Public Comment Responses Received During the WPS BOE Meeting on 6/29//2020

Below is the pubic record of public comment responses received during the 6/29/2020 BOE Meeting.

Non-Agenda Items - Public comments are posted exactly as received.

Candace Banks	3 Tulip Lane	Vik, I have to echo everything your colleagues said about your contributions to the BOE. Thank you for rapidly replying to all of the emails and phone calls over the last 4 1/2 (!!) years and talking through the tough issues with your constituents. We all appreciate your thoughtfulness and deliberate consideration. The WPS and Westport families are better for it. :)

DISCUSSION

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

Liz Falk	Overlook Road	If the building is really going to be ready in October, how long after that will it take to get all the technology, books, classroom items, etc (and budget for the ones that no longer exist as CMS property, either because they are in other schools or have been damaged by the mold and moisture) into the building in time for our students and teachers to be able to use the school?
Meg Himes	9 Hitchcock Rd Westport, CT 06880	Besides needing to reinforcement the roof for HVAC and needing to customize the curtain windows, are there any other structural issues? What other "issues" have come up that weren't foreseen? Last, the most recent date for completion of CMS was "late October" - sometime after October 19th. Is the "late October" date including how long it will take to move furniture from BMS into CMS and other furniture throughout the district? TY

2. **Update from the School Reopening Committee** - Public comments are posted exactly as received.

Amy Herrera	3 Sandhopper Trail	I am very concerned that there is not parent representation in the subcommittees of the reopening initiative that relate to teaching and learning. I applaud the teachers for making this unprecedented shift. I also feel strongly that parents are now more than ever partners and collaborators, and to leave us out of the critical strategic decision making seems irresponsible. Is there a plan for bringing some parent representation into this aspect of planning?
Claudia Shaum	73 Clapboard Hill Rd	For the high school, is there a thought to consider a schedule that includes, initially, only CORE classes? Once the schedule comes into control, we could then address adding on electives, etc.? Or electives can be on line in a hybrid model. In other words, have you considered prioritizing core education before all else (ie electives, sports, etc.)
George Nanos	16 Taylor Lane	Thank you for the hard and thoughtful work that you have completed so far. Regarding cleaning- cleaning logs don't necessarily indicate that the covid, or other viruses like the flu, are not present in our facilities. How do you think about ensuring that our spaces are covid free? Can you conduct random sampling of spaces? When discussing procedures for students and staff entering schools, i didn't hear any mention of in-school temperature checks. Has this been considered and if so, what was the reason for not pursuing this type of procedure?
Harris Falk	Overlook Rd	We need to establish a single learning plan that can be implemented inside or outside of the schools, or both seamlessly. One that provides the most freedom of movement between methods. One that allows anyone who needs to not go into school to be able to continue their work and not be left behind. One that, as mandated today by the Governor, focuses on quality and mastery, allowing students to work at their own level. One that provides the most equity for students, as no matter what path the student decides to follow, in-school, distance, or a combination, the education will be the same for all. Harris Falk RTM District 2

Jeff Benner	61 Hillspoint tRoad	To gain community confidence in these plans, we need much clearer discussion about exactly what will happen when there is a case in a class/pod/school. First, will we be told if there is a positive case in our class or pod (as we are for lice or strep)? "We will report to the health department" is not good enough. The health department did not tell us what was happening in March. Second, when there is a case and a class/pod/school is sent home for two weeks or more, how will the curriculum be delivered? In my view, all of our planning should work backward from what will happen when cases start to be reported.
Meg Himes	9 Hitchcock Rd. Westport, CT 06880	Some epidemiologists are recommending air purifiers to help people contend with Covid-19. Do any of the schools have air purifiers or have air purifiers been considered?
Michelle Barman	32 Whitney St	Thank you all for your work on this! There don't seem to be many specifics regarding how distance or hybrid learning would look. Have you considered a synchronous learning model, where teachers are teaching their classes as they would in school, on the schedule they would if every student was in school, via live stream? It would seem to give children the interaction and instruction they need, while also allowing for the flexibility to transition between "in school" and "distance learning" as needed. I've heard this is what a lot of the private schools did this spring.
Michelle Benner	61 Hillspoint Rd	Will there be an option for families to choose a full distance learning option if they don't feel confident about the safety and health measures being offered by the schools if and when they reopen? Will you be sending out a survey to the community to find out the numbers of families who choose to return to school vs. choosing a remote learning model?
Michelle Benner	61 Hillspoint Road	Can you design one comprehensive, flexible model that can deliver the curriculum both in person and remotely so that teachers and students can choose to participate whether they are at home or in the classroom? For instance, adhering to the traditional schedule using a live streaming model that can be utilized both online and in the classroom: a teacher can teach either in the classroom or via live video, and students can learn either in the classroom and at home. (?) This could be a way to seamlessly transition between hybrid and remote models when covid cases increase.
Rachel Cohn	153 Easton Road	Thanks for sharing the health plans for in person learning. What plans are being developed for the potential for an extended period of distance learning? Are we seeking input from other schools and institutions with robust and effective learning and engagement of students?

Rachel Cohn	153 Easton Road	Thanks for sharing the health plans for in person learning. What plans are being developed for the potential for an extended period of distance learning? Are we seeking input from other schools and institutions with robust and effective learning and engagement of students?
Rachel Cohn	153 Easton Road	Thanks for sharing the health plans for in person learning. What plans are being developed for the potential for an extended period of distance learning? Are we seeking input from other schools and institutions with robust and effective learning and engagement of students?
Sarin Cheung	24 Webb Road	Hi, I noticed that there is no parent representative on the teaching and learning committee that is led by Ali and Lauren. I'm wondering what was the thought process behind when you formed the group. I think parents would be valuable contributors in this committee as we were on the receiving end of distance learning in the spring. We have insights to how our children adjusted or not and why! Can we add parents to represent el, middle, and high schools to this group.? Thanks!
Susan Herrmann	5 Spring Hill Rd	I'm sure if our unique middle school building problem is explained at the state level it would be understood that the "mandate" cannot accommodate 1300 children in a school meant for 900. If all the middle school children cannot be kept safe with even minimal social distancing, why are you considering it? We should be guardians of our children, NOT state mandates.
Brandon Malin	21 Bonnie Brook Road	Are the quoted costs for the livestreaming of theatrical productions for recording a live production on stage and then streaming it to audience members or for recording a show where everything is virtual? Please remember that there are many technical members of theatrical groups and all-virtual productions do not provide tech members with as fulfilling experiences as in person productions. Brandon Malin Head of Lighting, Staples Players SHS '21