and need to plan accordingly.
Amanda Doyle	Indian Point Lane, Westport	The new flip flop of AM/PM cohorts in elementary is totally unworkable for families with two working parents.
Britt Steel	4 Brightfield Lane	This is an outrageously complex moment for schools, students, parents, etc. Childcare challenges aside, we are forgetting how well our children acclimate to schedules and routines and this new plan

		will likely prove no different.
Amy Lopatin	4 Wakeman Rd	Thank you for adjusting the am pm split for educational parity and putting our children's education first. This plan IS consistent week to week, switching monthly, quarterly, etc is not consistent.
Melinda Feuerstadt	16 Hilltop Trl	Switching AM / PM in the middle of the week is unnecessarily complex for families. I understand that the end of the alphabet didn't want to wait until February to switch, but switching sooner would be much better. Trying to keep track of this, with another in another school will be a significant burden on the children and the parents.
Jennifer Canavan	15 Birch St	This new elementary school plan is impossible and disappointing. There is no way that families with 2 working parents/single parents can uphold this or plan for childcare. You are isolating the many full time working families who will kill themselves trying to make this work. These young children NEED consistency. The full time full day model is being implemented by neighboring towns. Why is Westport unable to make this happen?
Meredith Colder	12 Westport Ave	What about special education students that are medicated? Parents can not change medication times two times a week to help them reach their full potential. Monthly yes... not ideal but doable. I might as well not send my kid on Thursday's and Friday's anymore.
Jane Umansky	Cross hwy	I want to voice my opposition for the new AM/PM switch. Please go back to the previous plan of a one switch mid year. The children need consistency and stability and such frequent switches do not provide this. As a 2 parent working household this makes planning and childcare impossible. My 2 children are in the PM cohort and I have no problem with this as it would provide stability for the children.
Seymour Butta	2 Blue Ribbon Dr	Why do you consistently state that the schedule, not education is paramount.?
Peter Tulupman	2 Cobble Hill	Why does the school superintendent cut off the female board members who ask difficult questions. Why won't anyone explain how the testing is working? We can spend an additional $90k/month on transportation , but we can't tear locally. Can we dive into the state data you are using
Lisa Newman, RTM District 8	25 Cob Drive	Can you please address the lunch waves at the middle school? Are we putting a 100+ middle schoolers in the one cafeteria for a lunch wave to eat without their masks on?
Kelly Freitag	15 Cypress Pond Road	Being a working parent of a child with an IEP this is an absolutely insane idea to change times in the same week!

Daniel Jo	3 Hooper Road	Comment regarding revised elementary school schedule. While I appreciate the equity concerns that have driven some decision makers to believe that the Mon/Tues and Thurs/Fri swap with a full remote day on Wed is the best way forward, this creates for a disjointed weekly schedule for young students. Two days in the morning, two days in the afternoon, and one day full remote is more appropriate for middle school and high school students who have adapted to rotating period-type schedules. Younger students need far more consistency and predictability on a weekly basis and this approach doesn't do that. Moreover, this approach completely minimizes how incredibly disruptive this new proposed schedule will be for households where both parents are working. It is one thing to tell an employer that the mornings or the afternoons will require the parent/employee to handle childcare issues because of the school schedule. It is completely another thing to tell an employer that the parent/employee will require a scheduling accommodation on Mon/Tues, then on Wed, and again on Thurs/Fri. That kind of request will almost certainly be faced with rejection and, quite possibly, adverse employment decisions down the road, which, of course, will impacts children. The BOE seriously needs to rethink the approach rather than approve a schedule that completely disregards the already difficult situations that the pandemic has forced on working parents.
Mike Roch	12 Stoneybrook	Why even have a debate and vote. It's obvious the administration and board are leaning toward a hybrid model. Shame.
Ida Hsu	55 Old Road	I wonder how many families would prefer to be in the PM cohort consistently (going back to a Feb 1 flip), over switching mid-week? Before committing to this mid-week switch that is confusing to parents and eliminates the consistency that young children need to best thrive, that only a minority may favor, perhaps it would be worth figuring that out?
Amanda Hugginkiss	4 cross brook lane	Can you sink a basket without looking? I have a $20 bet
Alexandra Thompson	18 Sherwood Drive	Mother of a student with letter T (so originally slated for afternoon schooling). What consideration (if any, which there seems to be NONE) has been taken down dual working parents, one of which is a local business owner, that requires in person accountability, every day? How is this swap in schedule feasible for people in that position - it is virtually impossible to get they kind of childcare coverage in this basis, if that kind of excess money exists ! Never mind the fact that that these kids need consistency throughout the week and this throws another curve ball and set of explanations at the younger children that don't have the ability or mental space to digest this kind of upheaval. Please reconsider swapping every other day and do not push out the start date further- we need to start moving forward for these kids ! They are asking when they can go back.

