

Canon-McMillan School District
1 North Jefferson Avenue, Canonsburg, PA 15317
Voting Meeting -Thursday, September 17, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Ms. Darla Bowman-Monaco with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Joseph Zupancic, Bernard Price, Pete Moniodes, Mike Caporizzo, Mary Beth Kline, Zeffie Carroll, and Mark Dopudja.

Others present

Michael Daniels, Superintendent; Brenda Rupert, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary; Scott Chambers, Assistant Superintendent; Timothy McCullough, Human Resources Director, Joni Mansmann, Director of Business and Finance/Board Secretary; Jocelyn Kramer, Solicitor; Rebecca Lieb, Special Education Director; and Frank Vulcano, Athletic Director.

Executive Session Items

Ms. Bowman-Monaco announced that there was an Executive Session for personnel and legal matters.

Citizens' Speak (Agenda Items Only)

Christina Hollandsworth – Increase limit for outdoor sporting events
Kris Lesnock – Increase limit for outdoor sporting events
Tammy Underwood - Increase limit for outdoor sporting events
Alycia Sepe - Increase limit for outdoor sporting events
Mary Maxwell - Increase limit for outdoor sporting events
Debra Klingensmith - Increase limit for outdoor sporting events

Adoption of Agenda

To approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Bernard Price.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Presentation

Joseph Duda of Duda Actuarial Consulting gave his presentation regarding the Canon-McMillan School District GASB 75 Actuarial Disclosure Valuation as of June 30, 2020.

Ms. Mansmann gave her presentation regarding the district snapshot. It includes budget to actuals, cost drivers, impact from COVID19, tax comparison to other schools in the region, and the long-range plan.

Ms. Mansmann also reviewed important dates with regard to the Act 1 timeline.

Board Meeting Minutes

To approve the minutes from the following meetings:

1. Special Board Meeting - August 25, 2020
2. Buildings and Grounds Committee - September 1, 2020
3. Budget and Finance Committee - September 8, 2020

Motion by Bernard Price, second by Mark Dopudja.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

FINANCIAL APPROVALS

GASB Valuation

To approve the GASB 75 Actuarial Disclosure Valuation as of June 30, 2020, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Manuel Pihakis.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Wage Tax Report(s)

To approve the wage tax report as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Bernard Price.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Treasurer's Report

To approve the August 2020 Treasurer's Report, as presented.

Motion by Bernard Price, second by Joseph Zupancic.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Bills for Ratification and Approval

To approve the bills for ratification and approval as follows: Bills for ratification for the month of August - General Fund \$5,341,090.09; Cafeteria Fund \$19,026.21 / Bills for approval for the month of September - General Fund \$599,448.18; Capital Project Fund \$1,645,112.44.

Motion by Manuel Pihakis, second by Joseph Zupancic.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Transfer of Surplus Money

To authorize \$1 million of surplus to the district capital reserve fund and leave remaining surplus monies in unassigned fund balance.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Mike Caporizzo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Sheets / Substitute List

To approve the Superintendent's personnel sheets and substitute list, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Manuel Pihakis.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic
Nay: Zeffie Carroll

Transportation Secretary

To approve Lori Robinson as a ten-month transportation secretary at the support facility/stadium effective upon release of her current employer and contingent upon successful review of all required employment documentation. Salary and benefits per SEIU contract.

Motion by Manuel Pihakis, second by Joseph Zupancic.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Nay: Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja

Extra-Curricular Activities, Clubs, Booster Groups, and Parent Groups for the 2020-2021 School Year

To approve extra-curricular activities, clubs, booster groups and parent groups for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Mark Dopudja.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Resolution - Small Games of Chance

To adopt the PA Small Games of Chance Act Resolution, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Mark Dopudja.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Change Order SC-2 (new middle school)

To approve the contract amount adjustment to obtain a performance bond for 110% of the grading cost, per North Strabane Township's grading permit requirements for the Canon-McMillan Middle School Project. Change Order SC-2 for an add of \$14,000 will be issued to Mele & Mele & Sons, Inc., as presented.

Motion by Bernard Price, second by Mike Caporizzo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Donations

To approve the following donations:

1. Donation of a laminator valued at \$1,788.00 from the Wylandville Elementary School PTO for use at the Wylandville Elementary School.

