



UPPER ST CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Mrs. Barbara L. Bolas, President • Mr. Patrick A. Hewitt, Vice President • Mrs. Amy L. Billerbeck
Mrs. Jennifer L. Bowen • Mr. Phillip J. Elias • Dr. Daphna Gans • Mr. Louis P. Mafrice, Jr.
Mrs. Angela B. Petersen • Mrs. Jennifer A. Schnore •
Dr. John T. Rozzo, Superintendent • Mrs. Jocelyn P. Kramer, Solicitor

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 9, 2020 @ 7:00pm

Executive Session @ 6:00pm (Legal Matters, Student Matters & Personnel)

District Administration Building Board Room

Notice having been advertised and posted and members duly notified, a Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors was held on November 9, 2020 in the District Administration Board Room.

School Board Members in Attendance:

Mrs. Barbara Bolas, President (in-person)
Mr. Patrick Hewitt, Vice President (in-person)
Mrs. Amy Billerbeck (virtual)
Mrs. Jennifer L. Bowen (virtual)
Mr. Phillip J. Elias (in-person)
Dr. Daphna Gans (virtual)
Mr. Louis P. Mafrice Jr. (in-person)
Mrs. Angela Petersen (in-person)
Mrs. Jennifer Schnore (virtual)

School Personnel in Attendance:

Dr. John T. Rozzo, Superintendent (in-person)
Dr. Sharon K. Suritsky, Assistant/Deputy Superintendent (virtual)
Mrs. Amy Pfender, Assistant to the Superintendent (in-person)
Mr. Ray Carson, Senior Director of Operations & Administrative Services (in-person)
Mr. Scott Burchill, Director of Business & Finance (virtual)
Dr. Lou Angelo, Director of Facilities and Operations (virtual)
Mr. Raymond Berrott, Director of Technology (in-person)
Dr. Judith Bulazo, Director of Curriculum and Development (virtual)

Mrs. Cassandra Doggrell, Director of Student Support Services (virtual)
Mrs. Lauren Madia, Assistant Director of Student Support Services (virtual)
Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Strategic Initiatives (virtual)
Mrs. Jocelyn Kramer, Solicitor (in-person)
Mrs. Sarah MacDonald, Board Stenographer (virtual)
Karsen Damon – Student Board Representative (virtual)
R.J. Shontz – Student Board Representative (virtual)
Mr. Jim Summerville – PSBA Representative (virtual)

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance (Hewitt, School Board Vice President)

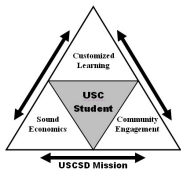
Mr. Hewitt called the meeting to order at 7:13pm.

Meeting Procedures (Kramer, Solicitor)

Mrs. Kramer reviewed the meeting procedures. She advised that no residents were present to give a public comment in person. She noted that comments that were received online, will be addressed later in the Agenda.

Reading of the Mission:

Mr. Elias read the following mission:



Developing lifelong learners and responsible citizens for a global society is the mission of the Upper St. Clair School District, served by a responsive and innovative staff who in partnership with the community provides learning experiences that nurture the uniqueness of each child and promotes happiness and success.

Reading of the Shared Belief Statement #10 from Strategic Plan:

Mr. Mafrice read the following Shared Belief Statement #10 from the Strategic Plan:

We Believe that:

Education is most effective when decision-making is focused on the best interests of the student.

PSBA Honor Roll Plaque Presentation - Mrs. Angela Petersen

(Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools & Mr. Jim Summerville, PSBA)

Dr. Rozzo welcome Mr. Jim Summerville from PSBA and explained that he will be virtually recognizing Mrs. Petersen for her years of dedicated service. Dr. Rozzo thanked Mrs. Petersen, on behalf of the District and the Board, noting that she genuinely loves the District and community.

Mr. Summerville was unable to join the meeting due to technical problems.

Mrs. Petersen thanked everyone.

Report from Student Board Representatives

Karsen Damon & R.J. Shontz

(Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools)

Karsen and R.J. gave updates. Karsen reported on auditions for Fall Play, Madrigal Dinner, Chanteclairs, Orchestra, Marching Band, Veteran's Day, Phase II Reopening, and Focus Groups. R.J. reported on Football, Soccer, Field Hockey, Cross Country, Volleyball, Nutrition Center Advisory Committee, Student Council, and the Mock Election.

Resident's Comments - (Regarding Agenda Items)

Link to Online Form

Note: As per Guidelines for Resident's Comments, please state your name and address and limit your comments to three minutes. Social distancing and mask guidelines will also be adhered to during Resident's Comments. In light of continued health and safety concerns, the Board will offer an additional option for submitting Residents' Comments via online form (link above) or by phone in advance of the meeting. You can submit a comment via phone by contacting the Board Stenographer at 412-833-1600 x2218 by Monday, November 9, 2020 any time before 2pm. Comments submitted in advance regarding agenda items will be shared with the Board prior to the meeting and summarized at this time.

There were no Resident's Comments at this time.

CONVENE A BOARD MEETING

Mrs. Bolas convened a Board Meeting at 7:24pm.

