



PUBLIC COMMENT
Sept. 2, 2020
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Regarding the notification that WCS will be formulating a plan to return to hybrid learning due to Franklin County downgrading to a level 2 on the COVID alert system: Many families based their decision about whether to return to hybrid model or enroll in WVA upon the October date that was published on the district webpage as the earliest return date. If that date is to be altered, then perhaps families could be given the chance to re-evaluate their plan as well? I certainly have hesitation to return to a hybrid model so soon after a level reduction given the number of districts who have done so and faced an immediate, and significant, spike in reported cases. I believe that sending them back prematurely will cause a significant learning disruption as they transition from remote, to hybrid, then back to remote as we shut down in response to spikes. This creates much uncertainty for the students, and a lot of additional work for our teachers. Prior to return to a hybrid model, I would like to have clear communication from each of my children's home schools about the building specific plans in place to mitigate COVID spread and exposure. I would also like to know concrete plans for how the district will determine when to close a school (or the district) after COVID cases are reported. - **Tanya O'Brien**

If the board is still holding their meetings virtually, how are they justifying putting teachers in a building with hundreds of students? Will a representative from Central Office be in schools during the day to monitor and help keep students 6 feet away from each other during class changes? What will the "discipline" be for students who are not adhering to mask wearing requirements and social distancing? - **Mindy Holmes**

So far the experience of online learning has had its ups and downs for both of my children; but the most positive thing about the high school experience, at least at South, has been the later start time. What a difference this has made to my student personally and to our mornings as a family. Not only have we seen the benefits in my home, but any data you read shows that a later start time benefits teens academically and socially. Can we consider keeping this 9 am start time for high school? Thank you! - **Jackie Kellar**

With the COVID level in the counties changing on a weekly basis are we going to make the kids jump back and forth between virtual and blended learning? Once we go to Blended learning are we staying with blended learning? - **Scott Roth**

With school districts all over Columbus currently doing in person classes, what makes Westerville different? Surely we have plenty of funding and resources through city taxes. I can't quite understand how school is safe for one group of kids and not for the next. The in person schooling should be a decision made by the parents which when polled, almost half of the parents in Westerville expressed issues with 100% remote learning. How does Westerville justify remote learning when Dewine has OK'd daycare taking kids to basically use as schools right now? - **Patrick Hullinger**

If students who committed to the Westerville Virtual Academy find that the system is NOT in any way what they agreed to nor the best method of learning for their child AND since the blended model is coming back so quickly, can those students be allowed to go back to school instead of sticking to the WVA system for the entire semester? (We feel there was not enough explanation about the WVA and since there is no actual teaching involved in this program and the system is so complicated to use for submission, and because Westerville teachers have also never used the program and things are very complicated, we feel our son is NOT receiving a stellar education and should be allowed to return to school.) - **Angela LeRoy**

"I very much appreciate the incredibly difficult job that WCS administrators and BOE have in trying to come up with solutions for how to best educate or children safely, while trying to please so many people with competing needs and agendas. I have been impressed so far by how the district has listened to parents and our educators and truly do trust that you all have the best interest of our community and children in mind when making your decisions. I also know that you are getting a lot of pressure to get us back to ""normal"". It is a time when there is no clear answer that is ""right"", which is why we all have struggled so much with choosing what is best for our families. With that said, I would like to encourage the district administrators/BOE to consider keeping 100% remote for the first quarter, as was initially outlined when the return to school decisions were made. I feel that it is best for several reasons;

1. It offers our students the most consistency to return to in -person school at a ""natural"" breaking point.
2. Will not be so much of a disruption to learning one system for a few weeks only to switch to another and will allow teachers, students, and parents to prepare for the next learning model.
3. Gives time to see how the in-person return to school in other districts and colleges impacts COVID numbers, which hopefully would keep us from having to turn around and go back to full remote if the numbers start increasing again, as is anticipated.

