



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, October 12, 2020 @ 7:00pm
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 October 12, 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 (in-person)
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. Holly Fisher, Nurse Curriculum Leader (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)

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

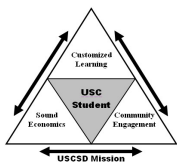
Mr. Hewitt called the meeting to order at approximately 7:18pm

Meeting Procedures (Kramer, Solicitor)

Mrs. Kramer reviewed the procedures for the meeting and public comments. She advised that multiple areas have been setup for the public to view the meeting and make comments, including the District Administration Building and the High School LGI. She explained that public comments were also submitted online via the District's Google Form and those comments would be summarized, along with the commenter's name.

Reading of the Mission:

Mrs. Bowen 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 #8 from Strategic Plan:

Mr. Mafrice read Shared Belief Statement #8 from the Strategic Plan:

We Believe that:

A safe learning environment is a right and a responsibility for all stakeholders.

Report from Student Board Representatives **Karsen Damon & R.J. Shontz** (Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools)

Karsen and R.J. gave student updates. Karsen gave updates on the Arts and Academics, including Fall Play, Band Festival, Virtual Orchestra, PSATs, clubs, tests and quizzes and more. R.J. gave updates on the various Athletics teams and Student Activities, including Student Council, National Custodian Day, Homecoming Week, Powderpuff Game, Senior Breakfasts, Spirit Week and more.

District Update & Presentation Regarding Instructional Model

(Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools / Administrative Team)

ATTACHED

Dr. Rozzo expressed his appreciation to those in attendance at the meeting and his appreciation of everyone's patience, noting that several residents (more than normal), were spaced out in District Building and High School LGI. He thanked the Administrative team who helped to create the presentation, explaining that the presentation was carefully and thoughtfully put together and included a great deal of stakeholders. He advised that there will be no vote on the Instructional Model until the October 26th Board meeting. Dr. Rozzo reviewed the agenda for the presentation, and then he, along with several members of the Administrative team, presented the presentation. Several Board members asked questions in regards to the presentation.

The presentation included a recommendation to implement a phased approach to move toward a 5-day in-person option. The phased approach includes: Phase I - 2-day hybrid in-person learning option, which ends on November 13th; Phase II - 4-day (M,T,R,F) expanded hybrid in-person learning options beginning on November 16th (maintain Wednesdays as a full remote learning day); Phase III - 5-day in-person learning option begins on January 19th. The full remote learning option will be retained through the end of the school year.

Resident's Comments - (Regarding Any Item)

ATTACHED

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, October 12, 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.

At this time, 12 people gave comments from the District Administration Building and 7 people gave comments from the LGI. Mrs. MacDonald summarized the comments submitted via the District's Google Form.

CONVENE A BOARD MEETING

(Bolas, School Board President)

Mrs. Bolas convened a Board Meeting at approximately 10:34pm

Mr. Hewitt reconvened the Committee Meeting at approximately 10:43pm

Administrator's Report

(Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools)

- a. Request Approval of Agreement with Goodwill of Southwestern PA (Transition WORKS!): Program Services for two students at \$15,564 per student (full year)**
(Doggrell, Director of Student Support Services)
(Consent Agenda)
ATTACHED

Mrs. Doggrell reviewed the Agreement with Goodwill of Southwestern PA (Transition Works!).

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

- b. Request Approval of Personnel Listings**
(Carson, Senior Director of Operations & Administrative Services)
(Consent Agenda)
ATTACHED

Mr. Carson reviewed the Personnel Listings.

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

Business & Finance

(Burchill, Director of Business & Finance)

- a. Review of Financial Statements for the Period ended September 30, 2020**
(Burchill, Director of Business & Finance)
(Consent Agenda)
ATTACHED

Review of 2019-2020 Preliminary Financial Statements
(Burchill, Director of Business & Finance)
(Consent Agenda)
ATTACHED

Mr. Burchill reviewed the Financial Statements for the period ended September 30, 2020 and the 2019-2020 Preliminary Financial Statements. Mr. Burchill advised that the Preliminary Financial Statements are unaudited, and that he will provide more details in November, as the auditors will be at the meeting to provide their independent audit report.

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

Mr. Mafrice asked Mr. Burchill about the District's current bond rating Mr. Burchill advised the current bond rating is AA. Mrs. Billerbeck asked how this rating compared to other Districts in the county. He advised that this rating is in line with other Districts of similar standing.

b. Request Approval to Re-Bid Paving Replacement, Site Signage and Electrical Improvements at the High School

(Burchill, Director of Business & Finance)
(Consent Agenda)

Mr. Burchill reviewed the request to re-bid the paving replacement, site signage and electrical improvements at the high school. He noted that this request went out to bid last winter, however due to COVID, the project was a put on-hold.

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

Committee Reports

(Hewitt, School Board Vice President)

Mrs. Bowen provided a Committee Report on the Youth Steering Committee. She advised that a virtual event will be held on Wednesday, October 14th on “Comping During the Crisis”. The virtual event will entail a presentation and question/answer; pre-registration for the event is required.

Dr. Gans provided a Committee Report on PSBA Legal Advocacy Days. She reported that PSBA held a virtual Advocacy Day, which looked at COVID related issues, including school liability and other related topics.

Matters of Information - Superintendent & Administration

(Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools)

a. Student Enrollment Update

(Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools / Pfender, Assistant to the Superintendent)

ATTACHED

Dr. Rozzo and Mrs. Pfender gave an update on 2020-2021 Enrollment. They reported that overall the District enrollment is stable at 4,035 total students and reviewed the class sizes and numbers.

Mrs. Petersen asked if a student is enrolled in a homeschool program, can they come back to school at any time. Mrs. Pfender advised that homeschool enrollment is similar to private school enrollment, and a student can return to public school at any time.

b. Gathering Limits

(Carson, Senior Director of Operations & Administrative Services)

ATTACHED

Mr. Carson gave an update on the Gathering Limits. He advised that under Governor’s Wolf’s Administration guidance, the District can be at 20% of full capacity for the high school stadium and big gym. However, the District will also add 6 feet of social distancing to the 20% of capacity, so it will be less than 20% of full capacity. He also gave an update on live-streaming and advised that this

past week, our live streaming went global, with viewers from 31 states and 4 countries. Dr. Rozzo commented that the District will continue to live-stream events in the future, and that it is a great way to connect the community and alumni to the District.

- c. Recognition of Gifts to Schools, Awards and Scholarships for 2019-2020**
(Burchill, Director of Business & Finance)
ATTACHED

Mr. Burchill reviewed the list of donors for the Gifts to Schools, Awards and Scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year. He thanked all of those who contributed to the District in 2019-2020.

- d. Report regarding Halls of Fame**
(Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools)

Dr. Rozzo reported on the Halls of Fame. He advised that the District would be delaying this year's Halls of Fame and that next year the District would be inducting 2 Halls of Fame Classes. He noted this is a great event and he looks forward to holding it again next year.

- e. Administrative Updates & Presentations**
(Rozzo, Superintendent of Schools)

Dr. Rozzo advised that in November, Administrative updates and Administrator presentations will return. He explained that Administrative updates will provide an opportunity to hear from the various Departments and that during the voting meeting the presentations will take place. He noted that both the updates and presentations are valuable to the public and the Board.

Announcement Regarding Executive Session (Hewitt, School Board Vice President)

- a.** Mr. Hewitt advised that Executive Session was held on October 9, 2020 at 8:00am for Personnel, Safety & Security, Legal and Student Matters

Mrs. Petersen asked Dr. Rozzo to thank the Administration for the presentation. She noted that it was thorough and answered many community questions and concerns. Mrs. Bolas echoed Mrs. Petersen's comment.

It was announced that a brief executive session would be held after the meeting.

Adjournment (Hewitt, School Board Vice President)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:11pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah MacDonald
BOARD STENOGRAPHER

Delivering the USC Experience
In-Person AND at Home

Recommendations for USCSD Instructional Delivery Model *2020/2021*



Agenda

- I. Goals for Educational Planning
- II. Recommendation for a Phased Approach
 - A. Discuss Recommended Changes to In-Person Learning
 - B. Maintain Remote Option Through Remainder of 20/21 School-Year
 - C. Share the Key Changes
- III. Key Factors in Our Decision-Making
 - A. Impact of COVID-19 Beyond Physical Health
 - B. Local COVID-19 Data (ACHD)
 - C. Updated Guidelines from County & State
 - D. Parent Survey Data
- IV. Updates From Reopening Teams
 - A. Health & Safety
 - B. Facilities
 - C. Instruction
- V. Timeline & Next Steps
 - A. Parent Commitment

Our Goals

Primary Goal

To deliver a USCSD quality educational experience to all USC families, in-school and at home, in a way that minimizes exposure and disruption to the greatest extent possible.

Key Components

- Safe schools for students and staff
- Choice for families
- High-quality education (in-school or remote) with opportunity to transition seamlessly
- Emphasis on social-emotional well-being

We are committed to a full-return as soon as conditions permit, and will continue to provide the option to remain fully remote.

*****We will monitor and adjust on a weekly basis.*****

Delivering the USC Experience
In-Person AND at Home

Phased Approach:

Recommendations for the Remainder of 20/21



Our Recommendation

Implement phase approach to move toward 5-day in-person option

1. Phase I: 2-day hybrid in-person learning option ends on Nov. 13
2. Phase II: 4-day (M,T,R,F) expanded hybrid in-person learning option begins on Nov. 16
 - a. Maintain Wednesday as a full remote learning day
3. Phase III: 5-day in-person learning option begins on Jan. 19

****Retain full remote learning option through end of the school-year.****

Key Points:

- We will be asking for a commitment for Phase II in the coming weeks
- Key details and goals for updates will be shared, but commitment #s will determine what is feasible
- All changes for Phases II and III will be contingent upon changing, present conditions

In-Person Learning Schedules by Phase

Schedules by Phase In ALL phases, remote option will be made available!					
	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Phase I (2-day schedule) SOY-Nov. 13	In School	In School	Remote	Remote	Remote
Phase II (4-day schedule) Nov. 16-Jan. 15	In School	In School	Remote	In School	In School
Phase III (5-day schedule) Jan. 19 - EOY	In School	In School	In School	In School	In School

What Will be Different in Phases II & III?

Key Differences

- There will be a reduction in physical distancing for students to less than six feet in most instructional spaces, but excluding cafeterias and other areas where students may be eating
 - We will maintain the greatest distance possible depending on class size and composition...estimated range 3-6 feet
 - Staff desks must always remain at 6-feet distancing minimum from student desks
- Mitigation continues to be layered
 - No in-class mask breaks during classes
 - Mask breaks will be provided with 6 feet of physical distance
 - Opportunities will exist throughout the school day, but not in classrooms
- Buses will have more students
 - Masking and cleaning will remain in place
- Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) no longer likely to require the quarantining of entire classrooms
- **Asking for a 9-week commitment (if selecting remote)**
 - **If selecting remote, you cannot move to in-person during Phase II (2nd nine-weeks)**
 - **If selecting in-person, you can move to remote at any time**

Transitioning to Four Days In-Person

Safety of Students and Staff

- 20% less contact
- Ongoing monitoring of the virus for an additional 9-weeks
- Updating of safety plan

Educational Considerations

- Allowing for development and implementation of a bifurcated full-remote and full-return teaching model
- Adjusting staff and student schedules
- Minimizing disruption for students and teachers during marking periods
- Retaining capability to transfer to remote temporarily if quarantine need arises

Operational Needs

- Updating transportation routes
- Considering all staffing implications
- Collaborating w/ labor groups
- Preparing facilities (furniture, food services)

Delivering the USC Experience
In-Person AND at Home

Decision Making Criteria:

Recommendations for the Remainder of 20/21



Consulting with Professionals

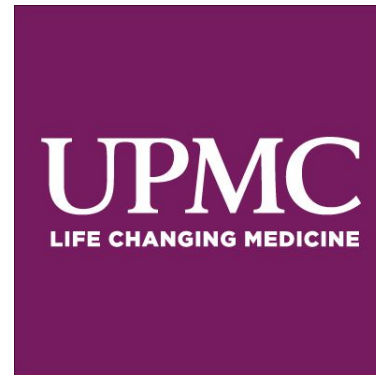
Allegheny County Health Department Contacts:

- Ms. LuAnn Brink, Chief Epidemiologist
- Ms. Andrea Collins, Epidemiologist



School Physician:

- School Physician: Dr. Thaniat Syed, UPMC
 - Board Certified in Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine



Key Factors *in August* for Hybrid Model

Full In-Person Return / Full Remote Options:

- Insufficient capacity to space students 6 feet apart
- If a student becomes a positive case, the majority of the class and potentially the teacher would need to be quarantined for 14 days
- Students could not remove their masks while seated and working

Hybrid (In-Person / Remote) and Full Remote Options:

- Capacity to space students 6 feet apart
- Additional opportunities for mask breaks while in class
- Significant reduction in learning disruptions due to quarantine

Key Factors *in October for Phased Update*

1. We need to balance mental health & academic needs with the impact of the pandemic.
2. Local data supports lower case counts in schools.
3. The PA Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department have updated some processes.
4. Parent survey data consistently supports increasing in-person learning.

Factor #1

We need to balance mental health & academic needs with the impact of the pandemic.



Mental Health Considerations

- Internally, we have seen an increase in mental health needs reported to counseling since the outset of the pandemic
- Continued stress has manifested as symptoms of distress in some children: disturbed sleep, fearfulness, separation intolerance, inattention, agitation, somatic complaints
- Situation of prolonged isolation may have exacerbated pre-existing mental health concerns and those whose access to mental health care has been limited
- Familial stress has increased
- Protective factors such as peer relationships, access to preventative services at school, and connection with caring adults have been significantly reduced since March

Source:

Singh, S., Roy, D., Sinha, K., Parveen, S., Sharma, G., & Joshi, G. (2020). Impact of COVID-19 and lockdown on mental health of children and adolescents: A narrative review with recommendations. *Psychiatry research*, 293, 113429. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2020.113429>

Key Factor #1

We need to balance mental health & academic needs with the impact of the pandemic.

Academic Needs

- While we continue to bolster our remote capabilities, we know:
 - In-person learning is superior to online learning for the majority of students
 - Academic regression is a national concern
 - USC students have not been in school full-time for seven months

Key Factor #1

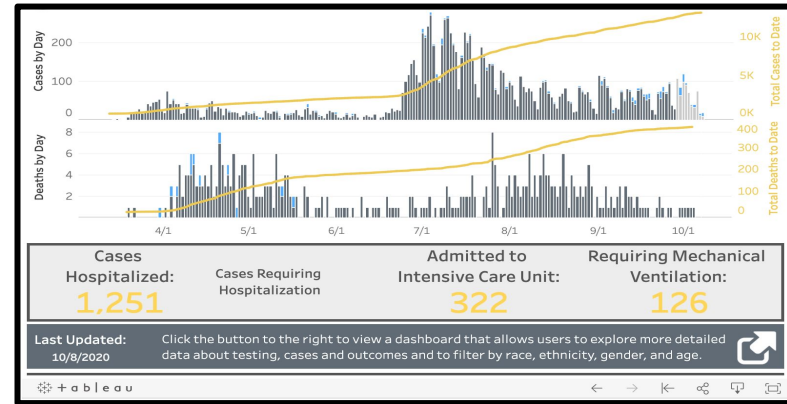
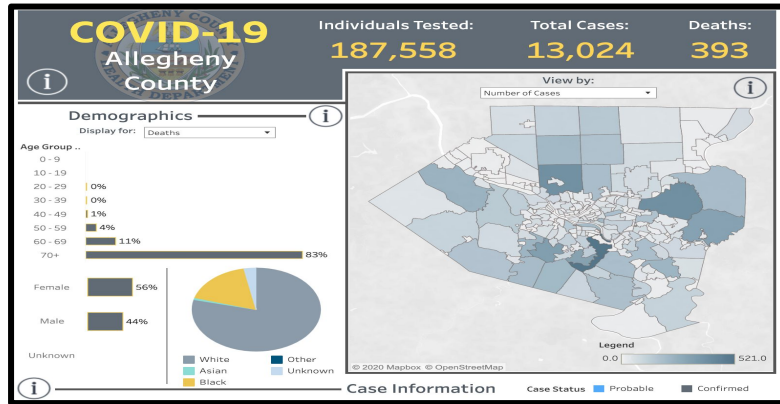
We need to balance mental health & academic needs with the impact of the pandemic.

Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.



Allegheny County COVID-19 #s



SCHOOL-RELATED CASES

- Local data indicates that the spread of the virus within schools that have returned is relatively low:
 - o ACHD reports a low spread of the virus in schools and sports
- Majority of school-related cases are due to adults not following protocol

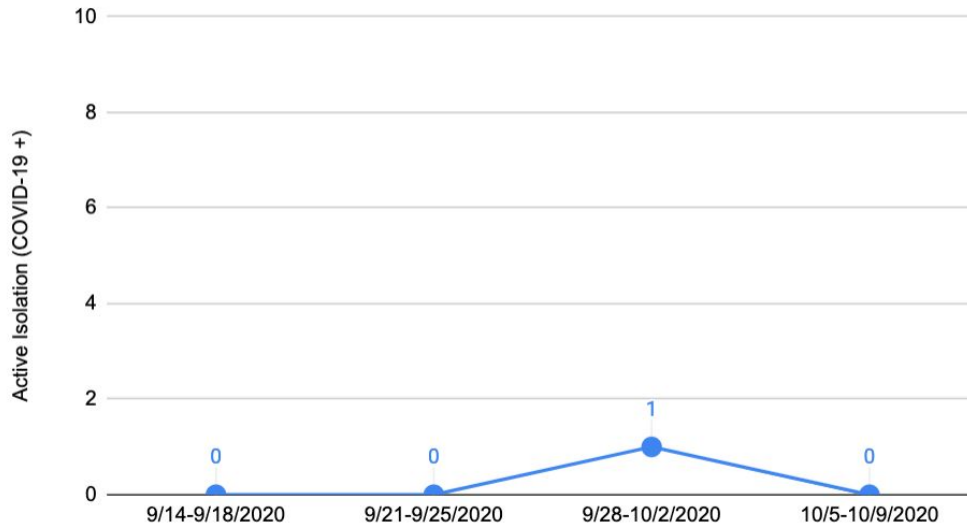
Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.

COVID-19 Total Cases in USCSD

Sept. 8, 2020 - Oct. 9, 2020

Active Isolation (COVID-19 +)



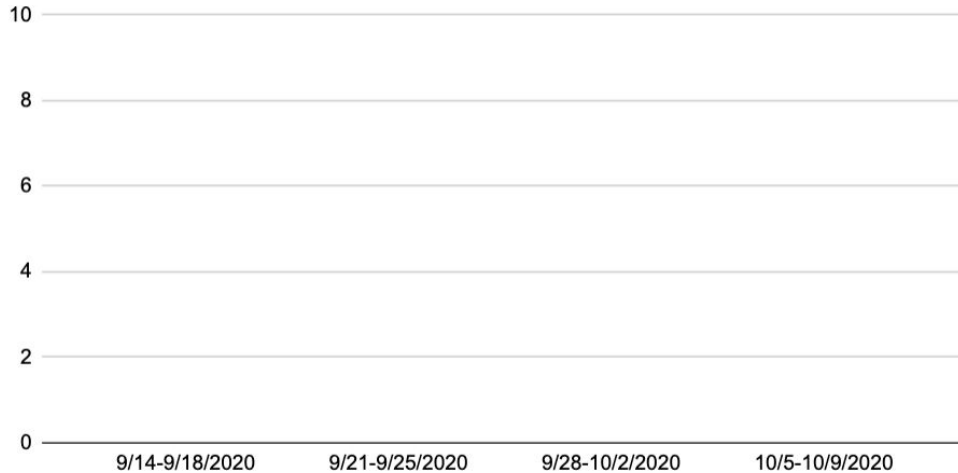
Zero COVID+ individuals have entered a USCSD school as of 10/9/20.

Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.

COVID-19 Quarantines due to Close Contact in USCSD Sept. 8, 2020 - Oct. 9, 2020

Total Quarantine Due to In-School Close Contact w/ Covid+



Total Quarantine Due to In-School Close Contact

***Zero individuals
have been
quarantined as a
result of school-
related COVID +
close contacts as of
10/9/20.***

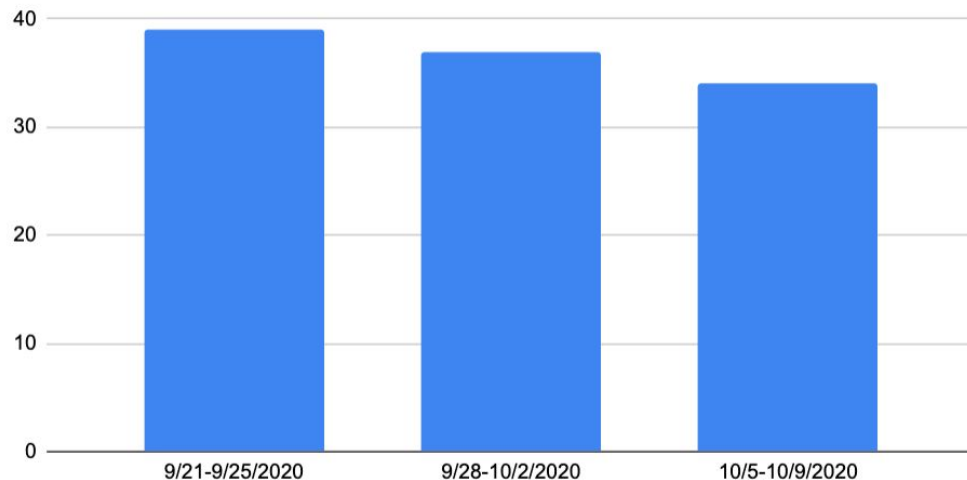
Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.

Absence Due to Health Screening in USCSd

Sept. 8, 2020 - Oct. 9, 2020

Weekly # of Individuals Missing School Due to Screener Results



Weekly # of Individuals Missing School Due to Screener Results

Individuals are following the health screening guidelines.

Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.

FAQ: What is the process for opening or closing?