Mr. Hewitt reconvened the Committee Meeting at 7:37pm.

Superintendent's Report

(Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools)

a. District Update

(Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools)

Dr. Rozzo reported that on November 16th the District would transition to Phase II, with Wednesdays still being remote and the other four days being in-person. He noted that the data currently supports the recommendation to continue, however he remarked that the District needs to be flexible and to continue to monitor the situation daily. He explained that there may be times when certain buildings and levels are hybrid or fully remote, while others are in session. Dr. Rozzo also advised that the District will be releasing a Dashboard on the District website with COVID information. He noted that if students are sick, they should not be attending school or social gatherings to help keep everyone safe.

Mr. Carson elaborated on the Dashboard, explaining that it will give up-to-date information on the number of positive cases and resolved cases over a 30-day period and will track COVID cases over time. He advised that the Dashboard will include both student and staff information, however it will be combined to protect personal health information. The website, where the Dashboard is housed, will also include District communications.

Mr. Summerville attempted to access the meeting again, but could not access it.

Mrs. Petersen thanked everyone involved with the District and everyone she has met over the years, noting it has been a very rewarding time and she has always enjoyed it.

Administrator's Report

(Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools)

a. Request Approval to Solicit Bids for Transportation Vehicles

(Angelo, Director of Operations & Facilities)

(Consent Agenda)

ATTACHED

Dr. Angelo congratulated Mrs. Petersen.

Dr. Angelo reviewed the approval to solicit bids for transportation vehicles.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Mafrice asked if the District recovers any funds that go towards the purchase of new buses. Dr. Angelo noted that the District typically disposes of them at an auction in June.

Mrs. Petersen noted that she was happy to see a return to the rotation of the buses and technology.

b. Request Approval to Recognize Booster Organizations and Club Sports Contingent upon Compliance with Board Policies and Health and Safety Protocols

(Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools / Burchill, Director of Business & Finance)

(Consent Agenda)

ATTACHED

Dr. Rozzo reviewed the approval to recognize Booster Organizations and Club sports, contingent upon compliance with Board Policies and Health and Safety Protocols. He advised that the Booster organizations do great things for the students and that the District has communicated with them the importance of compliance with the health and safety protocols.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

c. Request Approval of the following Student Support Service Contracts:

(Doggrell, Director of Student Support Services)

(Consent Agenda)

ATTACHED

Mrs. Doggrell presented the Children's Day School and Watson Education Center South Agreements for Approval.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Dr. Gans asked if any of the requests for agreements were related to the school not operating as it usually does. Mrs. Doggrell advised that this Agenda and recent Agendas have been no related to the closure, but rather present student needs or students that have moved into the District.

- Children's Institute Day School: Service Agreement for if services provided by Children's Day School are rendered, the fees and expenses for services are outlined.
- Watson Institute Education Center South: Tuition for one Student Placement at \$50,498 Prorated to Start Date of October 22, 2020.

d. Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding to Renew Telephone Interpretation Services with Transperfect, effective February 10, 2021 - February 10, 2022 at an annual fee of \$120.00, payment of actual usage costs at a rate not to exceed \$0.90 per minute for all languages, and video translation services, including ASL at a rate of \$3.25 per minute.

(Madia, Assistant Director of Student Support Services)

(Consent Agenda)

ATTACHED

Mrs. Madia reviewed the MOU with Transpferfect.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

e. Administrative Updates

- Lou Angelo
Dr. Angelo gave updates on the transition to Phase II, including transportation, routing, parent drop-off and pick-up, and building preparation. He advised that the District is ready and prepared for students to return.
- Ray Berrott
Mr. Berrott gave an update on the new Student Information System (FOCUS). He advised that that the District is at the tail-end of the project and in another month the District will be fully integrated into the system. He thanked the Tech staff for working so hard, including working 7 days a week (and nights) without asking.
- Ray Carson
Mr. Carson reported that the District and Chief Bryson are continuing to do Alice Training, with it just being conducted for the Bus Garage and Custodial and Maintenance Group.
- Cassandra Doggrell
Mrs. Doggrell gave special education updates, including noting that she takes great pride in the staff, who have worked diligently to continue to support families, be responsive to family needs, and show empathy to the decisions they make for kids. She also gave an update on the data collection cycle and the Paraprofessional staff development days.
- Lauren Madia
Mrs. Madia gave an update on the Nutrition Center services. She advised that there has been a great turn-out for the curbside pickup meal program, noting that as of last week, over 75,000 meals were distributed across 8 weeks of the program. She explained that over 40 student volunteers have assisted with packaging milk (done with distancing and face masks) and over 20 staff members, administrators, Board members, community members and parents have volunteered as well.

- Brad Wilson
Mr. Wilson commended Administrators on all of the reports that have been generated regarding Phase I and Phase II. He also gave an update on Google Meeting training sessions and the COVID Dashboard. He noted that with Dashboarding, the District can generate a lot of interesting information and he is very excited about its uses moving forward.

Dr. Rozzo thanked the entire Administrative team, not just those that gave updates. He noted they have worked tirelessly since March and with the transition to Phase II they recognize there is still a lot of work too.