Motion by Manuel Pihakis, second by Joseph Zupancic.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Grant

To accept the Close to Home Disaster and Emergency grant from the Washington County Community Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 to be used to apply to the Verizon bill for chromebooks with mobile connectivity.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Manuel Pihakis.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Substitute Rate - Transportation Monitor and Vehicle Driver

To approve the substitute rate of \$14.00 per hour for transportation monitors and vehicle drivers.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Mike Caporizzo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Emergency Instructional Time Template

To approve the emergency instructional time template, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Mark Dopudja.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Sale of First Street Elementary School - Second Amendment

to approve the resolution of the board of school directors of Canon-McMillan School District authorizing its proper officers to enter into a second amendment to the agreement of sale for the former First Street Elementary School, as presented.

Motion by Manuel Pihakis, second by Bernard Price.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Memorandum of Understanding - Canon-McMillan Education Association

To approve the memorandum of understanding with the Canon-McMillan Education Association, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Manuel Pihakis.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Contracted Carrier Agreements

To approve the following contracted carrier agreements, as presented:

1) Contracted carrier agreement for the 2020-2021 school year for transportation services to Canon-McMillan High School - \$5.00 per day.

*2) Contracted carrier agreement for the 2020-2021 school year for transportation services to Pressley Ridge School for Autism - \$250 per day.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Mark Dopudja.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Revised Athletic Safety Plan (COVID-19)

To approve the revised athletic safety plan (COVID19), as presented.

Mr. Vulcano explained how the changes affect sporting events.

Motion by Manuel Pihakis, second by Joseph Zupancic.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Repairs to McDowell Baseball Field

To approve repairs to McDowell Baseball field for a cost of \$9,715.00 out of budgetary reserve, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Mike Caporizzo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Flexible Instruction Days Application

To approve the flexible instruction days application, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Mark Dopudja.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Mark Dopudja, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Other Items of Information

Donations Received:

Douglas McArthur	District Wide	Laptop Computer	District	\$415.99
Keat Murray	District Wide	Yamaha Flute	Band	\$500.00
Giant Eagle	Middle School	\$313.00	Classroom Supplies	\$313.00
American Heart Association	Wylandville and Borland Manor	Gift Certificate	PE Equipment and supplies	\$460.00
Thomas & Maria Keller	District Wide	\$60.00	Delinquent Cafeteria Accounts - Students	\$60.00

Citizens' Speak (General Items)

Cara Host would like to see the board meetings as a live feed for the public.

Jessica Sanders - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Teresa Votodian - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Jaime Blankenship - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

David Ledger - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Michael Voyten - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Alison McGowan - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Jason Mead - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Dave and Beth Obrien - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Karen Taczak - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Leah Davis - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Rachel Piatt - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Michelle Kearns - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Allison Mayhair - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Nichole Merrell - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Jeff Cooke - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Kelly Sofran - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Mark Musser - Concerns with hybrid approach to learning

Thomas Valla - Canonsburg - 1st Ward Annex

Adjournment-time being 8:15 p.m.

Joni Mansmann, Board Secretary

Hello,

I am writing to you for consideration in the decision to increase the 250 limit for outdoor sporting events. While I can not imagine the position you are in, I just wanted to offer some thoughts. While the governor's guidelines may have been developed with good intentions, they do not consider any other factors: including facility size, seating size, team sizes, other safety precautions in place, or the spacing of the participants. The capacity of the facility should play a crucial role. With our recent upgrades to the stadium, there is enough room to safely accommodate more than 250 people.

At what cost? The mental health of our children is at risk. Many of these kids who have worked very hard over the years to ensure their participation in school events. Now we have players, cheerleaders, coaches, and a band not able to participate fully, or not at all. As a band parent and chaperon for the last 3 years, I know the joy practicing and performing brings, as well as the comradery each member feels. You can see their pride and passion in the words, "BIG MAC BAND." Now, we have so many children with no place to be. No place to feel they belong. We have coaches and a band director left with the difficult decisions of who to "cut." Worse, we have an overwhelming number of children having their passion for what the love stifled.

We have over 250 band and auxiliary members who have already had band camp, in person practices, away games, parades, and even band classes taken away from them. Let us not forget they also had a Florida trip slip through their fingers last Spring.

We have seniors who have looked forward to this year for the last 12 years. While they do not expect it to go back to normal, they should be able to have some of their senior year experiences, of course, with proper safety protocols in place. I have a Senior daughter who is both a Cheerleader, Comp Team Cheerleader, and a Captain for the silks in the band. She has not had an opportunity to participate in a game yet. I know we have many kids in similar situations.

