

Central Bucks School District
School Board Briefs
July 28, 2020

At the July 28, 2020 School Board meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board met in Executive Session on July 28 to discuss a student matter and a personnel matter

Approved the minutes of the July 21, 2020 School Board Meeting

Heard Public Comment:

Public Comment was collected using an online form, and President Darcy, Vice President Suits, and School Director Sciuto-Ballasy read the submissions aloud. Please see attached for the complete packet of Public Comment submissions.

Heard the Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Kopicki stated that he is aware that there has been some confusion regarding what teaching and learning will look like this fall. Dr. Kopicki thanked the board, staff, families, and the community for their patience and understanding as we work out the details. Dr. Kopicki remarked that the constantly shifting guidance from local, state, and federal authorities have created challenges as we seek to understand what the beginning of the school year will look like. Dr. Kopicki stated that the bottom line is that our families will have options with how their children will engage in learning this school year. Elementary students will have three instructional model options: traditional in-person model (in-person five days per week, taught by CB teachers using CB curriculum), hybrid model (in-person instruction two days per week and a combination of live and online instruction for three days per week taught by CB teachers using CB curriculum) and online model (virtual instruction five days per week, taught by CB teachers using CB curriculum). Secondary students will have two instructional model options: hybrid model (in-person instruction two days per week and a combination of live and online instruction for three days per week taught by CB teachers using CB curriculum) and online (virtual instruction five days per week, taught by CB teachers using CB curriculum) We cannot offer an in-person option for secondary students due to a lack of space for proper social distancing. Dr. Kopicki asked that families choose their instructional model on the Program Choice Form by July 31st so that we can take the next steps in planning and can provide families with greater clarity as quickly as possible. Dr. Kopicki shared that the district created six action plan committees to help develop our reopening plans. Updates and other helpful information, including the CBSD Health & Safety Plan can be found on our website, www.cbsd.org

Mr. Jaffe aired a presentation highlighting live streaming, which is the ability to broadcast real-time audio and video over the internet. Mr. Jaffe's presentation included information regarding using Logitech web cameras in the classroom for live streaming. The presentation highlighted what a live streaming classroom set-up could look like, using a laptop, web cam, wireless keyboard and a monitor that can show students so that the teacher can see and hear them. Mr. Jaffe shared that with the Traditional K-6 instructional model, students will receive in-person instruction five days per week with social distancing, this option will utilize the CB curriculum and CB teachers and students will be grouped with other students enrolled in this traditional option. Mr. Jaffe shared that with the Online/Virtual instructional model, students will participate in 100% online instruction five days per week, this option will utilize the CB curriculum and CB teachers, live streaming in TEAMS will be used, and students will be grouped with other students enrolled in this online/virtual option. Mr. Jaffe shared that with the Hybrid instructional model, students will receive

in-person instruction two days per week and a combination of live and online instruction three days per week, students will have a consistent weekly schedule, and students will be grouped with other students enrolled in this hybrid version. Mr. Jaffe shared that all 1,200 classrooms will be set up in the same manner for live streaming

Reviewed the School Board Reports:

- Curriculum Committee
- Finance Committee
- Operations Committee
- Bucks County Intermediate Unit
- Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Approved the Accounts Payable Check Disbursements Report

Approved the Treasurer's Report and Summary of Fund Disbursements

Approved a Resolution declaring that the COVID-19 Pandemic is an emergency-within-meaning of Section 520.1 of the Pennsylvania School Code

Approved the Emergency Instructional Time Template Section 520.1 for the 2020-2021 school year

Approved the Act 13 of 2020 Mandate Waiver Request

Approved The Language of Food curriculum

Approved Sports Literature curriculum

Approved an HVAC service agreement with Johnson Controls, Inc. in the amount of \$73,715.00

Approved an HVAC service agreement with Siemens Industry, Inc. in the amount of \$93,900.00

Approved an HVAC service agreement with Tozour-Trane in the amount of \$196,980.00

Approved the purchase of 1200 Logitech Web Cams in the amount of \$434,400.00

Approved the transfer of \$500,000.00 from Long-Term Capital Fund to Technology Capital Fund

Approved physician and dentist contracts for the 2020-2021 school year

Approved an ESY contract with Camphill School in the amount of \$5,000.00

Tabled an ESY contract with Devereaux in the amount of \$13,203.00

Approved an EST contract with Valley Forge Educational Services in the amount of \$6,544.00

Approved the waiver of School Board Policy 803, the approval of September 8, 2020 as the first day of school for students for the 2020-2021 school year, and to address the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Calendar at a future School Board Meeting

Approved a contract with Frontline Education in the amount of \$35,782.89

Approved Personnel Items:

- Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
- Leaves of Absence
- Appointments
- Assignment/Classification/Status Changes
- Community School Staff
- Athletic Points List

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

NAME	MUNICIPALITY	COMMENT
Jess Cummings	Doylestown	<p>I am an alumni of Central Bucks East, with my family still residing in the district and my brother still going to a CBSD school. As we draw closer to the 2020-2021 school year, the topic on everyone's mind is obviously how we return to school safely amid the pandemic. However, we must not forget that in this moment we must also address racism and prejudice within CBSD and work on implementing anti-bias and anti-racist teaching and training across the district. As an alumni, CBSD prepared me for much as I graduated and left the district. However, it left me with deep biases left by my education, or lack thereof, around race and those who are not in the white majority. This must be rectified for the sake of the Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities across the country. This lack does not go away because of the pandemic, and racism and its systemic affects are only increasing because of the pandemic. Additionally, comprehensive and ongoing anti-racist training must be provided to not just CBSD teachers, but to all staff who interact with students before, during, or after school. This is especially important for extracurricular activities. Many students are involved in extracurricular activities, whether they be sports teams, theater groups, music ensembles, clubs, etc. I can say first hand that bias and racism is tolerated and perpetuated, often unknowingly, in many of these spaces. It must be ensured that students and staff are receiving anti-racist education on all levels and that racism is not tolerated in any aspect of the school experience. Finally, the district should have a level of transparency in the work that they are doing around anti-racism and equity to ensure accountability to the community. I was dismayed that I was unable to find any information about equity teams or plans on the CBSD website. These policies and practices must not only be made but be made with input from the community, especially people of color who are personally affected by racism, and must be made clear and easily accessible to anyone who is seeking them out. These are conversations that cannot happen behind closed doors or be swept aside in a one day training. Anti-racism is a continual process and is vital in creating a district that properly educates its students and creates equitable spaces for all students.</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