Business & Finance

(Burchill, Director of Business & Finance)

a. **Review of Financial Statements for the Period ended October 30, 2020**

(Burchill, Director of Business & Finance)

(Consent Agenda)

ATTACHED

Mr. Burchill reviewed the financial statements, he noted that the Bill List and the Independent Audit for period ending June 30, 2020 will be presented at the next meeting.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

b. **Request Approval of Joint Purchasing Resolution/Agreement with Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) for 2021-2022 School Year**

(Burchill, Director of Business & Finance)

(Consent Agenda)

ATTACHED

Mr. Burchill reviewed the AIU joint purchasing program, noting this is an annual item that the Board approves.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Committee Reports

(Hewitt, School Board Vice President)

Dr. Gans gave a report from the Legislative Committee. She advised that she and Mrs. Schnore recently attended the PSBA Delegate Assembly for 2020, where several items were voted on. Mrs. Schnore echoed Dr. Gans report and noted that PSBA will be lobbying this upcoming school year.

Resident's Comments - (Regarding Any Item)

Link to Online Form

Note: As per Guidelines for Resident's Comments, please state your name and address and limit your comments to three minutes. Social distancing and mask guidelines will also be adhered to during Resident's Comments. In light of continued health and safety concerns, the Board will offer an additional option for submitting Residents' Comments via online form (link above) or by phone in advance of the meeting. You can submit a comment via phone by contacting the Board Stenographer at 412-833-1600 x2218 by Monday, November 9, 2020 any time before 2pm. Comments submitted in advance regarding any item will be shared with the Board prior to the meeting and summarized at this time.

Mrs. MacDonald reviewed the comments that were submitted online via the District's Google Form.

Matters of Information - Superintendent & Administration (Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools)

a. Dr. Daniel Beck - PASC Principal of Year Award (Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools)

Dr. Rozzo reported that Dr. Beck received the PASC Principal of the Year Award a few weeks ago. He noted that the District is very happy for Dr. Beck and that he is a strong advocate for kids and always does what is best for students.

b. Dr. Christine Mussomeli - President for the West Region of the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Educators (Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools)

Dr. Rozzo reported that Dr. Mussomeli will serve as the President for the West Region of the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Educators. He noted that the District is very proud and honored to have Dr. Mussomeli represent the District as President for the western region.

c. 2021-2022 Committee & Board Meeting Dates (Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools) **ATTACHED**

Dr. Rozzo shared the 2021 Committee and Board Meeting dates and asked the Board to please review the dates and provide any feedback or concerns to him.

Announcement Regarding Executive Session

(Hewitt, School Board Vice President)

- a. Mr. Hewitt announced that Executive Session was held on November 9, 2020 at 6:00pm for Legal Matters, Student Matters, and Personnel and immediately following this meeting for Personnel.

Adjournment

(Hewitt, School Board Vice President)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah MacDonald
BOARD STENOGRAPHER

Memo



To: Mr. Ray Carson
From: Dr. Lou Angelo
Date: November 3, 2020
RE: Transportation Vehicle Proposals

I request approval to solicit proposals for the purchase of transportation vehicles for the **2021-2020 school year**.

Because of the financial impact of Covid-19 on the school district, our plans to purchase new vehicles for the current school year were delayed. Prior to this year, we had purchased seven new buses each year for the previous three years. This was part of an intentional plan to update the fleet and avoid replacing half the fleet in a single year. Over half the fleet was replaced about a decade ago. As a result of our purchasing plan, our on-road breakdowns have decreased over 75% since 2017. Currently, our fleet is comprised of one 2009 bus, one 2010 bus, and twelve 2011 buses.

I recommend considering the purchase or lease of five non-lit passenger vans (2 wheelchair accessible) and four 72-passenger busses.

Booster Groups

Recognized by School District

Band
Baseball
Basketball Boys
Basketball Girls
Cheerleading
Choral
Crew
Cross Country
Dance
Field Hockey
Football
Hip Hop
Ice Hockey
Lacrosse Boys
Lacrosse Girls
Soccer Boys
Soccer Girls
Softball
Swim/Dive
Track & Field/Indoor Track
Tennis Boys
Tennis Girls
Volleyball Boys
Volleyball Girls
Wrestling

Sports Clubs

Recognized by School

Crew
Fencing
Ice Hockey
Ultimate Frisbee

Memo



To: Dr. John Rozzo, USC Board Members

From: Ms. Cassandra Doggrell

Date: November 9, 2020

RE: **Special Education and Student Support Services Agreements/Contracts**

I request approval of the following agreements/contracts for the **2020-2021 school year**:

1. Watson Institute Education Center South: Tuition for one student placement at \$50,498 prorated to start date of October 22, 2020 (full year)
 - a. Tuition cost for one student attending Watson Institute Education Center South
 - b. Return to Information
Dr. Marilyn Hoyson
Watson Education Center South
230 Hickory Grade Road
Bridgeville, PA 15017
2. Children's Institute Day School: Services agreement for if services provided by Children's Institute Day School are rendered the fees and expenses for services are outlined
 - a. Outlined fees and expenses for if services are rendered throughout the school year to support student needs
 - b. Return to Information
Ms. Billi Jo Huffman
Chief School Administrator
The Children's Institute Day School
1405 Shady Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Approval of contracts/agreements will be contingent upon documentation acceptable to the Superintendent and Solicitor.