- Communicate with families regarding positive cases and closures in a timely manner and as directed by the Allegheny County Health Department
- Recommendation from Pennsylvania Department of Education for responding to positive cases in schools:

“When a case of COVID-19 is identified in a school setting, public health staff from DOH or the County or Municipal Health Department (CMHD) will work with school administrators to provide guidance and advice related to cleaning and disinfecting, contact tracing and quarantine recommendations, and closing certain areas of the school or the entire school building if necessary. When an entire school is recommended to close, lengths of closure time will vary by level of community transmission and number of cases.”

Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.

FAQ: When will communications be sent for COVID-19 + cases?

Communications will be sent when...

- A person is considered to be a close contact (an additional communication)
- Positive cases occur in school building or while attending school activities **during the infectious period**

For privacy purposes, communications will NOT be sent when...

- Positive cases occur outside of school settings that did not affect others through school-related contact
- Positive cases in which individuals were not in school during infectious period

Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.

Key Factor #3

The PA Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department have updated some processes.



Gathering Limits Update

Allegheny County Gathering Limits

- July 17, 2020 - Order
 - Limited to 25 students in a classroom and other indoor instructional spaces
- September 24, 2020 - Order lifted
 - No indoor limits other than state gathering limits, which do not apply to instructional spaces

Pennsylvania Gathering Limit Guidelines

Maximum Occupancy	Allowable Indoor Rate
0-2,000 people	20% of Maximum Occupancy
2,001 - 10,000 people	15% of Maximum Occupancy
Over 10,000 people	10% of Maximum Occupancy up to 3,750 people

Maximum Occupancy Calculator for outdoor events:

Maximum Occupancy	Allowable Outdoor Rate
0-2,000 people	25% of Maximum Occupancy
2,001 - 10,000 people	20% of Maximum Occupancy
Over 10,000 people	15% of Maximum Occupancy up to 7,500 people

Key Factor #3

The PA Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department have updated some processes.

Updates from ACHD

- Locally, there has been a very low spread of the virus *in schools*
- According to ACHD, a temporary school closure would be necessary in the event of multiple students or staff members who have transmitted the virus while in school or during school sponsored activities
- The district will continue to work with ACHD to receive appropriate guidance and recommendations on any necessary changes to instructional models as increased in-person instructional days are implemented
- ACHD has now reported that quarantining entire classrooms may not be necessary if some students are seated less than 6-feet apart

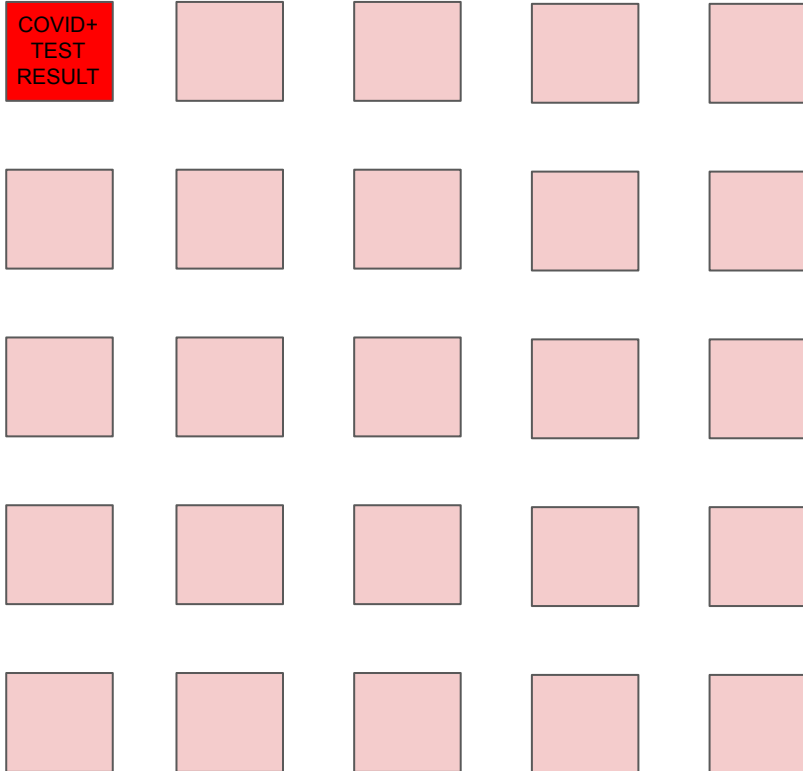
Key Factor #3

The PA Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department have updated some processes.

ACHD Changing Classroom Quarantining Process

August 2020

If desks were under 6 feet apart, full class quarantining was expected due to a single positive case, including the teacher.

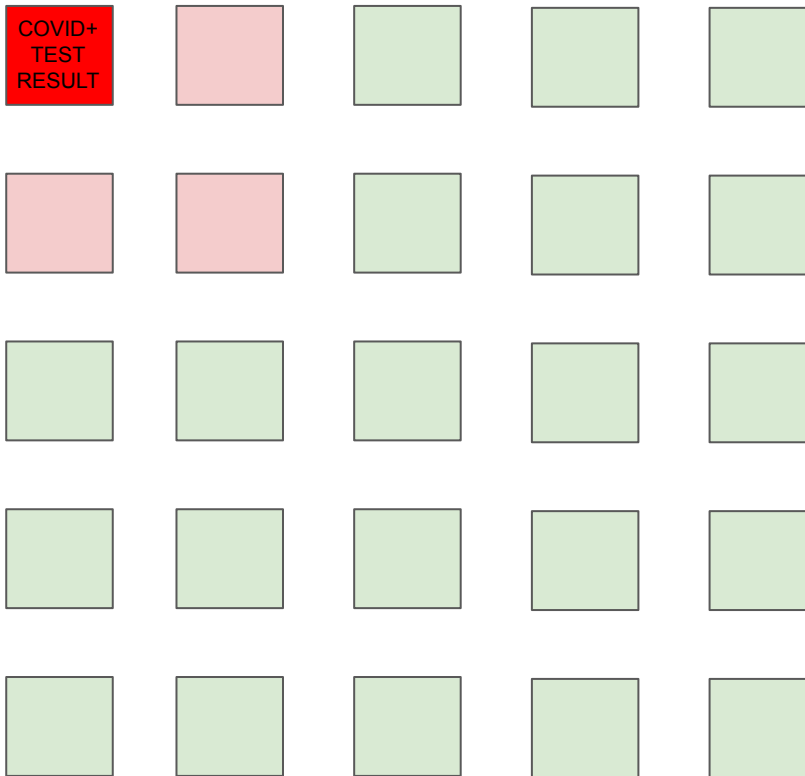


ACHD Changing Classroom Quarantining Process

EXAMPLE: Scenario 1

October 2020

*If desks under 6 feet apart, only contacts at under 6 feet will be required to quarantine.
(If staff follows protocol, they will not be quarantined.)*

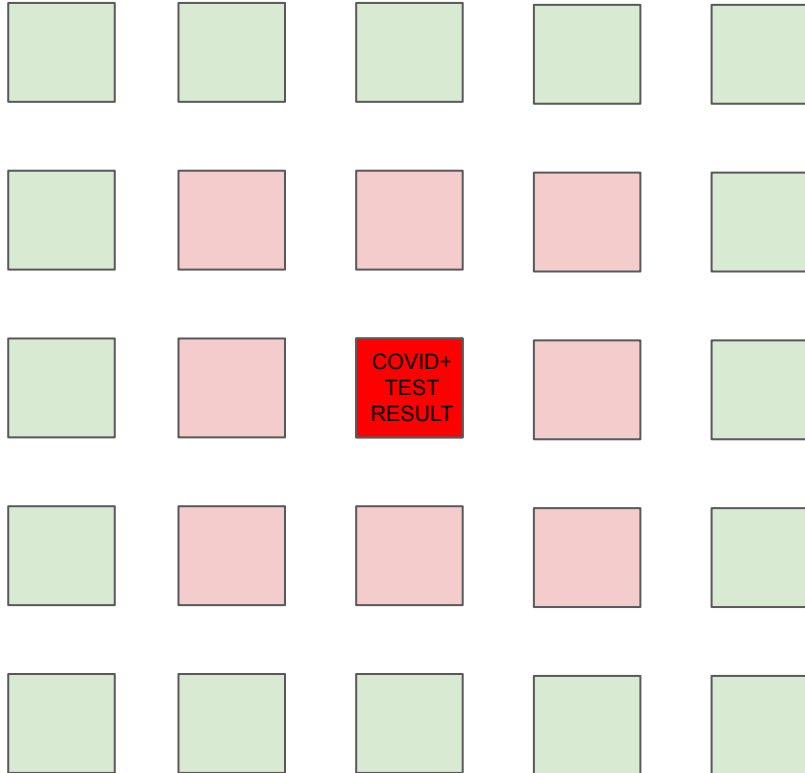


ACHD Changing Classroom Quarantining Process

EXAMPLE: Scenario 2

October 2020

*If desks under 6 feet apart, only contacts at under 6 feet will be required to quarantine.
(If staff follows protocol, they will not be quarantined.)*



Key Factor #4

Parent survey data consistently supports increasing in-person learning.



Purpose of October Survey to Families

Purpose

- Measure families' interest in an increase to in-person learning (or preference to learn remotely)
 - Informed in survey of anticipated changes to be made related to physical distancing and mask breaks
- Gauge # of students we can expect to return to school if we switch our hybrid choice from 2-days/week to 4/5 days/week
- Identify transportation impact of a potential change to 4/5 days/week

Key Factor #4

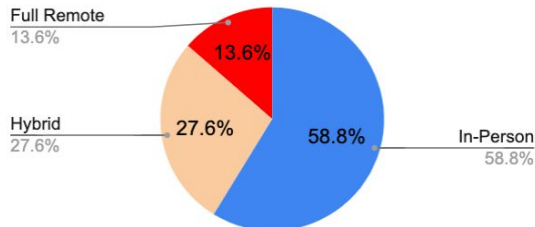
Parent survey data consistently supports increasing in-person learning.

October Survey Data

October Survey: Preference

Preference	raw #	% of submitted	% of possible
In-Person	2016	58.76%	50.25%
Hybrid	948	27.63%	23.63%
Full Remote	467	13.61%	11.64%

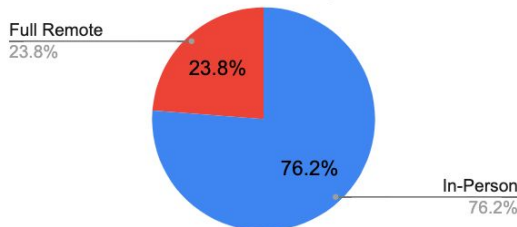
October "Preference"



October Survey: If 4/5 Days

If 4 or 5 Days	raw #	% of submitted	% of possible
In-Person	2616	76.22%	65.20%
Full Remote	816	23.78%	20.34%

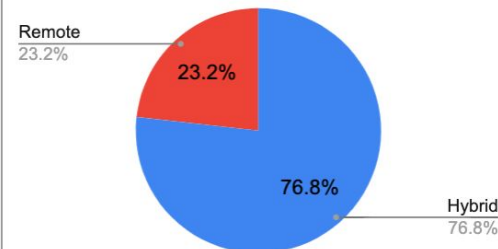
October Choice if 4/5 Days in Person



October 2020 Enrollment

Current Hybrid vs. Remote	Actual #s
Hybrid	3078
Remote	931

Current Hybrid vs. Remote #s



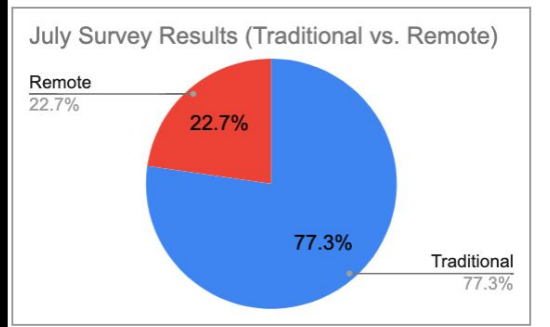
Key Factor #4

Parent survey data consistently supports increasing in-person learning.

Consistent Feedback

July 2020 Survey

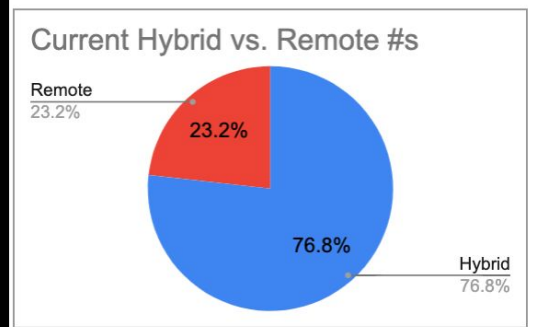
July Family Survey (Traditional vs. Remote)	
Traditional	77.28%
Remote	22.72%



81.9% response rate

October 2020 Enrollment

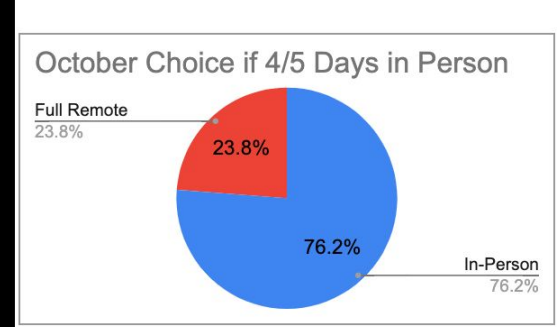
Current Hybrid vs. Remote	Actual #s
Hybrid	3078
Remote	931



100% actual #s

October 2020 Survey

If 4 or 5 Days	raw #	% of submitted	% of possible
In-Person	2616	76.22%	65.20%
Full Remote	816	23.78%	20.34%



85.5% response rate

Key Factor #4

Parent survey data consistently supports increasing in-person learning

Delivering the USC Experience
In-Person AND at Home

Phase II & III: *Health & Safety Updates*



On-Going Mitigation Strategies

- Requiring daily health checks for staff and students
- Requiring quarantine after travel to high-risk areas
- Requiring “Return to School” process for any exposed/symptomatic individuals
- Collaborating with ACHD
- Using desk dividers
- Focusing on hand hygiene
- Ensuring high-frequency cleaning
- Emphasizing strategic movement of students in buildings
- Maintaining at least 6 feet distancing for students while eating
- Planning carefully for any events/activities

Updating Mitigation Strategies

- Eliminating mask breaks within classrooms (Will be conducted periodically in an alternate setting)
- Encouraging consistent seating charts by cohort when changing classrooms
- Articulating clear communication plan
- Spacing students as far apart as possible, but will likely be seated < 6 feet apart in classrooms and on buses
- Reinforcing staff mitigation efforts on an ongoing basis to prevent staff-to-staff transmission (most identified spread in schools is occurring in staff eating/common areas, per ACHD)

Delivering the USC Experience
In-Person AND at Home

Phase II & III: *Facilities Updates*





Social Distancing - Cafeteria
will remain at 6-feet in all eating areas



Tri-fold desk dividers



Plexiglass sneeze guards

Mitigation Strategies: Facilities

- Changing custodial shifts to support health plan and education schedule
- Utilizing quick drying disinfectant
- Replacing current hand sanitizers and soap dispensers with touchless equipment; Increasing the number of mobile hand sanitizer stations
- Installing hand sanitizers at building entrances, conference rooms, nutrition centers, and large group areas
- Building and installing plexiglass sneeze guards in offices and other high traffic areas where social distancing may be challenging
- Installing an adhesive covering on every other urinal select water fountains, and hand dryers

NEW

Providing auxiliary custodial support during second shift.



Mitigation Strategies: Ventilation

- Maintaining outside air mixtures to meet or go beyond ASHRAE standards
- Maintaining air exchange rates to meet or go beyond ASHRAE standards
- Maintaining use of high grade air filters with frequent filter changes

NEW

- Clean evaporator coils
- Run exhaust fans continuously to pull air out of the buildings



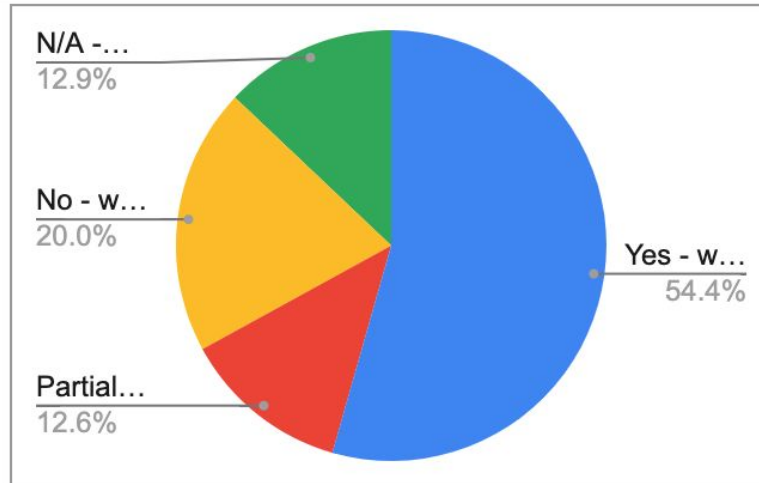
Mitigation Strategies: Signage

- *Reinforcing and utilizing CDC signage and other messages as a mitigation strategy*



Survey Data: Planned Source of Transportation

Transportation	raw #	% of submitted	% of possible
Yes - we will primarily use district transportation	1859	54.40%	46.34%
Partial - we will self-transport at one time of day	431	12.61%	10.74%
No - we will primarily drive our child(ren) to scho	685	20.05%	17.07%
N/A - my child(ren) will be in the full remote prog	442	12.94%	11.02%



~3,400
Students
Represented

Mitigation Strategies: Transportation

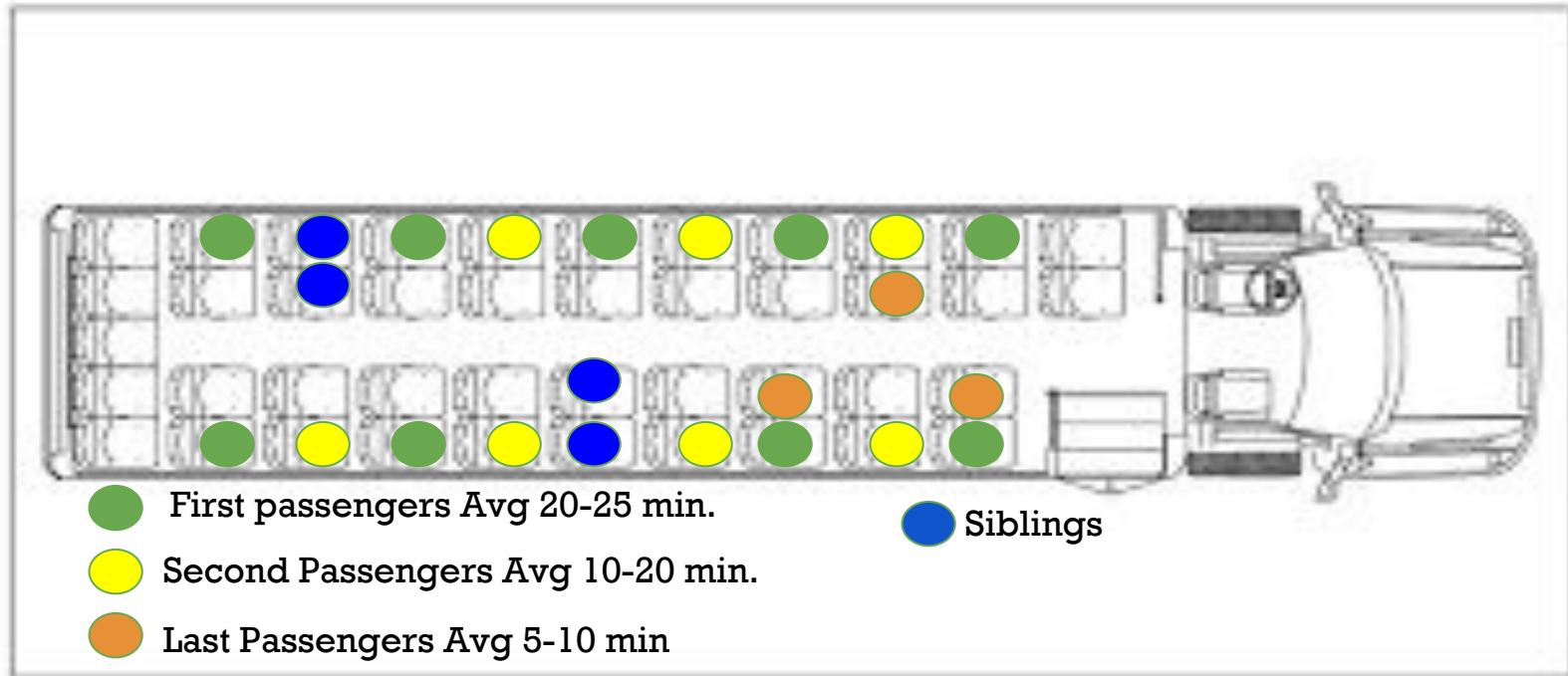
- Drivers and attendants will wear masks and potentially face shields
- All students will wear masks to and from school
- Weather permitting, roof hatches and windows will be opened to provide fresh air
- Drivers and custodians will clean the interior of the bus between bus routes/runs while no students are on board
- Student bus passes (allowing students to ride on a different bus) are prohibited unless emergency situation is approved by building administration
- Students (except kindergarten students) will load from back to front and unload front to back



NEW

- HS Juniors will no longer drive.
- Open windows and hatches will be dependent upon temperatures above 40 degrees.
- We will need to re-examine traffic patterns.