ILLISA GLANTZ	New Britian	<p>I think it is imperative that we have a choice for our children. My son will be going into 11th grade at South and I want him back in school 5 days! This year is the year that SAT's are imperative and their future after graduation is decided. I feel sad for the kids that truly want to be back in school. I personally do not think Hybrid or Virtual learning will work for everyone and can really mess up a child's opportunity for college. It is our right as a parent to decide what is best for our children. My son can go to football practice (contact sport) and that is acceptable. He works at day camp and there have been NO issues...they all wear a mask outside in the heat. We seriously need to reconsider what is best for the OLDER kids in high school. To let the elementary kids go back and have a choice of 5 days doesn't make sense to me...REMEMBER our older kids can start to get depressed and the suicide rate can go up.They have been through enough. I hope CBSD reconsiders. Each parent should be able to decide what is best for their child/children.</p> <p>Illisa Glantz</p>
Ryan Waddell	Warrington	<p>Are you planning for a laptop rollout for upcoming 7th grade students? Only elementary school was mentioned for 1:1 devices.</p> <p>Will there be virtual office hours for students to get extra help?</p> <p>I saw the desks are 3 feet apart. Isn't this against the recommendation of the CDC and in direct contrast to what Montgomery, Chester & Delaware county health departments are recommending?</p> <p>What's the plan for substitute coverage since this is a struggle when there isn't a pandemic going on.</p> <p>How are intruder drills and evacuation drills being followed with social distancing?</p> <p>What about symphonic and jazz band? Will students be able to play live in class or virtual on hybrid/virtual days?</p> <p>Have you tested out the live-streaming capabilities to make sure that it works? What happens if there are issues? Will the classes be recorded and archived so that virtual students can access later if there are accessibility issues?</p>
Ryan Waddell	Warrington	<p>How are secondary students gong to be able to wait 6 hours to eat lunch? What about students with diabetes or health concerns that need to eat very few hours?</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ann Ambolino	Warrington	<p>Please let the 11th graders go back to school full time. It is the most important year of their academic career with regard to college. Bring elective classes out on the lawn and football, baseball, lacrosse and soccer fields if needed. Do what you need to do. We want our children back at school. Those that don't - their choice - they can do cyber school. My child should not be punished because a small percentage of people want something different. As I said in my last round off comments - we live in a democracy - majority rules!!</p>
Lauren Anton	Warrington Twp, Barclay Elementary	<p>How will the District staff the different options for BTS? Will CB teachers be given the in-school, five-day positions first, then vacancies in hybrid, followed by virtual positions? In other words, will those CB teachers employed by the District before COVID necessarily be teaching in the five-day model? What, if any, accommodations are there for GIEP's? These were not mentioned online in the Special Ed presentation.</p> <p>How is CB addressing the learning gaps due to spring, 2020 closures? Are there going to be placement assessments or screenings? Without 2020 PSSA results, where will the data come from to drive instruction?</p> <p>In the hybrid classrooms, where teachers are wearing masks, will they have microphones for those learning online? How will students online be able to participate? Will there be a system in place to assure that students learning online are engaged and virtual instruction is participatory?</p> <p>If CB is again shut down, will students remain the way they were originally grouped, and then moved to fully-cyber, or will they be regrouped?</p>
		<p>When I graduated from Central Bucks West in 2017, after having attended Groveland and Tohickon as well, I came to college in Boston to study creative writing thinking I had received a comprehensive English literature education. I quickly learned how wrong I was when I began interacting with fellow students and professors. I realized, over the course of my time in Central Bucks, I very rarely saw myself represented in books or authors that we covered. We read no mandated books by LGBTQ authors, very few books by authors of color, and most of our canon was written by old/dead white men-- Dickens, Whitman, Fitzgerald, etc. Many of my peers in college were shocked to learn that authors like Toni Morrison and James Baldwin had not been required reading.</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Abigail Hadfield	Plumstead Township	<p>I began reading more diverse books from diverse authors in college, and quickly realized how small of a world the Central Bucks English curriculum had presented me. This is at no fault of the teachers; they did the best they could with what they had. But we can't keep presenting our students with books and authors that only offer a tiny slice of the myriad perspectives and narratives available to young readers. By not diversifying our curriculum and making a concerted effort to present a wide array of voices, we are doing a great disservice to Central Bucks students.</p> <p>I knew I couldn't be the only one feeling this way, so I set up a google form to collect testimonies from CB students and alum who felt that our curriculum needed revamping. Their 122 responses have been collected and compiled in the PDF linked below for you to understand how many of us are demanding a better education. I hope you take the time to read some of these testimonies and understand our frustrations. I will also be sharing these testimonies with Superintendent John Kopicki, and I intend to distribute them to any faculty members of CB English departments who wish to use these testimonies as evidence when making their case for a more diversified curriculum.</p> <p>We owe our students a better education, a more comprehensive literature canon, and the chance to encounter a worldview that they may never otherwise understand. I would be more than happy to engage in a dialogue on this subject with any school board members who want more information, or who just want to discuss the importance of this change. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hcuf-vNs7w2iINW2e-h0_bHN-imUfzOH/view?usp=sharing</p>
		<p>My name is Isabel McCarthy and I'm an alumni of Central Bucks East High School. My siblings have also attended CB East and my younger brother is a current student who participated in remote learning due to the coronavirus pandemic. Obviously, there's a lot of debate about whether to reopen schools for in-person learning in the fall and I appreciate that the district is taking precautions to keep its students safe, but still engaged in learning.</p> <p>However, I am increasingly concerned about the lack of discussion regarding anti-racist education in CBSD. After all, a reformed curriculum, which would focus on current events in our nation and how students can take action to better their community, sounds to me like the most engaging and revitalized curriculum the school board could commit to. Gen Z kids are remarkably politically active and outspoken about social justice and in fact, leading up to the local elections in 2018, Pennsylvania led the nation in youth voter registration.</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

<p>Isabel McCarthy</p>	<p>Doylestown</p>	<p>At the very least, anti-racist education seems like something high school age students would not only benefit from, but appreciate. But even CBSD’s youngest students would undoubtedly find enrichment in an antiracist program, not only in the classroom, but in extracurriculars as well. What is CBSD’s plan for instituting comprehensive anti-racist education? And does the board plan to hold all paid CBSD employees to anti-racist standards? Ideally, anti-racist training could be implemented among all teachers and CBSD staff. Is the school board willing to implement this with transparency and consistency?</p> <p>In my post-CBSD career I have found myself to be incredibly ignorant and naïve about topics surrounding race and ethnicity in America. Without bolstering CBSD’s curriculum and holding extracurriculars accountable as well, I worry that students like my brother will leave their CBSD education with this same ignorance.</p>
<p>Tina Lewis</p>	<p>Warrington</p>	<p>My daughter is in an autistic support classroom. Due to the shutdowns we have done our best to educate her at home. However, it is not the same as being in school. The 4-5 days in school is a great option for kids like mine. They need structure and support from the fabulous staff at school. After viewing the videos and emailing the special ed supervisor, I am very concerned for the upcoming school year. An autistic support room, as well as other special needs classrooms, are unique from a typical class... yet they will be arranged in a similar manner? Classes with tables and chairs that are “minimally equipped” are not enough to serve a population that requires many tools and resources to be at the teacher’s disposal. Very little is being said or done to ease the anxiety that parents of kids with special needs are experiencing. How are we to make a decision when most of our questions can’t be answered. At this point I feel like I would be blindly making a decision but was also warned that should I want to change at the end of the trimester, my daughter would “likely have different teachers.” I need to know how do you plan on teaching my daughter without these supports in place? How do you expect her teacher to teach live, hybrid and remotely while meeting the different needs of the students in the class? I am asking you...administrators, school board, those in leadership... not her teacher. It seems like the plans are being made without considering the classroom teacher’s needs or perspective. A Herculean task is being set before the teachers and therapists all while minimizing their tools.</p> <p>How will you teach the special needs population? How will you meet their needs without the tools they have been accustomed to?</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Danielle Preston	Furlong	<p>When making the decision for going back to school, can there be added consideration to the fact that some families overriding preference is to stay at their own school? For instance, the choice submitted may be 5-day but a family would rather switch to hybrid if 5 day made them go to another school but hybrid would allow them to remain. I think this is an important consideration that is not being added to the choice we need to submit this week.</p>
		<p>First, I would like to start by saying that I appreciate the countless hours you and the board have put into developing a 2020-2021 school plan that attempts to meet the needs of the community. As a Central Bucks parent of two boys (both at Cold Spring Elementary), I was prepared to make my decision between hybrid and virtual as per the email correspondence from Dr. John Kopicki on Friday night, July 17th. I was proud of the district for making this difficult but necessary, decision to allow for those two options.</p> <p>I can only imagine what a daunting and difficult task it must be to prepare for such an unknown circumstance. That being said, the last-minute addition of a third option, "traditional" 5-days a week, which was dropped right before the board meeting last week, has only complicated matters further. The 5-day option being thrown into the mix has caused logistical issues, coupled with health and safety concerns. The logistical issues are evident as now all elementary school children, whether 100% virtual, hybrid, or 5-day are no longer guaranteed their home school or a home school teacher. Not only are our children not guaranteed their home school but we won't know if that's the case until after we make a choice. We, as parents, are being asked to make a decision for our children based on insufficient, and frankly inadequate information. This is unacceptable.</p> <p>The health and safety risks are there no matter if children are in 2 days a week or 5 days a week, however, they are significantly less when only there 2 days a week. It was stated in the FAQ's that children in the hybrid program may be in contact with children in the 5-day program during lunch and recess. This further negates the integrity of the hybrid option. It appears that the mitigated risk of the hybrid option is continually impeded by the 5-day program.</p> <p>To say I am extremely disheartened over the Board's recent vote to allow for three options would be a gross understatement. The voices of a few, albeit a loud minority of parents, led by Dr. Damsker, seem to have been able to influence the board, over science, responsibility, and what was already presented to the CBSD parents/community at large, for which decisions and arrangements were being put into action.</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

