

Clark Board of Education Meeting 9/03/2020
Public Comments

Fwd: Question
Debora <debcip9@gmail.com>

Mon,
Aug 3,
1:49 PM

Hello, sorry for the late question. In light of the Governor's new mandate today to have children wear masks while in school buildings, will mask breaks and possible outdoor teaching be considered while the weather permits? Thank you,
Debora Hidalgo
> 4 Avon Rd.

Nicole Ruane 15 Harding ave

Nicole Ruane <nkaciupski@icloud.com>

Mon,
Aug 3,
7:34 PM

What does the virtual option look like? How many hours are expected daily?

Thanks !

Question

vivianantonia <vivianantonia@aol.com>

Mon,
Aug 3,
8:54 PM

Hello,

Hopefully this is still the right email address to send questions to...

If I choose to send my daughter to a private kindergarten offering full time instead of public, if private shuts down, will I be able to re-enroll for public remote school seamlessly? Would there be any marking period waiting time?

Is there a certain cut off date I would need to tell public school by if I decide to enroll in private instead?

Thank you.

Vivian Lekkas
Hehnly

Additional Questions

Isabel Manata <isabelm0908@gmail.com>

Mon,
Aug 3,
9:04 PM

Hello -

Some additional questions I don't believe were answered during the meeting or FAQs.

1. What is the consequence for parents who (irresponsibly) send their child to school with a fever? If we are not taking temps at the school entrance, then there has to be serious compliance that parents keep kids home if they have a fever.

2. Will art, music, gym be graded or just a pass/fail?

3. What will the standard across the district be for virtual sessions? Google Meet? Zoom? We need a uniform platform across the board.

4. In the event of a confirmed case at school:

- What isolation protocols are in place?
- What cleaning protocols do you need to have ready?
- Do you have a trained team for execution of contact tracing, cleaning, closing/reopening, and continued learning

5. Many parents have already spent a lot of their own money last spring to adapt to remote learning, and will continue to do so due to more expensive after care choices, babysitter, etc for those who have to work and do not have free child care. Will the Township of Clark provide parents with a tax rebate to offset those unexpected costs?

Thanks for all you do. This isn't easy for anyone. What will help the most I think is transparency with the parents, and providing the rationale behind the decisions. Like that question about parents volunteering to go clean the schools, of course that isn't viable, but many well meaning parents just don't understand all the liability and state requirements, etc...that you all have to comply with. They are only focused on their personal situation.

Good luck!
Isabel Manata

8/3/2020 BoE Meeting Q/A Question Submission

Glenn Robinson <glenn.r.robinson@outlook.com>

Mon, Aug
3, 10:05
PM

Glenn Robinson - 38 Frances Drive / FKH:

The regular bell schedule for the elementary schools allows for 6.25 hours of school (5.25 hours of instruction). The State requires four hours to count as a full day. Your plan is for 2.5 hours of instruction in the AM or PM, with all subject areas being instructed. How is this effective compared to a hybrid model? Would it not be better to have half the student body attend on alternating days (i.e. group 1 on A/C/E, and group 2 on B/D/F (alternatively 1 on Mon/Wed, 2 on Tue/Thu or some combination thereof) and all students not in attendance in person attending remotely. This would allow for more contact time with the students and teachers.

Thank you

AM/PM sessions

Kelly Counts <kellycmri@yahoo.com>

Thu,
Aug 6,
8:09 AM

Good Morning,

My son is going into second grade and was assigned the PM session at VRS. Unfortunately I was praying for the AM session because this is clashing with my work schedule and don't know what to do.

I heard the message that you can not change Sessions for any reason but was wondering two different scenarios. If the morning session ended up having a good amount of kids choose remote, would you look into going down the list and offering the next set of kids to be the AM session?

Also, is this for the whole school year? If the school year continues this model, I hope that the second marketing period the sessions will be flipped. It's unfair that this is all assigned based off the last letter of your name and where you fall in the alphabet.

Thank you, Kelly Krueger

Question Re: School Reopening (Lisa DeMarco)

Lisa Ditto DeMarco <lisa.ditto@gmail.com>

Thu,
Aug 6,
9:14 AM

Good Morning,

Currently, New Jersey is still in Phase 2

(<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/reopening-guidance/are-people-allowed-to-gather-in-person>).

I work for a University in New Jersey, and we are currently planning for student arrival for the Fall Semester. However, we are under the impression that we cannot allow general, in-person instruction within classrooms and lecture halls under New Jersey's Phase 2 Road to Recovery Plan. Can you please confirm if this is also the case for K-12 schools? One of the guidelines limits indoor gatherings to 25 or 25% of the room capacity. Is that for the entire school building or per classroom? Is the reopening plan for the Clark Schools assuming NJ will enter Stage 3 by September 1? What if we remain in Stage 2? Will it be remote learning only?