Maggi Brooks	64 Wright Street	Thank you for your hard work on this complicated plan. I agree with the previous comments regarding the degree of confusion this new elementary school plan introduces. In my opinion, a set AM/PM schedule is far superior. If you are to continue with this plan, please consider grouping children by neighborhood rather than by alphabet so that those of us parents who work and who have multiple children can work with neighbors to coordinate childcare.
Jennifer Canavan	15 Birch St	This new elementary school plan is impossible and disappointing. There is no way that families with 2 working parents/single parents can uphold this or plan for childcare. You are isolating the many full time working families who will kill themselves trying to make this work. These young children NEED consistency. The full time full day model is being implemented by neighboring towns. Why is Westport unable to make this happen?
Dorie Hordon	12 Manitou Road	I understand the district is trying to provide equity to students, but the mid week shift in the elementary grades Is incredibly disappointing and will do more harm than good. I would much prefer my child go consistently in the afternoons if that were a choice.
Robert Harrington	7 Woody Lane	Given very low transmission rates in our community and surrounding areas - why are we not trusting high school students to wear masks all all times to enable them to be in school full time if those high school students and parents are comfortable with this. Does anyone on the board or the superintendent truly think that a sophomore or junior coming in just 2 days a week is appropriate given where they are in the lifecycle of education and being so close to college? 14-19 year olds are fully capable of keeping on masks and following instructions. There simply isn't enough school for older children
Stephanie Ehrman Beitel	75 compo road north	Thank you for your hard work and collaboration with the hybrid model of education. I have several concerns and questions regarding the safety and health of the middle school plan: How many children will be in each classroom and how far apart will the students be from each other? How many classrooms will each student be exposed to each day? How will the classrooms be cleaned between each class of students? How will lunch safely occur? How will students be able to maintain distance from each other in the hallways between classes and at the beginning and end of the day as they enter and leave the building? thank you

Peter Tulupman	2 Cobble Hill	Because you received 200 emails, does that make their concerns more important than those who didn't email? A consensus model doesn't work. Why have you blamed "waiting for state guidance" when in the meantime you could have developed a plan an altered it accordingly. You mentioned town counsel looked at and reviews the plan. How much involvement does an outside firm Have in my child's education.
Lisa Farrel	4 willow walk road	The proposed schedule is a slap in the face for special ed children who rely on consistency and routine. As for working families it's an abomination. I would gladly give up my morning slot if it meant a consistent routine for my son.
B jonas	95 hillspoint Road	Can you tell us the name of the chemicals being used for cleaning
Kenneth Porter	4 Pebble Beach	Despite the imperfections of an afternoon-only schedule for our elementary-school-age kids, daily instruction is far superior for their age and needs than 2 days/week. I hope that the board will reconsider this new plan in light of the importance of stable, high-touch, and repetitive learning at the elementary school levels. 2 days/week sounds like the least impactful of a bunch of less-than-optimal solutions. We've all been inconvenienced, but let's not inconvenience the impact of our kids' education. 5 half days is significantly better than 2.
Jory Eisenbeg	22 Old Hill Road	I greatly appreciate the intense effort by the district officials and the board with developing effective solutions that balance the educational needs of our children with safety considerations. In an environment like this, there are no perfect solutions. I think the hybrid model as presented provides the appropriate balance of managing the safety of our children and the community at large as well as the needs of our children. The hybrid model is a substantially better solution than all other options on the table at this point and I urge you to vote to support the model.
Jackie schiavone	20 Fairfield Ave	Thank you for listening to families in the pm cohort. I truly believe that the priority is to provide all students the opportunity to attend school in the morning as soon as possible. If it's easier to alternate every week I believe that would be another workable solution but I'm thankful for any mornings that my children are with their teachers.
Bethany Eppner	Bethanyeppner@gmail.com	Children crave consistency, they need structure, which is another reason why this pandemic has been so difficult for kids. Please reconsider a more consistent schedule (am/pm) like the original one proposed. Even if we switched monthly (that is better than every single week. Switching mid-week is confusing and jarring for kids and working parents/caregivers alike. We all need some semblance of structure. Please reconsider and do what is best for these kids.