All of these children should be able to participate in pursuing their passions. They should also be able to do this with friends and family cheering them on. Perhaps, not in the same quantity as before, but they deserve more than empty stands. There has to be a common sense balance between 250 and a stadium at full capacity. Please look at the data and options available. Look at our district. Consider our kiddos. Please figure out and move forward with a plan that helps our children feel connected and more settled with our new normal. 6 feet apart... seems like there is room for more than 250 in our beautiful stadium.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Christina Hollandsworth

I am writing to you as a concerned parent that can speak from experience as to the importance of allowing a parent to be a spectator at fall athletic events in our district

My son is a junior football player. I understand the very difficult decision that many districts and athletic programs are facing with the ability to have athletic events balanced with the mandates and suggested guidelines put forth from the state department of health as well as the PIAA. There are some districts across the states that are choosing to put their athletes and parents first in this horrible situation. I received word today that the decision was made to not allow spectators, specifically parents, into the game scheduled for Friday against Mt. Lebanon at home. Words cannot express the level of disappointment that I have that this board has NOT chosen to put the athletes and parents first. I feel that with some effort, a stringent and controlled plan could be developed, that would successfully allow parent spectators to attend as other districts (Seneca Valley, Upper St. Claire, Belle Vernon) have in our area.

From my perspective, this is what occurred last Friday night in the game against Central Catholic. No spectators were permitted. We were left with a video stream to watch the game. I sat at home, relocated to the fact that my athlete would get to play and it was a positive move forward to even be allowed to do this. The feed our district was able to provide was less than successful, partly due to the fact that an ample Wi-Fi source was not made available to the district. I watched the feed that Central Catholic provided. The thing that was difficult was that the video feed, like most televised athletic events, was focused on the play and who has the ball. The feed followed the ball or the runner and as soon as the play was underway, the line of scrimmage was not continually in the field of vision in the video feed. My son, who plays on the line both defensively and offensively, was no longer in view. When you are sitting in the stands and watching the game in person, you can see the entire field. With the video feed you could not.

But then, I noticed Sean was no longer in the game at all. My son is in almost every play of the game and he was suddenly no longer in. I asked my husband frantically where he was – if he could see him? We thought perhaps he was out as a result of coaching decisions. But he did not ever come back in. I began to worry as this was not the norm. I could not see the side lines in the feed to see what was going on at all. I was very worried. I was worried before the game even began without me being there. Football is one of the most physical sports out there. As a parent, I was very fearful of an injury in this situation and not being available should important decisions need to be made regarding an injury incurred during a game. I began texting the 1 or 2 people that I knew were physically at the field and could tell me what was possibly going on. Sure enough Sean was out, on the sidelines, with a concussion evaluation. There was no communication regarding his status until he reached the bus and could let me know he was ok. His injury occurred in the first half of the game. I sat at home, crying, worrying and wanting to just see how he was. I am a nurse and I understand the importance of social distancing, mask wearing and hand washing. This is more than cruel to not allow us in. It can be safely done. I feel that, as a board, you do not value athletics and therefore do not want to put forth the time and consideration needed to make this happen for athletes and their parents. I beg you to reconsider. The feeling is complete helplessness when there is no visual on your child, no one to communicate with and no control. Please put forth the effort to make this work and find a way to put the athlete and the parents first. Going the extra mile to make this work is all it would take. You may think this is trivial to “get to play” or even to “get to see them play”. It is NOT trivial to me, my child, my family or this team and parents. This can be safely done. Please reconsider.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kris Lesnock
Canonsburg, PA. 15317

I am asking that you please allow parents in the stadium. I don't ask this because my son has a ton of play time. I ask this because I am mom and a nurse and I appreciate the risk of injury that my son is at playing football. Last week a player had a concussion and the parent filming contacted the parents. This wasn't a trainer or a coach but another concerned parent who wanted a fellow mother to know what was going on with her son. Most of our boys are minors out there playing and to me it makes no sense to not allow parents or guardians into the game. I don't mind if it is only 2 parents/ family members per player but surely we can make this work. It is an outdoor event. We don't even come into contact with the players or the staff on the field. Masks are an effective way to help prevent the spread of covid. Please consider the dangerous nature of this sport and allow us parents to not only cheer for our team, but be there if an emergency would arise.

Thank you

Tammy Underwood

My name is Alycia Sepe and I am a resident of the district. I am a parent of a senior and president of the high school cheerleading booster organization. I am also a registered nurse and national health care consultant who deeply understands the pandemic and the minimal risk it has on my daughter as a student and an athlete.