Memo

To: Dr. John Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools
Board of School Directors

From: Ms. Lauren Madia, Assistant Director of Student Support Services

Date: November 9, 2020

RE: Student Support Services Contracts and Agreements

I seek approval of the following:

- To participate in a joint-purchasing agreement with the Allegheny County Intermediate Unit Title III Consortium via memorandum of understanding, which provides the following services related to translation and interpretation for families whose first language is not English and/or who use American Sign Language:
 - A twelve-month commitment beginning February 10, 2021 through February 10, 2022.
 - An annual fee of \$120 (\$10/month) paid to the AIU K-12 ESL Department to cover operating costs, contractual minimums, and fees. (Invoice to follow.)
 - Payment of actual usage costs at a rate not to exceed:
 - \$0.90 per minute for all languages
 - Video translation services including ASL are also available to consortium members at a rate of \$3.25 per minute.
 - Members of the consortium will also have access to written document translation at an additional cost but at a consortium pricing rate. Quotes for this service are free. This would be arranged directly between the school district and TransPerfect Remote Interpreting.

This is a renewal of the existing agreement in place at the same rate.



Customizing Learning,
Nurturing Potential...
Delivering Excellence

Memo

To: Dr. John Rozzo, USC Board Members

From: Scott P. Burchill *SPB*

Date: November 9, 2020

RE: FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (PRELIMINARY AND UNAUDITED)

Financial statements for the General Fund, Capital Reserve Fund and Construction Fund for the period ended October 31, 2020 are enclosed for your review. Financial statements for the Cafeteria Fund report for the period ending September 30, 2020 are also enclosed for your review. The reports reflect the realized revenues and expenses incurred from July 1, 2020. Of note, the General Fund revenue is ahead last year on a percentage basis. Local tax revenue is slightly higher on a percentage basis than the same period in 2019-20.

GENERAL FUND

	2020-21	2020-21 through October 31, 2020		2019-20	2019-20 through October 31, 2019	
<i>(in millions of dollars)</i>	Budgeted	Actual	% of Budget	Budgeted	Actual	% of Budget
Current Real Estate Revenues	\$59.53	\$56.49	95%	\$57.29	\$53.41	93%
EIT	\$5.67	\$1.00	18%	\$5.67	\$0.73	13%
All Other Local Revenues	\$3.53	\$1.12	32%	\$4.17	\$1.33	32%
State Revenues	\$18.33	\$6.10	33%	\$18.10	\$6.06	33%
Federal Revenues	\$0.48	\$0.29	60%	\$0.38	\$0.00	0%
All Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	\$0.03	\$0.00	0%
Total Revenues	\$87.540	\$65.00	74%	\$85.640	\$61.53	72%
Expenditures	\$87.800	\$26.08	30%	\$85.640	\$25.26	29%
Revenues less Expenditures	<i>(\$0.260)</i>	\$38.92		\$0.000	\$36.27	
Balance Sheet	As of October 31, 2020	As of June 30, 2020 <i>(unaudited)</i>				
Cash and Marketable Securities	\$50,597,492	\$17,766,352				
Total Assets	\$54,417,828	\$22,130,623				
Total Liabilities	\$6,079,130	\$12,508,084				
Nonspendable Reserves	\$0	\$208,959				
Adjustment to Fund Balance	\$38,925,117	\$371,652				
Fund Balance	\$9,413,581	\$9,041,928				

CAFETERIA FUND

	Budget 2020-21	2020-21 through September 30, 2020	Budget 2019-20	2019-20 through September 30, 2019
Revenues	\$1,927,393	\$126,451	\$1,776,296	\$185,431
Expenditures	\$1,900,718	\$245,937	\$1,700,771	\$291,558
<i>Net</i>	\$26,675	<i>(\$119,486)</i>	\$75,525	<i>(\$106,127)</i>
		As of September 30, 2020	As of June 30, 2020	
Cash and Marketable Securities		\$103,386	\$110,579	
Total Assets		\$356,668	\$257,202	
Total Liabilities		\$451,927	\$232,975	
<i>Unassigned Fund Balance</i>		<i>(\$95,259)</i>	\$24,227	

The food service department is operating under the Seamless Summer Option provision (SSO-COVID), providing free reimbursable lunches to all students in the District through the end of the school year. Federal reimbursement will make up the majority of revenue for the 2020-21 school year. Sales are lagging behind last year for a couple of reasons. First, a-la-carte sales are down approximately 80% compared to the same period last year. The decrease in a-la-carte sales can be attributed to fewer students attending school and the availability of free reimbursable lunches. Also, the lunch program only had sixteen (16) operating days in 2020 compared to twenty-two (22) days in 2019.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