<p>Heather & Gerard Reynolds</p>	<p>Buckingham</p>	<p>Our neighboring school district, Council Rock, has chosen the health and safety of students and staff above all else - by only offering hybrid or virtual and thereby eliminating the logistical nightmare we are now facing with 3 options.</p> <p>I do want to express my thanks to Beth Darcy and Karen Smith. Both Ms. Darcy and Ms. Smith focused the efforts and time solely on the best interests of the community and school district as a whole. It was clear that they cared deeply about every single student, teacher, staff, and community member. Beth and Karen, I was extremely proud of both of you as I listened to your statements during the board meeting. You stood up for the community and school district as a whole and you didn't waver. I want to thank you deeply for your overall concern for everyone's health and safety.</p> <p>As a parent, I am fully disappointed in the decision that the majority of the school board has made. I could include many statistics and questions and information to continue making my point. However, I know I am not the first letter or the last that you will receive and read, and I am sure you are well-versed in the information.</p> <p>I will leave you with this: Please eliminate the 3rd option of 5 full days as it was made quickly and without much thought. The full-day option has created stress in our community, due to health/safety/logistics during a time that is already challenging.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts and to your commitment to the true responsibility of your role as board members and leaders.</p> <p>Best, Heather Reynolds</p>
<p>Chad Endy</p>	<p>Warrington</p>	<p>As a parent and a teacher in the district, I am concerned about how the school year will begin when teachers only have 3 days to prepare . I encourage you to approve the 2020-2021 school calendar that was revised as of July 23rd, 2020. The two extra staff development/in-service days prior to students returning to school will allow teachers to better prepare to help students begin this unprecedented school year successfully.</p> <p>However, prior to approving the revised calendar, I encourage you to consider revising the calendar so that students learn virtually on days when school needs to close because of snow rather than adding days to the end of the school year for teachers and/or students.</p>
<p>Elyssa Nemeroff</p>	<p>Bucks</p>	<p>I am wondering if the school board has considered the plexiglass dividers for desks so that students, especially the elementary kids, can push their desks together and feel more like an elementary classroom and allow for more socialization? What about eating outside or conducted classes outside?</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

After listening to the last board meeting I am asking for Beth Darcy to resign immediately. Her personal opinion about Dr. Damsker was the most inappropriate and ignorant thing I have ever heard at a school board meeting. It seems like she used a public forum to personally insult him because she doesn't agree with his professional decisions. Beth Darcy is not a doctor. For her to insinuate that he has ulterior motives to make health decisions for the entire county is unbelievable. It is clear that her disagreement with him is clouding her judgment. She could have invited him to defend himself at least. She criticized that Dr. Damsker has not been on all the school district's buildings. Have Governor Wolf or Dr. Levine ever stepped foot in a school in PA? Why would she feel more comfortable with them making the decisions than a father of kids in the district? She also criticized his mask policy. Most people wear masks now and numbers are still going up. If she feels like she can't work with the Bucks County Health Department doctor she must resign. I can't emphasize how embarrassing this is for our school board.

Beth Darcy should resign because she is giving inaccurate information to our community. She stated that countries in Europe are doing better mitigating the virus in schools than America. How would she know since schools are not open? She also voted not to open them.

Her personal views are clouding her judgment. She is not fit to make decisions for my kids or the kids in Central Bucks. Please do us a favor and resign now before you embarrass yourself and the district anymore.

I also ask the board to consider looking for a new superintendent. Dr. Kopicki has not been able to make a decision. His wavering has been a constant stress on our community. Now he wants to change the calendar. Next he will announce school is totally virtual. He is not a leader

In response to the secondary plan. Mrs. Suits was accurate about kids needing childcare. It's safer for the community to have all the kids in one place day after day. I don't understand why that thought process doesn't extend to older kids. How does one adult who has kids possibly think teenagers will not be going all over the place on the days they aren't in school? Most of these kids will be home alone. Kids that can drive can go anywhere. They can bring their laptop anywhere to login for attendance. If other districts only have this 2 day plan. The state of PA will have hundred of thousands of teenagers with nothing but free time on their hands. They will have more exposure to different people outside our communities. They can go down the shore for the day, go into Philadelphia or go to Florida for a long weekend. Personally this plans makes me want to look into private school so my kids will be in another area with other kids.

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jamie Walker	New Britain	<p>All of these plans and money to control the virus sound good in theory but they just shift the liability to someone else. It doesn't actually stop anyone from getting it. How can any parent think its ok for 12 and 13 year olds to sit at home three days a week all alone? I see the spacing issue. I get it but is anyone really thinking about the physical and mental safety of the kids? Talk about the depression and the ability to develop risky behavior. Why is trying to prevent a virus more important than children's overall safety? Some parents do not feel comfortable leaving 12 year olds home 8 hours a day. Many parents will still put their kids in some type of care. Daycares or YMCA will open places up for kids to go to because they will have to for safety reasons.</p> <p>Currently in Buck County in July there have been 2 Covid related deaths from long term care facilities. There has not been one death in PA related to COVID-19 in a person under 25. Its safe to open school. There was only one board member that faught for our secondary kids and we thank her. Thank you Leigh.</p> <p>Remember our kids are watching yo</p>
Cathy Smith	Warrington	<p>I can appreciate that the school board is in a very difficult position. But I do feel that you have failed in this instance. You have failed my children and all the children in the district. What these kids need more now than ever is to go to school in person. The detrimental effects this will have is maddening especially when this can be avoided. I moved to Warrington specifically for the school district. And now you have failed.</p>
Kristina Satterfield	Buckingham	<p>I currently have a 2nd grader zoned for BVE. When planning for the Fall, please prioritize student placement in zoned schools. Students will face many new, unexpected challenges. My son will already face the challenge of not seeing his closest friends should we chose the hybrid model: this is based on the assumption Group 1/2 will be split alphabetically. Seeing the familiar faces of the BVE Faculty & Staff in the absence of his closest friends, will provide an opportunity to allow for some normalcy and assist in meeting his social and emotional needs.</p>
Janet Esler	Chalfont	<p>If hybrid is the only in school option, can families with essential working parents choose the days first or will they do alphabetically? My kids need structure and I need a plan for the fall. Thank you.</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michelle Jacobs	Doylestown	I want to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Darcy for the explanation she provided at last week's meeting. There were many questions about the changes made in the plans, and I know I wasn't the only one who appreciated her detailed account to better understand how we arrived where we are. I appreciated the perspectives she and Mrs. Smith contributed to the conversation. Nothing in this situation is easy, and I just wanted to say thank you for your thoughtful and thorough response.
Yasmin Scutti	Doylestown	Kids should go back to school on the right day or earlier! WITHOUT MASKS!

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Shannon Harris	Buckingham	<p>At the White House yesterday, a group of front line doctors gave a press conference that indicated the following. There is "Not one example of Covid transfer from any child to an adult IN THE WORLD!" and "100% treatment success has been achieved with the combination of Hydroxychloroquine, zinc, and Z-Pak". "Schools should 100% reopen without Fear". (https://youtu.be/oaX8-JbaacE). This school district has made a costly mistake by listening to the our Politicians and Health Department and not to Dr. Damsker, the parents and scientific evidence which indicates that school reopening is safe. You must reopen for the good of our children and the good of our community. There is no need to perpetuate fear any longer. There has been two Covid deaths the entire month of July in Bucks county and they were in nursing homes. Clearly our county is showing what the world is also seeing, low hospital and death rates, low severity or asymptomatic symptoms. This pandemic is on it's way out, but you want to keep it going as clearly evidenced by Beth Darcy's unprofessional and unhinged political rantings in last weeks board meeting. We also don't want our children to be your guinea pigs as you navigate through a school plan which you have no expertise nor success implementing before. However, you get to use our tax dollars for it although online schools is not necessary! 1/2 million for webcams? For the flu? The lack of transparency with our teachers is appalling too! One month is not enough time to give the teachers adequate time to prepare for online course work, and therefore, parents will not trust the their online experience will be any better then last spring. We do not deserve to be your guinea pigs in an experiment with the flu. In general, the behavior of this superintendent and board in dealing with this situation has been disgraceful. The lack of transparency in rolling out this plan, and lack of providing US with scientific evidence and proof is appalling and incompetent. Keeping the school board members in the dark as to the plan and current new calendar is criminal. They are our representatives and can't do their job effectively if they are not informed. I am calling for the termination of Dr. Kopicki for not including a 5 day option as the parents requested. I am calling for the immediate resignation of Beth Darcy for her unprofessional conduct in making plan the plan and meeting political, for the lack of transparency within her own school board, and for jeopardizing our relationship with the BCDOH. Finally, in this meeting a contract for Frontline is up for approval. I do not approve of any contact tracing company being hired by the school. The BCDOH is the only entity that should be responsible for the contact tracing and implementation for our students.</p>
		<p>I would like the board to explain item 6 R. Frontline Education. If this a contact tracing program our children do not consent to be part of it. The Department of Health is supposed to handle all contact tracing not the school district. Why hasn't the district ever invited Department of Health doctor to a discussion with parents? Other districts have had meetings. The district has not handled this crisis appropriately. Why isn't the district explaining Frontline Education to parents if it is for contact tracing?</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rich Walker	new Britain	Why ask parents if we want school to start earlier in the year then make school start later? The district has not been transparent at all through this crisis. It is time for new leadership.
Jennifer Bish	Furlong	<p>I completely support a school year opening delay of 1 week and completely understand if it needs to be pushed back to give teachers more time to prepare. However, I would like to see the school year not be extended and not to exceed the state minimum/petition the state to allow leniency when it comes to the minimum for the 20/21 school year. Families and kids need to be able to enjoy their summers to the fullest, and taking away time from the summer to meet an arbitrary goal # of days (especially for this school year) does not seem beneficial.</p> <p>I think instead, thinking of not participating in standardized tests and using those days as educational days would be more beneficial to the students.</p>
Denise Calafati	Buckingham	<p>Stop censoring the taxpayers, and parents. It shouldn't matter how many comments, or how long it's gonna take. READ THEM! we deserve to be heard. This affects our lives, our children, our jobs</p> <p>We all should have the opportunity to have a say.</p>
		<p>CDC says 6 feet; no way 3 feet is okay. All of a sudden we are throwing guidelines and best practices out the window in order to fit more kids into a classroom? Look at every other county in PA & NJ- why is Bucks different? Central Bucks, why is this okay to put OUR children; YOUR students, at potential risk? Every other public space states 6ft.; stop making our schools a potential lab experiment.</p> <p>Also, please share with the public the rhetoric that is being shared internally with your staff and teachers, community members ask questions- CBSD be transparent in your processes and your answers; fellow educators talk. Many of us out here are public educators ourselves and are being asked to be present in-school for hybrid models, therefore, forcing us to place our children in a 5-day model or at least a hybrid model (ideally we would've chosen virtual) or we need to quit our teaching jobs, so we're forced to sacrifice our own children's safety so that we can keep our homes, health insurance, and others happy.</p> <p>We are not okay with 3 feet away. I feel for my CBSD educator friends and their families for what they too will be subject to, especially spouses who both work in-district and are not given much flexibility or choice in how they are taking care and watching out for their own children at home.</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