I feel strongly that there is no reason to act impulsively when the health of our children, educators, and community are at stake. The teachers have worked very hard to develop a remote learning plan, and we are already here, so why do we need to change it so quickly? Believe me, I

want my children to return to in-person learning as soon as it makes sense and is as safe as possible to do so-- for many reasons. It is why I chose the blended model vs WVA. It just does not feel that time is now with return to in-person learning just beginning in other districts and colleges/universities. We need time to see how that goes before disrupting what we have started so we can try to keep things as consistent as possible for our children. Thank you for considering and for all that you do!" - **Jessica Stein**

Our children need to be in school...they spend enough time online as it is. Learning how to interact with others in social settings is crucial to their social development. Parents cannot continue to carry the burden of working full time jobs and playing teacher additionally. Let's get back to normal and let families make their own decisions and health and safety. My body, my choice. - **Jason Roseman**

Thank you for being diligent and setting up special meetings to stay timely and fluid. This is necessary to ensure the best possible education for our kids. The choice to stay at home and learn is in place. The choice to teach remotely is in place. It is time to give choices to those who need a more traditional way to learn. - **Kim Snyder**

When WCS announced the decision to move to remote learning for the students selecting the "blended" option for school this year, the announcement was very clear that the earliest the administration expected to return to any in-person instruction was October 5. There was never any indication that timeframe could be revised to occur earlier. In fact, the district recognized that some families who had chosen WVA for the first semester would feel comfortable with that delay and therefore allowed families to change their selection and also gave more time to consider our options before locking ourselves into a semester- or year-long decision. Now a vocal minority has taken it upon themselves to force a change to that commitment, based on less data than the administration promised they would use to make the decision. I respect that WCS is trying to be responsive, but the inability to pick a process and stick with it for any period of time is frustrating for parents and students alike. It is difficult to have faith in the direction our administration is taking when decisions like these seem to change so rapidly. You made a commitment to our community about the earliest return date and now you are openly discussing changing that commitment in the blink of an eye. It is exhausting. Our families (not to mention our school staff) have been adapting to constant uncertainty since the middle of March, and we deserve a school administration that makes a commitment and sticks to it. I have been supportive of our schools and our leaders as we navigated some very challenging issues over the past 9 years, but it is going to be difficult to trust and support you if you backtrack on the return to in-person learning date. - **Lori Keyser**

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quite understand how school is safe for one group of kids and not for the next. The in person schooling should be a decision made by the parents which when polled, almost half of the parents in Westerville expressed issues with 100% remote learning. How does Westerville justify remote learning when Dewine has OK'd daycare taking kids to basically use as schools right now? - **Patrick Hullinger**

Hello. I have a child at Central high and Walnut Springs. Will they be on the same schedule? I would like them to be please. - **Jill Berner**

When I signed my son up for blended, I was under the assumption the school would stick to the October 5th date in potentially moving to hybrid. I feel starting up sooner than this date is not only reckless but unfair to the parents who made the difficult decision on selecting blended learning vs other schooling methods. Why are we rushing this? There is no vaccine. We have seen across the country numerous schools closing, sometimes within days of starting, from Covid outbreaks. Our children not only need safety but consistency, starting up too soon will be a mistake. It's only been 1.5 weeks of remote learning. Please I plead to the board to slow down, stick to the plan that you gave us originally with the October 5th date. Its not safe for our kids to go back yet. - **Janine Kupko**

Hi this is more of a statement. Please open hybrid up. My mental and emotional state are on the line as I'm sure so many other moms I've talked to are. I have a brand new kindergartener. Her first year of pre-K was last year. She never got to finish her first year of school. Which is making it very difficult for her to learn through a computer. She cries almost everyday about wanting to go into a classroom. I cry almost everyday because doing their school at home I'm truly becoming more depressed. Please consider going to a hybrid schedule for the sake of the stay at home parents whom can no longer handle thing stay at home school!

A friend of mine has even mentioned her daughter gets mean when sitting behind a computer for to long. She took phones and tablets away for this reason and now she to teach her daughter through a computer. Please switch to hybrid. Please. - **Brittany**

I do not think it is a responsible decision to bring the kids back for in-person school. The district needs to be able to make a confident decision that can sustain us throughout the rest of the school year, and we are definitely not there yet. The district has already said that the earliest we would go back is early October, and going back on that Statement is not fair for working parents who are scrambling to change childcare, as well as the high potential for having to shut down again. Parents may have made a different choice regarding WVA had they known the district would not honor what they said about the earliest we'd go back being early October. I may have decided to do WVA for my daughter had I known the kids would go back to soon. - **Tiffany Sherrill**