Deanna Devloo	31 burr farms road	Please do not implement the rotating schedule for the elementary. This is an impossible nightmare the worst idea and outcome for a working family... and terrible for the children no consistency at all. Please do not pass this ... it is the worst option of all and completely not feasible for a working family and the children will suffer. We would have to pull the kids out and privately tutor them .... this is NOT an option. Thank you
Todd Freemon	41 Highland Road	We shouldn't switch AM and PM like this. This is quite a bit of 'schedule fluctuation' to manage. I assume some people that had one or the other AM/PM complained and this is supposed to be a middle ground? If there needs to be a compromise, why not flip AM/PM monthly instead of within every single week?
Sarah hanna	1 plunkett place	Question related to distance learning - if you choose distant learning, how does it work when/if the schools should close, do these children stay with their district assigned teacher or do they go back to their assigned school. Further, if we opt out during the first two trimester and decide to rejoin and opt back in for the last semester, how are the children integrated back into the class? Which class? Are they assigned a potential class up front to allow flexibility? Also, it would be great for children to have a least one in person meet and greet with their teacher for the fully distance model to establish a rapport. I urge you to maintain the same teacher/student ratio as they would have if they were in person. Lastly - the hybrid with the switching throughout the week lacks consistency, very difficult for parents, students and faculty.
David Welling	20 Church Street South	Appreciate you hearing the concerns of the PM elementary cohort and making the schedule more equitable. This is an incredibly challenging environment for everyone and appreciate the thought and effort you are putting in to come up with the best solutions for children. As a two parent working family, we will figure out the schedule.

Filip Mitev	2 Jennie Lane	Thank you all for the hard work and dedication. In light of all challenges and uncertainty we face as a community, please make all grade level curriculum available to parents. This will provide full transparency of the expectations for the students and teachers, and will give us the opportunity to prepare and ensure the education of our children does not fall apart. We understand that there is no silver bullet and are ready to do everything possible to ensure that we are here to provide the necessary support, bearing in mind that we are also two full-time employed parents. Secondly, we have not yet heard any specifics around the distance learning at any of the three school levels. Please elaborate, as we need the details as soon as possible. Sooner or later, we will all have to resort to the distance-only learning, so a very well thought out plan will only benefit the situation for everyone. Thank you all again!
Harris Falk	Overlook Road	From what we've heard tonight it sounds like figuring it out on the Wednesdays is the teaching plan. By this point there should be a fully fleshed out learning plan. Based upon what you have presented to the public, your plan is cameras in the classrooms, and that can't be delivered in time for the opening of the schools. Please release a full description of the educational plans that you have for our town's children. Thank you, Harris Falk RTM Member District 2
Maria Sileo	1 Cypress Pond Road	Appreciate all your hard work during this difficult time. Please go back to original plan of set AM and PM. Would happily volunteer to send my child in the PM for the entire year if it means consistency in his schedule. As a dual income household, we need a set schedule.
Jenn L	Westport	It has become increasingly unclear to me what we are trying to achieve with any Hybrid model or this discussion. It is clear We lack information and data to make any sound decision. Unfortunately, if parents can’t get their kids a proper education in a classroom they will end up hiring tutors/ teachers for their kids and possibly with other kids not in their class. Plus the dynamic of “other activities” such as open rec sports or other after school activities or morning activities will just amplify the likelihood of kids mixing with other kids. We are better off keeping kids in 1 cohort in person full time to limit the interaction with other kids outside of school. These hybrid models are all a nightmare for 2 working parents and I think it is unfair to have young kids start their school day at 1pm in the afternoon. If we pursue a hybrid option we need to rethink the schedule.

Maura Cotter	1 Pine Street	The new elementary plan is not conducive to a smooth transition back to school. It will be very disruptive to the working family. Please come up with something that the children and families can all work with.

2. **Discussion and Possible Vote on Changes to the 2020-2021 School Calendar** - Comments are posted exactly as they are received.

Harris Falk	Overlook Road	Are snow days necessary if we have distance learning implemented?

3. **4Q & FY20 End-of-Year Financial Report and Carryover Account** - No public comments were received. One test comment was received.
4. **Carryover Account** - No public comments were received. One test comment was received.
5. **Request of the Board of Finance and Representative Town Meeting a Special Appropriation in the amount of $593,720.05, for COVID-related FY 2020-21 year-to-date actual and anticipated expenditures** - Comments are posted exactly as they are received.

Gregg Bromberg	159 Roseville Rd	Instead of budgeting for over time could we instead hire more full time help for cleaning? If we know we need 50% more hours not sure why we would pay 1.5x the rate.

6. **Request of the Board of Finance and Representative Town Meeting a Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of $100,351.80 for the Rentals and Reimbursement Budget** - No public comments were received. One test comment was received.
7. **Policy 5131.1-C19 "Transportation"** - No public comments were received. One test comment was received.

DISCUSSION

1. **Update from Policy Committee and First Reading of the Following Policies:** No public comments were received.

    - Policy 4118.112/4218.112, “Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace” (Revision)
    - Policy 5145.5, “Policy Regarding Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment” (Revision)
    - Policy 6114.82-C19 "Policy Concerning Health and Safety Protocols Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic" (New)
    - Policy 4152.9-C19 "Families First Coronavirus Response Act Leave" (New)
    - Policy 3520, “Green Cleaning Programs” (Revision)

- Policy 4110, 4210, “Employment Checks” (Revision
- Policy 6141.321, “Electronic Resources/Internet Safety” (Revision)
- Policy 5131.81 "Use of Private Technology Devices" (New)
- Bylaw 9324, "Meeting Conduct" (Revision)