I am writing today to urge you to, like other local school districts have, increase the attendance limits for athletic events. Unlike school attendance, athletics are voluntary. The students involved in sports voluntarily participate and they continue to voluntarily participate during the current pandemic. Parents of these student athletes, like me, are allowing their children to participate as well. If a student athlete or parent does not want to participate or attend these events, they simply choose not to as their right. But it is our right to allow participation and attendance as well.

Under today's athletic safety plan, the cheerleading squad is limited to 13 which includes coaches. Are you aware that there are 26 varsity cheerleaders? Are you aware that these cheerleaders have also been restricted from attending away football games? Do you understand that with the current rules, each varsity cheerleader will only be allowed to participate in one or perhaps two football games for the entire season? And if you do not make a decision today to increase attendance, with one of the three home games tomorrow evening, you are taking away an opportunity for more than half of our cheerleaders to cheer tomorrow night. And they will NEVER have the opportunity back, especially for our 10 senior cheerleaders.

Neighboring school districts have taken the authority to make decisions in favor of increased attendance limits at football games, many allowing all football players, cheerleaders and band members to participate along with parents in the stands. They have listened to their constituents and in the best interest of the student athletes, made those decisions. Please see the two articles I have attached that describe this along with school official comments in more detail.

As I am sure you are aware, U.S. District Judge William Stickman ruled on Monday that Governor Wolf's coronavirus orders, which shut down the state, closed businesses and limited gatherings, were unconstitutional. He said in his opinion that COVID-19 orders from Wolf and Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Rachel Levine violated and continue to violate the First Amendment right to freedom of assembly and the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment. Additionally PA House Bill 2787 allowing school districts ultimate authority to make decisions on attendance limits for their respective districts passed overwhelmingly in the house and senate with over 2/3 to override a veto by the Governor (house vote 155-47 on 9/2 and senate vote 39-11 on 9/9). Our PA legislators who represent the areas of Canon-McMillan School District ALL voted in favor of this bill. They listened to their constituents. They advocated for us and our children. I urge you to do the same at the school board meeting this evening and let ALL of our student athlete's play and their parents watch them play the sports they love dearly. I look forward to watching your vote on this critical topic at tonight's meeting.

<https://www.yorkdispatch.com/story/sports/high-school/football/2020/09/14/some-pa-schools-arent-waiting-state-theyre-allowing-fans/5793348002/>

<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/09/12/high-school-football-fans-in-stands-week-1/>

Respectfully,
Alycia Sepe
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Dear School Board Members and CM Administration,

At this time the Varsity Cheerleading team has been limited to 11 permitted athletes and 2 coaches (total 13) at the home game events in our stadium. Our Varsity roster is 26 athletes who have met all athletic requirements and continue to practice as a team sport. The current athletic plan is unacceptable in restricting Varsity rostered athletes in our own stadium. Even under Governor Wolf's guidelines of a 250 limit on gatherings, there should be room for all of the Varsity cheerleaders to cheer on the field. They are positioned on the track area which is more than 6 feet away from the stands and more than 6 feet away from the football players and they all have matching masks which were donated by parents in the booster organization.

These girls have worked hard to earn their positions on this team and deserve the 26 spots within the stadium tomorrow night. It is within your power to make this happen. Each football team requires 60 spots so a total of 120 football players - home and away - which leaves a lot of room to support your CM Varsity Cheerleaders.

As a CM resident and concerned parent I will be paying close attention to the meeting tonight and all voting decisions. These female athletes deserve your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,
Mary Maxwell
Canonsburg, PA 15317

All,

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for reconsidering the middle school cheerleader number so all the student athletes could participate.

Now, I'm asking this team to go one step further and carefully review the numbers for our young adults at the high school level.

I don't have a child that cheers for the high school, I don't have a child that plays an instrument in the band, nor do I have a child that will be dressing for the football game this Friday night. However, as you are well aware I do have children in the district and as a parent I would not be doing my job if I didn't voice my opinion for our young adults.

We teach them to make good choices.

We teach them to be respectful.

We expect them to do the best they can.

We expect them to be the best version of themselves.

We have challenged our children to continue to achieve at the highest level and to give 110% of themselves amidst this ever changing pandemic environment. As the landscape continues to change, we expect our children to be flexible and dynamic. And to no surprise this generation has stood up to the challenges.

Now, our Canon McMillian administration needs to do the same. I understand the goal is to keep all the students and community safe from Covid-19. However, other school districts in Western Pennsylvania are taking action and increasing the numbers who can participate in these once in a lifetime events. Our administration needs to do the same.