Example Bus Loading Procedures



Delivering the USC Experience
In-Person AND at Home

Phase II & III: *Instructional Updates*



Phase II Updates to In-Person & Remote Offerings

- Increase hybrid in-person learning option to 4-days while continuing:
 - Full remote learning practices (will include robust synchronous and asynchronous instruction)
 - Similar in-person instructional approaches and schedules to 2-day model
 - Remote Wednesday schedule for in-person and remote learners
- Modifications being considered:
 - Adjusting schedules to ensure adherence to mitigation strategies regarding lunch & hallway traffic
 - Evaluating potential for separate remote sections where possible
 - Continuing development of parent resources to support monitoring of student learning

In-Person Learning Schedules by Phase

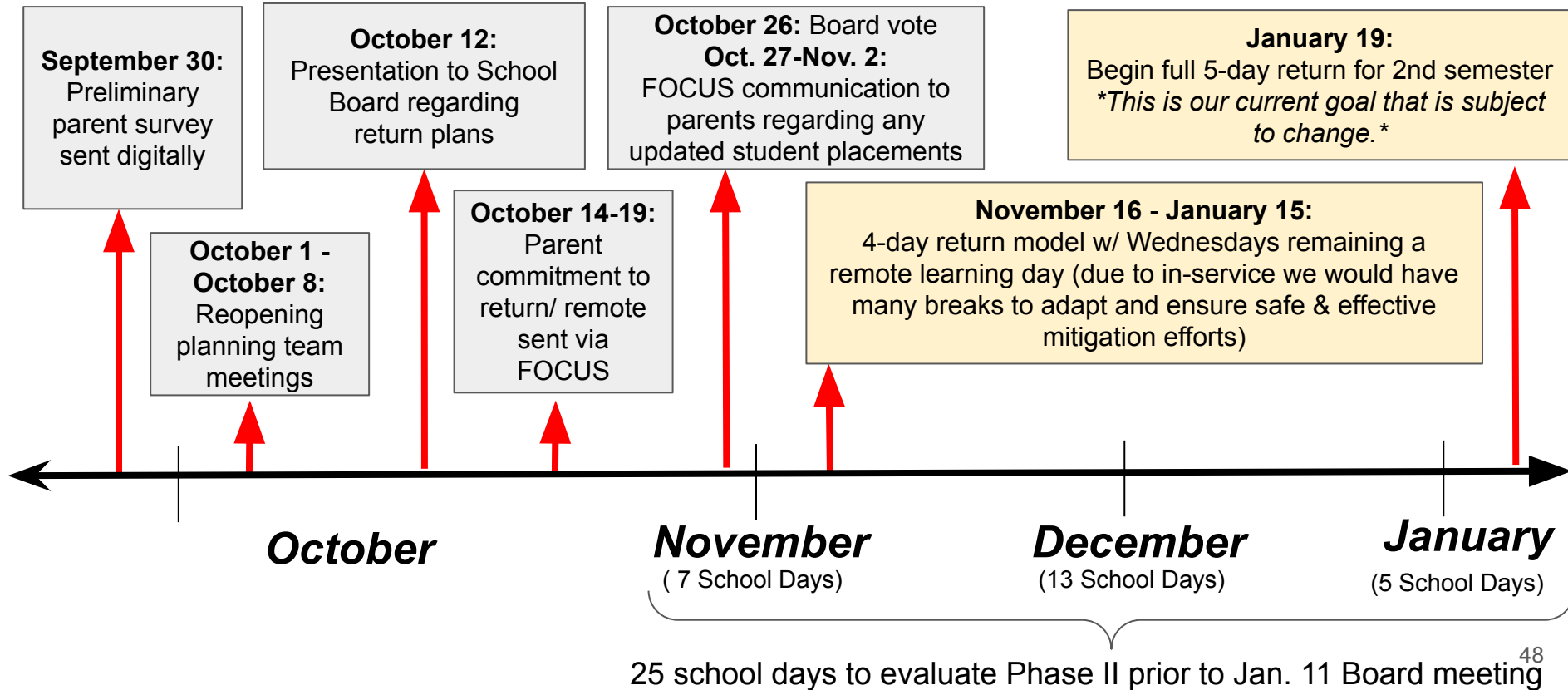
Schedules by Phase In ALL phases, remote option will be made available!					
	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Phase I (2-day schedule) SOY-Nov. 13	In School	In School	Remote	Remote	Remote
Phase II (4-day schedule) Nov. 16-Jan. 15	In School	In School	Remote	In School	In School
Phase III (5-day schedule) Jan. 19 - EOY	In School	In School	In School	In School	In School

Delivering the USC Experience
In-Person AND at Home

Phase II and III: *Timeline for Implementation*



Timeline for Change



Final Parent Survey

Tool Used:

Focus

Purpose:

Firm Commitment to Full Remote or 4-day
Return for 2nd nine weeks (through Jan. 15 2021)

Timeline for Completion:

Sent Wed. Oct. 14, due Sun. Oct. 19

Questions:

4-days in-person or full-time remote?
Using District transportation?



Information related to the two options will be sent home, including:

- Recording of Board presentation
- Updated Q&A on District website

Our Goals

Primary Goal

To deliver a USCSD quality educational experience to all USC families, in-school and at home, in a way that minimizes exposure and disruption to the greatest extent possible.

Key Components

- Safe schools for students and staff
- Choice for families
- High-quality education (in-school or remote) w/ opportunity to transition seamlessly
- Emphasis on social-emotional well-being

We are committed to a full-return as soon as conditions permit, and will continue to provide the option to remain fully remote.

*****We will monitor and adjust on a weekly basis.*****

Questions?





Memo

To: Dr. John Rozzo, USC Board Members
From: Ms. Cassandra Doggrell
Date: October 12, 2020
RE: **Special Education and Student Support Services Agreement/Contract**

I request approval of the following agreement/contract for the **2020-2021 school year**:

1. Goodwill of Southwestern PA (Transition WORKS!): Program services for two students at \$15,564 per student (full year)
 - a. Program participation supports transition skill development and employment opportunities. Provides students with workforce readiness skills training.

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

Personnel List**Committee Meeting****October 12, 2020****ELECTION**

Staff Name	Location	New Assignment	New Assignment Status	Effective Date
Kelly, Nicole	Fort Couch	Assistant Coach - Girls Volleyball	ECA	8-31-20 through 10-25-21

CHANGE OF STATUS

Staff Name	Location	Current Assignment	Current Assignment Status	New Assignment	New Assignment Status	Effective Date
Chavez, Mikaela	Bus Garage	Bus Attendant	PT	Leave	Leave	10-06-20
Collins, Louise	Baker	Nutrition Center General Worker (High School)	PT	Nutrition Center Supervisor	FT	09-01-20
DeCroo, Jennifer	Eisenhower	1.0 Teacher (Special Ed)	FT	Leave	Leave	Return to Work 11-2-20
Lemon, Erin	Ft. Couch	1.0 French Teacher	FT	Leave	Leave	2nd semester (Beginning 01-25-2021)
Gray, Michael	High School	ECA	ECA	Volunteer	Volunteer	03-03-20

REAPPOINTMENT

Staff Name	Location	Current Assignment	Current Assignment Status	Effective Date
Fox, Paul	Ft. Couch	Marching Band - Announcer	ECA	09-11-20 through 10-23-20

RESIGNATION

Staff Name	Location	Current Assignment	Current Assignment Status	Effective Date
Hughes, Emily	Ft. Couch	Annual Weekly Substitute (AWS) Teacher	Substitute	10-01-20
Smith, Jessica	Ft. Couch	Annual Weekly Substitute (AWS) Teacher	Substitute	09-30-20
Wismer, Caitlin	Substitute	Substitute Certified Teacher	Substitute	05-30-19



Customizing Learning,
Nurturing Potential...
Delivering Excellence

Memo

To: Dr. John Rozzo, USC Board Members

From: Scott P. Burchill *SPB*

Date: October 12, 2020

RE: FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 (PRELIMINARY AND UNAUDITED)

Financial statements for the General Fund, Capital Reserve Fund and Construction Fund for the period ended September 30, 2020 are enclosed for your review. The first Cafeteria Fund report will be presented in November for the period ending September 30, 2020. The reports reflect the realized revenues and expenses incurred from July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020. Of note, the General Fund revenue is ahead last year on a percentage basis. Earned income tax and real estate tax are higher on a percentage basis than 2019-20.

GENERAL FUND

	2020-21	2020-21 through September 30, 2020		2019-20	2019-20 through September 30, 2019	
<i>(in millions of dollars)</i>	Budgeted	Actual	% of Budget	Budgeted	Actual	% of Budget
Current Real Estate Revenues	\$59.53	\$54.75	92%	\$57.29	\$51.95	91%
EIT	\$5.67	\$0.76	13%	\$5.67	\$0.46	8%
All Other Local Revenues	\$3.53	\$0.95	27%	\$4.17	\$0.82	20%
State Revenues	\$18.33	\$4.00	22%	\$18.10	\$4.26	24%
Federal Revenues	\$0.48	\$0.00	0%	\$0.38	\$0.01	3%
All Other	\$0.00	\$0.01	0%	\$0.03	\$0.00	0%
Total Revenues	\$87.540	\$60.47	69%	\$85.640	\$57.50	67%
Expenditures	\$87.800	\$19.18	22%	\$85.640	\$16.91	20%
Revenues less Expenditures	<i>(\$0.260)</i>	\$41.29		\$0.000	\$40.59	
Balance Sheet						
	As of September 30, 2020	As of June 30, 2020 <i>(unaudited)</i>				
Cash and Marketable Securities	\$52,423,973	\$17,766,352				
Total Assets	\$55,678,458	\$22,130,623				
Total Liabilities	\$4,916,274	\$12,508,084				
Nonspendable Reserves	\$0	\$208,959				
Adjustment to Fund Balance	\$41,348,603	\$371,652				
Fund Balance	\$9,413,581	\$9,041,928				

CAFETERIA FUND

Review of the contract with Aramark for 2019-20

A guarantee of \$75,525 profit was made as part of the contract with Aramark Food Services for the 2019-20 school year. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, only 128 school lunch days were held in person. Therefore, an estimated profit had to be calculated to compare with the profit guarantee made by Aramark. Below are some of the highlights made to project income.

1. 183 service days (only had 128 by the time everything shut down)
2. Meal growth consistent with what we had seen from the full months of September through February
 - Assumed a small annual lift in meals that comes from March-May.
 - From September-February, we were up 182 meals on average per day.
3. No catering or special event sales for closed months
 - This lowered revenue per meal by \$0.10 cents per meal on average in April-June from \$3.49 average down to \$3.39
4. Food cost with slight improvement over prior year \$1.12 vs. \$1.13
5. Full client labor per the contract
6. Full Aramark labor

Overall, if the Food Service Department had a “normal” year, based on the above assumptions, there would have been a client surplus of \$95,400. This result is primarily due to the growth of meals and lower food cost. Revenue per meal increase in 2019-20, and based on historical data, would have continued through the spring. The key difference between the projected return and the actual bottom line is the House Bill requiring school districts to continue to pay all employees through the end of the school year.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

	Budget 2020-21	2020-21 through September 30, 2020	Budget 2019-20	2019-20 through September 30, 2019
Revenues	\$270,000	\$267,016	\$267,000	\$268,451
Expenditures	\$305,000	\$175,335	\$395,442	\$230,673
Net	(\$35,000)	\$91,681	(\$128,442)	\$37,778

	As of September 30, 2020	As of June 30, 2020 (unaudited)		
Cash and Marketable Securities	\$214,398	\$176,872		
Total Assets	\$214,398	\$176,872		
Total Liabilities	\$21,847	\$25,225		
Total Reserves	\$192,551	\$151,647		

CONSTRUCTION FUND

	Budget 2020-21	2019-20 through September 30, 2020	Budget 2019-20	2018-19 through September 30, 2019
Revenues	N/A	\$3,962	N/A	\$68,775
Expenditures	N/A	\$203,871	N/A	\$1,962,198
<i>Net</i>		<i>(\$199,909)</i>		<i>(\$1,893,423)</i>
		As of September 30, 2020	As of June 30, 2020 <i>(unaudited)</i>	
Cash and Marketable Securities		\$1,781,892	\$2,258,545	
Total Assets		\$1,781,892	\$2,258,545	
Total Liabilities		\$1,122,992	\$1,365,942	
<i>Fund Balance</i>		\$658,900	\$892,603	

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Budget transfers of \$67,640.33 are enclosed for your review and approval.

BILL LIST

The Bill Lists will be presented at the October 26, 2020 board meeting for your review and approval.



Customizing Learning,
Nurturing Potential...
Delivering Excellence

Memo

To: Dr. John Rozzo, USC Board Members

From: Scott P. Burchill *SPB*

Date: October 12, 2020

RE: **PRELIMINARY GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2020 (UNAUDITED)**

A preliminary summary of the financial statements for 2019-20 are summarized below for your review. The summary is a broad look at the estimated financial results for last school year. A draft of the audited financial statements will be distributed to the Board for review at the November board meeting.

GENERAL FUND REVENUES

ACCT	FUND 10 TITLE	2019-20 (Unaudited)			COMMENTS
		CURRENT YEAR BUDGET	CURRENT YEAR REVENUE	CURRENT YEAR BALANCE	
R6000	LOCAL REVENUES	\$67,130,450	\$67,153,329	\$22,879	Real Estate and Real Estate transfer exceeded the budget, EIT lower than budget
R7000	STATE REVENUES	\$18,105,651	\$17,949,966	(\$155,685)	Decrease in Social Security State Subsidy due to the COVID 19 Pandemic
R8000	FEDERAL REVENUES	\$381,027	\$348,796	(\$32,231)	Access Funding not posted for 2019-20 year
R9000	OTHER REVENUES	\$25,000	\$2,415	(\$22,585)	
	TOTAL	\$85,642,128	\$85,454,505	(\$187,623)	

Due to GASB requirements, the District is required to record, as part of the audit, the total amount of equipment financed through capital leases and bond refinancing. However, for budget comparability, these revenues and expenditures were removed from this financial comparison. The audit report presented next month for approval by the Board will include the necessary GASB reporting. The District capital leases totaled \$1,263,102 (iPads/computers and buses), and the proceeds from the bond refinancing totaled \$10,143,782 during 2019-20. This total will be included in the final audit.

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

FUND 10	2019-20 Unaudited			
TITLE	CURRENT YEAR BUDGET	CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURES	CURRENT YEAR BALANCE	COMMENTS
INSTRUCTIONAL	46,570,573.98	45,514,965.63	\$1,055,608	2.27% decrease related to COVID-19 including salaries, benefits, tuition and professional services
SUPPORT SERVICES	27,507,430.38	27,612,524.17	(\$105,094)	Increased cost for repairs and maintenance
STUDENT ACTIVITIES	1,842,329.64	1,776,402.28	\$65,927	Lower expenses related to COVID-19
OTHER FINANCING SERVICES	9,721,794.00	10,178,960.75	(\$457,167)	Write off the negative fund balance for the Cafeteria Fund
TOTAL	\$85,642,128	\$85,082,853	\$559,275	

The net positive outcome for 2019-20 is projected to be \$371,652 in net income and (\$76,658) in inventory, encumbrances and reserves, for a total of \$294,994. With a small increase to our Fund Balance, the District continues to restore this important reserve. As of June 30, 2020, our unassigned fund balance is \$5,863,579, \$2,750,000 has been assigned to the liability for Post-Employment Benefits, \$500,000 for Capital Projects and \$300,000 for Safety & Security.

Below is a summary of the District's Fund Balance.

FUND 10						
FUND BALANCE Year Ended June 30	Revenues, net of Proceeds of Financing and Refinancing	Expenditures, net of Expenses of Financing and Refinancing	Additional Encumbrance, Inventory, Reserves	Net Income/(Loss)	Ending Unassigned Fund Balance	% of Budget
2013	\$63,812,905	\$62,912,145	\$380,561	\$900,760	\$4,316,992	6.9%
2014	\$64,552,257	\$65,677,106	(\$52,379)	(\$1,124,849)	\$3,139,764	4.8%
2015	\$68,269,753	\$69,249,303	\$419,526	(\$979,550)	\$2,579,740	3.7%
2016	\$71,775,802	\$72,334,142	(\$13,143)	(\$558,340)	\$2,008,257	2.8%
2017	\$76,824,616	\$75,546,021	\$40,028	\$1,278,595	\$3,326,881	4.4%
2018	\$81,407,991	\$79,621,387	(\$1,254,675)	\$1,786,604	\$3,858,810	4.8%
2019	\$86,946,437	\$84,471,071	(\$765,592)	\$2,475,367	\$5,568,585	6.6%
2020	\$85,454,505	\$85,082,853	(\$76,658)	\$371,652	\$5,863,579	6.9%

Fund balance is necessary for many reasons including the following:

- To ensure sufficient cash flow for financial requirements
- To guard against economic fluctuation
- To protect against unanticipated/emergency expenditures
- To protect against interruptions in state funding reimbursement
- To maintain investment grade bond ratings

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Cc: B. Berquist

**DISTRICT ENROLLMENT
SUMMARY**

Beginning / Ending Enrollment Summary		
Ending Enrollment 2013-14	4118	
Beginning Enrollment 2014-15	4101	-17
Ending Enrollment 2014-15	4102	
Beginning Enrollment 2015-16	4073	-29
Ending Enrollment 2015-16	4082	
Beginning Enrollment 2016-17	4070	-12
Ending Enrollment 2016-17	4094	
Beginning Enrollment 2017-18	4056	-38
Ending Enrollment 2017-18	4057	
Beginning Enrollment 2018-19	4064	7
Ending Enrollment 2018-19	4075	
Beginning Enrollment 2019-20	4079	4
Ending Enrollment 2019-20	4102	
Beginning Enrollment 2020-21	4035	-67

SUMMARY:

* Total enrollment decrease of 67 students over last school year

* There are 116 less kindergarteners than seniors who graduated

* There are 65 more registrations than withdrawals

*Elementary enrollment increase by 12 students over last school year

Graduates to Kindergarten Comparison		
Class of 2014	356	
Class of 2027 (Kindergarten)	260	-96
Class of 2015	349	
Class of 2028 (Kindergarten)	225	-124
Class of 2016	316	
Class of 2029 (Kindergarten)	246	-70
Class of 2017	361	
Class of 2030 (Kindergarten)	252	-109
Class of 2018	342	
Class of 2031 (Kindergarten)	253	-89
Class of 2019	355	
Class of 2032 (Kindergarten)	262	-93
Class of 2020	337	
Class of 2033 (Kindergarten)	221	-116

Net Additions		
Summer 2014 Withdrawals	-65	
Summer 2014 Registrations	141	76
Summer 2015 Withdrawals	-75	
Summer 2015 Registrations	170	95
Summer 2016 Withdrawals	-88	
Summer 2016 Registrations	146	58
Summer 2017 Withdrawals	-117	
Summer 2017 Registrations	151	34
Summer 2018 Withdrawals	-102	
Summer 2018 Registrations	197	95
Summer 2019 Withdrawals	-77	
Summer 2019 Registrations	177	100
Summer 2020 Withdrawals	-87	
Summer 2020 Registrations	152	65

Largest/Smallest Class Sizes		
Largest Class 2015-16 - Grade 7	376	
Largest Class 2016-17 - Grade 8	388	
Largest Class 2017-18 - Grade 9	384	
Largest Class 2018-19 - Grade 10	384	
Largest Class 2019-20 - Grade 11	386	
Largest Class 2020-21 - Grade 12	381	
Smallest Class 2015-16 - Kindergarten	225	
Smallest Class 2016-17 - Kindergarten	246	
Smallest Class 2017-18 - Kindergarten	252	
Smallest Class 2018-19 - Kindergarten	253	
Smallest Class 2019-20 - Kindergarten	262	
Smallest Class 2020-21 - Kindergarten	221	

Elementary Enrollments											
2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
Baker	381	Baker	365	Baker	382	Baker	417	Baker	410	Baker	436
Eisenhower	473	Eisenhower	470	Eisenh	470	Eisenhower	483	Eisenhower	520	Eisenhower	535
Streams	501	Streams	511	Strea	502	Streams	512	Streams	499	Streams	470
	1355		1346		1354		1412		1429		1441

Gathering Limits Update

	HS Stadium	HS Main Gym
Spectator full capacity	6,300	1,860
Spectator capacity per revised guidance	1,260	372
Spectator capacity at 6 feet	472	193

Pennsylvania Gathering Limit Guidelines

Maximum Occupancy	Allowable Indoor Rate
0-2,000 people	20% of Maximum Occupancy
2,001 - 10,000 people	15% of Maximum Occupancy
Over 10,000 people	10% of Maximum Occupancy up to 3,750 people

Maximum Occupancy Calculator for outdoor events:

Maximum Occupancy	Allowable Outdoor Rate
0-2,000 people	25% of Maximum Occupancy
2,001 - 10,000 people	20% of Maximum Occupancy
Over 10,000 people	15% of Maximum Occupancy up to 7,500 people

Key Factor #3

The PA Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department have updated some processes.

2019-2020 Gifts to Schools

School	Donor	Value
Baker Elementary School Eisenhower Elementary School Streams Elementary School	Baker PTA	\$16,990.69
	Eisenhower PTO	\$31,120.53
	Streams PTO	\$19,113.19
	Community Bank	Complimentary Rolling of Coins for the Children for Children Event
	Mrs. Karen Boston	Assorted Art Supplies
	Dr. Amy Pare	Stuffed Teddy Bears (12)
	Mr. Drew Kushner	Built a Rolling Storage Unit for the new Ukes
	Mrs. Hollingsworth	Birthday Book Club Donation: The Avengers Storybook Collection
	Mrs. Moran	Birthday Book Club Donation: Minecraft
	Mrs. Fitzgerald	Superset of Gears, Gears, Gears (Recess Toy)
	Mrs. Gaile	Electric Pencil Sharpener
	Mrs. Dilmore	Signed Coffee Table Book about Robert Griffing's Art
	Mrs. D. Aboud	Set of Magic Tree House Books
	Suzanne & Sebastian Dubreil	Set (3) of Jan Brett Books to 1st Grade Classroom
	Boyce PTO	\$20,168.08
	Fort Couch PTSO	\$12,279.52
Boyce Middle School	Mr. David Rohrich	\$2000 (Fall Reach Out)
Fort Couch Middle School	PTSO	\$3,300
High School	Upper St Clair Bethel Rotary	\$1,000 (For Shop@USC: Display Units for the School Spirit Store)
	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	\$500
	USC Band Parents	\$240
	Benefit Fund Service	\$250
	Rotary Grant	\$1,000
	Life Touch	\$2,739.22
	Anonymous Previous Student	\$10
	Brian Ruscello Agency	\$200
	Victorian Finance	\$1,000
	M & M Photography	\$3,000
	Anonymous	\$3,500
	Mr. Calahan	The Nature Company Guides: Birding
	Mr. Calahan	The Encyclopedia of North American Birds
	Mr. Calahan	Reader's Digest Book of North American Birds
	Mr. Calahan	The Nature Companions Backyard Birding
High School Library	BASH (Black Association of the South	\$1,000
	Brandeis Book Award	Book
	Brown University Book Award	Book
	Chatham University Rachel Carson	Book
	Ellie Levine Memorial Award	Plaque
	George Washington University Book	Book
	Harvard University Book Prize	Book
	John Small Spirit of Community Award	\$250
	John Hopkins Book Award	Book
	Paul Harris Award - USC - Bethel Park	Watch
	Patrick O'Brien Memorial Scholarship	\$2,000
	Paul Wildenhain Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000
	Pride of the Panthers Award	\$1,000
	Princeton University Book Award	Book
	Rensselaer Medal	Book
	RIT Computing Medal and Scholarship	Book, Scholarship if enrolled at RIT
Scholarships & Awards	RIT Innovation and Creativity Award	Book, Scholarship if enrolled at RIT
	SAGE Scholarship	\$1,000
	Service Above Self USC - Bethel Park -	\$750
	Sharon Popp Memorial Award	\$585.47
	Saint Michael's College Book Award	Book
	T.J. White Scholarship	\$750
	The USC Education Association	\$2,000
	U Penn Book Award	Book
	Tulane University Book Award	Book
	USC ESPA/PSEA Transportation	\$500 (2)
	UVA Jefferson Book Award	Book
	William and Mary Leadership Award	Book
	William A. Pope Scholarship	\$500
	Yale University Book Award	Book
	Mrs. Angela Campbell	\$1,120 (Baker Elementary School: Ukuleles)
	Ms. Gina A. Deluliis, CPA	\$8,500 (USCgal Initiative)
Upper St Clair School District	Anonymous	\$26,585 (Tang Math)
	Mrs. Angela Peterson	\$740.95 (Central Office Signed "Overture" by Pierre H. Matisse)
	Mr. Polstyanko and Mrs. Egunova	\$8,599 (Baker Elementary School: Yamaha Piano Lab Equipment)

Public Comments

October 12, 2020

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Submitted prior to the meeting
via: Google Form & Email

Dawn Hanna
1252 Sky Ridge Dr

I wanted to submit to the board that we are in favor of a safe full 5 day return to school for our 3 children (whom attend USC schools) in the quickest way possible. I request an immediate return for our child that has an IEP. Even Bethel Park is now having children with IEP's attend 5 days in person. Virtual learning is not working for her and I would imagine she is not alone.