I'm concerned about the decision making process that surrounds the return to blended learning. In a direct email to Superintendent Kellogg I asked for clarification of the criteria of returning to the blended model. In that email he indicated the the criteria were as follows:

"What we are looking for right now is a sustained positive trend that projects to improved conditions in the region. It is not just a positive trend it needs a meaningful slope to the turn (so to speak). We have not tied our instructional model to the color code. It is just a metric point for consideration." Now a mere one month later were being told:

"Franklin County's status on Ohio's Public Health Advisory System has been upgraded to Level 2 due to improved health conditions in the region. As a result, we are finalizing a few logistical details on a phased-in return to Blended Learning for student".

This seems to be in direct opposition to what I was told one month ago.

My wife and I used Dr Kellogg's description of return criteria to make the decision to enroll our children in the traditional offering instead of Virtual academy. Now all signs are pointing to a rushed return to school based on the exact metric we were told was not the deciding factor, despite hundreds of daily cases in Franklin county. I feel like I was misled.

Please reconsider the timeframe and don't rush our children back to in person school. While virtual learning can be challenging I'd much rather face a challenging school arrangement than an outbreak of a deadly disease by rushing children back too early." - **Don Butler**

Thank you for getting our kids back in the classroom - safely - as quickly as possible. - **Heather Johnston welliver**

Given the current guidance we have received from health officials, along with the need to provide at least two weeks advance notice to families, the earliest we foresee any chance that we could return to a blended learning model is October 5."

This is what we were told prior to making a decision to send our children to the hybrid model.

This gave it time to ensure numbers consistently decreased. With universities and schools returning, time must be given to ensure we actually stay in the orange level and not return right back to red. I ask that you stick with the plan you presented originally.

As a family with 2 working parents, we have worked tirelessly to arrange care and a schedule to get us through this time. A quick change is not feasible for families nor is it good for the kids.

The kids need consistency in their education plan. Not a plan that changes every couple weeks.

Give them a chance to adjust to the current model before changing again.

Thank you for your time. - **Cortney Dalton**

Thank you for scheduling this meeting and considering the transition back to a hybrid model before the initially proposed date in October. While I have been impressed with and appreciative of all the work the teachers and administrators have done to start the school year off in a virtual learning environment, it is clear to me that my child learns best in a school building with teachers in a classroom environment. Public health officials who monitor and evaluate data closely have

suggested this is the time to move to in person classes, in spite of knowing our regional numbers will likely climb due to the challenges presented by OSU students returning to the area. The CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics have said children need in person schooling for a number of educational, mental health, and other health factors. Some will say it's too soon...I'm hopeful you will consider that families who had reservations about sending their children into the building absolutely had another option - the WVA. Please move to the model now as there are concerns that when the winter months begin and the seasonal flu starts to peak we may have additional concerns/complications to factor in and could, unfortunately, be forced back into a 100% online model. Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the children and families in the district. - **Kelly Wesolowski**

Please allow our children to go back to in person learning ASAP! I have 2 young students at Fouse Elementary. Remote learning is not good for these poor children mentally or physically. We are setting them up for failure and more struggles once they finally do return, the longer this goes on. They need their teachers, friends, and the real one on one guidance. Please let us return to in person. Thank you!! - **Miranda Henson**

Please allow our children to return to in person learning. - **Brian Henson**

Dear Board Members,

Please take into consideration the educational needs of all of our children. For those parents that are insisting we stay remote and do not go back to in-school learning, I ask then why was WVA not chosen for your children? It was a choice for you to do so. For those of us and our children that want and need to go back to in person learning, choice was taken away from us. For many, the risks of not going back to school outweigh any risk of the current virus situation, which has shown to largely have run its course in Ohio. Cases are still making their way around - that is inevitable. However, the response no longer matches the reality of the situation we are in. We must learn to live with this and let our children have as normal of a childhood and education as possible. That is our job to give it to them and their right to have it. Please, open the schools. Put the kids first. Thank you. - **Audrey Gonzalez**

I support kids going back in the classroom to learn. For me, there comes a point where we need to jump in and try this out. - **Beth Rusnak**