These kids have ONLY 3 HOME FOOTBALL games. Let ALL the Cheerleaders cheer. Let the ENTIRE band March. In the Washington Post the head lines read, "Tom Wolf's Coronavirus restrictions in Pennsylvania were unconstitutional, Federal judge rules." Don't follow in his foot steps,

Let these student athletes and young adults respectfully make their own choice.

Let these student athletes and young adults do the best they can in an ever changing environment.

Let these student athletes and young adults be the best versions of themselves.

As educators, I'm going to believe each of you see more impacts from stress, depression, and anxiety in our young adults. Our kids work hard, and they deserve the opportunity to release their stress, and put aside any anxiety by participating in activities they love. Don't let our kids be collateral damage because the Canon McMillian administration made a "safe" decision. I challenge you to do what is right for all of our students.

Respectfully,

Debra Klingensmith

Comment:

I'd like to thank board members and other school officials for their leadership during these times. I do not envy the task before you, to balance the health of students, teachers and staff with children's educational and social needs. However, I urge the board to look into ways to offer a live video feed of the meetings for those who cannot attend in person. In the spirit of transparency and to encourage more public participation, I think a live stream of the meetings would serve the interests of the entire Canon-Mac community.

Thank you.

Cara Host
Cecil Township

I'm reaching out for concern of the Hybrid learning for the school year. My son is growing increasingly frustrated with the at home learning. This is not working for him and he is not able to focus and stare at a computer screen all day. He is not taking away or retaining the information that he needs to so he can be successful.

I would like to know why we are not able to go 4-5 days per week. Since they are wearing masks all day, there really is no reason they cannot be in school.

If they are not returning to school, when will this be evaluated again? I'd like to know what we need to do to have them in school every or most days. I feel that we are being left in the dark without any way of knowing when they will be reconsidering sending the children back to school.

Thank you,

Jessica Sanders

With school in session a few weeks will any consideration be given to going back to back days? The reason given before so kids don't go too long without face to face makes no sense when some kids are 100% remote.

Doing a group A on Monday and Tuesday and group B on Thursday Friday would give better structure if you won't allow 5 days in.

Thanks!

Teresa Votodian

My name is Jaime and have 2 children that attend Wylandville elementary. They are currently enrolled in hybrid for this school year.

First I want to say that my children's teachers are doing an amazing job of balancing everything that been thrown at them for this school year. With that said I still have concerns with continuing this hybrid model for much longer. Two days in the classroom just isn't enough. Children just aren't getting the same education as they would if they were in school 5 days a week. If the children are required to wear a mask all day long (which I am completely fine with) why can't they be in person more? They don't share desks, supplies and wear a mask. Peters and other school districts are going 5 days in person so why can't Canon-McMillan try it?!?

Also this is extremely difficult on teachers and families. They teachers are trying to balance Group A, Group B and fully remote. Families are trying to balance working, teaching and childcare.

I would like to see other options for families. Even consider 4 days in person if 5 days just isn't possible. That way teachers could still have Wednesday's to help the fully remote students and get caught up on other things. I appreciate you taking the time to read my email!

Thank you,

Jaime Blankenship

I have a 1st, 2nd, and 4th grader at Muse Elementary with split custody and 4 working parents. My 3 daughters are not getting the time and attention needed with hybrid learning. Only being in school 2 days a week is a major concern with their learning capabilities. Split custody homework is hard enough to juggle. Split homeschooling is impossible. Assignments are missed, learning is lacking, and communication is difficult with this type of Schooling.

With the way the country is handling this issues I see no reason any parent would agree to send their children 5 days a week shouldn't be able to. This is the future of our humanity.

I am very very disappointed in the hybrid path Cannon Mac has chosen. Bars and restaurants have won lawsuits vs Governor Wolf. Why should our children suffer.

Michael Voyten

Dear School Administration, Board Members or Decision Makers,
It has been a few weeks of this virtual learning and I am here to tell you: It is not working, and we are not ok.

I know, I know, I know.... "You're doing the best you can" right?

Wrong. Most of us, do not feel we are even being heard, let alone doing the best you can.

Have you experienced virtual learning? Like, really sat in a home with families struggling to make this work. Have you witnessed the meltdowns of both students and parents? The fights and frustrations of not understanding the days' agenda, or math lessons or technology failures? The onset depression kids are experiencing due to sitting all day, alone.

Have you sat in the home of families of multiple kids, only to see every child eat lunch ALONE?

Have recess ALONE.

Have snack ALONE.