	Budget 2020-21	2020-21 through October 31, 2020	Budget 2019-20	2019-20 through October 31, 2019
Revenues	\$270,000	\$267,016	\$267,000	\$269,241
Expenditures	\$305,000	\$175,336	\$395,442	\$243,798
<i>Net</i>	<i>(\$35,000)</i>	\$91,680	<i>(\$128,442)</i>	\$25,443
		As of October 31, 2020	As of June 30, 2020 <i>(unaudited)</i>	
Cash and Marketable Securities		\$192,551	\$176,872	
Total Assets		\$214,398	\$176,872	
Total Liabilities		\$0	\$25,225	
<i>Total Reserves</i>		<i>\$192,551</i>	<i>\$151,647</i>	

CONSTRUCTION FUND

	Budget 2020-21	2020-21 through October 31,	Budget 2019-20	2019-20 through October 31,
Revenues	N/A	\$4,037	N/A	\$87,301
Expenditures	N/A	\$227,715	N/A	\$2,142,411
<i>Net</i>		<i>(\$223,678)</i>		<i>(\$2,055,110)</i>
		As of October 31, 2020	As of June 30, 2020 <i>(unaudited)</i>	
Cash and Marketable Securities		\$1,758,122	\$2,258,545	
Total Assets		\$1,758,122	\$2,258,545	
Total Liabilities		\$1,122,992	\$1,365,942	
<i>Fund Balance</i>		\$635,130	\$892,603	

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Budget transfers of \$569,352.00 are enclosed for your review and approval.

BILL LIST

The Bill Lists will be presented at the November 23, 2020 board meeting for your review and approval.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
OF THE _____**

**AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION IN AND APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES
TO THE ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT JOINT PURCHASING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, savings in the cost of preparing specifications and advertising for bids for school materials, supplies, equipment and services, as well as bulk price advantages, may be obtained through joint purchasing arrangements entered into by a number of school entities in the same area; and an agreement entitled "Joint Purchasing Agreement," in a form prepared by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and as presented at this meeting, would afford the _____ (hereinafter "District/School") an opportunity, if a Participant therein, to enjoy these possible joint purchasing benefits, without being required to participate in any bidding thereunder.

THEREFORE, in order to obtain the potential advantages of joint purchasing of school materials, supplies, equipment and services,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of this District/School hereby approves said Joint Purchasing Agreement and authorizes its participation in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Program; directs that a copy thereof be filed with the minutes of this meeting as part of this Resolution; directs its Secretary to certify to the Executive Director of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit the adoption of this Resolution and the appointment of primary and alternate representatives to the Joint Purchasing Program; and directs its proper officers to execute said Agreement on behalf of this District/School.

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION AND OF APPOINTEES

I, the undersigned, _____, Secretary of District/School, certify that the foregoing is a true copy of resolution adopted by said Board at a duly advertised public meeting thereof duly held on _____, that the vote thereon was ____ in favor and ____ members against said resolution, and that a record showing each member's vote thereon is set forth in the minutes.

I further certify that said Board of School Directors designates the following representatives to the Joint Purchasing Program referred to in said Resolution (conditioned upon said Agreement becoming effective):

Primary Representative

Name:

Title:

E-mail:

Alternate Representative

Name:

Title:

E-mail:

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said District/School this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Board Secretary

Proposed 2021 Committee/Board Meeting Dates

January 11 – Committee Meeting - *Fast Track Curriculum Recommendations Presentation*

January 25 – Board Meeting

February 8 – Committee Meeting

February 22 – Board Meeting

March 8 – Committee Meeting

March 22 – Board Meeting

April 12 – Committee Meeting

April 27 -Board Meeting – TUESDAY

May 10 – Committee Meeting

May 24 – Board Meeting

June 7 – Committee Meeting – *Spring Curriculum Recommendations Presentation*

June 28 – Board Meeting – 8am

July – No meetings

August 9 – Committee Meeting – 8am

August 23 – Board Meeting

September 13 – Committee Meeting

September 28 – Board Meeting – TUESDAY

October 11 – Committee Meeting

October 25 – Board Meeting

November 8 – Committee Meeting

November 22 – Board Meeting

December 13 – Reorganization / Board Meeting

Public Comments

November 9, 2020

Submitted prior to the meeting

Via: Google Form

Pearl Sun
102 Bartley Road

My husband and I have just moved our family to Upper St Clair. One of the primary reason why we chose USC as opposed to others is due to USC's reputation for delivering quality education.

I would like to thank the school administration, their personnel (teachers, custodians, bus drivers, and support staff, etc.), and of course the school board for giving kindergarteners the chance to attend school 4 days a week. One of our children is a kindergartener.

This offering is very important for younger kids who do not yet have the discipline to conduct self-paced learning—a crucial skill in making learning online possible. Kids at this age are still in the process of being mold to love learning. Everyday afternoon, my child tells me how much fun he had at school, working hands on learning new things alongside his peers. My husband and I are thankful that our eldest is still only in kindergarten, and not a year older in which he would be in 1st grade and having only 2 days of in-person learning. I feel sorry for other kids who are older than my son. Learning is more than just seeing and hearing lectures. Instant feedback from teachers and the ability to solve problem or discuss learning material with their peers are just as important ingredients in one's education.