Before WCS reopens can we monitor other districts Covid case trend after they reopen? - **Jen Lawson**

Although I've known the day would come to start the transition to the blended model, I didn't expect it to be this soon. I believe we are rushing the transition too soon. Franklin county just changed to level 2 and we immediately acted. We should allow more time to confirm we are going to stay level 2, rather than making an immediate reaction and potentially cause a back and

forth learning for these kids. One week you're in school and now you're not because the level changed again. I feel that will become more stressful and emotional on the kids. Furthermore, the teachers as well. I raise my hands that my son, especially, needs to be in person but just not this soon. Originally, families have planned physically and emotionally for the Oct 5 date. We knew that date wasn't definitive, however making a change over a month away i don't believe is fair on Westerville's side to do regarding the students, teachers and families. - **Tami Gomez**

All of the conditions previously stated to go back to hybrid (original) model and the Columbus Health Commissioner says now is the time to get kids back to school...there are no excuses to not going back to hybrid (original) model prior to Oct 5 date previously given. - **Peter Fantine**

I think it is wonderful you all are meeting to discuss how and when to get our children starting a hybrid learning environment in a safe manner. I hear a lot of people saying it is too soon. They knew when they signed their child(ren) up for hybrid learning that going into the classroom was a possibility at any time. Kids need to be in person as much as possible at this time. Thank you for doing what is best to keep the children of Westerville well educated, safe and happy. - **Tricia**

Our children need to go back to school! For their own mental health and for their education. Online learning has been a difficult transition, they need to be in the classroom. If we can have sports we should be able to have in classroom learning! - **Melinda Jarvis**

As much as I want the kids back in school, I want you to consider waiting until next year numbers seem to be going up a little in Ohio. Do you have enough PPE if you go back? - **Ela Smith**

The remote learning model this fall does not live up to the promises of the district. Other districts, including Columbus Public Schools, are giving their students 4 and 5 hours of live learning in a virtual classroom, approximating as much as possible, the experience of an in-person class, while Westerville's kids have barely half that, cannot see or interact with their peers, and are left to complete work on their own. Why did Westerville opt for this deficient model in light of overwhelming community feedback that asked for more live learning? - **Rebecca Seum**

Thank you for doing the right thing and pushing up the date to return our children to the hybrid option. My kids are elated to return to school! This is not only good for their education but For their mental health as well. The remote learning has My children are stressed And dreading logging on each morning. So far every day of remote learning has brought us some sort of issue. Please return these kids at the earliest date possible! Every other district around us is already back!! - **Holly North**

I'm concerned about the decision making process that surrounds the return to blended learning. In a direct email to Superintendent Kellogg I asked for clarification of the criteria of returning to the blended model. In that email he indicated the the criteria were as follows:

“What we are looking for right now is a sustained positive trend that projects to improved conditions in the region. It is not just a positive trend it needs a meaningful slope to the turn (so to speak).

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Please reconsider the timeframe and don’t rush our children back to in person school. While virtual learning can be challenging I’d much rather face a challenging school arrangement than an outbreak of a deadly disease by rushing children back too early. - **Don Butler**

Please go back sooner than the oct date because no one is guaranteed how long we will be back in school. I have a senior who is falling into a funk cause he wants to be in school. Do not let the ones pressuring you not to open win. They have a choice to stay home. We do not!!! I beg you to let them go back. Do it for the mental health of all these kids. Thank you - **Kathy Caplan**

Thank you for returning the children to school before the October 5th date. Our kids need to be in school. - **Holly North**

Several items I fill need covered and considered in 1. Why wasn't there a plan to be immediately implemented upon Franklin County dropping to Level 2. Especially since we were originally supposed to go back blended. 2. What, if any, plan is there for going back in person full-time? 3. When can other sports move forward with conditioning, everything has been focused on the fall sports only, Is it time we let our other athletes start to get together in small pods, etc to move forward on conditioning and small training, other schools have been doing there out of season sports conditioning for the entire summer, our winter and spring athletes have been shut down since phase one was revised in early August, when are they able to return!! - **Chasity Zuelzke**

Will students have to bring personal computers to school once we return to in-person classes? Some students are using desktops or very large and expensive laptops that they can't/don't want to bring in, and with the amount of Chromebooks distributed to students, there isn't enough for when they are in school. - **Laura Fortman-Jones**

I do not know why we are rushing back to class. Why are we not at least giving it sometime so that we can figure out how to effectively do remote schooling so in the unfortunate event we are sent back home we know how to be successful as parents, teachers and students. Learn from other districts, see what is working and what is not. The teachers are more confused than ever. They have been told to prepare remote lessons for a few weeks out, now we are having them shift gears and be ready for in person and remote. Not to mention, the teachers received the going back email the same time the parents did. You need to have consideration for the staff and understand this is a delicate challenging time for them.