It is absolutely heartbreaking, and I feel held hostage in my own home. I cannot take my kids on a bike ride, or to the park for recess or on a picnic for lunch because every child has a unique schedule. Help me understand why all families are expected to be flexible with virtual learning, yet we could not have a 1-hour lunch break school wide.

If you have not witnessed this, then, I beg you to STOP telling us that you understand and start listening. Parents know what is best for their children, and we are going to fight to make things right.

Children belong in school. Together. Everyday.

Virtual learning was supposed to be an OPTION to families that felt unsafe reentering schools and as this can remain an option, live, in-person education is the only option for many of us.

Parents are not meant to be teachers, social workers, and principals in our own homes.

Teachers are not supposed to work twice as hard, to make half the difference, with the same pay. Let me say that again:

Teachers are working TWICE as hard, to make HALF the difference, for the SAME pay.

Let that sink in, because if you truly feel that children are getting the same education virtually as they would in-person, you do not deserve a seat on the board and should immediately be banned from working in the education system.

Stores are open. Daycares are open. Restaurants are open. The fact that schools remain closed is baffling.

I mean, are you aware that preschools are open? These little boys and girls all look absolutely adorable with their Paw Patrol and Dinosaur masks, but I must ask, have you been around many 3 or 4-year olds lately? Because they are the most disgusting little humans out there. 3 and 4 year olds will literally put their hand down their pants to scratch themselves right before giving high fives. Their sleeves, and now masks, double as Kleenex. They'll pick the gum off the bottom of a picnic table and chew it, and then share it with a friend to try as well. They're gross. Adorable, and hilarious, but gross.... And yet they are in school, and to all your surprise; they're doing just fine. Great actually, preschoolers and daycare children are doing just great! If preschoolers can manage, I think you need to have a bit more confidence in our older children as well.

Because regardless of your intentions with virtual learning, it is not working, and again, we are not okay. Families are not okay.

We are not okay with watching our children's education progress regress rather than improve.

We are not okay listening to our middle school students spend their 60 minute lessons listening to a teacher tell other students to put a shirt on, or to stop with the profanity, or to simply watch the entire Zoom lesson freeze and lose the entire days' worth of instruction. We are not okay hearing our kids calling themselves stupid when they do not understand something.

We are not okay trying to tell our young children they must be quiet because their siblings are in "class".

We are not okay with asynchronous learning days. Kids don't learn this way.

We are not okay seeing children on the class list that don't show up for a single zoom, scared for that child. We are not okay knowing that school is, for many children, the only place they are given love, or food, or friendship, and yet we have taken that safe place away.

We are not okay watching our Kindergarten students cry at a computer for hours at a time, because struggling to type something as simple as their names, makes them feel like they're failing, when typing shouldn't even be part of their daily routine.

We are not okay watching our Juniors miss their ACT/SAT test preps.

We are not okay watching our children with IEP's and 504 plans not receive their accommodations.

We are not okay watching our Seniors start their years at home, when this should be their time to be the Kings and Queens of the hallways they've walked for the past 3 years, or the fact that their 2020/2021 yearbooks will be empty of fall memories.

We are not okay with our children losing their social and emotional health over fear of a virus.

And, I am 100% not okay with anyone that has not been in a classroom in the past 10 years telling my family what is best for their education OR telling my district teachers what is best.

Teachers know what is best. Mothers know what is best. Any person that is not a teacher should never have the authority to tell teachers what they should be doing, when they have never even walked a day in their shoes. You have no idea what teachers are actually trying to accomplish every single day, and the struggles virtual learning brings on.

Have you ever tried to teach a child how to hold a pencil properly via Zoom? No? How about correcting letter formation on worksheets you cannot even collect? Did you expect children to enjoy watching their teachers perform experiments in science rather than getting to participate or did you not understand that would bring on full frustrations and resentment of their classwork.

Did you realize that students that once loved school, cry each morning absolutely hating their new normal?

Was this part of the plan? Did you think of the consequences virtual learning would bring?

I am begging you to listen. Put kids back in school. End 2020 as normal as it possibly can be.

Listen to your teachers. Listen to your families.

Put your political agendas aside. Let our personal physicians decide what is best for our health while you do your job and do what is best for your district. And in those final decision moments if you are on the fence, just remember:

We are not okay.

Teachers are not okay.

District Families are not okay.

Thank you for reading.