I am also saddened to hear that all supplemental support will be virtual, yet this is a vulnerable, at-risk population of students for academic regression and potential IEPs down the road. My husband and I both work in public schools; many are sending their children in for socialization- I get that, yet the district cannot promise a home school placement, nor even that they'll even be placed with familiar peers from their home school... and in a standardized-seating type of environment, it will look and feel alien-like to them and isolating. None of this is ideal, I understand that, but let's approach things more logically here. Why not offer 8-12:30pm option with no eating in the school and call it a half-day; counts as an academic day for them and then we do not need to have hundreds of bodies moving throughout the building to cafeterias, or eating in a classroom where there is not even 3 feet between the back of a seated child, and the edge of the desk where the next child sits behind them. Oh, and let's have students answer a self-screening "How are your feeling?" survey once they've already traveled through halls, busses, come in contact or within 3 feet of others, and now sitting in their assigned contained classrooms only to find out that they have a cough, sore throat, fever, or stomachache- how many have they exposed to a potential COVID case now? It only takes one. Why no screening at the door by staff or prior to busing? Why not have parents check-in on an app like many sporting activities are doing this summer and mandate a pre-screening be done every morning prior to subjecting multitudes of students and staff- your staff, to a potential case? Again, none of this is ideal, none of it is fair, but did the district really consider many of these options?

Yes, I want to send my three children back to school- when it's safe. I want my fellow teachers who are in the same position as my husband and I, to not have to choose our jobs, homes, and healthcare over our children's health. I want to remind others that in order for schools to open, they are not going to look like the schools we know and love from pre-COVID; doors will open to empty classrooms with little of what makes a classroom inviting, comfortable, and welcoming; except an educator, wary of what the day will bring exposure to; what they may bring home to family and friends. I want to go back when it's safe for both teachers and students and not adjust guidelines to "make it work." Our students, our children, deserve better adults to be advocating for their health- and safer options at best. 3 feet away is not okay. When.
It's.
Safe.
Be well, everyone.

Kelly
Helmstetter

Buckingham
Township

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rita Brown	Doylestown	I think that Central Bucks schools should follow the same guidelines that Council Rock School District has put in place. Safety first!! Thank you.
Sarah Bower	Doylestown Township	Last week a board member publicly bashed our health department Dr. Damsker. I do not believe this board member is a medical doctor and should not insult his medical credibility. This same board member also didn't want schools to reopen without having the 6 feet distance. She stated many agencies supporting her argument, including the American Academy of Pediatrics. The American Academy of Pediatrics firmly states that desks can be placed at 3 feet distance. Which is also what Dr. Damsker stated. Again I question is this board member a medical doctor? Also the board members were being very political, which is not appropriate. The issue of schools reopening has become a political issue. One side doesn't want schools to reopen and most everyone else wants them to open. It should not be a political issue. These are our kids who are caught in the crossfire. Everyone needs to listen to what science is telling us about school reopening not politicians. These board member should consider resigning from the school board and running for public office if they want to be political.
Christy Booth	Doylestown boro	Our children need normalcy again. We NEED to go back mask free and a normal schedule. You expect my 12 year old to learn in a new school, with NO FOOD for 6 hours and no air conditioning with a mask on all day?! Did anymore think that this is the foundation you expect our children to build and learn on? You go sit in that school and try it: for 6 hours and no air conditioning, no food and try and learn something. Sign a waiver for those of us that want to go back normally - those that don't, 100% virtual, period. It was split down the middle on the survey. We have the data - what you're implementing will only hurt our kids. They're more likely to die of suicide than COVID, which is what we'll start to see more of with this isolation! You have the power to truly help these kids, don't waste it.

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Patricia Dallmer	Warrington	<p>In the past, if your child develops cold like symptoms, they would still go to school. As is the same mind set for adults too. But because of Covid, we now have to think differently. Is CB going to promote a different way of thinking? If the student wakes up with a cough, runny nose but no fever and feels normal besides these symptoms, do you want them to stay home? Will they have the opportunity to log in from home live to their classes and not be considered absent? The student can then participate in classes for the day so they do not fall behind because of High School block scheduling? Will there be a way to log into their classes via teams? If this is allowed, it will limit the number of students who are coming to school with sickness because of the fear of falling behind. It will decrease the risk of spread to other students and faculty. The nurse of the building can then triage the student with a follow up phone call the same way they would assess the student in their office to determine the course of action. Is Covid testing needed or do their symptoms not require further action and the student is ok to return to school. If it is determined that Covid testing is not needed, the student should report to the nurse for an assessment and temperature screening before being allowed into class. Or worse case, they test positive for Covid but only have mild symptoms which does not inhibit them from doing their work at home, will they have the capability to log in and live stream or attend class via teams? Thank you for your thoughts on this.</p>
Helene Dunn	Warrington	<p>I am extremely disappointed that comments were not all read at the last meeting. Why are we bothering doing this if we're going to be ignored? Beth Darcy turned the entire meeting into a political agenda. Her bashing of Dr. Damsker was a disgrace and an embarrassment! How can 80% of the parents vote for a full reopening and be ignored? All this for a "pandemic" with a less than 1% death rate. Of course numbers are up; asymptomatic (which is rarely spread) and herd immunity. Please give our children their lives back. Online is a joke and not fair to the kids OR the parents.</p>
		<p>Our family is concerned that the proposed school calendar may have a disproportionate affect on elementary children with a Thursday/Friday hybrid schedule vs. the children with a Monday/Tuesday hybrid schedule.</p> <p>When looking at an early copy of the schedule, it appears there are approximately 10 early dismissals that fall on Thursday/Friday.</p> <p>Please consider moving some of the early dismissals to Wednesdays instead, which would not affect either hybrid group.</p> <p>Also, per the calendar file at the time of this comment, can you confirm the footnotes should show that snow days will be added to the week of 6/21 and not 6/14?</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