Hemina KrishnaBachia
1729 WATERFORD CT

Hello Upper St Clair School Board,

The hybrid model is perfect for our high schooler and family for the following reasons:

- 1) Maximizing teacher/staff/child safety through reduced classroom occupancy
- 2) Follow health protocol by maintaining social distance and wearing face covering
- 3) Enrich our child's learning experience by partial on-site participation
- 4) Promote maximum teen learning by allowing additional sleep on the remote days as advocated by medical professionals
- 5) Support teenagers mental health and reduce stress as they are extremely knowledgeable and concerned about health risks
- 6) Reduce parents stress level by offering children the safest learning option under these extraordinary circumstances

The hybrid model is optimal for high school.

November is around the corner. The university students will be returning and exposing our community to a higher risk.

Sincerely,
Raj Krishnaswamy & Hemina KrishnaBachia

Bhagwati Subramaniam
1780 Sapphire court, pittsburgh pa

I have seen that not win school closed their 5 schools after opening 5 days a week. My kid is doing remote and right now I feel safe. I wld prefer you to keep this options of hybrid and remote options unless we are sure that it's safe.

I need to know how education will be taken care of for remote learners. As is they are not able to do labs directly which is a big disadvantage and also are we still going to go ahead with SATs for Junior year students.

Lynn Foil
1470 Dominion Court

I think the hybrid program is working very well for my family. I strongly feel we need to stay with the 2 day hybrid program for the remainder of the year. Going to 5 days will mean the teachers, children, and staff will be exposed to everyone constantly which is not appropriate for safety. I know you are working hard to make good choices, thank you for your efforts.

I strongly feel we should NOT move to 5 days in school. Although the 2 days a week has some challenges it's a great compromise position, allowing teachers, students, and staff to be safer and still have time in school. The online program USC has put together is impressively robust and my child is really doing well. I request that we continue 2 day hybrid for at least another 6 weeks before reassessing safety. I appreciate the hard work the committee has put into this and thank you for your efforts.

Nathalie de Wit
2453 Southvue Drive

Will students still be able to attend fully remotely? Are the 4 or 5 days options? Can families still decide to go only 2 days?

Thank you,
Nathalie

Rachel Moosa
135 Devonwood Drive

We are new to the school district this year and have been pleased with the schools response to the pandemic so far. However the proposed timeline for return to 4 then 5 days per week is overly conservative in our opinion.

Other school districts in the area have been able to achieve this sooner and I would like to understand why Upper Saint Clair District cannot.

We would like to see the children back in school 5 days per week as soon as possible. Thank you.

The Moosa Family

Carissa Howard
1849 Winchester drive 15241

Please begin the process to move to 4/5 day in person schedule. I appreciate everyone's continued efforts to make this a successful school year for the students. I truly appreciate the teachers and administrators for all the extra hours that they continue to put in to make this happen.

Rachel Moosa
135 Devonwood Drive

We are new to the school district this year and have been pleased with the schools response to the pandemic so far. However the proposed timeline for return to 4 then 5 days per week is overly conservative in our opinion.

Other school districts in the area have been able to achieve this sooner and I would like to understand why Upper Saint Clair District cannot.

We would like to see the children back in school 5 days per week as soon as possible. Thank you.

The Moosa Family

Rebecca Wilson
1403 Morrow Road

I know there is a large push toward in person 5 day a week instruction from a very local group of USC residents. While I know learning in person is much more effective for most students, given the current status of COVID cases continuing to climb across our nation and no proven treatments, please make sure to continue a robust online option. While I think there are many improvements that could be made to the online option, we as a family are thankful it is available. We would be saddened to have to redirect district funding to an online platform outside of the school, but are fearful we are being forgotten in this process.

Julie Zeringue
461 Aster Circle

I appreciate the thoughtfulness of the plan for students to return to school four and then five days a week. As a parent of three students who are currently all remote, I am concerned about the lack of detail about what the remote learning option will entail beginning November 16th. I understand the need for a 9 week commitment, but this is a huge decision to make without knowing if their teachers will change, who will be delivering instruction if remote students are separated fully from in-person learners, whether there will be opportunities for differentiated learning within the remote student group, etc. Is it possible to share some of these details so that we can be more informed when making a decision? Thank you.

Jamie Bennett
2592 Monterey Drive

I would like to start by thanking the district for everything that have done up to this point to keep the kids, teachers and administration safe through social distancing and mask requirements. I am concerned that with the new plan being set forth before the committee one of the key factors in protecting all mentioned above as a key safety measure will no longer be possible, social distancing. Our numbers in Allegheny County are still going up and down. We have not seen a consistent decline to be able to make a change where social distancing is not required. Additionally, the kids need to have mask breaks. I sincerely hope you will reconsider passing this new plan for the sake of the health and safety of the kids, staff and administration of all the buildings.

Leah Fidler
1737 Grey Mill Drive

Thank you for considering additional in person instruction days. I strongly suggest you add these days for the benefit of our kids and for working parents in the school district. You have done amazing work and I trust you will continue to make flexible, safe options for usc families.

Diane Reckless
2583 Giant Oaks Dr

I am in support of the students being back in school on the condition that social distancing is maintained. Until scientists determine that the six foot social distancing is no longer recommended (because a vaccine is widely available and used, for example), it is my belief that the district is putting it's teachers, students and families at risk of contracting the virus if they cannot continue implementing social distancing. Thank you.

Scott Friedman
1693 Hathaway Lane

I'm a physician, with a son in 11th grade and an 85 year old senior living with us. There are no two ways around it, the more time kids spend at school, the more Covid they will be bringing back to their homes and exposing their households to. Why can't we have a plan that is different based on the grade of the students? Many parents of elementary school kids need more school time so that they can work. But high schoolers can easily be trusted to be at home on a conservative hybrid schedule...and that will reduce community transmission, and less of our neighbors will get sick, and less will die. I urge you to consider different hybrid plans depending on student grade.

Gretchen Kreizenbeck
1524 Fox Chase Lane

I am thrilled to hear that USC will allow more in-person learning days for my children. The 4 or 5 day weeks give me hope that we can get our children back on track with education and social norms. Thank you for all that you do for our community. I appreciate your service.

Rebecca Wilson
1403 Morrow Road

I know there is a large push toward in person 5 day a week instruction from a very local group of USC residents. While I know learning in person is much more effective for most students, given the current status of COVID cases continuing to climb across our nation and no proven treatments, please make sure to continue a robust online option. While I think there are many improvements that could be made to the online option, we as a family are thankful it is available. We would be saddened to have to redirect district funding to an online platform outside of the school, but are fearful we are being forgotten in this process.

Jeffrey Moeslein
406 Oaklawn Drive Pittsburgh PA 15241

I am strongly in favor of the return to a normal 5 day school week as soon as possible. Whatever risk is involved in this is outweighed by the damage that is being done to children educationally and psychologically by having them away from their friends and teachers and in front of a screen so much. If a 5 day school week is not yet possible, then I fully support the districts plan to go to a 4 day in person option as an intermediate step. Upper St Clair has always been a leader educationally and should be seeking to continue that, not by providing the best remote education, but by providing the best education period, and that can only be done with in person instruction. Thank you.

Holly Reik
1851 tilton

I support 5 day in person school as soon as possible.

Elizabeth Reitz
1343 Old Meadow Rd

I am writing to express my concern for moving to a 4 day and 5 day school week too quickly. Our county transmission rates are in the moderate range, which makes the recommendation by the state to remain at a hybrid status. I fear the board is receiving undo pressure from certain community members to reopen more quickly than is appropriate. Going to 4 days would mean less social distancing and a higher chance of virus outbreaks. This will coincide with the weather getting colder and more children socializing outside of school inside with friends. The rates of infection will likely rise as a result, and then those infections will be brought to a too crowded school building. I think the hybrid option allows us to offer a safe and consistent school year for children, rather than opening to 4/5 days and then needing to go fully remote. Our district has done a wonderful job creating a safe plan for our students. Why not stick with hybrid through the winter months and/or until our county rates reduce to under 5%? Also, what will happen to remote instruction when teachers have more children in the classroom at a time? I think this is placing an unfair burden on our teachers and will reduce the quality of education for all of our students. I ask the board to strongly consider remaining at the hybrid status. Thank you.

Geeta Kumar
806 Painters dr Pittsburgh

I really thank and appreciate the hard work and dedication of all school board members involved here. My son is a remote student and we want to continue with it. Being remote takes away the opportunities and offerings in first place available to hybrid students. I hope the board takes note of remote students deprivation while making any amendments to existing system.

Kyle Pirnat
2150 Meadowmont Drive

I fully support getting the kids back to school full time as this remote effort is decent, but far from the expected standard.

Joseph Fidler
1737 Grey Mill Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15251

I want to thank the School Board and teachers for all of your endless hard work. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. We have a 4th grader and 2nd grader at Streams. Our boys education is our greatest concern. My wife and I both work full time and splitting the hours between work and home school assistance has negatively impacted their education and our jobs. Having both boys in school as much as possible is in their best interest. We applaud the Board's efforts and 100 percent support moving to phase II (4 days a week) and Phase III as quickly as possible. Thank you again. Joe & Leah Fidler.

Ryan Middleton
1360 Diamond Ct.

It is very clear that the negative effects of not being in school for the kids far exceed any effects of being in school and I would challenge anyone to show any real proof otherwise. The evidence is overwhelming!
GET THSE KIDS BACK IN SCHOOL AND STOP LETTING THE LOUDEST BULLY EVERYONE ELSE!

Joe Levkulich
474 Diablo Dr

Hello...i have two children in the USC school district, one at Boyce middle school and one at Streams Elementary school. They are currently in the hybrid program, going to school on Thursday and Friday and remote learning Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Both of my children need to be going to school in person as often as they are allowed to be. If it's 4 days in person and 1 day remote, fine, but ultimately they need to be going to in person 5 days a week. They are missing out on the socialization that young children need at their ages. My daughter is having a tough time with Math because she needs that in person instruction. USC does great with having students learn in groups/classes with children of their equal ability and with remote it just isn't the same. Also, having remote learning is a burden on us, the parents, because my wife and I both work and we have to adjust our schedules and work days to accommodate the remote learning. Please consider the proposal that is put forth in front of you to have a 4 day school week starting 11/16/20 and full 5 day in person learning starting 1/19/21. This of course will depend on the states recommendations. Thank You.

Joe Levkulich

Lindsay Seal
109 Warwick Drive

A lot of focus has been put on the mental, emotional, and academic well-being of our students. These are often cited as the primary reasons to bring kids back to in-person school. My question is, what is the district doing to ensure the mental, emotional, and academic well-being of fully remote students who aren't able to return to in-person classes? Is there a plan to lengthen virtual class times to enable better discussions, increase auxiliary virtual learning/club opportunities, and better support the overall education of these students? If the current home learning plan isn't sufficient for hybrid students, then I presume the board would agree that the current situation also isn't acceptable for fully-remote students. I implore the board to keep the emotional, mental, and academic wellbeing of remote students as a priority when making future plans. Please remember that ALL of our students are important in the fabric of the USCSd community.

Mark Capobres
2534 Forest Brook Dr

I support the administration's recommendation for phased reopening as outlined in the 10/12/2020 meeting.

Bethany Salmen
2677 thorn tree Dr

Since my daughter is attending 4 day Kindergarten. I feel all of the kids need 4 days and fully support 5 day!

Stacy Calabrese
Stacy.kletter@gmail.com

I support the school boards plan to reopen schools to 4 day instruction and eventually 5 day
I actually would also support then if the reopened the schools to 5 day in person instruction right away
I feel the teachers and principals have done an excellent job
West A has been back 5 days and are doing fine
We need to go back to 5 day in person instruction

Carrie Fick
1919 Murdstone Rd

I support the administration's recommendations for phased re-opening as outlined in the 10-12-2020 meeting agenda.

Louis Oliverio
1725 Hunters Path Lane

I am writing today in support of the Administration's well-thought out and pragmatic recommendation for a phased reopening in accordance with the plan unveiled on Saturday October 10 and presented at the October 12 meeting. Throughout this process, the Administration has followed a deliberate, careful process of evaluating data and taking measured steps to gradually reopen schools in accordance with the guidance of the State and County health departments. The District has been consistent and thoughtful in enabling parents to participate in the process by providing feedback in multiple surveys during this time. The overwhelming majority of parents who have given so much of their time over the past 7 months to their children's education, also have responded in surveys in support of increasing in-person learning. As a parent, I cannot tell you how important it has been for my children to have access to in-person education 2 days a week thus far; however, their educational experience and social and mental health will be improved exponentially by being able to return to school for additional days in accordance with the proposed Phased Approach. As we reach mid-October, the disruptions to education and daily life in nearby districts that have implemented a 4-day or 5-day in-person approach have been minimal and manageable. As I have stated in prior appearances before the Board, I commend the Administration for starting at a 2-day plan to enable an evaluation of data from other districts--and now that this data is in, it supports the ability for more in-person days. Also, as time has proceeded, the County has removed its supplemental restrictions and the State has eased restrictions on items such as dining capacity and attendance at events, where fans are now permitted to attend Steelers games in person, something that no one envisioned occurring just a few short weeks ago when the situation with the virus was less favorable than it is now. As we take gradual steps towards a recovery of our community from a disruptive situation, the steps proposed in the recommendation before you present a reasonable, calculated and thorough approach from an Administrative team who I know has worked tirelessly and with unending devotion to the quality of education that every resident of Upper St. Clair values tremendously. I urge each School Board Member to support this plan. Thank you. Louis M. Oliverio

Reed Kneale
1850 Mcmillan road

I support the phased reopening as presented in the 10.12 meeting. Thank you!

Alison Cheesman
2355 Berkshire Drive

While we all want our children back in school full time this must be done safely. I think it will be much for disruptive for children to be at school full time and then have the school closing regularly due to positive tests or have the children continually being absent due to potential COVID symptoms. Also the timeline is incredibly problematic, you are suggesting sending the children back during cold and flu season which is also a time when many people will be traveling out of state increasing the likelihood of contracting the virus. Many higher level educational institutions are planning on shutting down around the time you are planning to fully reopen. The reopening plan should not be implemented until after Christmas. Losing the hybrid option will also be a huge loss to many of our children.

Andrea Anderson
3543 Myrna dr 15241

I understand that USC COVID data is very low, but why is the larger county data not being considered and cited? Families work, participate in activities, shop, etc outside of USC, in addition to our sports teams playing other districts in the area.

John Reinford
2664 Monterey Dr

I support the recommended plan for in person school for our children/students. Need 5 day in person ASAP. Thank you to all staff and students continuing efforts to cope with this situation. Kids are not doing emotionally or scholastically as well as they will in person. Thank you.

Heather Petras
2636 Monterey Drive

I support administration's phased reopening plan.

Jason Sychterz
2355 Berkshire Drive

My comments are regarding the proposal to re-open the schools to 5 full days per week. I am shocked that this is even a question that needs discussed and voted on. We are in the middle of a pandemic with no vaccine and heading into the fall and winter months where every scientific expert has clearly stated that it will get worse (including holidays where more spread is expected). We have universities and other school districts correctly going the opposite direction. What is the plan when one child falls ill (with Covid or anything else)? How many times will the school or individual classes need to close before heading to full shutdown?

I know my families social circles do represent everyone however most of those I know pushing for full opening are stay at home parents or already working from home themselves. So, it is not a matter of childcare cost for them - it is a matter of laziness. We cannot put our children, teachers and school staff at risk for the sake of the vanity of a few selfish people who do not want the burden of looking after their kids.

Please do the right thing and vote to keep the current hybrid plan as it is.

Melissa Galbraith
2651 Quail Hill Drive

First, I am concerned that only three feet of physical distancing will be maintained in the new school plan to return four-five days a week. I see that it is important to maintain six feet for teachers (also for school board meetings) so I believe it should still be for students. Second, I also will not allow my children to ride the bus and know that further congestion will be an issue at pick-up and drop-off times if parents do not switch to the bussing option. Lastly, the two day a week hybrid option is working well for my children. I have a 1st, 5th, and 6th grader and I feel like we have a good balance of safety, mental health and socialization, and learning in place. My children started the year fully remote and I would prefer not to go return to fully remote, but the new plans leaves me feeling pressured to take a risk I'm uncomfortable with or to have my children return to a learning model where they felt isolated, not engaged, and bored with. I feel our current model is the best of both worlds and meeting in the middle of both sides of this debate and further time in school with less distancing should not even be considered until the virus is further mitigated and other risks such as flu/large family get togethers at upcoming holidays/more indoor activities due to cold weather have passed.

Thank you board member, school administrators, and teachers! Your hard work has not gone unnoticed and is much appreciated!

Elkoni Elkoni
464 Laredo Dr

I urge the school board to listen to the vast majority of USC parents and continue with the push towards a 5-day in person school week for those who want it.

The recent plan shared with residents shows the tremendous amount of research, thought, and care the board has put into this phased opening and it is clear you are putting our children first and doing what is best for them. Thank you!

Aimee Hernandez
213 Barberry Lane

I SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION FOR PHASED REOPENING AS OUTLINED IN THE 10-12-2020 MEETING AGENDA. Also, with 3 (almost 4) young children and living in Upper St. Clair, I have a vested interest in ALL students returning to school full-time. Admittedly, my children currently attend parochial school and have been going all year 5 days a week. I fear there will be a drastic difference in their performance vs. their peers when they reenter the district schools which is something we plan on. Their current academic rigor is far ahead of the district we live in, and I'm worried about future challenges from their peers if they don't get back to school in-person. They are already drastically ahead.

Morna Pollock
2475 Berkshire Drive

Thank you school board for all the time and continued effort on continuing education for our children this year.

My children are currently in the hybrid model. We have been very pleased and my children are happy. Within the recent survey, question 2 " 4/5 Day Return....." we selected the first option - 4-5 days at school. We selected this because I don't feel that remote learning is a great long term model for our family. I would like to make it known that I would be uncomfortable with sending my children back to school with less social distancing.

If the hybrid model is removed we would be pushed to choose this option, as the best option for our family out of the two remaining options.

In terms of your presented data, the results show that 41.2% of parents are currently not comfortable with returning to a 4 day week - selecting their future preference for either remote or hybrid. 41.2% is not a small percentage.

With the current option removed, 76.2% of parents opted for a 4 day week. With elimination of the hybrid option, out of the hybrid and remote cohort you now have 17.4% who are moving their kids to a 4 day week (picking between two unwanted options) and 10.2% who are now removing their children from the hybrid model into remote because they really don't feel comfortable.

On first look you think '76.2% of families want a 4 day return to school' but by removing the current option and forcing parents to pick from two extremes, this doesn't mean that the parent is happy or comfortable with the choice.

In conclusion this data means just under half of the families in the district are not comfortable with a 4 day week. The hybrid model is the middle ground between remote and fully open. It allows for continuation of school through fall and winter with potentially less interruptions if cases rise, and perhaps the most consistency of all options.

We would like the option of hybrid to remain through the fall / winter period.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

STEVE LYNCH
470 MANORDALE RD

For the sake of our children's 2020 education, please reopen the schools in accordance with the Superintendent's recommendation for those students wishing to attend in person. Leadership demands action in uncertain times. Should local covid conditions worsen the district can respond accordingly.

Tracy Tencer
452 Lorlita Lane

WE SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION FOR PHASED REOPENING AS
OUTLINED IN THE 10-12-2020 MEETING AGENDA

We have 5 children, 4 currently enrolled with USC. 3 of the 4 have IEP's (our 5 children are adopted through Foster Care, we chose USC to give them the best education in Western, PA) My husband and I are very thankful that 2 of our special needs children are able to go 4 days but our 4th and 3rd graders are not doing as well. They really need in class instruction. I understand that we have to be patient with the technology issues but it has really hampered our children's ability to learn effectively. We are 100% in support of your plan. We would like to thank you for your time and understanding.

Cheryl Welch
1788 Scarlett Dr

I fully support the reopening plan the district has in mind for moving towards 4 day then 5 day in school education. My son has a 504 and needs in school assistance and instruction. I greatly appreciate all the effort and planning by our school district and all the staff. Thank you.

Goele Distelmans
2342 Berkshire Dr

I have many concerns opening the schools back up to 4 and later 5 days/week right at the start of flu/COVID-19 season. Everyone is going to be spending a lot more time inside with the colder days coming and we know that this is when the virus thrives. Take a look at what is going on in Europe right now and learn from this situation, do better. You cannot social distance when all kids are back in school 4 days/week. My daughter is hybrid now, it's working well, why change now with winter coming and not wait until spring? She will go fully remote if the school district decides to go to 4 days/week unfortunately.