Alison McGowan

I am writing to voice my concern over the current learning environment. I have 2 children in the district and am in total support of going back 5 days per week for the following reasons:

1. There are no routines
2. Kids are not getting a quality education even with all the efforts
3. Extremely difficult for parents to work and home school kids
4. Lack of social interaction
5. Emotionally and mentally unhealthy for teachers, parents and kids
6. Kids find online schooling confusing
7. IT issues cause frustration

I ask that Canon Mac consider 2 options - 5 days in or 5 days out to appeal to all needs.

Jason Mead

Is there a plan to add more days and resume school five days a week??

Dave and Beth Obrien

I am sending this email as a concerned parent with 4 children in the Canon McMillan School District.

My children are currently attending the hybrid model. I do not feel the educational structure and curriculum is meeting the needs of my children. I am noting a lack of student- teacher interaction; lack of LIVE instruction, and a lack of socialization opportunities on the days they are not in school. As a parent, I have struggled with effective and productive communication with some teachers. I am concerned that should this continue much longer, my children will fall behind academically.

The current format is a stress on children, teachers, administrators, and parents. We are a family with 2 working parents making it even more difficult to sustain this model.

I encourage you to discuss and consider offering a 5 day in-school model similar to those already implemented by other large school districts such as Peters Township, Mars, and West Allegheny.

Please consider voting on a plan to offer children 5 days per week in school instruction. If this cannot be considered, the board and the district should provide a measurable goal to students and families in this district - specifically, what needs to occur for in school instruction to resume 5 days.

The children in this district have been without a strong educational format since March. It is.....and will continue to impact their learning, socialization, mental health, and overall development. They cannot afford for this to continue much longer.

Thank you for your time,

Karen Taczak
Parent of children in 9th, 7th, 5th, and 3rd grades

To the Board of School Directors:

I want to begin by saying how much I appreciate all of the time and careful consideration you have taken to plan a safe, successful year for our children in the Canon-McMillan school district. I know it has not been easy to make such important decisions, and even more difficult to make everyone happy. That's impossible, actually. This letter is being sent to bring awareness to the number of parents who would like to see a more progressive approach to school this year, beginning immediately.

I would like to see students attend in person classes five days per week. The Pennsylvania Department of Health has mandated mask wearing for the entire school day, making this a safe and reasonable consideration.

Many children aren't able to receive adequate help from caregivers on remote days, and I fear there will be a great disparity in academics between children receiving help at home, and those not. It's wonderful to see communities working together and helping each other by having remote learning groups and daycares that will help children with working parents in their schooling. This only proves though that having only half of the students on each day does not limit exposure. The children are not staying home, in a bubble on remote days.

I have felt helpless in having my voice heard, not only with the school concerns but in all aspects of life in dealing with COVID-19. I pray that in Canon-MacMillan we are able to find a way to still give children a great education (which the district has always done so well) even though ridiculous restrictions have been placed. I say that to let you know I understand if going five days is not feasible. I just hope everything is done to try, and that you know how much we want it.

Thank you so much for listening, may God bless you and the board making these decisions!

Leah Davis

Dear CMSD,

I have 2 children who attend South Central and 1 at NSIS. Please send them back to school 5 days a week, or at least give parents the option. I can give you a list of reasons a mile long regarding why they need to go back, but I'm sure you've heard them.

Thank you,
Rachel Piatt

Hello,

I am writing to share my concerns with our children not being able to return full time to school. I have noticed in my children a dramatic increase in anxiety due to the children having to navigate the learning process at home by themselves. We are a household where my husband and myself work OUTSIDE of the home. I worry tremendously about the social isolation this whole pandemic has presented. The kids should be in school five days. They are missing out on so many aspects of life being trapped at home. I'm not down playing the virus but the statistics do not match up with the actions that are being taken. I am a dental hygienist and have been back at work for 4 months working in people's mouths. If I can do that the kids can go back to the classroom full time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michelle Kearns

To Whom It May Concern,

Canon-Mcmillan students are only attending live instruction 2 days per week while students in other districts in our area are going five days a week. Remote instruction is inferior to live instruction, and the parent survey showed the majority of parents are in favor of full-time live attendance. Is there a plan to return to full-time soon? If other schools in our area and state are going full-time, please explain why our school isn't as well. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Paige Mayhair

Hi I would like to express my concerns and have them brought up at the board meeting. I feel like remote learning is not working for my kids. They need to be in school five days a week and not wearing a mask. Remote learning is not educating our children in the way that they have a right to be educated. This system does not work for working families and the kids are being exposed to too much screen time. They need to be in school in class with their teachers and peers. Many other districts locally and across the country are back in school five days without any issues. If any health related concerns arise then we need to clean and sanitize and send them right back to school. No lengthy waiting period is necessary. Please discuss your upcoming plans and how we are going to get our kids back in the classroom to receive the education their rights promise them.