April Sedutto	Doylestown Township	<p>In the situation that other unforeseen events affect the calendar for the upcoming year, kindly request that administrators make updates in a way that will balance the in-person instructional time for kids on a hybrid schedule. For example, it would be unfortunate if all the snow days or other last-minute closures affected one group of children more than another. We support keeping the calendar at 180+ days even though it means a shorter summer next year.</p> <p>We understand there are a lot of moving parts and ripple effects of the changes that are being made - we appreciate everything the teachers and staff are doing to remedy the concerns that are arising due to this unprecedented situation.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Lisa Lapeire	Buckingham	<p>I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for everyone's continued efforts as we plan for a safe return to school.</p> <p>Please reconsider the options for CB schools and allow everyone to begin the year virtually. How can we responsibly open schools with a minimum social distance of 3ft? How can we responsibly open schools when Dr. Damsker himself said he guarantees there will be cases in CB? Cases in CB will put individuals at risk and will cause constant disruptions in the outstanding education CB delivers. Exposures at school will translate to exposures in our community too. Let us proceed slowly now that cases in PA are rising.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Jennifer Boyle	Doylestown	<p>I have a few. Can you address how kindergarten will look? Is there a way to do two full days instead of 5 two hour days? Will they use toys or only worksheets? Can you do a video of k?</p> <p>If my middle schooler chooses online can she come just for advanced science lab?</p> <p>Also is there thoughts to having all middle school and high school online and having elementary use the buildings spread out more?</p> <p>So many people wish you'd take the five days off the table so our workplaces would have to allow us to work from home and keep the kids and teachers safe</p>
Jenn Cousin	Buckingham	<p>I have both an elementary student and a middle school student. I noticed for the elementary children, you're requiring a 6' distance during lunch time since they will be unable to wear a mask during eating. However, the snack time for secondary students is during advisory, which to my knowledge is not a distance of 6'. What is being done to mitigate risk of the secondary students regarding snack time/masks off?</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

As a member of the team that worked on the Health and Safety Plan, I have spent the last month researching opening plans from other communities and following CDC, PA, and Buck County mandates and recommendations. The CDC, PADOE, and Bucks County have stated that it is important to have students limit interaction to smaller “pods” to decrease community spread. The plan approved by the board last week does not keep students in smaller pods - Central Bucks will be a “melting pot”, mixing students from homerooms, neighborhoods, and schools, which raises many challenges and questions.

1. Social Distancing in the Classroom: In the CB classroom videos, some rooms held 25-27 students. Staff are expected to maintain 6 foot distance, limiting the ability to move around the room to support students. Will there be a maximum classroom population for Hybrid and Traditional classes? Schools in the news that are opening successfully have 5-12 students with limited interactions between pods.

2. Social and Emotional Wellness: School will look like and feel different this fall, which is causing stress for staff as they consider changes. Best practices (small group instruction, movement breaks, and collaborative projects) will be limited or not be possible. School will look very different for students attending 5 days/week. Before we ask for students to attend school this way, School Board Members, Administrators, and Staff should have the experience of sitting in front facing rows with assigned seats and a mask from 8:15 am until 2:15 pm, with a 30 minute break for lunch and possible snack/mask breaks. Yes, it was socially and emotionally challenging last spring, this fall's new look will be challenging as well.

3. Testing and Contact Tracing: - Students are not guaranteed home buildings, which means some students will mix with other neighborhood communities. When a student is exposed to/gets COVID-19, tracing will be more challenging. It is still difficult to get a COVID test and/or receive the results.

4. Homeroom Pods: In a typical elementary, students move throughout the day to other classrooms. To ensure smaller “pods”, student homerooms need to limit movement in the building and exposure to other classes/pods. Class groupings need to consider groups of students that will be together throughout the day. In 5th and 6th grades, students switch classes for Accelerated and Pre-Algebra. Students will now mix with 2-7 homerooms in a given grade level. Students that receive support services will be leaving their pod and going to one or more pods in a given day.

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cindy Jansen	I work in Central Bucks School District.	<p>5. Transportation Challenges: Moving students to other schools will necessitate longer bus rides and mixing of school communities. With Hybrid and Traditional running concurrently, there will be 3 bus “groups”, which will make assigning seats challenging. Grouping students for transportation by location in a building’s attendance area (instead of household last names) may help in two ways. A bus could make 2 runs, if necessary, through ½ of the attendance area, saving time and fuel costs.</p> <p>6. Cafeteria Movement: Students in Elementary Traditional and Hybrid Options will eat lunch at school. Both plans require students to be 6 feet apart. Hybrid students could eat in their rooms (some will need to go to the cafeteria to purchase lunches) while maintaining social distancing. Students in the Traditional plan cannot all eat in their rooms. Will students be “assigned” lunch locations?</p> <p>Through CB’s Distance Learning experience in the spring, it was evident that trying to do a lot quickly does not necessarily preclude the best outcome. The Safety and Health of students and staff is important. Starting with Hybrid and Online options will allow the district to have a single-minded focus, identify and solve potential challenges. Classroom pods need to be set up that will allow for fluidity in responding to COVID-19 numbers this year.</p>
Melissa Smith	Doylestown	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I want to thank Beth Darcy and Karen Smith for being the voice of reason in last week’s meeting and showing us complete transparency on the decision making process that takes place on the board. 2. I support the new proposed school year start date of Sept 8 for children to return. I am hopeful that this will provide teachers with the necessary time to prepare for these challenging times. 3. Please re-consider the use of shield OR masks for students and require masks, which are proven to be safer. 4. Please re-consider desks 3 feet apart. 6 feet is the recommendation and is a safer option. <p>Our children and teachers deserve the safest environment to teach and learn. I don't believe opting for face shields and 3 feet apart has their safety as the number 1 priority.</p>
Jennifer Wasserman	Librarian—Central Bucks	<p>I would like to request that alternatives be examined for elementary specialists. As it stands now, we are scheduled to enter every classroom, hybrid and five day, every week. Our exposure numbers are higher than any other group in the district, by far. In addition, each time we enter a classroom, we are bringing our exposures with us.</p> <p>An alternative might be to have us teach in blocks (five days in a row to the same classes for a set number of weeks and then switch) for less exposure to us and the students we see.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this, for the health of all students and staff members.</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

<p>Miranda Gardner</p>	<p>Bucks</p>	<p>What efforts are being made to improve the online learning experience? I have detailed notes regarding the lousy User Experience for our students that proved a tremendous distraction from learning content. Examples: (1) Are assignments in Canvas posted the day they are due, or the day they are assigned? My students had a mish-mash of the two. (2) Depending on the way the assignment was posted by the teacher, some items were marked in Canvas with a bold, red "LATE", even when they were not. Others marked as "LATE" were, indeed, submitted late. This is very confusing. (3) Teacher use of tech was very inconsistent; some communicated through Canvas Discussions, some through email, some through One Note. Textbooks were hard to locate. (4) Do the teachers ever try to complete the work they assign on the tiny screens given to students? It can be maddening to drag-and-drop, for example, when the entire assignment doesn't fit on the screen at a legible size.</p> <p>To be clear, I am not finding fault with the teachers. They pivoted quickly in a time of urgency and did the best they could, most responding and improving as we went along. However, this MUST be improved upon to keep student and parents alike from reaching total frustration navigating the technology when the focus needs to be on learning content.</p>
<p>Melissa Smondrowski</p>	<p>New Britain Township</p>	<p>I am a Pine Run parent and Buckingham teacher. I feel that Pine Run families need more information about social distancing in regards to classroom set up/logistics because of the open classroom arrangement. When will this information be shared? I am also concerned regarding the lack of air conditioning at Buckingham. It is extremely hot there without masks and shields. Will we still be able to use fans? Are there any additional supports being put into place for students and staff? Thank you for your time and commitment.</p>
<p>Keith Horak</p>	<p>Doylestown Township</p>	<p>The videos were clear that there could be 29 people in a classroom (28 students and 1 teacher) in a 5 day classroom. The Q and A omits this answer and is vague. Say it out loud. Say it proudly, "We ignore the rules the Governor has put in place to attempt to keep our kids safe so we can squeeze more kids into 'daycare'". Say it out loud. The truth will set you free. Your original Hybrid proposal with 6' of distance is a thing of the past. If I send my child to the Hybrid model, he will be in a classroom next to the petri dish that is overcrowded and in violation of the Governors mandate. This will increase the chances of the Virus spreading through the school.</p>
<p>Naomi Dolan</p>	<p>Buckingham</p>	<p>The health and safety video states all school nurses will be given N95 masks. Will the nurses be fit tested to ensure proper fit of the masks? If the manufacturer of the masks changes during the year, will they be fit tested again to ensure proper fit of the new masks?</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chris Cleary	Doylestown Twp	How can we make a decision on Hybrid without knowing which classes would be included as the in person vs virtual? We have a senior who plans to be an art major and with having AP art studio classes this year how are we to know if those classes will be the in person classes?
Sean Blake	Buckingham	<p>As a parent, I am very concerned about the presence of cameras in the classroom and the recording of live instruction. It is my belief that it will have a chilling affect on the natural give and take between student and teacher, will inhibit learning, discourage children from participating, sharing their thoughts and asking questions (which can be intimidating under normal circumstances in front of their classmates- but knowing that there is a live broadcast and that it is being recorded takes it to an entirely different level). As such, I am asking that the board vote no on the expenditure of 450,000.00 on classroom cameras. I believe that there short term benefit is outweighed by the long term harm.</p> <p>In the event that the cameras are purchased, then I believe it should be with the caveat that they only be used while distance learning is necessary during Covid-19, and with the explicit understanding that they are to be removed from the classroom once full time learning is restored. Will the board make that promise and assurance to the community and the public?</p>
Sean Blake	Buckingham	<p>As a parent, I am greatly concerned for the health and well being of my children in the upcoming school year. It seems to me that many of the safeguards that will be put in place were designed before the clear understanding that Covid is an airborne illness- thus lessening the effectiveness of surface cleaning and sanitizing procedures, and the real concerns may rest with the effectiveness of fresh air and ventilation. What is being done to improve the ventilation and air purification in our buildings before we return in September? What efforts are being made? Will the district consider renting or purchasing outdoor event tents to create outdoor learning areas (much like outdoor dining areas have been created in the community) to address these concerns? If not, why not?</p>
		<p>First, I would like to thank Mrs. Darcy and Mrs. Smith for sharing their concerns for the Health and Safety Plan and voting against the proposal. Mrs. Darcy and Mrs. Smith showed integrity and courage when they chose safety over public pressure. Everyone wants to return to the classroom as soon as possible; however, the safety of students and staff needs to be a guarantee, not a gamble.</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