Kimberly King
1608 Watterson Court

I support and appreciate the district's plans to move forward with increased in-person instruction for our students. Every family, of course, is experiencing their unique version of the current learning experience whether it be hybrid or fully remote. What is evident is parents and children alike benefit, and frankly thrive, from a more traditional school setting where students interact with teachers and classmates face-to-face and engage in discussion of the topics being presented IN PERSON.

Further, our county's Covid numbers support moving toward in-person instruction. The "curve was flattened" long ago and the longer we wait to resume an optimal in-person learning format, the more quickly and dramatically our children and USC families sacrifice their educational potential and mental well being.

Please get these kids back to a 5-day in-person school week so we can continue, as a community, to provide the best possible framework for the ultimate success of these children during their K-12 years and well beyond them.

Paul King
1608 Watterson Court

I SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION FOR PHASED REOPENING AS
OUTLINED IN THE 10-12-2020 MEETING AGENDA

Jennifer Mecs
101 Algonquin Road

I am writing to express my support for Dr. Rozzo and the Administration's re-opening plan. This is a carefully researched and considered plan that puts education and health first. My children are very excited to be getting more days per week in-person. Although we look forward to the return of the 5 day in-person schedule, I also thank you for offering a fully remote option for the families who require it.

To the Board, please know that the number of people who oppose this plan is small. I hope you will weigh the results of the parent surveys and the trend of more families opting for in-person days more heavily than the complaints you may be hearing now. Parents who want remote learning can choose that for their own children, but no parent or resident should be able to impose their individual preferences on the education of other people's children. Also, although we are very grateful that you continue to offer a choice for families this school year, the District is not obligated to offer every possible combination of in-person/remote days imaginable. This summer, the Administration clearly stated that hybrid was transitional, and was never intended to be permanent, so no one should have expected otherwise. This is publicly funded education, and the District must continue to be run in an efficient and cost effective manner that serves children and is fair and accountable to tax payers. Thank you to the Administration and the Board for your hard work.

Kelly Rackley
1180 Polaris Circle

I am not able to attend tonight's meeting in person, but I still want the board to hear my opinion about the return to in person school.

First of all I want to thank those who have worked so diligently to devise a plan for our children to safely return to 4-5 day in person learning. I truly appreciate all of your efforts and support you've provided to our youth and community!

Our children are in desperate need of more in person teaching. I have twins who are completely different learners. Both have had too many issues with the remote learning for many reasons. Both, at 13 years old, have expressed their desire to return to in person learning. They need the teacher/student daily interaction! They need social interaction! The anxiety level in our house has reached an all time high! Their outlet has been fall sports. I can't tell you how grateful I am that they've had that, at a minimum! Moving to the scholastic aspect, neither of my kids are responding well to the online teaching format. I, as well as many other moms who agree, see this change in our children's academic mindset as well as their declining mental outlook. Neighboring districts are successfully allowing their children to hold in person learning. I see more benefit than detriment to having them return. Get them back in school! The sooner the better!

Respectfully,
Kelly Rackley

Laura Muhl
156 Boxfield

As a member of this community (but with a son attending a charter school that has already gone back 5 days a week for the last 6 weeks), I support the board's reopening plan. The sooner our entire community returns to as close to normal as possible, the better for all. You have considered the data, considered the well being and mental health of the children, and I want you to know you have the support of the community and tax payers. It's time to reopen!

Jason Sychterz
2355 Berkshire Drive

My comments are regarding the proposal to re-open the schools to 5 full days per week. I am shocked that this is even a question that needs discussed and voted on. We are in the middle of a pandemic with no vaccine and heading into the fall and winter months where every scientific expert has clearly stated that it will get worse (including holidays where more spread is expected). We have universities and other school districts correctly going the opposite direction. What is the plan when one child falls ill (with Covid or anything else)? How many times will the school or individual classes need to close before heading to full shutdown?

I know my families social circles do represent everyone however most of those I know pushing for full opening are stay at home parents or already working from home themselves. So, it is not a matter of childcare cost for them - it is a matter of laziness. We cannot put our children, teachers and school staff at risk for the sake of the vanity of a few selfish people who do not want the burden of looking after their kids.

Please do the right thing and vote to keep the current hybrid plan as it is.

Steve Daniele
2439 kings lane

I SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION FOR PHASED REOPENING AS
OUTLINED IN THE 10-12-2020 MEETING AGENDA

Paul King

1608 Watterson Court

I SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION FOR PHASED REOPENING AS
OUTLINED IN THE 10-12-2020 MEETING AGENDA

Neal Megonnell
2189 Meadowmont Drive

I have lived in USC since 1994 and the reason I moved here was for the school district. Our kids her a better education compared to the rest of the region, and coming from Central PA, the rest of the state. This education process is not and can not be the same with remote learning. Remote and even hybrid learning is taking a toll on our kids. They need to be back in the classroom. I am truly tired of hearing about "the science" that has not been substantiated or peer reviewed. Our district has a well thought out plan in place and it is time to get them back in the building. For those that choose to live in fear, they have the option to stay home. It is time to move forward.

Kim Megonnell
2189 Meadowmont Drive, USC PA 15241

I fully support our administrations plan to safely reopen our schools to 5 day in person education as soon as possible. If that means a phased approach transitioning to 4 days in November and full reopening in January - ok. I would rather have them transition back full time in person immediately. I have complete faith that our school is absolutely prepared to reopen fully and safely today. This 2/3 hybrid is not giving our children what we as tax payers and you as educators want. You are doing the best you can under the circumstances. I implore the school board to vote as the majority of parents desire as our elected officials ... 77% of parents want 5 day in person learning please agree to the administrations plan.

Pamela Scureman
1576 Hastings mill rd

I support getting my children back to school, as many days as possible. This is not for me. I have spoken with all 3 of my school aged children. They want to be back in school; with or without mask breaks and with the knowledge that they may have to go back to online at some point. Thank you all for the time and commitment that you have given to our children and community!

Alexandra McCluskey
2444 Giant Oaks Dr.

My husband and I are grateful for everything the district has done to keep school functioning on the hybrid model, and for fellow parents making smart choices to follow protocols. It is wonderful that the district has not experienced any cases so far. While my husband and I fully support getting our kids back in school full time, our biggest concern with this plan is timing.

Opening our schools more right around the holidays ignores the reality that families will be traveling and that the school cannot control what families do outside of school. The state's recommendation to quarantine after traveling to hot spots is only a recommendation, not a mandate with any teeth for enforcement. Despite the recommendations from health officials to limit travel during the holidays, there is a significant portion of the population who will ignore those recommendations and for benign reasons or otherwise, choose not disclose that they traveled.

Opening more right when the weather is getting cooler and transmission levels are expected to rise also makes little sense. Is there any data showing Covid is less deadly or less likely to cause significant long term health problems than it did in August?

This plan however leaves very little options for parents like us who are willing to accept the risk of sending their child 2 days a week, but who can't swing full remote and still remain employed, and are not willing to accept the risk of sending their children 4 or 5 days a week without appropriate social distancing. The plan focuses on survey responses to the question asking whether parents prefer 4-5 days of in-person instruction or full remote, which shows roughly an 77/23 split in favor of in-person instruction. From the survey data, however, 41.2% of responders said they would prefer to be either remote or stay 2-day hybrid rather than send their children 4-5 days a week. That is not a number the district should ignore, and not an "overwhelming majority" in favor of more in-person instruction.

Mental health is extremely important, and our child has been so much happier since school has been open even just 2 days a week. We understand that some children need more support. Has the Board considered allowing for full in-person instruction for those students with IEPs or who appear to be falling through the cracks emotionally, but still allowing for a 2-day hybrid option for those whose mental health is not at risk?

Once again, thank you for all that you have done to keep school as safe as you can under present circumstances. We ask simply that you reconsider the timing of the phased re-opening to full in-person instruction given the realities of human behavior around this time of year, the changing weather and what it means for transmission, and the 41.2% of your families that do not want to change the instruction model just yet.

Mary Kirk
240 Brookside Blvd

I fully support 5-day in school learning as suggested by the USC school administration. They have done an immense job keeping our students safe and I have no doubt their dedication will continue.

Our students need face to face interaction with teachers and their peers. For those families legitimately needing to remain virtual—that's great but the voices of the MINORITY must not silence the majority. We deserve choices and the choices the USC school administration and board are providing are appropriate and necessary. Remaining in lockdown epic be neglecting the needs of our students. The ramifications of this continued lockdown will be far and wide.

Bob Kirk
240 Brookside blvd

I fully support a five day return to school—starting as soon as possible.

Tara Kennedy
829 Somerville dr Pgh, PA 15243

My children need in-person accountability, responsibility, consistency, and classroom interaction. Although this is a start, we did the best we could do with the parameters that were forced upon us, but We are ready for 5 day in-person option. We are checking the boxes without having the quality outcomes that should parallel the requirements in place. Our outcome and results are not meeting the academic expectations. WE HAVE TO DO BETTER. The full 4/5 day in-person option needs to be provided before we are in an academic crisis that we cannot find our way out of.

I apologize for being critical, but the block schedule is not beneficial to the students. Again, consistency, structure and daily in person class instruction is vital for success. My child see his learning support teacher in-person 1 day a week, ONE DAY a week. Already he grades are suffering. We can not just "check the boxes". The need for structure and consistency is so evident as seen in the outcomes thus far. The teachers, staff, and administration has been attentive and helpful within the structure provided, but the outcomes of academic success have fallen short.

Moving to the 4/5 days in person option is well thought out and moves us toward a more successful academic results. I am asking and begging you to please support the administrations plan outline for the 4/5 day in person option. I am gravely concerned for the future of my children and our community.

I do not speak of the virus and the limited transmission in children, you have that information on hand. I know there are people in our community that dare try direct the ship of our children's education insisting in limiting the options provided. Each of you are collectively the captains of this ship and I need you to take the wheel and stand, stand with the whole community in providing a 4/5 day option while continuing the full remote option.

I so appreciate all the hard work!
Sincerely,
Tara Kennedy
829 Somerville dr
Pgh, PA 15243
Children - Judah - 11th grade
Jordan -9th grade

Lori Mulhern BSN, RN
BettyBauer@aol.com

As a Registered Nurse, I have been working to protect my family, my community since March 2020. This fight is not over. We, Parents, School Administrators need to continue to protect our children, our teachers, our school workers, our community, our families during the Corona Virus Pandemic. The Upper St Clair School District has planned, worked and demonstrated that it can be successful at teaching our children by online learning using the Hybrid or Full Remote Learning while keeping our children safe.

The next physical phase for our families will be moved indoors due to the cold weather. This includes most of our College age students not returning to school after the Thanksgiving Break until January 2021. All of our exposure to COVID-19 will most likely change due to this population re-entering into their family circle, their homes. Furthermore, this time of the year will include another health risk in conjunction with COVID-19, the Flu Season.

Please continue to protect our children, our teachers, the families of our entire USC Community by keeping our Current Model of Learning in place!

This fight to protect our children is not over... the next phase should not include our schools opening 4 days a week to all of the student population. The next phase should only include an even stronger plan for the health and safety of our children, their parents and the teachers of our very own strong Community.

Lori Mulhern BSN, RN

Regina Carson
1545 Hastings Mill Rd

I strongly support USCSD returning to 5 in school days for students as soon as possible. Thanks to the School Board and School Administration for their leadership and dedication in these complicated times and for putting forward a thorough and reasoned Phased plan. Further delay of return to 'normal' will not serve our children physically, educationally or socially. In fact delay will have a damaging effect on all three. We owe it to our children to move forward with the proposed plan immediately.

Jodi Lagoni
1674 Pinetree Drive

I SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION FOR PHASED REOPENING AS
OUTLINED IN THE 10-12-2020 MEETING AGENDA

Michelle Coleman
209 Keifer dr

First off I would like to say that I am extremely impressed with the school board and the way they have handled the opening of our schools with COVID-19. I am very happy with our two day hybrid plan. I feel like the children are very safe even if A fellow classmate comes down with Covid. Keeping everybody 6 feet apart will definitely protect the other children in the classrooms. Although I do agree that we can't do hybrid forever, I feel like it is too soon to return to school four or five days as we are getting into flu season. I won't feel comfortable having the kids closer than 6 feet away right now. Another thing to think about is that if a child does come down with something right now they are only in the building two days a week and are away from other children for at least five days which also helps to keep people from getting ill. I feel like the school boards plan to move to four days is A good one, but I think we should wait until the second semester to implement it. Let's get through the beginning of flu season and the holidays before we make any changes. Thank you for considering what the community has to say about this.

Allison Levkulich
474 Diablo Drive

I SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION FOR PHASED REOPENING AS OUTLINED IN THE 10-12-2020 MEETING AGENDA. I am very impressed with our administration and everything they have done to get us back in school. While the current model is commendable, my children are struggling somewhat and I really fear they will fall behind. My children have expressed repeatedly that they wish they could go to school daily. And when my daughter has difficulty with school work, she has told me that she is afraid of failing fourth grade. This breaks my heart, and I feel like we need to do more. I am very comfortable with the proposed phased plan and I am ready to get my children back in school so they can get the best education possible. Thank you.

Jeff Lagoni
1664 Pinetree Drive

Please get these kids back in school full time. The safest place these kids can be is in school with one another. There is more damage being done than covid would have. if you need data to support this next step i can provide. Thank you

Debbi Bishop
1748 Hathaway Lane

Thank you for all the hard work you are doing to keep our kids both safe, and in school as much as possible. I like the plan to move to phase 2, and appreciate the parameters put in place to do so. I do have a question about the new proposal. I understand there are students who cannot wear a mask for various reasons. However, there are also students who are flat out refusing to wear one. I also know, from various reports of what families are seeing on video, that some teachers are wearing their masks below their noses (which is like not wearing one at all) during in person instruction. I understand that in order to get both groups back together there needs to be a reduction from six feet to three feet. I am on board with that, given that the mask breaks are being taken away. However, how will the students that don't wear masks be handled in the classroom with the closer seating? Will they also be allowed to sit only three feet from other students?? Additionally, there should be accountability for the staff to both keep our kids safe and model proper mask wearing for their students. Thank you again.

Kathy Ginsburg
2433 Kings Lane

Dear Members of the School Board,

I would like to express my concerns regarding the plan to begin moving toward a 4 and 5-day in person model for our schools. They are as follows:

In your plan, you mention that one of the modifications being considered is "Evaluating potential for separate remote sections where possible." I take this to mean that the remote students could potentially be forced into changing teachers, teams, or classrooms so that the in-person students can be accommodated. This plan repeatedly mentions the motivation for pursuing a more in-person model is a need to "balance mental health and academic needs," yet changing the learning environment of our remote students will certainly affect their mental health as well as their academic progress. This current situation is stressful enough without a first grader losing her teacher that she has finally gotten to know in these first six weeks of school. How can parents make an informed decision about their child's future if they do not know what their learning environment will entail? Many parents feel like we are being forced into a decision that does not take into account the health and well-being of our children just because we fear them losing their teachers. Remote learners are already at a disadvantage when it comes to instructional time. Often my son and daughter's teachers will instruct the remote students to log off so they can work with the hybrid students present that day. They are left wondering what they are missing. I realize that parents were given a choice between hybrid and remote, but your new plan feels like there's no good choice for parents who are concerned for the health, safety, and education of their children. Either we remain remote and are forced to accept an inconsistent academic experience or send our children back in-person in the middle of a pandemic where our numbers are once again rising as we head into the winter months. Upper St. Clair prides itself on "Customizing Learning, Nurturing Potential, and Delivering Excellence," but that mission cannot be accomplished if it's only applied to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the students. You must provide further details of your plan for remote learners before parents are asked to make a choice about which option they will choose. For those considering continuing with remote learning, you're now asking us to agree to stay remote for a full 9 weeks. Yet children that go with the new in-person model are able to go remote at any time. Why is that? Would they stay with their current teachers during that time when you may have the students that opt for remote potentially have new teachers?

We appreciate your time and your attention to hearing the concerns of all parents.

Sincerely,
Kathy and Howard Ginsburg

Terri Mackovich
2171 Meadowmont Dr

After reviewing the Board's Reopening update released via email yesterday October 10, 2020 I decided to address my concerns. Please understand I am making a reasonable point based not only on my Family but on the entire community. I do understand that every child is unique and learns differently. The two in my house have responded differently to the hybrid approach. I am however, greatly concerned that we are moving too quickly to get "back in the building" so to speak. I am disappointed that on the survey sent out we were not asked if we preferred to keep the current Hybrid plan in place. I actually do prefer that choice over the other choices. If the CDC says wearing a mask as well as remaining socially distanced is the best approach, then cramming the kids together in classes goes directly against those guidelines. I am basing this on Science 100%. My fear is we will move too quickly and end up in a full remote situation, which in my opinion, is far worse going into winter. At least right now the kids are still enjoying nicer weather and can get outside to enjoy some team sports.

Why did you not take into consideration that the current plan is working for many of us? The argument that Private schools are performing 5 days a week just fine is a moot point. Private schools can determine their enrollment and they may or may not have more space to spread out. Our classrooms are very tight.

Please take into consideration that I too wish for my kids to be back in school but under the current situation I think you are moving way too fast. With the approach of the winter season and Holidays I believe we could see a spike in cases. As of October 2, 2020 per the PA Department of Health "Level of Community Transmission" Allegheny county is still listed in the moderate level. On the table this indicates that State recommendations for School District Instruction models be blended or fully remote. I do not believe until we are in that level listed as "Low" we should even consider moving all the children and staff closer than 6 feet together 7 hours a day. We are really taking a gamble.

I do not support the Board's proposed plan at this time but think it should be re-evaluated for second semester based on current transmission levels in Allegheny county at that time.

Anne-marie Shaw
1460 Meteor Cir

I am writing with my concerns. I work in a school district with students 5 days a week in school. Roughly 22 students with 6ft apart and the rooms feel very tight. How are you expecting to have 27 students with 3 to 6ft apart in one room safely and have students walking through the building from class to class keeping social distancing in place? I feel our students should remain in the same classroom and have the teacher travel to have one less exposure for the students if there is no online teaching taking place at the same time.

Also most cases that have been in schools have been sports team cases. So why are we continuing sports in schools?

I feel we go back 4 to 5 days there needs to be stricter safety checks entering the school buildings. More Parents will be leaving for work before there student gets on the bus, who will take the students temperatures before they leave the house. Schools also need to check before entering the building. When I drive my son to Fort Couch there is not such a long line of students that would slow the students entering the building to have a teacher or nurse check there temperatures.

Students need to get outside to get sunshine and fresh air. These students need to be able to move around more. They are not getting enough physical movement, especially students with learning supports.

Also students being on chromebooks and iPad is hindering there ability to learn to spell as spell check does it all for them along with being able to write. also students are on other websites while the teacher is teaching the class. Teachers cannot be aware if what the students have open on the laptop during class. Thankyou for taking time to reading my concerns. I do appreciate everything the district is doing to make a safe learning environment.

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Cindy Holleran
179 McMurray Rd Pittsburgh PA 15241

I am very disappointed with the USC's School Board's decision to eliminate the hybrid learning pathway for students. My son was very success as a hybrid student. It allowed him to meet with his teachers and see some classmates in person, while maintaining the CDC recommended 6 feet distance in classrooms. While this new change that is being considered, students will not be following health guidelines and the safety of both the students and teachers are being compromised. I am also a teacher in a neighboring district and I can tell you that students are becoming more lax and keeping them separated is becoming more and more difficult each day. Please reconsider this decision to allow appropriate social distancing. Children safety should drive all your decisions.

Jodi Zegarelli
1491 Candlewood Drivd

The hybrid schedule is working well for our family. If I had a choice, I would continue this schedule through the winter.

Julia Schillo
1423 Old Meadow Road

I SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION FOR PHASED REOPENING AS
OUTLINED IN THE 10-12-2020 MEETING AGENDA

Haley Maher
1877 Taper Dr

I commend the district for creating a comprehensive transition plan that gets our children back into the classroom full time. The 2-3 hybrid option is not adequately addressing my children's needs and I urge the board to fully support the transition to 4-5 days a week in person learning in the most expedited time frame possible.

Jeff Lagoni
1664 Pinetree Drive

Please get these kids back in school full time. The safest place these kids can be is in school with one another. There is more damage being done than covid would have. if you need data to support this next step i can provide. Thank you

Maria Cedar
1211 Turnberry Dr

I support the administration's recommendations for phased reopening as outlined in the 10-12-2020 meeting agenda.

Joyce Falsetti
2301 Hidden Timber Drive

I support the Administration's Phased Reopening Plan attached to the agenda of the October 12, 2020 meeting. I am also appreciative to the administration, school board and the teachers and staff. The time, commitment and dedication that has been demonstrated is truly remarkable. The teachers have shown an incredible amount of patience and kindness that has gone above and beyond expectations and we are grateful to them. I would also strongly support the parent's decision whether their child needs to wear a mask. Not only are masks ineffective, they are dehumanizing and oppressive. Any healthy person should NOT be wearing a mask. Thank you.

Lore White
665 Trotwood Ridge Rd

I appreciate the hard work and careful attention given by the district to ensure our students' continued learning while making their safety a top priority. I also support the students eventual return to school full time. However, given the upcoming time of year with family holidays, flu season, and the seemingly continual rise of Co-vid cases through the winter, I have tremendous concerns about a premature return to full-time in person learning. I feel it would be most prudent to ensure the health and safety of all by postponing the next phase until at least after the end of the winter term. Pushing to resume full-time in person learning any sooner creates a dangerous environment unnecessarily, placing all involved at even greater risk than we currently face.

Jessica Schroeck
2254 Morrow Rd

I fully support the administration's phased reopening plan attached to the October 12th meeting agenda.

Luke Gracie
2335 Aetna DR

Hello,

First, I want to thank you for all of the extra time and energy that this year has placed upon you. I've been impressed with the process and decisions that have been made so far. Thank you for looking at the big picture and using science and data as a base for USC school decisions.

I'm disappointed with the recent email suggesting an early return to, ultimately, 5 days in school. This appears to be a decision based on the squeaky wheels in our community.