The district had sent out an email with the notification of 10/5 being the earliest foreseeable start date. That is very strong language without saying that is our date. But to change it on all these parents who have hired tutors, nanny's' and made childcare arrangements is difficult to say the least. If you a parent, let's their nanny go because they aren't needed or the nanny cannot accommodate the new schedule and 2 weeks later, we are sent back home, for whatever reason. That said parent is now sent scrambling for care. Where, everyone is in hopes that in October things would be assessed and determined if and when we can go back. Some parents may have taken FMLA to be at home now with their kids, my employer is allowing me to work from home so that I can help my children. I cannot risk losing my job with an ever-changing schedule because we are rushing back. I cannot have either of my children being home because they have come in contact, and doing multiple quarantines because of the poor planning of the district allowing us to rush back.

The numbers are creeping back up in Franklin County because of Ohio State coming back as of 8/28 495 cases. An entire team at North is under quarantine because a player played a game Thursday and tested positive on Friday. That team has now had to cancel all games till 9/11. This is happening and we are not even in class. Montgomery county was orange for one week now they are back to red, they are red because of UD students returning. In fact, OSU is the second largest cluster outbreak next to UD. However, no school that I checked on in Montgomery county raced to go back after day 1 in the orange. Also, the Columbus City health department is the health department with the high numbers- not Franklin County. I am a family in Columbus City, as is everyone south of my neighborhood, kids on Morse bused to Central are as well. The numbers are here and in our mapping area for the district.

Lastly, I am not ok with yo-yoing my children back and forth in school out of school. These kids have been through so much why make it more difficult on them. I think the district should have

let parents know that 10/5 isn't set in stone, been honest with us that the minute we go orange we will be heading back. I absolutely would have chosen WVA over in class. All directive given was we want the kids back in class when it is safe to do so and stay in class. We are setting up for failure if we go back to soon- How can you not see this? We have a plan laid out, why can we not stick to that plan? - **Amanda Gibson**

Please consider a move to in person learning as soon as possible and allow those who do not want to go in person another opportunity to join WVA. It is critical for everyone to have a choice. I am ready for my children to learn in person. I recognize that some are not and I don't want my feelings to effect them. It would be good for those not ready to be able to have the option of the virtual academy if they have not already joined. - **Chris Faulkner**

Will you allow students on IEPs to have their learning in the school with their special education teacher(s) if we stay 100% remote? - **Sarah**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the school board meeting. I was very encouraged by the email sent regarding the transition to blended learning sooner than expected. I am sure I speak for many parents when I say that the educational development of my second grader when learning at home is no where near what he would get with in-school, hands-on learning with experts. He has trouble focusing and making home a dedicated learning environment, especially with 2 younger siblings, and he is missing a key component of childhood development by not fully engaging socially with his peers. And in addition to falling behind on his educational and social development, I can assure you the mental well-being of my wife, 2 other kids, and myself (since I am mostly working from home) has suffered greatly. When we consider the advice of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Canadian Hospital for Sick Kids (a world renown pediatric hospital), and now the Ohio Department of Health, as well as a successful transition to in-person learning in many other countries, a return to in-person learning with expert teacher and social interaction with peers (a proven need for young children) seems to be the best decision for the ones schools were meant to serve, our children. Any parent that is against this move should have anticipated this outcome, one that was already discussed prior to the school year, and enrolled their child in the Virtual Academy. Thank you. - **Aaron**

I am against returning to a blended learning format given the state of the county and country at this time, feeling this decision is rushed and has not taken all parties into consideration, especially the children of the district. - **michelle webb-fridman**