I have listened to and read excerpts from board meetings in surrounding school districts. In other districts, the conversations between the board and administration was extensive, professional, research-based, and honest. I struggle to say the same for our district. Most of the meeting featured the administration reading directly from the Health and Safety Plan. Some board directors had very little to say, while others focused on personal agendas. There was minimal discussion of the science of Covid-19, the rise of cases in our area, or the feasibility of the Health and Safety Plan.

There was almost no discussion of the concerns of CB staff. Results from the staff survey, which was conducted prior to the recent rise in cases in Bucks County, were shared, and then the conversation quickly moved on. Since the teachers and staff are being asked to put our lives at risk, we would appreciate your sincere consideration of our concerns and answers to our questions. I have attended several board meetings where you praise the efforts of teachers, and then our voice in this discussion is widely ignored.

The Health and Safety Plan that was approved may look great on paper, but will it really keep students and staff safe? Organizations are reporting difficulty in obtaining PPE. Can the district guarantee a steady supply? A significant part of this plan requires thorough cleaning of the buildings. How will the district ensure that buildings are being cleaned properly? The plan also relies heavily on social distancing and face coverings. How will compliance be enforced? Failure to implement every detail of the plan would be negligence on the part of CB.

I would also like to address the lack of clear and consistent communication between administration and staff. The administration often speaks to the importance of communication and transparency; however, important information has been shared with the public through local news and social media posts before being shared with staff. We received information about one plan on Friday afternoon, and a different plan was proposed to school board three days later with no explanation. If you are asking for our patience and our trust, then please communicate clearly, honestly, and frequently with us.

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jill Talarico	Doylestown Township	<p>While I understand that the number of cases and guidelines change daily, the start of the school year is five weeks away. We still do not know what, where, when, or how we will be teaching. If live streaming equipment is even available, it still needs to be delivered, installed, and tested, and teachers need to learn how to use it. Elementary teachers have received no training on Canvas. Whether or not we are teaching online, this training should have already started. Now, you are going to ask us to be prepared to teach in a new environment, with modified curriculum and new technology, in FIVE WEEKS. Because we care and are professional, we will do everything possible to make that happen.</p> <p>As I listened to and watched recordings of other board meetings, the words of the Cheltenham School District Wagner Marseille really stood out. He said, "I can't live with returning our students and staff too soon and risking or jeopardizing their lives." His words and action clearly show that he values the students and staff in his district. I ask that Central Bucks show the same concern and revise the current Health and Safety Plan to remove the full-time option for elementary and to postpone the beginning of the school year by two weeks to allow for adequate staff development and planning time. Thank you for your time.</p>
Sean Blake	Buckingham	<p>As a teacher and a parent of 3 district students, I would like nothing more than to be back in the classroom full time in the fall- in safe conditions. However, I am greatly concerned for the health and well being of both staff and students alike and believe that a physical return to the classroom might not be prudent at this juncture. This concern is obviously shared by our neighboring districts who seem to be approaching the return to school in a cautious and careful manner- by beginning with virtual learning and easing into hybrid or full-time when the Covid picture is more thoroughly understood and fully assessed. I believe CBSD should reconsider its plans and adopt a model that would consider a return to the classroom in November. The current scenario seems both rushed and chaotic- especially at the Elementary school level. I have two questions- 1) will the district consider reassessing the return to school to take a more cautious approach? 2) If the return to confined spaces with large numbers of people in a single room is supposedly safe as our current proposal suggests, then why is the board continuing to meet virtually and not in person? I mean no disrespect and thank you for all that you do but I think that it is a valid question.</p>

JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT

elizabeth dionne	doylestown	<p>Please please please look at the health metrics before even looking at in person school. I think we are asking the teachers and staff to put themselves at risk.... the virus is not contained here in Pa....we are at 5.9% and increasing. We do not meet the White House or CDC standards to open, let alone open restaurants, etc. The three feet standard does not work for kids when they move around or get up in their desks, same with the hallway when passing to different classes. To ask secondary kids to go without a "lunch" and just have a snack in 15 minutes is ridiculous. What adult does that for work? and teens do not get enough sleep anyway and now we are adding or limiting food? The safety plan/strategy when someone reports having the virus needs to be laid out in exquisite detail. I do not believe we have prepared our teachers or staff enough with PPE/deep cleaning formulas/or safety measures to open the schools. Why cant we have "pods " or small bubbles of students in secondary classes like other countries? that seems to be a way to help contain and mitigate the virus</p>
---------------------	------------	--