Thank you,
Lisa DeMaco

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Virtual plan

Leigh Anne Jadro <lajspeech@gmail.com>

Aug 7,
2020,
9:58 AM

Good morning Mr Grande and Mr B,

I asked this question deviously via the publiccomments@clarkschools address but have not reviewed an answer or seen in on the FAQ.

1. How will the teachers in district have time to devise and implement google classroom material and assist and teach students on the full virtual model if they are teaching a full workday in person? I worked 7am-11pm last year just managing my own speech therapy caseload via GC and cannot see how this will be possible.

2. Having just reviewed the districts full virtual plan this morning, I see that the district is going to attempt to moderate this by having the full virtual model consist solely of a live steam from class with assignments posted on GC, is that understanding correct?

3. There are many privacy issues at stake in that case, has the teachers union approved that method?

4. What if a student (or classroom) has tech difficulties one morning and can't live-stream? There's no live virtual teaching happening for those students outside of that...

3. What process is the district taking to help the teachers maintain control of the physical classroom while also answering questions and providing assistance to the virtual students? For example will there be a full time tech aide for each classroom to help moderate the virtual students? Perhaps the cafeteria aides or before/after care staff could be repurposed for this?

Woodbridge teachers have an AB half day schedule so that can teach remotely, create GC content, and have office hours the other half of the day. There is no live streaming from the classrooms unless the teachers chose to do that personally in addition to their virtual lessons. That also sounds like more work than I've ever done, but it seems more achievable than Clark's plan to have teachers teach all day, clean their on rooms between classes, and only provide virtual instruction via livestream while I guess spending their entire evenings uploading GC content and grading?

I should say that I am fully confident that Governor Murphy will put us all back out on full remote for fall anyway very soon, maybe even today, but in the event that he doesn't, this virtual non-plan is a travesty. I hope that when in person instruction actually does reconvene someday our reentry plan is more solid than this one.

Leigh Anne Jadro

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question to be asked during meeting on Monday August 17, 2020

BROADWELL David <David.BROADWELL@mane.com>

Aug 11,
2020,
10:43 AM

David James Broadwell
30 Runnymede Road

Clark, NJ 07066

1. If school is to be open for only 2 hours a day, then why can't it be open for 7-8 hours a day? What is the Risk to students and teachers if they attend 2 or 7 hours? There currently is no study or information from the CDC that indicates exposure rates are less if someone has the virus. In addition, for trace protocol you will know where those students and teachers are for that timeframe.
2. I have heard that teachers have the option of teaching from home, while students are in the classroom. How effective is having children at school if the teacher is home teaching from online to the classroom? Who will monitor that classroom?
3. How is extra help going to be provided for students that opt to stay at home?
4. How will class participation be graded if students opt to stay at home? What assurance is there that teachers don't penalize students that stay at home or don't actually participate with online discussions.
5. What steps is the school administration taking to ensure that older teachers are proficient with online teaching methods and providing interactive rooms for students in the classroom as well as at home.
6. What steps are being discussed if there is a student or teacher that becomes positive with COVID-19? Does the entire class room become quarantined? What are the steps to sanitize the room then? What types of chemicals will be used to sanitize the facility and who has been instructed/licensed to conduct this type of work.

7. Are there long term substitutes on standby in the case a teacher has to be quarantined? Will that substitute be able to pick up the workload or will the students have to learner more on their own?
8. How much more money is being allocated for the protocols being taking to send teachers and students back to school as well work on line? How will this money be made up towards the bottom line? Will taxes increase because of this pandemic crisis?

Thank you

Dave

Question about schools opening safely

[Loading] <kathyterzo@hotmail.com>

Tue, Aug
11, 1:38
PM

Good Afternoon,

I realize that this is an extremely challenging time for every school district, and I appreciate all of your efforts to make it as safe as possible for our children to go back to in person school.

I understand that the children will need to clean their desks and chairs at the end of each class, and I read that the schools will be supplying the wipes for them to do so. I was wondering if it would be possible to have dispensers like they use in some of the gyms (such as RWJ Fitness and Wellness Center). This may, of course be a bit costly, but I think it would be advantageous to have the wipes easy to access and easy to refill, so there is no chance of running out. Those dispensers are very sturdy, and also have a place to discard the used wipes, which would be an added bonus.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to ask questions and submit suggestions.

Kathleen Terzo
79 Ivy Street
Clark, New Jersey 07066

Questions for reopening

patricia henkel <phenkel@verizon.net>

Wed, Aug
12, 3:09
PM

Hello board members,

Thank you for all the information we received during the BOE meeting that was held on Monday August 3rd and since then.