I want to add from my previous comment that I do think being in the classroom would improve the mental health of the family. The kids are needing the school interactions, and they respond to their teachers in a different way than they do with me as learning facilitator and Mother. It's

tough to mix those roles. Additionally, I have a three year old in the home who has not been getting the attention he needs because I'm needing to help the big kids. - **Beth Rusnak**

Franklin County's status on Ohio's Public Health Advisory System has been upgraded to Level 2 at this time (as of August 27th). It was the first time it was not at a Level 3 since the system was first implemented on July 2nd, thus it took nearly two months to get to this point. Consider the possibility that it would be wise to see if the community can continue to maintain the downward trend BEFORE we pull the trigger on the blended learning model. I know that everybody is more than eager to 'get back to normal', as is my WSH student, but consider how everything can quickly return to Level 3 status if we return too soon before a Level 2 'reality' has actually proved itself over a reasonable period of time. Teachers, administrators, parents, and students all having to drop everything and quickly revert to online/at-home learning at the drop of a hat just like back in March. Consider this very real likelihood when determining if you really think it's wise to set aside all the amazing hard work, planning and preparation accomplished by all parties. Of course we all, and I mean ALL of us, desperately want to get back to normal. Let's just be sure we remember to be humble in the face of nature and make the wisest choice at each step. Thank you for your time and consideration. Let's remain 'Westerville Strong'!" -

Michael Braniff

Kindergarten mother here. I am a nurse and do not have a luxury of working from home. Even if I did, my husband works from home, and still struggles daily to work a full time job and keep up with our daughter's school work. The last few weeks have been rough and I honestly do not feel that my daughter is getting much out virtual learning thus far. She thrives when she is in a social environment. I understand the safety of our children as I am trying to maintain these safety guidelines daily in my work environment. I am pro blended learning and on board with going sooner than later. As long as we continue to follow safety guidelines, I am hopeful that blended learning will work and that everyone stays healthy. Jody Schueneman

Please allow the younger children back in school 5 days per week. I realize you're afraid of being sued. But you have provided a virtual option for those who don't wish for their children to be at school. I will sign a waiver staying I won't hold you responsible for my child contracting COVID at school. The negative impact of remote and hybrid school with unrealistic restrictions on kids has already been seen both here in our district and other places. This is very difficult for my son. The instability alone is stressful to all of us including teachers. Other countries have opened their schools and have seen little spread. Children need to return to school normally. There is almost no risk of severe outcomes to children and young adults and not one case in the world proving that children spread this to teachers. - **Jessica Koch**

Why are we rushing back? Why can't we just say we'll go back on the date originally released? Teachers and students are just getting used to the online model and now we have to switch. These kids need consistency more than they need to be back in the classroom for 2 weeks to be

just put back online. Why can't we keep our original date to see what happens with other districts that are back? To see what happens with cases in their buildings? Franklin county literally just turned yellow and we're rushing back? From a math teacher, a statistics teacher, that has analyzed this data and looks at it daily I am not confident in it that it will stay at a point where we can keep our kids in the building for a long period of time to give them consistency. -

Andrea Gaul

Please allow our children to go back into school. It is difficult giving our kindergartner the attention she deserves on top of juggling full-time work. We feel she would have a much more impactful first year if she could physically be in the classroom at least in some capacity. Thank you for your consideration. - **Bret Schueneman**

What is the specific plan to move students from all virtual to the Hybrid plan that was planned. If all politicians and the board of health is saying kids should be in school on a hybrid model and Westerville has a plan why are we still waiting to start? Other school districts in Franklin and Delaware County have already started school under a hybrid model. After a week and 2 days of virtual learning with 2 elementary school students it is extremely clear they are not going to learn as much as they would in the classroom. You are setting our children up for failure. -

Stacey Brooks

What are the specific decisions the board is making to move to the hybrid model that was already communicated? What is taking this district so long to make a decision when other districts are moving quickly and have already announced their plans or started the hybrid model based on the Columbus Board of Health and Gov Dewine's recommendations. - **Stacey Brooks**

If there are families that have decided they like virtual learning for their children, is there a late start option for the virtual academy? Will that help any of the decisions the board needs to make in order to get our students back into the classroom on the hybrid model that was already approved? - **Stacey Brooks**