Sincerely,

Nichole Merrell

This email is being sent with the intention of voicing my dissatisfaction with the roll out of the 2020 school year and the online curriculum.

The decisions that have been made have not been made with the best interest of our children's education or the parents wishes. This is evident by the survey that was published earlier this summer.

Other school districts locally and throughout the country have found a way to return their children to the classroom. It is not without its challenges, but these are challenges we must take on. Nothing is more important than giving our children the best education we possibly can. If we do not return to the classroom, when this is all said and done, the children will have missed out on a year and a half of high quality classroom education and development. This is not acceptable to my family and many others in the community.

While we have managed to separate them in school. We are still a community. They are waiting for their friends to get off of the bus every afternoon. They continue to play soccer and baseball with each other everyday.

This virus is out there, but it is not as dangerous as we were originally told it was in March. Our hospital systems are not overwhelmed, we have better treatments and we have the great fortune to know that our children are not as susceptible.

We must get back to putting our children's education #1.

Thank you,

Jeff Cooke

Hi!

I wanted to see if the school board is planning to discuss return to school five days at the meeting tonight? If not, can parents please have an update as to when this might occur? I'd like this to be a topic for discussion at the meeting this evening. Our current hybrid approach is not meeting the needs of our entire community and children are falling behind academically. If our covid metrics are allowing five days in school, I'd like the school board to highly consider returning our children to school five days a week at the end of the first quarter. I also feel a communication to parents updating us on the plan to return would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time!

Kelly Sofran

I was looking through the agenda for the school board meeting tomorrow and didn't see anything on there regarding our kids having the option to go back to school full time. That may be covered under the executive session C.L.E.A.R. (this is the first time I've looked at anything school board related so please forgive my ignorance). However I am unsure if it will be covered at this meeting.

I would like to ask the board that question. What are the thoughts on when the board would decide to have full time as an option? What is the end game? What would have to happen to get back to full time option.

Initially after the parent survey results came out there was to be an option for full time which subsequently was removed. This despite a sizable portion of parents that would have been comfortable sending their kids to school full time.

I realize this has been difficult for everyone, especially teachers, but remote learning is NOT at all what I was expecting or hoping for. My son is often done with school work by noon on remote days with the exception of a special class later in the day. The online instruction is minimal and our kids are falling behind. My son starts online instruction at 9:20am and by 10:30 he has a page or 2 to complete and once it's complete he has a lot of time in between. He is 8, him being on a break for an hour only means playtime which then I have to reel him back into school mode. I am not a teacher, nor is his mother, we also both work full time jobs. However we're fortunate my schedule is relatively flexible but I am still working as he is doing online school. I'm sure we're not in the majority with our situation. The cyber schools are waiting list only with a lottery to be accepted, this is not without reason. Remote or hybrid learning is NOT WORKING. It is not due to the teachers, they didn't sign up for this either and they're doing the best they can. But trying to juggle x number of remote learners with x number in the classroom has to be tremendously difficult.

If I can make a suggestion until we're able to get back to full time option, designate 1 or 2 teachers for each grade/school to teach remotely exclusively. This way they would be able to focus on remote learners 100% for entire days. This may not be possible due to sheer numbers, I don't have access to how many kids are remote or in school on a given day. These kids need attention, they need the interaction with their teacher and they're not getting enough of it.

I want to reiterate I am not complaining about the teachers.

Ultimately I know we all want to get these kids back into the classroom full time, but tell us the plan, let us know what you'd like to see happen. Is it a vaccine (I hope not), is it numbers based is it zero cases?

Thank you
-Mark Musser

What is the timeline for students going to school 5 days a week? They are not getting a proper education with the hybrid. Peters is back and no problems in the grade schools. Let there be face to face 5 days a week. Thanks

If you can allow extra circular activitys like band,sports and cheerleaders then the kids can return to school 5 days a week. School is for kids to get education first. The rest is called extra for a reason. Please school board dont ignore this like you have for last 2 months. Have the guts to tell parents sports and ect are more important then a education. Send kids back. Thanks.

Dear school board please dont ignore the emails you are getting about schools face to face 5 days. Dont say distancing is the problem until you try. Kids especially grade school kids need face to face. Please consider it for the children who need face to face instruction. Thank you

David Ledger