Our (USC, Allegheny, and Pennsylvania), numbers continue to increase on a regular, and consistent basis. Many states are having to put restrictions back in place to prevent the spread of the disease. This is still a deadly disease and many people in our community are vulnerable.

With cold and flu season right around the corner, it seems like a better idea to wait and see how our current model holds up - despite what the squeaky wheels say.

Many of the top corporations in our country have extended Work From Home (WFH). I take this as a signal that even the richest companies don't want to risk a outbreak and are willing to spend the money to encourage a safe remote workforce.

I understand the hardship that a less than 5 days a week can put on a household. What hardship would they have if they end up contracting this disease because of a rushed school board decision, based on squeaky wheel parents in our community?

Too much is at risk and this decision is being rushed. It makes more sense to wait for the new year and see how things are going, then decide if a move to more in school days is the right move.

I'm not against a return to normal school days, but I feel it should be done in a safe and data driven manner, as we've been doing. We have been in lockdown, in some form or fashion, for seven months now. We've only been in school for one month. Parents have been given an inch (hybrid model) don't let them take a mile before we should. We (USC) are better than giving into a group of complaining parents.

I also hope that if any changes are planned for the full remote program, they will be open for review and discussion.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my thoughts.

Kind regards,

Luke Gracie

Micki Takac
2335 Aetna Drive

Good Evening,

I am expressing my concern over the possibility of moving to four and five days of in-school instruction. I felt that the remote option was best for my family, at this time, with hopes of easing into the hybrid model later. Thus far, the remote model has worked for us. I'm sure that this is a strain on our wonderful teachers, but they are handling everything exceptionally well. It is difficult for the parents and students, as well, but this is the choice that we made. We are committed to the concept, as we know you are, of providing the safest environment for our children and district employees. Unfortunately, the most recent correspondence to parents makes no mention of how this change will affect the fully remote students.

Honestly, I was shocked that the district is even considering four and five day models when Covid cases continue to rise. The positivity rate for USC has been consistently over 6 %. I know that other districts are moving in this direction, but we are NOT other districts. I was so impressed by the time and consideration that the USC School District took in developing our back to school plan. Frankly, other schools' plans paled in comparison and lacked the attention to detail. I was proud that our district put the safety of the children, teachers and staff in the forefront of this issue.

Please don't succumb to the pressure of a few squeaky wheels. Deviating from this carefully designed hybrid plan could be a disaster, especially as we approach flu season. I know it's hard for everyone, but I am not willing to sacrifice the health and well-being of even one child or employee.

Sincerely,

Micki Takac
Mom to Isaac Gracie (7th grade) and Gabriel Gracie (5th grade)

Uzma Shah
1540 Fox Chase

I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Rozzo, the administration, the board, and the faculty for their dedication to our students' and their families' well-being. As a parent of an elementary aged student, a middle schooler, and recent special education life skills graduate, my concerns and experiences as a parent and advocate have been broad. The hybrid option was a great beginning to getting back to in-person learning, while maintaining safety and working within county guidelines. For the few life skills students who aged out of school, my son being one of them, this has been an especially tough time, as day programs and work programs are on hold. They've prepared for a world that suddenly has very few opportunities for them. My hope is that we can be creative with in-school apprenticeships for these students, as they were not done learning on March.

Shifting gears, I'd like to note that the one case that's been recorded, did not require any further quarantines. This gives me great hope that as a community, we will continue to do well with keeping community spread low. As we move into the next phases of this well-researched plan, I'd like to know what the contingencies would be should a breakout occur. It seems K-8 need the most in-person time. Moving forward, can we survey for the specific needs of these groups? Math, reading and ELA are areas that seem best learned in person. Should we have to scale back on the 4/5 day plan due to a break out, how can we make AM and PM groups (which would allow for current distancing standards) for in-person instruction in these subjects, possible? In the event of an outbreak this winter, could this model keep us from having to go fully remote again? Can summer school be an option for enrichment and to avoid further brain drain? And lastly, to mesh the fully-remote students with the in-person students, can we create some social group meetings/lunches, lead by a counselor to help the students talk through their feelings, similar to what was offered prior to Covid? Thank you all for your time and energy! We are grateful to be residents of this wonderful community.

Lisa & Bill Whitman
1602 Trolist Drive

Dear Members of the School Board,

Thank you so much for your efforts to get students back into school safely this fall. We have four children in the hybrid program: two kids at Fort Couch, one at Boyce, and one at Eisenhower. Our kids love the days they can go into school and learn in the classroom with their teachers and peers. And, importantly, they feel safe and comfortable doing so because of the safety precautions currently in place.

We are writing to ask you to continue the current 2-day hybrid option through the winter holiday season and to delay your proposed changes until second semester. We absolutely want our kids back in school full-time, but we do not believe that can occur safely at this time. We urge you not to rush a return to full-time school at the expense of maintaining appropriate safety measures. Our school buildings cannot safely accommodate 70-80% of the kids in the district. Notably, there has been no change in the CDC's recommendation that individuals maintain six feet of social distance.

In addition, the timing of these proposed changes coincides with the expected increase in COVID cases over the winter months. More people will be socializing indoors as the weather grows colder. Many students will be traveling and socializing during the holidays. Although the district proposes that families quarantine following travel to high-risk states, we are concerned that not all families will comply with these requirements. Finally, the proposed increase to a 4-day school week also coincides with flu season. As you know, many colleges and universities are sending students home between Thanksgiving and February, in order to avoid having students in the classroom during flu season and following holiday travel and social events. We strongly believe it would be a mistake to double the number of students in USC classrooms before the holidays and we implore you to stay the course until second semester.

Although some say we can "just stay home" if we are uncomfortable with the proposed changes, residents should not have to put their family's health in jeopardy in order to have access to some in-person instruction. We believe the current 2-day hybrid option allows more children to safely attend school at least a few days a week, while maintaining the appropriate 6-feet of social distancing. We are grateful for the opportunity to attend 2-day hybrid schooling, and ask for the district's continued adherence to health and safety guidelines.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. We know that the school board, administration, teachers and staff have been working day and night to provide the wonderful educational opportunities available in USC. We are truly appreciative.

Sincerely,
Lisa & Bill Whitman

Ponny & Arne Jahn
1391 Candlewood Drive

Hello All - we are appreciative of the Administration and Board's desire to best serve our students and community. However, we are reaching out this evening because we are also very concerned with the timeline/guidelines being brought forth to move forward with a more "normal" student schedule. We have 3 major concerns: 1) that the current 2-day hybrid was not even presented as an option (we would be interested) that 2) the changes suggested would be implemented just as we are headed into flu season - creating additional concerns/chaos surrounding the questionable period that inevitably would need to occur to determine whether or not a "symptomatic" student had COVID or the Flu and 3) that this extremely aggressive timeline - which also upends the schedule once again mid-semester, creating additional stress on students and teachers - seems extremely out of place based on the above factors. Why the rush? I have been working from a home office since March based on corporate guidelines, and my wife - who works in the performing arts - has been unable to work at all since then. This is because of both local and national public health recommendations. Please provide us with current case data that would fully support the doubling of at-risk days for our students, faculty and families with half the recommended distancing. If the District is unable to do so, we respectfully request that you reconsider this decision very carefully. Thank you. Arne Jahn

Kim Cimarolli
2365 Engelwood Drive

My family supports the Administration's Phased Reopening Plan. We thank the district for the effort and hard work to get the kids back to school safely.

Jingli Zhang
1552 pineview dr pittsburgh pa 15241

Would like to keep 2-day hybrid in-person learning option except there is enough students keep full remote leaning. That way there is enough distance and space for students to go back 4 days

Christine O'Hare
1440 Main St. Pittsburgh, Pa 15241

Good evening board members, school staff and fellow parents of Eisenhower. My name is Christine O'Hare and I have two students, in first grade, at Eisenhower. We are currently under the full remote model.

I am writing to voice my opposition to going toward a full brick and mortar model without a possibility of hybrid. When you do not have the ability to guarantee 6 ft. of distance, the spread of infection seems inevitable. Therefore, I will not send my boys to the classroom. I was considering switching them to hybrid after the holidays. If hybrid won't be an option, I would continue to be remote. It is a difficult undertaking. We are under water many days. The boys miss their friends and their teacher. Their kind teacher, Ms. McGonigle, met us outside the building so they could see an actual person as their teacher, not just an image. In their twinkling eyes, she was a rock star. They were so happy to be on school property again and to see her. I was looking forward to giving that back to them. We have had many days of tears, for all three of us, over getting them through the school day. I agree that being at school is better for their mental health as well as their academic progress, but at what cost?

Thank you for your consideration,
Christine O'Hare

Amy Baldasare
1280 Rolling Meadow Rd

I profusely thank you, Dr. Rozzo, for your dedication to getting our children back to school safely, and I also thank you, School Board Members. You have been elected by the majority to represent us. I KNOW this is more than you all bargained for, an unprecedented situation for sure, and I thank you!

No doubt, return to school is a divided issue with many opinions. I know one thing is for certain. All of us want what is BEST for our children.

To those that oppose a 4-5 day in person education for our children... I have been one of the few at the last couple school board meetings. Where were you? I spent hours preparing for the last school board meeting- trying to be a part time PA, a part time first grade teacher, a full time mom, and a better, more active member of the community, pulling data from the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics before speaking at the last school board meeting- nervous and emotional.

As I said during my speech two weeks ago, the scientific data at this point suggests that children are more likely to have severe illness and die from the flu than from COVID. The current data also suggests that adults may be much more important drivers of transmission than children.

This is exactly what Dr. Rozzo and the district have outlined in their powerpoint with the expertise of the district's pediatrician, epidemiologists, and the Allegheny County Health Department. To the opposition, I ask- What are you afraid of? If the flu is more lethal for children, do you plan on 2 days of in person schooling or a fully remote education during this and future flu seasons November-February?

How long can we continue to jeopardize the education of our children? How long can we continue to jeopardize the psychological/emotional health of our children? How long can we continue to jeopardize the immune health of our children? We have been isolating them for 7 months now.

The science as of right now supports a safe return to school of course with mitigation procedures in place. The hybrid model was never intended to be a permanent model. And right now, the benefits of a 4 or 5 day in person education certainly outweigh the risk. For those who continue to be uncomfortable despite the science and for those who have special circumstances, you are heard, and there is a fully remote option available for you.

This is not and should not be political. This is factual. This is science-based.

One of Governor Wolf's "top priorities" is "SCHOOLS THAT TEACH." We are currently failing our children. I want my children and all children across the district to know and love the Upper St. Clair education safely, the same education that I was blessed by God above to know and love. And I have full confidence in Dr. Rozzo, the School Board, and the EXPERTS consulted. We fully support a 4 or 5 day return to in person education.

Katie and Brian Heitman
2025 Mohawk Rd

Hello School Board members,

First, We want to thank you for all of your hard work to get us back to school in a safe and well thought out manner. We recognize and appreciate all of the time and work that went into making the hybrid model work. However, we are very concerned about increasing the number of in-person days with more kids sitting closer together without a significant change in CDC recommendations or numbers of cases.

As background, based on the numbers at the end of the summer, we were not comfortable sending our 3 children full-time with so many other children, especially with the limited data on how children play a role in spreading the virus. We were also extremely concerned about how they would fare psychologically had we kept them home to be fully remote. The hybrid model was a great match. With the smaller class size, we could follow the CDC recommendations of social distancing 6 feet and still get a great in-person education 2 days a week, while also receiving adequate remote education 3 days a week. Although the hybrid model isn't perfect, it certainly checks many of the boxes regarding a responsibility to public health as well as improving children's mental health. And it's working! We haven't had any outbreaks in the schools. Way to go!

This leads us to our concern regarding increasing the number of in-person days with more kids sitting closer together. From our research, CDC recommendations haven't changed. They still recommend 6 feet between individuals. Also, our local numbers are about the same as they were when we started school. It concerns us that we will be loosening our high standards of excellence.

On a mental health note, we're very concerned for our children. Yes- this pandemic is causing extreme emotions. Returning to school full time, before it's entirely safe, is not the answer. If USC continues with the plan to move to 4/5 days of in-person learning, our children will have to switch from the hybrid model to the fully remote model. They will be devastated. They love going to school. They love the environment. They love seeing their teachers. They love seeing their friends. Remote days are really, really hard with such young kids who require more intense supervision. They don't want to be doing school work at home. They want to be in school. I, too, will be devastated to lose those 2 days when they're in school (and I only have 1 kid at home with me) and I feel like I can finally exhale. Most importantly, we're disappointed that our children's mental health isn't seen as a high enough priority as other kids' mental health.

We wish there had been a section in the survey to assess how many families would prefer to stay the course of the hybrid model. Some families will feel the need to switch to remote, against what we know is best for their mental health, while others will reluctantly go 4/5 days even though they don't feel 100% comfortable with that option

either. We wonder if you initially only heard from some of the advocates for full in person because everybody else was satisfied with how things were going. On the survey, we were only given the option of in-person 4/5 days or remote. I wish we could, and I urge you to, keep the hybrid model until the data suggests that it's safe to be closer than 6 feet.

Finally, I am disappointed that the School Board is unable and/or unwilling to facilitate a zoom call for the meeting so that more people can safely make comments.

Once again, thank you for your volunteered time to make Upper St. Clair a superior school district.

Sincerely,

Katie and Brian Heitman
2025 Mohawk Rd

Holly Dietrick
2038 Mohawk Rd, Pittsburgh, Pa

Dear USC Board Members,

I am writing to you our elected officials to express my concerns about returning 4 days a week.

My sons are at the High School and Fort couch, it has been a great start to the school year with the hybrid model.

The boys are engaged in their classes , both at school and when they are home. I commend the district on a job well done.

My sons feel safe at school with the current model. My high school son expressed concern about how crowded the high school was with just half of the kids there and is worried about when everyone goes back.

He mentioned that he did not want to return if that happened , so he could keep us safe. This is a incredible weight for a child to carry. During the shut down he was withdrawn and missed his friends. I had to have him see a therapist to work through these issues. I certainly would love him to still go to school , but safely. Giving up the 6 feet which is the recommended distance seems irresponsible .

I am not sure what the hurry is to return to the classrooms full time is. We have the holidays, coming when some people will ignore social distancing protocols . College kids will be coming home, people will be traveling and having many contacts this is concerning.

Many people will spread the virus without knowing it, one of my nephews was asymptomatic. It was a good thing we listened to the science.

Why not wait until flu season is ending? People may not get tested believing they just have the flu or a cold.

We all know there are parents who do not follow the rules and this affects everyone.

Please listen to the recommendations of 6 feet to keep our community safe.

I understand that this is a hardship on families. We have adapted our lifestyle so someone can be home with our children. This is a time to sacrifice and work together for the greater good of our community.

I understand that there is now a covid case at the High School. I hope and pray there are no one else infected. Just imagine how many more individuals would be contacted if we were in 4 days a week .

Please let my children stay in school but at a safe distance like is recommend .

Holly Dietrick

Heather Rok
2376 Rexford Drive

I support the administration's recommendation for a phased reopening as outlined in the 10-12-20 meeting agenda.

Erin West
701 thornwick dr

I do not think increasing in-person days is a good idea at this time, as it would compromise mitigation efforts if we have a positive case. I personally know more people in USC who have tested positive in the past three weeks than during this whole pandemic. So I don't feel like the time is right.

Catherine Henry
1746 Waterford Ct

Dear USC School Board,

I am a parent to a kindergarten and 3rd grade student at Eisenhower, and I would like to show my full support of the new return to school plan. I have been so impressed with the district and the careful planning that they did with the hybrid model, and I can see that same thoughtfulness in this new plan. My 3rd grader is a good student. He doesn't need a lot of assistance with the online learning, and I can depend on him to go to his meetings at the correct time, and he works well independently. That said, he has stated how much he wants to go back to school. I have seen the difference in his attitude on in-person days vs virtual days. He is so much happier and excited about learning on the days he gets to be in school. I worry that if the hybrid plan continues he will start to lose his excitement to learn. I feel so fortunate that my kindergartener is able to go to school four days, and her attitude has been so positive the entire time. She loves school. I recognize that the district is in a tough situation, but you all have handled it beautifully so far. You have given families choices that can work best for them given the situation. Please let our kids have the option to return to a full day. Thank you.

Mike Ross
378 Oaklawn Dr

Thank you for all the hard work done so far by district teachers, staff, administration, and board members during these difficult circumstances. We greatly appreciate the thoughtful and careful planning around the needs of all students and families in the district.

It is reassuring to see the district continuing to plan and strive towards the goal of 5 days per week at school. That said, we are deeply concerned that at this time, there is insufficient information concerning Covid outbreak patterns during the Fall season. Current trends point to an upsurge of cases. Consensus from medical researches and doctors also predict an upward trend in the coming months.

We respectfully request that the board defer any return to school decisions at this time and continue with the current hybrid plan. This is the safest option for all students and staff in the district.

Heather Irwin
1327 Moon Ridge Dr. USC

Thank you for allowing the public to submit comments online during this pandemic, where indoor public gatherings are restricted. We have three children in the school district - two at Baker Elementary and one at Boyce Middle School. We are currently remote and had hoped to safely transition into the Hybrid model after the holiday season had passed. As important as school is for our children, it was also important for us to maintain a close relationship with immunocompromised grandparents and family, during a time where exposure to a highly contagious, airborne illness could prove fatal. For this reason remote learning was an easy option for us. We very seriously considered PA Cyber School - we even had our name on a registration list - before being convinced that USC would spend the money and resources in creating a "robust" online learning system.

My husband and I have major concerns about USC considering a four-day/five-day return to school based on the presentation information released.

As put forth in the presentation, the district has been successful in mitigating Covid19 cases in the schools through the Hybrid system.* The system allows for students to receive precious in-person school time, while, through social distancing of 6 feet and alternative remote days, maintain safety measures within the school. The correlating hypothesis (presented as causation in this presentation) is that by altering the safety measures to three feet of distance between students, doubling daily student attendance and increasing bus occupancy, the same results will be achieved. Please cite which school systems, of similar student body size and infection rate, have achieved these positive results. *Noted that as I type this the first reported covid case has been made within the USC High School.

This is a highly infectious, airborne virus that has killed over 219,000 Americans in the past eight months (almost 20,000 in the last week!). Now with the colder weather approaching, it is time for the community to move indoors. It has been confirmed by the CDC that the virus can and will travel beyond the advised six feet indoors with circulated air. It should be noted that national sports teams with million dollar budgets, and the ability to quarantine in resorts, have not been able to slip past infection, nor have cynic local, state and national leaders. What makes our school district believe it can expect different results for our children, teachers and community?

The district is being advised that the mental health of our children is at stake and can be resolved by attending school five days a week. Please provide the mental health experts and statistics that support this claim. Where is the proof that Hybrid school schedules are the causation of these mental health issues? One can argue that these mental health concerns are PANDEMIC induced; school scheduling is a byproduct of a worldwide problem. By reducing the distance between students and increasing the potential for classes to quarantine, along with the knowledge that potentially infected students will then expose their teachers, families and friends, would that not add to anxiety and stress? My own children visit a therapist on occasion to address anxiety and stress during this time - but they do so in a virtual setting. Setting up Google Meetings with school counselors could be made mandatory for students in order to work through these troubling times.

According to the published October survey results (Question #1), 40% of the USC district would choose to remain Hybrid or Remote during this time if given the option. While certainly this is not the majority, it is still a significant number. Many have left remote because the "robust" system promised is, simply put, not. If the district decides to move forward with the 4-day, then 5-day plan, please consider allowing remote students to learn from all-remote teachers. Currently, teachers are working extraordinarily hard to incorporate the 20% of remote learners (a statistic that has not changed much, according to survey results). By increasing their class size this will further divide and isolate the remote learning students. My own son at Boyce Middle School, benefits greatly from the few classes that are solely remote. I have heard similar comments from other parents as well.

We all want our kids to go to school five days a week. We all want things to go back to "normal" - the remote learners desire this just as much as the vocal "5-Day" advocates. The difference is that we believe

that five days should happen when it is safe for our children to do so. Please consider all science-based recommendations and safety measures, as well as the concerns of a significant portion of your learning community, when making your decisions.

Mike Glancy
62 Ruthfred

I feel that the USC school district has done an amazing job with the start of school in hybrid mode. However I was a bit frustrated with the latest survey in that it did not allow for an undecided option or a chance for comments. At this time I am unsure about sending my child back 4 days a week without social distancing in place. I realize the hybrid model is much harder for those with younger children but do feel the hybrid is working great at the HS level, and have heard from many students they prefer this right now. Could there be a possibility of keeping hybrid in HS for the first semester while going to 4 days for the elementary level? Thank you for your time and for all your efforts.

Andrew Baldasare
1280 Rolling Meadows Rd

SUMMARY

I support the administration's recommendation form phased reopening as outlined in the 10-12-2020 meeting agenda. Please continue reading to learn why:

FAMILY

"I hate you, Mom," "This is stupid," "I just want to be in school," these are the words of my frustrated 1st grader on every home school day. "I'm bored," "Mommy, Mommy, I want to play with you," these are the words of our Pre-K daughter in search of her Mom's attention. "Chippy, chip, chip," is my 18 month old daughter wanting a snack and wanting my wife's attention. This is what home school looks like for our family and hundreds of others in the community. It's not fun. It's not enjoyable. It's not working. Too many tears and not enough smiles.

VALUED EDUCATION

There is very little educational value 3 out of 5 days a week right now. We feel as though Wednesday - Friday is busy work /review and our son is only learning on Monday and Tuesday. Bottom line, there is a reason why we have schools - for teachers to teach and students to learn. Let's get back to that model.

FACTS

Are these stressful times? Yes. For a lot of people, but especially for the working family. However, we need to put our kids first. According to the data provided from Dr. Rozzo, the facts state that our children returning to full in-person school is essential for their well being. What isn't stated is how essential it is for THE FAMILY. For parents to become Mom's and Dad's again and not teachers.

MORE FACTS

The School District needs to ensure that we are following the guidelines and facts available from the CDC, AAP and local health departments. Facts, that's an interesting word these days. Word of the year? Perhaps. The fact is that people who have tested positive for Covid-19 have a higher survival rate that is higher than that of the flu, not too mention the almost near 100% (within a margin of error) survival rate of the majority of the age groups. Another facts is our countries death rate is currently on pace to be lower than 2018. When making your decisions, please remember the facts and do not play into the fear.