On October 11, the WHO now reported that strict lockdown hurts the poor even more. That is especially true with delivering education to families with lower socioeconomic status. USC has quite a diversity in socioeconomic. There are families living in million dollar houses, houses in the \$300k range, houses in the \$100k range, and families who rent here just to give their kids a good education.

Because remote learning still required constant supervision, not every family can afford to hire a private tutor. Not every family can afford to take off work and guide their children through online learning. Not every family has the space in their home to be both an office, a school, and a nursery care esp. when one's family have more than 1 child.

In addition, newly immigrant parents who moved here for quality education are struggling to help their children learn American curriculum. My immigrant neighbors are concerned for their middle schooler. He is struggling to learn on his own.

Hospitalization rate for COVID-19 among age <20 is less than 0%, (death rate is even lower). People say they worry about spreading to the grandparents. However, not every family has vulnerable grandparents living with them including my neighbors'. Every family is different and it should be up to each family to decide the best route for themselves.

My husband and I reviewed the reopening plan. It is well thought out and complies with the current mandate. The continuation of offering remote education for vulnerable families is still there.

Other adjacent school districts are transitioning to 4-day hybrid in November. I hope that the school board would vote approving the transition—a decision that >70% of USC residents want.

Siddhartha Mukherjee
385 Oaklawn Drive

Esteemed Members of the Board:

At this point - increasing the number of students in a classroom is not supported by the current infection trends. The infection rates are in an upswing and the 7 day moving average of new infections in Allegheny county is around 105 (Oct 26), which is up from 75 (around end of September). The data comes from JHU COVID tracking center (<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>).

There is no evidence that this will reduce appreciably by Nov 15 - so relaxing physical distancing criteria inside the school buildings should not happen unless there is data based evidence of new infection rate reduction.

There are numerous reports of school districts which are being forced to close their buildings for weeks and moving to online teaching because of infection spikes brought on by relaxing the physical distancing guidelines. These abrupt closures are extremely disruptive for the students and their education.

It is of critical importance that we protect our teachers, the staff, the students and their families, so staying the course in terms of your current hybrid and online instruction schedules is the most rational way forward.

Once again, I am deeply grateful for your judicious and data-informed planning for the new school year which has provided quality education with minimal disruption.

Warm regards.

Nina Sione
2222 morton

yes

Holly Connors
285 Lincoln Drive

Please keep the 2 day remote option available for school, at least until after the holidays.
Thank you!

Linda Duff
1859 Taper Dr.

I would like to thank the USC administration and School Board for their time and efforts with school planning. Our family is thankful for your work with the phased re-opening plan for the 4/5 day in- person model. Our child is in need of 5 day in-person learning for social, emotional, and academic reasons. Thank you for your time.

Pilar Fuentes
Southridge Drive

I would like to have the option for my kids to stay hybrid two days a week as COVID cases rise. I don't think we are ready for the transition into four days yet. Thank you

Dawn Mayer
124 Brookside

I FULLY SUPPORT THE REOPENING OF OUR SCHOOLS TO 5-DAYS/WEEK, ****WITH**** the option for full remote for those who are more comfortable keeping their kids home. Flexibility in this matter is crucial to help community members AND STUDENTS feel comfortable and not forced into a situation they do not agree with for MANY REASONS on BOTH sides of the fence. Let's have a WIN WIN with this decision. Thank you.

Matt Mayer
124 Brookside Blvd

I FULLY SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDED REOPENING PLAN ****WITH**** the option for remote learning for parents who choose to keep their students home.

Heather Petras
2636 Monterey Dr USC, 15241

We are in support of the administration plan to open school to in person instruction 4 days a week.

Lyn Cummins
109 Saxony Dr

I will make this brief. If it isn't broke don't fix it. There is no need to make a change now given that the numbers are going up. It would be more prudent and safer to wait and reassess just prior to or after the holidays.

Elizabeth Mayforth
1511 HASTINGS MILL RD

As a Mother and Health Care provider, I am shocked USC School District would even consider this as an acceptable option. The Covid 19 Epidemic is not going away until a vaccine is available. Please continue the hybrid approach as this appears to be the most successful attempt to manage this disease.

Ruth Rush
1133 Galaxy Circle

I believe sending the kids in 4 days a week starting November 16 is far too premature. Please consider an additional survey which includes the option of keeping the hybrid model as it is now. The option of either full remote or 4 days in person didn't give us much of a choice. We were stuck between a rock and a hard place in making such a decision. Thank you!

Samantha Lang
455 Laredo Drive

I strongly believe there should continue to be a 2 day hybrid option. With the recent rise in cases, entering cold and flu season, and colder weather approaching which will result in people spending more time together indoors, I don't feel now is a great time to decrease social distancing. I know that in person 5 day a week school is the best for our children, but with the current situation, it's simply not the safest for our children, their families, and faculty.