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andrea Raynor	Chalfont	<p>Since last week when our school board voted to accept the Healthy and Safety plan, my household has struggled to balance my job in CB with my children’s education in CB. I am so grateful for the district offering a 100% virtual option taught by my colleagues in CB, so my husband can stay home and keep my children as safe as possible. I wish I could allow my children to go back to school under the hybrid option, to see their friends and have an in person teacher they can identify with. But through the course of our family discussions, it became clear that keeping them home was the best option. Not due to our concern over their exposures, instead, we decided we needed to keep them home because of the disproportionate risk I will be assuming when I report to work as a CB elementary specialist. As the plan stands now, I will be entering all classrooms in my school buildings (I am in 2) over the course of a week. In a regular school year, I would be teaching around 800 students a week. This is disturbingly disproportionate to any other classroom or secondary teacher in the district. Specialists like myself will not only be at increased risk of exposure, but we will become vectors for the spread of the virus. Due to my risk, we felt as a family that the only option was to keep our CB children home, to keep them from furthering the spread, and to somehow limit our family’s exposures. As a parent and teacher in CB, I feel the district has done myself and my children a disservice. I urge you to look at ways to alter the specialist schedules to lessen our weekly exposure and in turn lessen the school’s overall risk. Adoption of a plan similar to North Penn, where a portion of students have one special every day for a number of weeks, seeing the same specialist teacher throughout those weeks, could lessen our individual exposures to around 150. This will allow the students in those classes to be exposed to 1 extra adult in their school week, as opposed to 5. If an outbreak were to occur, this would limit the directly exposed to a smaller portion of the school, as opposed to everyone. Please consider these scheduling changes to not only allow for a safer return for our students, but also to protect our elementary specialists. Our lives are not less important than the lives of our colleagues. We should not be treated as though they are.</p>
Julia Ott	Warrington	<p>Please consider having the next Board meeting in one of our five day, traditional in-person elementary classrooms, in a building without air conditioning, while utilizing the live streaming technology. Not only will this provide an opportunity for parents to ensure their privacy concerns are met by observing the camera placement, it will also provide a test run to understand the virtual experience. Students should be afforded an opportunity to understand their new normal, which will involve listening on a computer to a masked teacher. It will also provide an opportunity for the teachers to see how content will be received from the students' point of view and make adjustments as necessary.</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeff Neamand	Doylestown township	<p>I firmly believe that our school plan has not fully addressed all the issues at hand and there are to many questions left unanswered by the video sent to use addressing how school will be this fall</p> <p>We are not comfortable with the plan until more answers are provided</p> <p>Why are sports ok but full classrooms aren't? Playing football or soccer has more contact than sitting 25 students in a room wearing masks. Use of one bathroom in a school will pass more traffic than a full classroom</p> <p>While we appreciate the ability to homeschool, it's not an option for everyone and if we are comfortable sending a child to school we should be afforded that opportunity</p>
Jaime Benscoter	Warrington	<p>Desk situation is great. Bus situation great.</p> <p>I am in support of 5 day traditional but are the kids Really going to wear the mask inside the classroom all day? Can it be optional? I would rather my second grader not wear one while in the classroom. If the mask is to be worn for whole entire day I will be choosing 100% online. That's the deal breaker.</p> <p>Can the kids eat lunch in classroom so they are only exposed to those 15 people through the day?</p>
Scott Goldman	Buckingham	<p>I am very disappointed there is no full-time in person option for secondary students like there is for elementary students. Requesting a reconsideration by the Board.</p> <p>Why can other school districts in Bucks County offer full-time in person for all of their students, but not Central Bucks?</p> <p>Has hosting classrooms in the gym, cafeteria, or outside facilities been considered for spacing guidelines? If not, why not?</p> <p>Has an estimate of the reduced size of the in-person school population due to some students opting for virtual class work been forecasted? That should increase the spacing in classrooms. If it hasn't been done, why not?</p>
Sean Blake	Buckingham	<p>I'd like to begin this comment by thanking Beth Darcy directly for last week's statement related to social distancing in school- particularly at the elementary school level. Her comments were thoroughly researched and well reasoned- and greatly appreciated. As a parent of an Elementary School child, the concern that Mrs. Darcy displayed for the well being of our youngest children was moving- thank you. Contrary to the evidence cited by Mrs. Darcy and by most health authorities, the Board voted to open schools for 5 days a week without providing for the minimum 6 feet spacing safe guards- please explain how ignoring this safe guard does not facilitate the transmission of covid- especially since many children are asymptomatic transmitters?</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jen Burke	Chalfont	<p>I am very unhappy and concerned for secondary students who are missing a 5th day of instruction and having the duration of each class cut short. MS/HS students are not only are losing 3 days (60% typical school time) of being IN school and the advantages of active learning with their teacher and classmates but they are losing 2+ hours of quality time in each course per week. It is vague to me if the 2 days at home will be interactive with the teacher/class or if it is passive, observational only. If those 2 days at home are passive learning, it further proves my point that the amount of active learning is greatly reduced. With the shortened class periods and missing the 5th day, if this pattern continues for the entire semester, my junior (for example) will be losing what equates to 26 typical class periods PER course, which is similar to cutting a marking period 5 weeks short. I am disappointed to learn that 71% of class time (again not all of that is active) is acceptable and I feel that the administration should be working towards having hybrid students in school a 3rd day, and should also find a way to get each class back to the duration it is meant to be.</p>
Katrina Filiatrault	New Britain Township	<p>When my middle school child saw the 3 feet of spacing between desks in the CBSD video presentation, he said it didn't look much different from the usual spacing. I wonder how CBSD will defend themselves in a lawsuit because the vast majority of evidence says 6 feet is proper social distancing to successfully mitigate the spread of Covid-19.</p>
Jill Brittin	Warrington	<p>Will there be any opportunity to change your selection at a later time. For instance, if a high school student chooses the hybrid option, but at a later date decides the family decides that the online option would be better (due to virus cases in the school/community or family circumstances), would the student have the option to change their selection from hybrid to online? And, what if the situation was reversed and the student selected online but would like to change to hybrid?</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Matt Smith	New Britain	<p>Students in our district are taught to inquire and ask questions, so I have many questions for you. 1.How are you comfortable ignoring health guidelines concerning social distancing and risking the lives of our students and staff in elementary schools? 3 feet in an elementary school classroom is not acceptable. In Dr. Garvin’s video she showed a yardstick between desks. But what happens when there is a student in that chair and he/she pushes their chair out? We’re now at 1 1/2 feet social distancing. You are knowingly putting lives at risk. Also, what elementary classrooms do you know where all students sit calmly in their seat at their desk? 2. Also, how are you ok with not preparing our amazing teachers with the time, tools, and training that they deserve to implement whatever plan you throw at them? Our teachers and students demand better. Their needs and voices are not being heard and acknowledged in this entire process. 3.Why are you ignoring the ventilation and air flow issues in many of our schools? Schools have no AC, others have no windows to open, and many have poor ventilation systems. 4. Why is it ok for you to meet virtually for board meetings while insisting our students and staff return to school buildings? 5. Have you seen, read, and listened to the discussions and reopening plans from specifically Council Rock, Philadelphia, and Norristown? Many surrounding districts are only opening virtually. Philly SD just announced it this afternoon. The CR superintendent talked about the gift of time. The Cheltenham superintendent stated, “I can live with the recommendation to open in a fully virtual model. I can’t live with returning our students and staff too soon and risking or jeopardizing their lives.” And the Norristown superintendent wrote, “I will not be the Superintendent who puts anyone - not one child, not one staff member - in harm’s way. I cannot, in good conscience, allow any reopening model that increases the risk of infection, illness, or someone dying.”</p> <p>I am asking you not to gamble with the health and lives of students and staff in CBSD with this reopening plan, especially the traditional option in elementary school. We need to reopen virtually, and virtually only.</p>
Jen Burke	Chalfont	<p>Please find a way to allow musical extra-curricular activities to include choir, band and orchestra concerts and theater to happen ASAP – they are integral parts of the MS and HS experiences and vital to academic, social and emotional growth.</p>
Jamie Robertie	Doylestown	<p>Several board members mentioned they are open to an August meeting being in-person at desks 3ft apart, in masks/shields and to live stream it to show the community what students may be partaking in in the fall. Can you please confirm the date you are looking to schedule this?</p>

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lisa Walsh	Warrington	I strongly support a hybrid approach or full time for the high school students. It's not clear to me that the elementary students are attending five days a week but for high school students the district is having the building cleaned on Wednesdays. I would like to suggest the cleaning be done in the "off hours" so the students can have more time with in-person instruction. I also object to the reduced class time which will result in 26 less classes for each subject--that's like making the marking period 5 weeks shorter! Our students should attend classes the same amount of time--it's not fair to the students to shorten the day. Ten minutes per class many seem insignificant; however, you can see that adds up quickly to 5 weeks! I also would like the students working from home to have the opportunity to engage with the teacher via discussion points and questions. Will the students have this opportunity or will they just observe the teacher? The students NEED to engage with the teachers and their peers.
Dawn Olsen	Doylestown Township	I am very concerned about the use of face shields as opposed to masks. I understand that some students may have difficulty wearing masks but I don't feel face shields offer the same level of protection as masks and will put the mask wearers at greater risk of exposure to those that are wearing face shields. It's one thing if a few individuals are wearing face shields but to give them out to the entire student body is very risky unless they are being worn in addition to a mask.
Melissa Berkowitz	Warwick	Please do not open schools. It is not safe for students or staff. Make the decision now so everyone can plan accordingly and allow everyone to return in a safe manner when the time is right. There are too many unknowns about so many daily procedures for school and our children and staff should not be the guinea pigs for it.
James	Warrington	I'm very disappointed that the public was not involved in the meeting last week. I don't call reading a few letters out of hundreds having the public involved...neither is just posting the letters. ALL school board members should hear the public before a vote. There is NO WAY the board members read all 400 letters before they voted last week to destroy our secondary learning for the 20/21 school year. This is not the book 1984. However, the current board president is running things like that. The outright attacking of Dr Damsker last week was gross, and questioning his motives just because he has children, is even worse. Ms Darcy should apologize to him and step down as board president.