MY ASK

What do I ask from the school board? I ask for you to think of the Family when casting your vote. I ask the school board to provide my 1st grader with an education like I received in 1993 in Mrs Ranoldi's first grade class at Eisenhower. Where I loved my teachers and loved my classroom. Where school was fun, but the Home was even better.

REMEMBER

You have the power to move our community in the right path. The outlined recommendations that Dr. Rozzo and his team have put together is the best of both worlds. The 77% who would like to return to full-time have been patient, but it's starting to wear thin. The other 23% can have their choice as well. Provide parents with a choice for their kids and respect the majority.

"Real strength has to do with helping others." Fred Rodgers

Help us,
Andrew Baldasare
USC Class of 2005

Amy Sarkett
1303 Rolling Meadow Rd.

I am very grateful for the effort and planning put into the current hybrid plan. I do not think we should we so quick to discard it just as the weather will be turning colder and the outside space cannot be utilized. Currently music classes (choral, wind instruments) must be held outside. What is the plan for safely holding these classes, especially if increased numbers of students are to be in the classrooms? I think priority should be given to returning elementary students to the classrooms first. High school students are finding the hybrid model conducive to learning and mental and physical health as they are able to utilize more of the built-in work times during the day and get more sleep.

Siddhartha Mukherjee
385 Oaklawn Drive, Pgh, PA 15241

Esteemed USC school district board members and Dr. Rozzo :

Please allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the educators and administrators of the Upper St. Clair school district for the efficient hybrid and online instruction system.

COVID-19 is a worldwide, generational challenge, as is amply demonstrated by the scale of human casualties, hospitalization, and disruptions to life. Our supply chains and delivery models have been stretched paper-thin and organizations and individuals are still reeling from the shock of the pandemic as more and more disease hot spots keep appearing.

The science driving the infection data is clear and unambiguous and factors like social distancing, lockdowns, use of PPES, targeted testing and isolation of positively tested COVID-19 patients had ensured the relative control of the spread of the disease in Southwestern Pennsylvania as we had approached the new school year. However, gradual easing of the limits of indoor gatherings have adversely affected the infection rates and, as of today, the 7 day moving average of NEW infections in Allegheny county has peaked to 90 and rising, which amply reinforces the link between increased indoor crowds and infection rates.

As a parent and as a technology leader with 20+ years of corporate professional experience, I am beyond impressed by the efficacy of your current hybrid and online model and content delivery framework. It is interactive, allows fault tolerancing, is adapted to the students' pace and needs and comes with intuitive user interfaces.

No technology can work well without the human factor driving it. In this aspect, the teachers and the educational staff at Upper St Clair have gone above and beyond their calling. They adapted to this new model of instruction very quickly and guided their students through the process patiently, gradually and with compassion. Many of us moved to the school district because of the I.B. curriculum – and over the course of the past few months, the synergy between the educators, the technology, the students and the parents have proved to be an outstanding demonstration of these I.B. values.

We are beyond grateful that your quick adaptation to the crisis have allowed our children to remain safe while receiving a quality education.

Since the reopening of the new school year, published data from across the country have shown the danger of overcrowding of indoor school spaces like classrooms, hallways and cafeterias without adequate physical distancing. In this aspect, your current hybrid solution has addressed the problem well by limiting the number of students in a given indoor space at any point of time.

However, transitioning to a 4 or 5 day model, will not permit maintaining these distancing criteria. This places the health and wellness of the teachers, the staff and the students (and their family members) in unnecessary jeopardy.

We do realize that it is absolutely imperative that normal school should resume – albeit safely. In this aspect, it is important to take into consideration the actual infection rates by the time your proposal for the 4 or 5 day school week is due in mid November and mid January. In other words, if the seven day average of new infections persist or increase, then, it becomes increasingly clear that transitioning to a 4 or 5 day model would be counter-productive.

In this context, I would request you to continue to use the data and the epidemiological models as you have done so far to guide your decision to adopt the 4 or 5 day model. The fact that asymptomatic transmission is the most insidious way this virus spreads, a crowded school building becomes an ideal

incubator for this disease and the biggest risk factor in this matter.

As opposed to a few other school districts, your decision to adopt the staggered 2 day hybrid and full remote has kept our children, our teachers and staff safe – while allowing the critical educational instruction to be delivered in an uninterrupted and timely fashion. It is of utmost importance to continue with this validated and time-tested model on instruction delivery until there is a clear indication that new infection rates in our geographical area have reduced and plateaued.

In conclusion, I would again like to thank you and the school district for your efficient, transparent, and compassionate leadership in these trying times.

Joshua Segall
1494 Jenkins Dr

First, I want to thank the Board for their thoughtful strategy for remote and hybrid schooling that has so far been very successful in continuing our children's education and providing stability during the pandemic. While we all want to return to full time in person classes, we have to balance this desire with the risks to our children's health.

At this time I believe it is premature to reopen the schools full time. First, it is still somewhat early to tell what the results of the current program will be. After Pittsburgh moved to the green phase, it wasn't until six weeks afterward that we saw a dramatic increase in cases. Upper St Clair has only been back to school for five weeks. Second, the proposed reopening schedule will occur just before a surge in travel, with college students returning home and families traveling to visit relatives for Thanksgiving. We are also aware of numerous homecoming parties planned in the community that may increase the risk of spreading the virus. Third, numerous health officials, including Dr. Fauci, are warning us to be vigilant as the temperature drops, windows are closed, and more activities move indoors.

I am hopeful that the measures currently in place will be sufficient to keep us safe and avoid the kind of resurgence we are seeing in other communities and around the world this month. We haven't seen any significant problems in our schools, but that is evidence that the plan is working. While school cases remain low, the average daily case rate in Allegheny county is still higher than the peak in April when schools were fully closed. Changing to full time now would be like putting our umbrella away in a rainstorm just because we aren't getting wet. The storm is not over, so let us not be blind to rain clearly falling around us.

In addition, I am concerned about the quality of education remote children will receive in the proposed plan. As a parent of two children who have been fully remote and recently switched to hybrid, it is clear that remote children are not receiving the same attention as students in class. We have seen firsthand how students miss out on important information on the occasions where teachers struggle with the new technology or forget to turn on their mics. If we reopen and classes become more full, remote students will likely receive even less attention. Our children deserve an equal education even if they opt to be remote, which the current hybrid approach does a better job at providing. The proposed plan also says you are evaluating separate remote sections as an alternative. However, that will be an unnecessary disruption for students who have just spent a month building rapport with their teachers, and understanding their style and expectations.

Furthermore, I am confused at the proposed plan's requirement that students who commit to the full remote option must remain remote for the 9-week period. I have been struggling with a health issue at home for several months and cannot afford to contract another illness. So I was grateful for the option to have my children start remote and switch to hybrid later, because it allowed us to be cautious and weigh health risks that are specific to our household. If the school reopens to four or five days per week, I would want to take a similar approach. This proposal seems to be removing options, against its stated goals.

As a parent of two high schoolers, I believe the current hybrid approach is working and we should stay the course for now. On the other hand I empathize with parents of elementary school students where having children at home is more of a burden. For this reason I recommend the Board consider differing strategies based on school level. I know of other communities where the elementary school has five half-days a week to provide more routine stability while keeping class sizes low. The survey results published in the proposed plan do not break down the numbers by school, but I would be curious to know if there is a difference.

Speaking of the survey, it is clear that more than 50% want to fully reopen the schools. However, over 40% support the remote and hybrid options--a sizable minority. The survey offered no choice to declare support for keeping a hybrid option, which is something I hope the Board would consider asking before making the changes being considered. It would not be surprising to find significant support to keep the

hybrid option at this time. I urge the Board to adopt a balanced strategy that respects the diverse opinions in our community and follows the science-based guidelines to keep our children safe and healthy. With our current plan working as intended, and no significant changes to our understanding of the pandemic, I believe the best course of action is to stick with the remote and hybrid options we have now.

Sarah Ehasz
1308 Manor Drive

I am writing to express my concern with the current plan to return the children in our district to four days a week in school. My main concern is that they will not be able to properly socially distance. With the current hybrid system, the children are kept 6 feet apart. This would not be possible with kids in school four days a week.

I think it is important to note that nothing has changed relating to covid19 since the school year started. There is no vaccine. There are ongoing infections. But, the current hybrid system is working! The schools have stayed open. The kids are having social interaction and in school instruction on a part time basis and at the same time are able to attend school safely due to the reduced number of children in the buildings. The current hybrid model continues to be the safest and most reasonable option. Again, nothing has happened to warrant a change. I implore you to consider keeping things as is at least until the new year. Thank you.

Lucy Curran
2404 Mill Grove Road

Hello- I am writing to share feedback on the phased return to school plan, as a member of the community. I strongly believe that returning to 4 days in person next month and 5 days in January will put the whole community at risk. Cases in the county continue to be at a higher positivity rate than desirable. While USC cases may not have spiked with the start of the school year, they certainly did this summer when people returned to socializing and travel. With the holidays around the corner and the socialization & travel that comes with it, the School Board is taking a huge gamble to double the number of students and cut the social distancing space at this time of year. One can only assume cases will increase, and I fear this will trickle down to my family by asymptomatic (or even worse, symptomatic) kids at the playground or playing in the neighborhood with my little ones and/or parents at the grocery store. I strongly urge the School Board to reconsider pushing the 4 day plan until the New Year, or as an alternative consider virtual between Thanksgiving and the New Year as so many universities are doing. Please remember that this decision affects all USC residents. Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Kramer
3381 Brookdale Drive

Dear Superintendent Rozzo and School Board Members,

First and foremost, we would like to thank you for all the hard work you and your teams have done to make this school year safe yet, effective. It could not have been an easy task to research, plan and execute a school year like this. We feel the hybrid/remote model has been implemented very well. The administration, staff and teachers have done an amazing job. THANK YOU!!!!

This letter is just to add some thoughts that we couldn't include in the survey for Upper St. Clair School District considering a five day return to in-person school.

We have two children in the district, a high school junior and middle school 8th grader. Our HS student is participating in the hybrid approach while our 8th grader is participating as full remote.

The move to 4 or 5 days a week in-person learning has us concerned. As mentioned in the survey, the social distancing will not be able to continue. To us, the social distancing and wearing a mask are important safety measures for in-person learning. So, for our high school student, these safety measures made us feel a bit less stressed with her returning to in-person. But for our Fort Couch student, we knew that not everyone could return to school with the safety features implemented, thus because we could keep our son home, we did. He gets his social time with his peers during cross-country practices and events - thus being social with his peers while being outside.

Unfortunately, as you know, the pandemic hasn't ended and thus we are still in unprecedented times. As the weather is starting to change - thus pushing more activities from outdoors to indoors, why would we expand the possible exposure of our children, teachers and staff by reducing social distancing options in the classroom? This is a risk that our Allegheny County corporate employers aren't willing to take - even with offices that can provide much more in the way of social distancing, as well as, the ability to limit the sharing of desks and chairs better than a school classroom. Thus, the continued work remote exists in much the corporate working world until next year. On a national level, our top scientists and infectious disease experts still recommend that we wear a mask outside our home, practice physical distancing, avoid crowds, opt for outdoors over indoors when possible, and practice good hand washing hygiene. To give up social distancing, at this time, is counter to the research and advice that has been provided.

Please ensure social distancing can be maintained at 6 feet for additional in-person instruction options.

The teachers have done an amazing job combining in-person with remote instruction. This is an amazing accomplishment - our teachers and staff are awesome! But is it fair/realistic to assume that teachers could keep this level of split focus when 80-90% of the students are in-person and only 10-20% of the students are full remote? While not anyone's intention, it feels like the students who remain as full remote will be at a significant disadvantage. So we feel we will be compelled to send our daughter & son to in-person instruction. We all want our kids to return to full, in-person instruction. But we feel it should be when it is safe for our children and staff to do so.

Assuming that the school board meeting is going to be recorded and available to view, could you answer the following questions in the meeting?

- What will the impact of a positive COVID-19 student/teacher/staff member be with more students in school?
- Can you describe what full-remote instruction will look like after Nov 12 (assuming that hybrid option is replaced with full in-person instruction)?
- If the internet goes down (like it did two times) will teachers stop teaching because the remote learners won't hear what the teacher is saying?
- If students return to full in-person instruction, will teachers also still teach the full-remote learners at the same time?
- Are there going to be additional safety procedures implemented because social distancing can't be maintained? Peters Township has all students walk through temperature scanners to provide additional safety procedures for their students, teachers, and staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Jen & Les Potter
3381 Brookdale Drive
Upper St. Clair, PA 15241
412-831-1414

Priyanka Sharma
1788 Sapphire Ct

Dear school board members,

I understand your job is not easy and I am thankful for your hard work to keep the best interest of students, teachers and staff members. I hope that everyone stays safe and truly believe that your cautious approach is helping minimize the impact of this global pandemic.

I would like to say that my children (one in High school and other in middle school) are availing the remote option and I would like to request that the administration ensure that the quality of fully remote option is maintained and made more robust.

My children feel safer staying home in this period and do not want to be distracted or stressed by going into the school building and worrying about remembering to follow the safety guidelines. I am very concerned about their safety as well. This virus has a lot of long term health effects and should not be taken lightly.

I am concerned about the school proposing an increase of in-person school days. This may result in higher transmission rates and cause disruption. I am not sure what has changed between September and November, but I feel like we need to be more patient and instead of rushing to go back to normal when things are anything but that, the school needs to focus on bolstering the remote capabilities that benefit all students. The Cyber schools are doing just that and many corporations are looking to hunker down and look out for the safety of their employees. I work for Highmark and we have been told to continue working from home until Jan 1st, at the earliest.

I am glad the school has committed to offering a remote option through the end of the school year, however, in the next phase remote students are being asked to make a commitment for a longer period of time i.e. 9 weeks. I would like to hear from the school how it is planning to improve the remote option for students, now that we have all gone through the past few weeks. E.g. will the school ensure that teachers are not being changed for the students in the middle of the school year?

I want to ensure that USC maintains and improves the quality of remote education that it knows it has to offer for the rest of the school year and not focus solely in returning in-person to school.

Thank you for all you do, please stay safe and healthy!

Priyanka Sharma

Maria Gismondi
2471 Huntington Dr.

I find the push to move to 4-day in person instruction in November/discontinue the current hybrid model option incredibly discouraging. I had hoped to transition my kids to hybrid once we were sure the mitigation measures were successful, hopefully by spring semester at the latest. Now, just when we were settling in to the idea of 2 days in person, that option is being removed, and I am 100% not comfortable with reducing social distancing in favor of more days in school. The timing couldn't be worse heading into flu/holiday season, where many families will be traveling and spending time with people outside their immediate circle. Now that we have our first case, I would think this is even less advisable. I cannot understand why going against the CDC regulations for social distancing would ever be considered before there is appropriate treatment protocol and/or a vaccine available. It's counterintuitive to move towards reopening/away from best practices in safety just because people want their children back in school, when empirical data suggests we are likely on the brink of a second wave. We all want life to return to normal, but as long as we keep pretending we're already there, we just delay that return further.

MICHELE BURGESS
220 TROTWOOD WEST DR

I am concerned about moving to a 4 or 5 day model for two reasons. 1) As stated on the PDE website (<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/Pages/DeterminingInstructionalModels.aspx>), it is not recommended to move to a model where students are closer than 6 feet until the incidence rate per 100,000 residents in the last 7 days is less than 10 AND the positivity rate is less than 5%. Last week, Allegheny County's incidence rate was 43.9 which puts us well above the recommended threshold. In fact, Allegheny County has yet to ever reach the recommended incidence rate for moving to a model with less than 6 feet between students.

2) The CDC has recently acknowledged airborne transmission as a factor in transmission of the virus. With more students in the classrooms, if any student is infected, there are more students exposed to the airborne particles. As we enter cold and flu season, it seems like an inopportune time to move to a model with more students in an enclosed space together.

In conclusion, the current hybrid model seems to involve an appropriate amount of risk while still serving our students' educational needs.

Lori Tedesco
1244 Lamson Circle

Resuming school with increased days without maintaining six feet of distance is going to place not only my child, but myself, an immunocompromised lupus patient on high dose biologics, at risk. You are not giving an option to anyone to remain home. Knowing that the cases are again climbing, and knowing you cannot and will not be able to prevent the spread of transmission, because you have not equipped the district with the responsible gear to do so, you are negligently assuming all risk in making children and instructors sick. This is a population we have worked hard at keeping healthy, while other demographics have acted irresponsibly. While you may have less health concerns for yourself and may have fewer years on this planet, choosing to place children in harms way to this unpredictable virus without being prepared to protect them, is akin to another Sandy Hook disaster. I hope, for the sake of these children, that no one becomes sick. Thank you for your time.

Kim Cimarolli
2365 Engelwood Drive

My family supports the Administration's Phased Reopening Plan. We thank the district for the effort and hard work to get the kids back to school safely.

Sarah Sams
112 Highview Drive

The district has not yet outlined a plan as to how the fully remote program will be maintained throughout the year. Can children expect to keep their current teachers and similar schedules if fully remote is still selected? The current reopening plan seems to focus on changes that will be made to in-person learning but does not address what fully remote families can expect, which makes it difficult to make an informed decision moving forward.

Ashley White
1750 McMillan Road

I feel the decision to return to school 4 days a week in mid November is premature. This decision goes against both the CDC and PA Dept. of Health guidelines related to maintaining 6 feet of distance between people. I believe waiting to implement this return until January would give the district a better overview of the virus' course. I would love nothing more than for my children to return to school full time.

I realize this has been incredibly difficult for teachers, staff and families and that having the kids back to school is ideal, however, I believe that a cautious approach is appropriate. Unfortunately, as a household with two working parents, we cannot choose the full remote option.

Maria Blohm
176 Fieldgate Drive

Thank you for the thoughtful plan for the 4/5 day return to school for grades 1-12. Many of us have kindergarten students in school as well who have been attending 4 days/ week and it is going very well. Because of the limited space inside the elementary schools, the K-Plus program has been cancelled for this year. While I realize how that space is needed, this will make it more difficult for those families with students in kindergarten once their older brothers and sisters are back in school full-time on a 4 or 5 day basis as families start to go back to work outside of the home. Please consider how the district can facilitate the K-Plus program this year, even if alternative locations are explored, so that our kindergarten students can attend school for the full day as well. Aside from the childcare aspect, this program has been a wonderful addition to the kindergarten curriculum, providing additional educational resources to strengthen reading, writing and math skills, as well as getting these children ready to attend the full-day program the next year. I know many of the kindergarten parents express these views and would really appreciate exploring this program again for this year to determine if it is all possible, either inside or outside of the elementary schools. Thank you for all that you do to ensure our children are receiving the very best education they deserve.

Sian Howell
1600 Hollow Tree Dr

The district has done a phenomenal job so far with handling the Covid crisis within our schools and I believe they will continue to do so. I appreciate a plan has to be put in place for the future but I do hope that this plan is more for spring than the approaching winter. With flu season just around the corner and not having ridden the expected "second wave" for Covid yet, the idea that we would reduce the social distancing preventative measures that are in place right at a time when illness is more prevalent seems a little premature. A plan is definitely the way forward but please just wait a little longer.
Thanks

Shanna Caplan
1715 Partridge Run Rd

I am disappointed that the board is considering 4 to 5 days a week so soon. My son is currently remote but he was hoping to go hybrid soon. With cases picking back up and cold/flu season upon us, this does not seem like the ideal time. I understand some parents are really pushing for it and I understand why but I do not agree that their reasons trump those that do not want it. Hybrid is working so far to keep the spread down. If we continue hybrid then maybe we will be truly ready after the holidays. Please, reconsider and wait until after the new year.

Thank you and everyone that works for the school district for everything you are doing!

Respectfully,

Shanna Caplan

Megan Whiteford
1813 Taper Drive

Thank you so much for all of the hard work that you have done for our students, staff, and community members during this challenging time. As the district officials make plans to move forward with opening the schools, I have a few questions. First, how will the administration ensure that students and staff are following the masking requirements that are put in place to keep our students, staff and community safe? This will be critical if students are socially distanced by three feet instead of six. It will become even more critical as we head into the holiday season, which will bring about increased gatherings and travel. I am hearing from various community members that proper masking is not always enforced now. Is this true? Also, how will students and staff be kept safe in classes like chorus if they are now three feet apart instead of six?

Katie Zimmerman
353 Lorlita Lane

My daughter and I had planned on attending the school board meeting tonight but most likely will not be able to now. So we will submit online. My comment is noted below and she will submit separately.

I am in support of the 5 day school week and the remote option for those that opt for it.

I have three girls in the district, a 6 year old in 1st grade, an 8 year old in 3rd grade and an 11 year old in 5th grade.

They all want to be back in school 5 days. They are currently hybrid and love there in school days. They are dealing with the online days but struggle and do not like it.

My 1st grader has a new ADHD diagnosis and the online days are very hard to get through. She is very frustrated as am I and she really needs the in person instruction and resource teachers. Taking a paper math test online with the teacher reading the questions is next to impossible. Her anxiety was so high from the day she brought the test home on a Friday till she took the test on Monday and Tuesday. This is not fair to expect these young kids to have to do this.

I could go on and on, but basically the kids mental health and well being in addition to their socialization and life skills are at stake here.

I believe the district will make the best possible decisions on how to return to school but I am strongly in favor of 5 days at a school.

Thank you.
Katie Zimmerman

Gregg Zegarelli
1491 Candlewood Drive

The SD should have a protocol for taking temperatures of children on entry into the facility or at home room. It would take less than a few minutes per class, or a few seconds per student. This is now standard protocol at government buildings, churches, restaurants, amusement parks, and many other places. In this context, no child should be in the school with a fever, COVID or not. This is an objective and non-judgmental standard. It is a displacement of responsibility to put the burden on individual parents, who may not do it or may not want to do it for selfish reasons. I understand the Teachers Union may not want that responsibility, but I suggest that it is now part of maintaining core classroom safety. I have heard the argument that taking temperatures will not catch all the COVID students, which is illogical for the same reason as we fish for what we can catch and it is not an excuse not to fish because we cannot catch all the fish in the ocean. Statistically acceptable false positives or negatives aside, for this somewhat catastrophic context, it simply seems irresponsible to me that we are not implementing a process to measure the one criterion that is reasonably objective to catch the exact thing that we are interested in knowing. If a child has a fever and is permitted to enter the facility, then all the attempts to scurry around to disinfect every cascading touch is inefficient, incompetent and foolish. Wisdom best practice dictates simply to stop the feverish child at the point of entry.