Haliel Selig
1643 Tiffany Ridge

I am writing this letter to the school board with a hope that you will consider all letters sent to you regarding returning to school. I feel that USC has done a fantastic job so far keeping our students, teachers and faculty safe. So much changes day to day with the state of Covid. Our kids have gotten use to the hybrid routine , it took a while but they are fully in the swing of things. All three of them are worried about returning back to school four days a week, as are we. They do feel relatively safe right now and are enjoying being able to be in school a bit. Our fear is that the children to the four day schedule during an uptick in covid cases and we will all be back to where we were last spring, completely remote. Our family is truly thinking about our entire community. The last thing I'm sure any of us would want is for our school to be fully remote, businesses closing down again and people's lives being put at risk. I worry about all of that. One last thing to consider is that the holidays are fast approaching. People will want to be with family members, traveling and opening up their circle a little bit more. I am in full favor of our kids returning to school but would encourage this board to consider doing so after the second week of January, at least. We love our school, our kids and our community. We only want the very best for everyone as I'm sure that you do as well. Thank you so much for your time.

Patricia Hogan
320 Carmell

I FULLY support the USC school district reopening plan, starting with 4 days Nov 16. This is a whole health situation - mental, emotional, as well as physical, and with the low risk to student physical health I believe mental and emotional health should be supported with in-school instruction. The kids have suffered enough. I appreciate the option for full remote for those that do not feel comfortable sending their children 4/5 days a week.

I just submitted a response but forgot to mention that I am an older resident and I do not feel concerned about the spread in our community. Our children need to be educated in the classroom

Lisa Oliva
1853 Winchester Dr

I think the school district needs to reconsider their plans on sending kids to school four days per week. In light of the increase in Covid cases in Allegheny County, my opinion is that it is safer to continue on a hybrid, two days per week, schedule. Perhaps the numbers will improve and changes can be made for the second semester.

Dianne Gilbert
2554 Corteland Drive

I support USC 5-day week. My high school aged children need in-person education. They need to be around their peers. They are not thriving under a hybrid 2 day week. My children complain of headaches staring at a computer all day followed by an extensive amount of on-line homework.

Kelly Shedleski
212 Coral Dr

I'm all for 4 days a week after winter break. I think to change it now and remove the thing proven to slow community spread physical distancing is irresponsible going into cold and flu season people reporting getting this more than once and Europe having a second huge surge. I just think as much as I need my kids to be in school For both social and care reasons it takes the safety aspect away. We see stories each day from St Louise to North Hills to Norwin, Peters and even more about possible exposure, classes being quarantined Parties and family gatherings where physical distancing is relaxed at best and we're headed into the holidays, families, gatherings, cold and flu season already where the risk of exposure or other symptomatic illnesses will already be increased naturally. Because if this, I don't fee this is the right move for families at this juncture and it should be revisited before the 3rd quarter.

Thank you

Sarah Anderson
414 Long Dr

We ask that the district remain with the 2-day hybrid option until after the holidays. We understand and appreciate the difficulties that families and children face with hybrid schooling. The current plan puts the entire student body into close contact and unable to socially distance just 10 days before Thanksgiving, a holiday that brings families together such as kids of all ages, older siblings returning from college, parents, grandparents and extended family. Students will then be returning to school after the increased risk of exposure from the holidays, putting all students and staff at a greater risk. This feels like the worst possible time to implement this plan. We ask that you delay it until after the holidays when the risk to older relatives and high risk family can be reduced. We'll all have a better sense of the severity of the current outbreak that is predicted to continue to get worse.

Our own kids definitely struggle on their remote days but we feel like it's worth it for the safety of our students, families and staff. It would be great to see the younger elementary students (K & 1st) be offered more full time options if there is an ability to social distance them.

Thank you for tackling this very difficult decision for our community, we trust you'll make the best decision possible.

Alan Hogan
320 Carmell Dr

I am a long-time USC resident. My children went through the district, and my grandchildren are currently students in three USC schools. I support the districts reopening plan to begin with 4 days on November 16. Children need to be back at school full-time for mental, emotional, and physical health. Furthermore, I have no concerns about community spread.

John rush
1133 Galaxy Cir

I'm in favor of hybrid learning (2 days in school, 3 days online) due to virus spikes that are occurring.

Kelly Shedleski
212 Coral Dr

Have we considered instead of dropping the social distancing the possibility of Looking into something like maybe it's time to consider renting trailers for additional classrooms or a ball room at a hotel or church or something like they do in disasters such as hurricanes and floods and tornados. I mean if our buildings can't convert auditorium/gyms/Lgi rooms etc to put together a safe return with the 6 feet the. Maybe This is a safer option to think about. It may not be perfect it may take some extra planning but I think if spacing is an issue this is something that should be explored especially when we are talking public health and mental health.