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gwendolyn Stoltz	Plumstead	<p>I strongly urge the district to rethink having everyone start virtually for the first part of the year. I attended a teleconference with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) today and learned of the lack of accurate testing available in this country. Currently in the US, we have a very high false negative testing rate and a low false positive testing rate with many different tests available that have varying degrees of accuracy. What does that mean for the community at large? Many people that have the virus will test negative. The NIH conference also reported that asymptomatic people are indeed able to infect other people and that people that do not have symptoms yet, are highly contagious the few days prior to the onset of symptoms. The NIH panel also indicated that we will not be able to get a handle on Covid-19 in this country until we have accurate testing.</p> <p>The decision to reopen or not does not just affect the students who are admittedly at lower (but not zero) risk, it affects the teachers, our families, and the community at large. It seems socially irresponsible to put so many people at risk with so many unknowns. There was an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine on July 28, 2020 titled "False Negative Tests for SARS-CoV-2 Infection-Challenges and Implications" that summarizes the false negative rates of testing. I urge those tasked with making school decisions to read it and consider what this means. This all being said, I understand you are in a bit of an impossible situation, given that people need to work. However, the sooner everything is under control, the sooner we can get back to some sense of normalcy. If we keep going the way we are, we are only prolonging the length of time that we need to take all of these measures. It seems districts all around us are choosing the more prudent course of action by offering only online schooling for the Fall. I hope you will reconsider your plan and take this step to offer protection to our amazing teachers and staff.</p>
---------------------	-----------	--

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kristen Kelley	Bucks	As a former Special Education Teacher, I cannot see how any meaningful learning is going to happen with students in masks and shields. In my opinion, by the time the teacher is finished redirecting Johnny for playing with his mask, Anthony for sticking pencils and pens in his shield and making sure Tommy's mask is not covered in boogies from his allergies and sneezing- 20 minutes of the class will be gone. Furthermore, the kind of necessary discussions needed to ensure students understand newly presented material will be lacking due to restrictions. Utilizing Zoom effectively can reach all students (except Special Education Students and perhaps those with 504 plans), if it is performed properly. If the district will not allow students to come to school free of face coverings(again, nothing to do with whether or not someone "Believes" in them--- there will not be meaningful learning), please contact schools such as Germantown Academy and other private schools and see how they are doing things.
Jamie Robertie	Doylestown	If you all are willing to send teachers and students back to the classroom at 3ft, why would you not hold a board meeting this way? And if you are willing to, there have been multiple requests from the community to do so in a non-air conditioned room - thank you!
Laurie Stevens Mirsky	Buckingham	Thank you all for your hard work these last few months they are greatly appreciated. I know there are many questions on safety, health and especially what educational model to choose for the students. I would like it clarified are the traditional five day elementary and hybrid elementary students going to be in the same school. In the question and answers that was listed on the website it said that the students would be in the same schools but not in the same classrooms. I have now heard that schools will be designated either five day traditional or a hybrid school. This is a major factor in deciding which model to choose for each student. This would also be very hard for 6th graders who have been in the same school with the same teachers and friends to now have to go to another school for their 6th grade year than have to move again next year for 7th grade. Thank you again
		First, I wanted to thank the Board for their efforts thus far. I imagine this is not what you had in mind when deciding to run for school board. You are in a tough position because inevitably you are not going to please everyone. From an outside observer, it seems that the late addition of the 5 day in-person option for elementary was an effort to please certain vocal groups who were upset after reading Dr. Kopicki's letter from July 17th. I understand the frustration- I think most parents want all students (not just elementary) to be full time in the classroom. However, in these uncertain times, what we want isn't always what is best.

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Adam C.	Warrington	<p>My concern about the additional 5 day in-person option is the potential impact to the hybrid students, as well as the safety of our teachers and support staff. What are we doing to ensure the safety of our teachers and staff? At the beginning of quarantine, the community and parents rallied around and praised the efforts of our teachers and staff. Now, just a few months later, we are making the decision to send them back to school full time with little to no training or PPE. Each one of our schools, when they open, will comprise some of the largest indoor gatherings of people in our area, outside of hospitals.</p> <p>Over the past several days, numerous districts in the area (Council Rock, Philadelphia, Upper Dublin, Downingtown, Norristown, and others) announced that they will start the year 100% virtual for the safety of the children and staff. Council Rock board members even went as far as saying during their board meeting that they would use their “virtual” start to monitor how CB manages in-person instruction. I do not want our schools to be the “guinea pigs”, especially since I have not seen anything in CB’s plans that would indicate that we are more prepared to protect our children and teachers than those districts starting virtually.</p> <p>I urge the board to reconsider the opening plan and instead start 100% virtually. This will allow the teachers and administration to be laser focused on one option to start and then plan for a deliberate, phased-in approach to returning to in-person instruction.</p>
Anonymous	Warrington	Has the district explored options for learning in outdoor spaces?
Theresa Fulginiti, RN	Doylestown Township	<p>Dear Dr. Kopicki and Members of the Central Bucks School Board,</p> <p>As a health care professional for over 50 years, and a longtime resident of Doylestown, I feel obliged to voice my concerns about the current plans for the upcoming school year.</p> <p>We know that Central Bucks School District is the third largest school district in the state of Pennsylvania, as well as the largest employer in Bucks County. The current plan for starting school causes significant risk to the health and lives of thousands of students, staff, and community members. In-school learning or a hybrid model are dangerous options at this time.</p> <p>Please reconsider your choice to send children and staff into a risk-filled situation. Choose to protect the health and lives of Central Bucks citizens instead, by implementing all virtual learning.</p> <p>Sincerely, Theresa Fulginiti, RN</p>
Anonymous	Warrington	How will teachers or administrators enforce social distancing and good hygiene throughout the day?

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anonymous	Warrington	What is the timing for communication of school placement for my child if the school is changing?
Anonymous	Warrington	What are procedures in place for contact tracing and notification of affected individuals in the event of a positive case (or someone in contact with a positive case)?
Jenn Sullivan	Plumstead	The meeting minutes for the last meeting are incomplete. You have the public comments but not the board member comments. All the comments the board made as part of their vote on the re open plan should be part of the record for the meeting just like the public comments are. Also the minutes should refer to the video of the meeting. These things are part of the official documentation of the meeting.
Tracey	Chalfont	<p>I feel compelled to send this public comment to communicate my opinion of how poorly CBSD has managed its communications with parents and the community. We were sent a plan on the evening of Friday, July 17th that would be voted on the following Tuesday, but were presented with an substantially different plan on Tuesday July 21st with no explanation.</p> <p>Even though I agree with Mr. Darcy’s overall plan to offer a hybrid option or online option for all students, I’m disappointment in her tone. Ms. Darcy’s comments about Dr. Damsker really seem to be personal. I would have preferred she shared with us why Dr. Kopcki sent out the letter that he did on Friday, July 17th, when she didn’t seem to have enough consensus to get it on the agenda.</p> <p>Again, while I agree with Ms. Darcy’s overall plan I do question some of the points she made. If Ms. Darcy criticizes Dr. Damsker for not having visited more local schools, why value the option of leaders at the State level who are less connected to our community? If she had all the same options about reopening schools she outlined on Tuesday July 21st, how could she ever have considered reopening school with less interventions, etc. at any point in June or July or any point before The Governor’s announcement on Thursday July 16th? I’m disappointed Ms. Darcy wasn’t able to convince her colleagues to get on board with her, but given a taste of her communication style at the July 21st meeting, I am not surprised. There is enough division on our world right now. We deserve better than this.</p> <p>Basically, I expect more from our Board President than personal attacks and condescension. I’d like a Board President who can convince her colleagues, not belittle them. Darcy might have all the right ideas, but she has no ability to implement them.</p>
Jamie Robertie	Doylestown	Please comment on the community’s request to have you host the upcoming August board meeting at desks 3ft apart live streamed to the community.

**JULY 28, 2020 CBSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ray Ashba	Chalfont	While education is one of our most important goals in life, it never trumps life itself. While we have the option to protect our children with virtual education, what thought if any has been given to the trauma that will ensue when our children have to experience and be told why teacher, faculty and classmate become ill. While hopefully not, but scientifically a significant risk some will not recover and die. The impact to our community, loved ones and children both physically and mentally is not worth it. On top of the trauma of starting school even part time and inevitably having to go full virtual when this pandemic spreads like wild fire again. We have not stopped this virus like other countries and to pretend we have and kick the can on locking down school again is risking more illness, disruption and death. I feel for every teacher, staff and faculty that has to decide between the risk of death and maybe, possibly dodging that bullet and getting a few days in class with kids.
Steffany Moonaz	Doylestown	Many parents, especially those whose children are struggling with recent upheaval of all kinds, are concerned about school reassignment. Many of our kids learn better in school but a change of schools would be too much for them to manage right now, especially the youngest ones. We would like to prioritize school choice over model choice and to know if there is the option to make a different selection if our kids are sent to another school.
Anonymous	Warrington	What changes to the ventilation systems are being made to all buildings and schools in the district as we prepare for school re-opening?