This was my first virtual zoom meeting and first one from Clark since we're new to the district.

My daughter will be a freshman at ALJ in September.

Here are a some questions I have:

Now that governor Murphy has made masks indoor at schools mandatory, who will be monitoring the students? Who will make sure they are wearing them at all times in the classroom and hallways? Will there be any warnings or consequences when kids are found not wearing them?

The original plan stated that for gym classes kids will not have to wear masks but since it is mandatory now will they have to? If they don't will they have a choice to keep their masks on?

Who will make sure students in buses are keeping their masks on, driver can't monitor and safely drive.

You have left it up to the parents to take their child's temperature at home before going to school, how will you ensure this is being done? Is there a way for parents to email or input this info into a database? I have heard some schools are doing this.

Will there be random temperature checks everyday to make sure people are not sending their kids to school sick and/or with a fever? How will we hold people accountable for everyone's safety? And if during random temperature checks you find kids that have fever will the parents be required to pick them up asap?

Will there also be testing for teachers and staff? Will they be required to be tested monthly?

Will there be enough nurses on hand for AM/PM kids?

Prior to and during in person school, will we be asked if we have traveled to states with high covid cases and if anyone has wouldn't they have to quarantine for 14 days?

Since in person schooling is not mandatory everyday/all day, has Clark considered a day off during the week for cleaning? Maybe have Wednesdays off?

I appreciate any feedback and look forward to any further information the board has for us.

Thank you,
Patricia Henkel

Teacher Safety

smirto58@comcast.net

Thu, Aug
13, 6:01
PM

Thank you for taking my question:

My husband is a teacher at ALJ, in a classroom with NO WINDOWS. While I appreciate the fact the students are in the building only two and half hours a day, the faculty will be in their rooms AT LEAST six and a half hours a day. And being in a room with no windows for 6 and 1/2 hours a day is unacceptable according to health protocols.

What is the plan to protect your teachers? Are you using MERV and HEPA FILTERS and if so, how often will these filters be changed?

I honestly feel there is no way to safely open schools at this time. We're not ready. I'd really love an answer that makes me feel differently.

Susan Mirto Scardilli
58 Wendell Place
908 472-2458

Questions re 2020-2021 school year for Board of Education

Danielle Fidurski <dfidurski@verizon.net>

Sun, Aug
16, 4:38
PM

Hi,

Prior to the last board meeting, I submitted my questions via email, as per the instructions in the letter sent out. None of my questions were answered in the live meeting. Rather, only questions from the live chat were answered. My current questions are below.

1. Will virtual only elementary students be allowed to remain in the current assigned classrooms with their current teacher regardless of the number of students per classroom selecting the virtual option?
2. If, at some point, Clark goes to an all virtual model, will the two hour and forty minute live teacher led instruction be extended to a longer session?

3. Similarly, if, at some point, Clark goes to an all virtual model, at the elementary level, will the a.m. and p.m. sessions be combined so all students attend both sessions virtually, thereby extending the two hour and forty minutes of live teacher led instruction?

4. Given the extremely short two hour and forty minutes of live instruction, at the elementary level, is it possible to limit this window to core subjects (language arts and math) with the students' main teacher and move all special classes to the remote format used last Spring to maximize live instruction of core subjects?

Thank you,

Danielle Fidurski Miller

Question for VRS

Christine Richards <crichards1217@yahoo.com>

Mon, Aug 31,
8:26 AM (3
days ago)

Why can't the specials be done during homework time versus the 2 1/2 hour classroom time?

Remote learning

Sheri Perez <sherip0521@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 31,
8:48 AM (3
days ago)

Will there be a specific remote learning schedule for our elementary students and how will that coincide with the students who are attending in person? Thank you ,

Sheri Perez
12 Eton Place
Clark

Question regarding laptop for kids

Vrabel, Gloria C. (CHRMGCV) <GVrabel@njtransit.com>

Mon, Aug 31,
5:02 PM (3
days ago)

Gloria Vrabel
61 James Ave

Will there be any lap tops offered for students this Fall 2020?

Question for Board Meeting

Shaw Family shaw <matcatshaw@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 1,
7:42 AM (2
days ago)

Cathy Shaw
6 Arbor Lane Clark NJ
732-735-8364

When will the parents of students who are opting to be full remote learning from home be able to come by the school building and pick up the any subject area textbooks, learning journals, workbooks or other student material that they would typically have received to support learning if they were in school, to support them with this school year's instruction at home?

Thank you much, I look forward to hearing from you soon.