Thank you

Shannon Gallagher
1822 Tilton Drive

I vote yes to the reopening plan for the school district

Lori Fazio
200 FIELDGATE DR

USC Board of Schools, I am in full support of moving our kids to 4 days per week as soon as possible and support 5 days a week as well. It's important ALL begin to pay attention to the real clinical data and not to get caught up in just the "new cases" in the county. While the health and well-being of my daughter is of the utmost importance to me, I cannot continue to support remote instruction. My daughter is a student with a full schedule, not one free mod on her fall schedule, yet on any given day she has just three or four of her eight classes. It's not enough for a proper 10th grade education and to continue down this path is not acceptable. Others have spoken about the incredible impact on the mental health of our kids and how the continued isolation will have a negative effect on them. This is also a very important aspect to consider and I would urge all to take into consideration professional opinions such as the opinion of the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding a full return to in person instruction. Honestly, I could go on with data and clinical support, but I think you understand my position. The end game for me is a return to in-person instruction, full time, as soon as possible. My tax dollars are meant to support the fantastic education USC is known for and to support what my daughter and the other kids of this district deserve. Do the right thing! Best regards, Lori Fazio.

Ponny & Arne Jahn

Dear All - my husband sent comments for a previous meeting...I thought I'd take my turn, now. :)
Arne and I strongly urge the Board to vote to delay the Phase II start until the second semester, while continuing to support the 2-day Hybrid rotation as an option for all, but most especially for the high school.

There are 3 considerations for this which we would like you to consider this evening:

1) there seems to be quite a bit of confusion regarding the well-intentioned family survey(s) regarding 2 vs 4 day in person learning. Most concerning here is that apparently up to 15% of our families did not even receive the survey which in hindsight has proved to be quite important. If nothing else, perhaps a fresh 1 question survey sent out this week which asks families whether they would prefer 4-day vs the 2-day status quo is in order? It would be a shame to have gone to all the trouble of gathering community opinion if it doesn't truly represent everyone, particularly with the seriousness of this decision.

2) from a different perspective, is it possible for the district to separate the elementary, middle and high schools based on the probability that older students are far more capable of handling remote learning and therefore should have more choice here? I'm sure you are aware of the student petition which - even if you removed a generous 5% of signatures due to shenanigans - still represents a whopping 47% of the student population. These kids deserve a voice, as well, and we support their heartfelt intentions.

3) this current decision forces the hand of many families to choose either 4-day (which we feel is premature) or fully remote (which is unfortunate, as we recognize the importance of in person education). This is frustrating and we feel that there is little reason to race forward, particularly as we are wading into flu season. Why all or nothing, when the current arrangement is working quite well for so many?

We hope that a Phase II delay until January is possible.

As always, we appreciate your efforts.

All the best,

Ponny Jahn

Jennifer Kramer
3381 Brookdale Drive

Thank you for all your hard work! Please consider leaving the hybrid option to continue to enable social distancing in school - especially as people spend more time indoors vs. outdoors.

Tyler Gellasch
3332 Brookdale Drive

I encourage you, strongly, to avoid adopting any plan that would put the health and safety of the students and staff at unnecessary health risk. This limitation would include any plan that is inconsistent with CDC, state, county, or local guidelines. Most assuredly, this would include unmasked time indoors that is inconsistent with social distancing guidelines. While our daughter is currently “fully remote,” we are deeply concerned with the health and well-being of her teachers, classmates, and community members. We are also concerned with significant risks for disruption, including as a result of increased quarantines that would likely result from a premature, ill-advised reopening plan. Lastly, aside from the physical health concerns and potential negative impact on instruction, we question whether reopening despite school “best practices” and relevant guidelines may expose the USCSD to significant direct and indirect liability risks, which may not be covered by standard liability coverage. Thank you for your consideration.

Autumn Barker
225 Brookside Blvd

I wish we would stay at 2 day hybrid till the new year. Increased indoor time due to colder temps and traveling during the holidays are not a good combination to enter an almost full time in person situation. Why not wait until 14 days after winter break? It seems more prudent to be cautious in this situation. My 3 kids are concerned about their health and uneasy about 4 days.

Jake Cimarolli
Engelwood

I am a 6th grade student at Boyce and I support the districts reopening plan. I have better access to teachers when I have questions, and it's easier for me to focus when I am in school. Please pass the districts reopening plan.

Ty Cimarolli
Engelwood

I am a 7th grade student at Ft. Couch and I support the districts reopening plan. I am a solid student, but find that the virtual schooling doesn't give me enough of the attention that I need to be successful. I feel safe in school and hope you vote to pass the reopening plan.

Kim Cimarolli
Engelwood

I FULLY support the USC school district reopening plan, starting with 4 days Nov 16. This is a whole health situation - mental, emotional, as well as physical, and with the low risk to student physical health I believe mental and emotional health should be supported with in-school instruction. The kids have suffered enough. I appreciate the option for full remote for those that do not feel comfortable sending their children 4/5 days a week.

Patrick Sweeney
1750 Scarlett Dr

My family supports going back to school 5 days, ASAP. We also support the school board's plan to move to a 4 day hybrid and for the board to vote YES on 10/26.

Caylin Charrie
1709 Grey Mill

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/10/21/coronavirus-close-contact-cdc/>

I'm sure this article/new definition of 'close contact' has already been brought to your attention, but just Incase, I thought I'd share.

Again, I'm so grateful for your hard work, consideration and dedication. I'm in favor of pushing the phase change to start after the holidays. Thank you, truly.