Audrey Conley
2303 Berkshire

With the district finally recognizing Mental health being a priority, why must our children wait another 5 weeks to get back to school. My high school daughter cries almost every day. I have had to get her into therapy. This has created so many initial Mental problems for our children and we don't know how this will affect their emotional/ mental state going forward. I am including a very poignant article. Please let our kids get back sooner! Kids are Super Spreaders!!!
<https://www.theatlantic.com/>

Kayla Zimmerman
353 Lirlita Lane

I am Kayla Zimmerman a 5th Grader

Covid 19 has made the new normal hybrid and only remote school , masks, and 6 feet in distance.

I understand that we have to wear masks and watch our distance but I think if you want to go into school you should be aloud . I don't learn what I need to and I can never focus when I am at home. There are a lot of distractions.

It was also hard to leave the elementary after being there five years and not being able to say goodbye and then being pushed into Boyce without knowing anything and where to go.

Kids can fight Covid easier than adults can so I think for to five days with and option of still being all remote is fair to everyone.

I vote 4 to 5 days

From Kayla Zimmerman

Terry Hritz
2437 Huntington Drive

1/ Enlight of the new positive case in the High School, are you reconsidering any part of your plan? 2/Are there any plans for testing students & staff? 3/If there is a positive case in my child's classroom, will you notify all of the parents of students in that room or just those who were seated directly around that student? 4/If there is a larger number of students in one classroom than the other rooms in that specific grade, will you move students into other classrooms to minimize the numbers in the larger class? 5/You show a graphic for a classroom exposure, but how will you deal with exposures in lunchrooms, hallways, etc.? Personally, I feel that our children are extremely resilient & especially living in a privileged community, I believe that our kids are going to come out of this situation & progress much faster than you may believe. I trust our teachers & the amazing work they are doing to educate our children. I think we should hold off until the beginning of the new year to decide whether or not to go to 4/5 day in-school instruction. With the cold temperatures quickly approaching & already occurring in many areas of the country, positive numbers are drastically increasing in the northern states (North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wisconsin, etc.) where things went back to 'usual' too soon & they are no paying the price. Members of the School Board & the administration, please carefully think this over. I really want my child to get back to full time in-school learning a.s.a.p., but I understand even more that we need to be very cautious about how quickly to do that.

Christina Casciani
Candlewood Drive

Hello. My name is Christina Casciani and I live on Candlewood Drive in Deerfield Manor. I have a 6th grade daughter who attends Boyce and 4th grade son who attends Baker Elementary. I want to thank all Upper St Clair School district board members, administrators, staff and teachers for their extreme dedication over these past 7 months who have worked endlessly to try and balance this impossible situation with the education and wellness of our children and families within the community.

When this pandemic started, our main objective was to 'flatten the curve' as to not overwhelm our hospital systems – and we have done that. What we cannot do is continue to put our lives on hold for the unrealistic goal of zero cases. According to the CDC, the survival rate for children ages 0-19 is 99.997%. Those statistics are in our favor.

The World Health Organization just released an article a few days ago that states 'As infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists, we have grave concerns about the damaging physical and mental health impacts of the prevailing COVID-19 policies which are producing devastating effects on short term and long term public health.' I have 2 children who once loved school – they would show up early for garden club and stay late for musical practice and Kids of STEEL. Unfortunately, they are now struggling. On remote school days, they are unmotivated, sad and feel disconnected from their teachers, classmates, and community. We can continue to protect the vulnerable while also letting our children get the education and school experience they need and deserve. Please vote in favor of our transition to the 4/5-day school reopening plan.

Thank you,
Christina Casciani

Shari Childs
2384 Redford Drive 15241

We have two children in the district . One in the high school and one in Fort Couch . My children attend school 2 days a week / hybrid. Both of them are thriving with this program . They feel like they have an opportunity to have in person learning in a very safe way . We have a lot of concerns about the new 4 day plan . They do not want to have full remote education . The main concern is that the students will no longer be 6 feet apart . The current plan is working . Please do not change it before we see how cold/ flu season and increased indoor activities affects our community in regards to the virus .

JP Mackovich
2171 Meadowmont Dr

I believe the proposed plan to return students to 4 days in person WITHOUT social distancing and going against the current CDC guidelines is a poor choice. Should we have cases spread due to this we will end up in a full remote situation which in my opinion is far worse for the majority of students. After receiving the notification of a case in the HS last night, I think we are rushing the situation. The email clearly stated we would be contacted by ACHD if (these are the words from the email directly) "In the event that any close contacts (any individual within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) beyond the school day are identified, those contacts will be notified by the Health Department. "

So clearly filling the classrooms with less than 6 ft of social distance going right into Flu season is a bad idea.

I do not support the current proposed plan by the Board. Keep things as they are and revisit the idea closer to second semester.

Thank you

Karla Godish
1351 Oakledge Court

- 1) I have concerns with communications/ how parents are surveyed: This survey is pretty important but if not for social media I would have missed the email and not participated. Some parents did miss the email. Could you use the school district's phone alerts to call parents and alert them to the process? The survey asked what option I would select for my family but the background did provide enough detail. The survey results are then applied to substantiate the recommendation to open the school 4 days/wk. Do I want my child to attend 4 days a week? Yes! but not under just any conditions, and given the information in the survey, I don't know that my answer is even a good representation of what's appropriate. This speaks to the larger concern I have about the importance of transparency in a crisis. It is critical that the school district be the source of information, but I often learn more details from my child as to how things work, or from other parents on social media.
- 2) Disinfecting routines include a certain chemical that is so noxious that my child claims you can't use a bathroom after it's been serviced. I know how important it is to disinfect frequently, and I deeply appreciate the hard work of our staff, but is there "some way" that the space could be better ventilated?
- 3) In the 2 day hybrid model, my child's seat is already < 6 feet from other students, and if you double occupancy I'm pretty sure that masks and plexiglass will be much less effective when sitting next to an infected person for over an hour.
- 4) There is a lot of intimidation and pressure to push for fully reopening our schools, which I'm sure our Administrators and Directors have experienced, but it's also being directed at parents of special needs and medically fragile students who object to the reopening, which I find reprehensible. Sometimes it works through a more passive aggressive channel of saying, "If you don't like it (or, if you're afraid) then keep your kid home." This thinking denies a lot of kids of their guaranteed free and appropriate education; it's their school too. The online system we offer is probably very good as these things go, but so fraught with technical problems that the comparison is never about the robust quality of the education, but the sheer access to AN education. The online system is not where it should be to so cavalierly direct the more complicated students there; we need to make sure they are safely included and educated.
- 5) Lastly, thank you for the countless hours committed to creating options from our Directors, Administrators, Teachers and Staff that have helped keep our schools open and safe. This year is an important one of lessons we'll never forget, but will surely need in the future.

Rachel Penney
2571 Giant Oaks Dr.

My main concern with switching from hybrid to mostly full time, is that it seems as a country we are likely entering a time of year when COVID cases are likely to spike as children and adults are forced indoors more due to weather. So we at least have a swing of the hybrid model, have childcare figured out for the days we are not in school. And so if the kids go back to a 4 day then 5 day model, what happens if there's a COVID positive child? Will there be risk of entire school being shut down for 2 weeks? Because then we will all be scrambling to find child care for those two weeks etc. I want my child there full time because I feel it is the best way for him to learn but I just guess I'd like more information on how the school will handle outbreaks within the school etc. I know of other schools in the Pittsburgh area having to shut down for 2 weeks due to positive cases, and want to know what the protocol will be in that scenario. Thank you for all that you do, this is such a difficult time and I don't envy the position you are in and the difficult decisions you have to make. THANK YOU!

Lisa Clever
1728 Partridge run

My family and I are in support of the return to a 4/5 day school week. Just like many of the children in the community my children are not thriving using the hybrid model. We are aware of the risks involved during this pandemic but feel the lack of in school learning far outweigh the risk of the virus. We urge the school board to read the science and data in regards to the effects of the virus and lack of in person school has on the children. We sincerely hope that the board make a decision based on facts and not a political agenda.

Namrata Mehta
Carmel Dr.

We looked at the phase II proposed plan and have a concern in terms of Social distancing and number of kids in a class as well as during lunch. Like some of the other schools(St. Charls, IL), can't we implement the phase II plan(4 days in school) for Elementary and Middle school where the volume of students is less and kids can not stay alone at home and continue with the Phase I(2 days in school) for the high school students where kids can stay alone at home. There are quite a few schools going with this approach in North East. Additionally, there was one high schooler reported COVID positive in phase I yesterday, it will be a higher risk to all students and faculty by going into phase II prematurely.

So I as a USC resident propose to implement the Phase II for Elementary and Middle school first and wait for next 9 weeks before implementing for high school.

Thanks!

Jessica Locke
1251 Greystone Dr.

I am highly in favor of the schools opening up to everyone full time. I have 2 children in the district, grades K and 3, and I am seeing a lot more fluency in my child's kindergarten learning compared my 3rd grader. I do not want to discredit the teaching of my son's teacher, I just believe that in person learning would help with the continuity of his subjects being taught. I feel that some of the lessons being taught through zoom get lost in translation, and this hurts his retention of that subject. I also believe if school was also offered full-time time, my children would be more excited to go to school, and reunite with their friends, and have that sense of normalcy that is lacking today. We need to put the children's needs first, and understand what a disservice this is doing to their educational experience. I thank you for your kind attention to this matter!

John Serbicki
1783 Sillview Dr.

First of all, I would like to commend the faculty and school board for all their efforts during these unusual times. As a parent, I am thankful for the flexibility and very pleased with the quality of education that is being delivered remotely. I also understand the need for a safe return to normalcy and for flexibility. As such, I would like to see the hybrid model of 2 days in person instruction remain as an alternative, even as an option for more in person days becomes available. This would allow for a more gradual return for our full-remote learners and greater flexibility for families. Since online learning will continue, I am hoping this model can continue to exist as an option without creating a lot of extra effort for the staff.

Batool Nulwala
2009 Murdstone Road, 15241

Dear Board members and Dr. Rozzo,

The CDC indicators and thresholds for risk of introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in schools clearly emphasize on “social distancing to the largest extent possible”. This has not been address in our plan, in fact we are limiting the social distancing in school and buses. It also clearly states that “schools should adopt the additional mitigation measures” however the plan again does not emphasize on additional measures.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html#thresholds>

As our cases are increasing nationally and within our county, we should be vigilant in not rushing to open the doors of our school, not until our community is safe. We all want schools to open 5 days, but this is not the time. We should be focus on how to improve the plans we have already installed, which are working sufficiently for now. We can evaluate on how to help students with IEP learning disabilities who does need 4/5 days in school and limited elementary students who would benefit 4/5 days opening.

Using mental health decline in kids should not be use as a crutch to open school 5 days. We are living thru pandemic, this is temporary. We have to show our kids we will be resilient and will overcome anything, if we as family and community stay strong together. Unfortunately, kids who are having hard time due to Pandemic, is due to fractured family relations. Families are facing hard times in our community. We should focus on partnering with our community organization on how to educate parents and provide support to families at these hard times. For example, the Meal program has been such a success, it has provided relief to so many families not only by monetary, but parents been focus on work and not worrying about what to provide their kids for lunches. The Youth steering committee by providing a virtual presentation on “Coping during the crisis” is a great program to start the communication.

I thank you for your time and I hope you will make a safe and wise decision on opening our school.

John rush
1133 Galaxy Circle

I'm writing in support of a school plan involving 4 days of on-site instruction and a Wednesday cleaning day with online instruction.

Penney Miller
324 Oaklawn Drive

I thank USCSD administration, the board and parents for clearly making choices at the beginning of the school year that has helped to prevent an outbreak of Covid-19 in our community. At this point, although clearly not ideal, the current model seems to be maintaining a level Covid-19 that is manageable. My concern is that increasing the number of children in the classroom and reducing social distancing (from 6ft to 3 ft separation) will eventually result in community outbreak.

One thing that would help reassure community members would be if school district leaders would share the data specific to Upper St Clair that leads to district leaders in being comfortable to move to a 4-day in-person hybrid in November. The data available to most people is that listed on the Allegheny County health department website. The data listed for USC is cumulative, so weekly averages for USC cannot be calculated. Nevertheless, the case rate in USC has been steadily increasing since the beginning of the school and in the last two weeks (9/26-10/12) has increased from 99 to 108 cases per 10,000. Given that Covid-19 cases exhibit exponential growth, it is difficult to say if this increase is the beginning of exponential case growth in the community as a result of school opening. The cumulative positivity rate (total # positive cases divided by the total # of tests) is hovering around 6.4% for USC during the same time. The WHO recommends maintaining a positivity rate around 5% or less to ensure that adequate testing is being performed to ensure community spread is under control. So, at this date, there seems to be insufficient data to ensure there would not be an outbreak in Upper St. Clair if some of the mitigation strategies are relaxed.

What is specific epidemiological criteria is the school district using to justify moving to the next phase of re-opening?

Ryan and Anya McMillen
1451 Main St

Dear Superintendent Dr. Rozzo and School Board Members,

We are writing in regards to the School District's consideration of a return to 5-day in-person schooling.

While we all long for a return to "normalcy," which includes returning to in-person school 5 days a week, scientifically nothing has changed to validate the change from hybrid learning to more in-school learning. The CDC has just confirmed that COVID 19 is a highly contagious airborne virus that has killed over 200,000 Americans. Nothing has changed in regards to the rates of infection, health complications and deaths from COVID 19. The CDC still recommends mask wearing, and 6 feet of social distancing. There is no vaccine available, nor is there a definitive time table for when a vaccine will be available. Allegheny County currently has the third highest rate of infection in Pennsylvania, just behind Philadelphia counties.

So why, at this time, is Upper St. Clair considering moving to in-person school 4-5 days a week? Professional sports teams with multi-million dollar budgets have not been able to stop infections. The White House has not been able to stop infections. For the school district to think it can control COVID 19 infections with a 4-5 day in-school return is a foolhardy and arrogant assumption.

Upper St. Clair has quite valiantly developed an enviable hybrid program based on research and scientific evidence. My family has chosen to do remote learning at this time, because we have vulnerable family members that we hope to be able to see during the holidays. However, we had hopes of returning to school via the hybrid option in the new year.

If there is a 4-5 day return to in-person school, we have serious concerns about the quality of the school district's "robust" remote program. Teachers are already stretched between in-class teaching and remote teaching. If a majority of students are in the classroom, we worry remote learners will fall to the way-side. We very much wish for our children to continue learning and growing within the Upper St. Clair School District. However, if there is a return to 4-5 day in-person school, we will again consider PA Cyber Schools. PA Cyber Schools are currently working to grow and advance their capacity for students and, clearly, remote teaching is prioritized.

We also worry about the increased risk of exposure for our valued teachers and staff. The District has always boasted about its dedicated teachers, and the involvement of its supportive parents. To go back to 5 day in-person schooling right now puts these two treasured groups - teachers and parents - at higher risks of exposure to infection. While according to statistics young people do not often develop serious health complications from COVID 19, many of their teachers might get seriously ill, some of their parents and grandparents might endure long sicknesses or death, and ultimately more Upper St. Clair community members might unnecessarily die.

Children's mental health has been cited as a reason for a return to 4-5 in person schooling. However there is no data correlating mental health concerns for children specifically to hybrid learning. Reducing distance between children with a 4-5 day return to in-school will inevitably cause more harsh quarantines for families, as well as more school shutdowns. These kinds of scenarios may lead to even more uncertainty and anxiety for children and families.

Certainly, there are pitfalls with the hybrid learning system. Certainly, it is not ideal. But our current moment is not one of ideals, rather our current situation is that we are all caught in a global pandemic.

The story of this pandemic is still unfolding. Future textbooks will be written about this time. The grandchildren of your current students will be learning from them. What will they say? Certainly there will be lessons about communities and educators who followed the available science and those who did not. There is so much more to learn here. There is so much more this situation can teach us and our students - lessons about community and personal sacrifices for a greater good, about the value of

science and education, about patience and fortitude.

Finally, we sincerely thank you. For carefully considering this letter. For working so earnestly under such difficult circumstances. For striving to lead with integrity and knowledge. We cannot know the complexities you face, but we acknowledge that these are extraordinary and challenging times, and we wish you courage and insight.

Respectfully, Anya and Ryan McMillen

Ann Rhodes
2527 Appletree Drive

I am writing to express concern over the current re-opening plan in front of you. I am dismayed at the lack of social distancing that a full in-person plan entails. As we have learned over the last few months, the virus is only kept at bay (if we can even call it that) by masks and distancing. To take that away from our schools will be putting our kids and staff at risk. I am certainly sad to hear the news of a current positive case in the high school. While praying for this person and the family, I'm simultaneously hoping that this will highlight why we need as much distancing as possible.

As a parent, I am pleased and impressed with the options we were given and how it is being rolled out. I know that it has caused issues and more work but I think that is par for the course with this virus (it has caused more work and complications in every aspect of life, right?) However, your plan and hard work is working. And that is the crux of my opinion.... why mess with what's working? Kids are getting a chance to socialize 2 days a week, they see their teachers in person 2 days and online 3 days, they are still being offered a customized learning experience.

I feel fortunate to live in a district with the resources to offer such a diverse (and to date, safe) environment of learning . I pray you continue to offer the choices we have while staying the course with the hybrid model at least until after the holidays.

Cassie Albright
1471 Main Street

I am in full support of the phased plan to return to school.

Kimberly Wyse
3335 Comanche Road

I would first like to commend the Upper St. Clair School District for how well the beginning of the school year is going. I am however very concerned regarding the plan to move forward with more in person instruction. As an educator for 18 years in a neighboring school district, I have seen firsthand in ordinary years how illness increases in schools around the holidays. The Upper St. Clair School District plans to bring all students back into the buildings four days per week only one week before Thanksgiving. Then students are to come back into the buildings five days per week only a few weeks after Christmas break. During both Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, students may be exposed to family members from out of town, and/or they may attend large family gatherings. They will then be coming back into our schools with less distancing than we have had thus far during the school year.

During this time of year this year, universities are having students return home for Thanksgiving break and not return to campus until the end of January to prevent the spread of COVID. It is during this exact time, that the Upper St. Clair School District is proposing that we bring more students into our buildings and lessen social distancing.

While there have been minimal cases of COVID in Upper St. Clair Schools thus far this school year, the students have maintained 6 feet social distancing throughout their days. With a return to more in person instruction, this distancing will be reduced. In addition, if students are less than 6 feet apart for more than 15 minutes, and there is a positive case within a classroom, that will cause more teachers and students to have to quarantine. In my opinion, I would rather have my child on a consistent hybrid schedule, than them try to return more full time, but often have their classes or teacher be forced to quarantine.

In closing, I am in favor of more in person instruction; however I believe that the Upper St. Clair School District's timing of the move to more in person instruction is not in the best interest of the health and safety of our students.

Kim Wyse

Itozo Azinon
Lamson Circle

Hello-I am writing to express my concern with the proposed Phase change. I appreciate the difficulty with the Board's decision and the stress that everyone is experiencing; however, this is not the right time to reduce social distancing. The district has been lucky so far, but as shown by the letter from the district yesterday, this will change. In addition to more likely Covid spread, the mental health of fully remote students should be considered, not just hybrid kiddos. These poor kids are not choosing to be remote because they don't want to be with their teacher and other classmates- they either have health issues or family with health issues that prevent them from going to school in person. These kids are suffering socially, emotionally and educationally as well. Please keep in mind that if the 4 day plan is implemented, more students will select remote. With more remote kiddos, what will happen to them? Is the teacher supposed to teach online and in person class equally? Will the kiddos now have to switch from their current teacher to a designated remote teacher? Things are difficult for everyone now but it is safer to keep it as is until after the new year. Thank you for taking the time to read this comment.

Emily Spence
1784 Sapphire Court

I am writing in support of the school board's recommendation to provide the option for students to return to in-person school 4 days a week as soon as possible. I want to thank the teachers, the board and the administration for the tremendous effort they've put forth so far in making the return to school a positive and meaningful experience for our children while keeping them safe. I feel it is time to move to the next step in terms of providing an option to have our children in school more than 2 days a week. I know everyone's experiences with hybrid or remote have been different depending on age of children, working situations for parents, varying financial challenges, etc. My family is fortunate enough to hire help for our daughter's remote days so that we can work without interruption. We've made the best of the situation, but this way of learning is not ideal nor sustainable. My daughter is much happier on the days that she is in the building, even despite it looking different than last year with mask wearing rules and distancing. Remote days are brutal. Staring at a screen all day and lack of focus and accountability is taking a toll. I have no doubt that our children's mental wellness and stability is gravely at risk throughout all of this, and the dangers of compromised mental well-being far outweigh the dangers and risks of COVID. I could flood you with data and articles that support this idea, but the fear mongering media embellishing the dangers of COVID takes over and puts leaders like yourselves in very difficult positions. We are stunting the growth of our youth unnecessarily and its alarming. We are ready to get back to life (carefully) and we trust our leaders of USC to help us do this. Thank you again for all you've done so far and your transparency. It is so appreciated and I look forward to continuing to navigate this together in partnership.

Christie conrad
205 Deer Meadow Rd

Dear School Board Members:

I am addressing this brief message to each of you and the School District commending the members of your administration who rallied to create and implement a plan of action to combat the myriad of issues generated by the COVID crisis. As an Upper St. Clair resident, I cannot express how impressed I have been with the prompt and comprehensive response to this challenge which threatens our community's schools.

From the virus' alarming appearance in March, through summer services, to the imminent opening this new academic year, the administration's approach has been both creative and thorough. Their plan has provided assurance that the educational goals as well as the health and welfare of USC schools, its students, faculty and staff would be preserved as much as humanly possible.

Personally, their efforts have supplied my company (Crossroads Speech and Hearing) with guidance and confidence so that we could continue providing quality services to the schools even in this rapidly changing environment. Special recognition should be given to Dr. Sharon Suritsky, Amy Pfender, and Cassandra Doggrell in their tireless efforts to develop an educational model that always considered the needs of the students first. Thank you Dr. Rozzo and the Upper St. Clair leadership!

Respectfully,

Christie Conrad

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Alexander Zesch
206 Keifer Dr

I must have missed in the plan how fully remote students will be address. If the plan includes students who will continue fully remote, what is the staffing plan. Will the students be able to continue with their assigned teachers as they are now? Thanks!