How is the District responding to and managing the multiple and continuing issues related to Westerville Virtual Academy, including students not being assigned to the correct teacher, and having no coursework available? Many parents took personal PTO days to facilitate the first day of school (9/1) and the day was completely wasted. The impacted children are now behind their paced schedule. The burden has been on the parents; with inadequate timely and clear district-level communication and acknowledgement of the issues and timelines for resolution. To simply blame Calvert is of no help to the parents. Parents are also still wondering when the supplies will be made available that the district is acquiring. - **Mindy Woltz**

The number of Covid cases nearly doubled in the last 24 hours. The governor attributed it to schools going back. We were told October 5 was the earliest date you would consider sending them back to blended. We planned accordingly. Not even a week into school and you're making plans to send them back early. What is going to happen as the cases continue to rise and students are back in the building. Our children deserve consistency. Sending them back knowing that as cases rise the odds of having to have them return home rises as well. Give our kids time to adjust to online learning before shifting everyone around. - **Cassie Mumm**

I wanted to say thank you to the board for your consideration of beginning the blended learning model sooner than originally estimated. From the many families struggling with the fully remote learning model, it is obvious that the fully remote model is not working well and is not proving to provide an adequate education for our children. Children need to be in school. The number of cases and threat level have both improved for the last almost 6 weeks, so it only makes sense to move forward in a blended model. Districts surrounding us are doing the same. I know some families are not happy with this decision to move forward with blended learning, but these same families were given a choice of WVA if they did not want their children in school buildings. Some are wanting to wait until the original estimated date of October 5, but they are not realizing that this was always just a tentative date, never set in stone. On behalf of my family and many others in your district, we implore you to continue moving forward with a return to blended learning prior to October 5th. We appreciate that you plan to stick with the two weeks notice to give time to families and teachers to prepare, so we hope to be in classrooms within the next 2-2.5 weeks. - **Julie Cunningham**

How is the District responding to and managing the multiple and continuing issues related to Westerville Virtual Academy, including students not being assigned to the correct teacher, and having no coursework available? Many parents took personal PTO days to facilitate the first day of school (9/1) and the day was completely wasted. The impacted children are now behind their paced schedule. The burden has been on the parents; with inadequate timely and clear district-level communication and acknowledgement of the issues and timelines for resolution. To simply blame Calvert is of no help to the parents. Parents are also still wondering when the supplies will be made available that the district is acquiring. - **Mindy Woltz**

The 2 week notice you keep referring to began last Friday. You've acknowledged that the health and well being of the kids is in jeopardy keeping them in 100% remote learning. Knowing you are negatively impacting their health should be motivation enough to get them back in the schools TODAY! Families KNOW we are going back. So many teachers are also struggling with this online learning. Why would you delay it any longer? - **Jennifer Eby**

I have multiple: Why are we considering opening schools early if you don't feel comfortable/safe having an in person board meeting? That is significantly fewer people and a significantly shorter period of time.

If the mask mandate in Ohio is canceled, will you still continue to enforce masks in schools? When will masks in schools no longer be required? Will it be once COVID cases are gone, or will it be once we hit a certain level, or will it be when the mandate is canceled?

Will there be a certain kind of mask that is required and/or prohibited? Masks with valves don't stop the spread, they protect the wearer. They are usually one way valves, which means the disease can get out, just not in. Gaiter masks (masks that you pull up over your nose) are also ineffective, as they are usually too loose and/or too thin to do any good.

Will you be providing supplies for families that can't afford them or don't have access to them? - **Alia O'Brien**

I'm concerned for the health and well-being of our students and our staff in the Westerville City School System. Just two days ago the CNBC reported cases are on the rise in the Midwest specifically the state of Ohio again. It would be responsible for our school system to open up with these transitions happening. I am also concerned that there have been zero guidelines shared with the public on what happens in the schools if there is an outbreak. - **Courtney McEwan**

If we were to see an influx of cases, what would happen? Would the district shut down, or would we shut down on a school by school basis? What is the point at which we would call it and go back to online learning? 10 cases? 20? 50? 200?

Is it possible to go back in a phased plan of the most at risk students going back first? Starting with the kids who need the most help and who are the most at risk, either medically or academically, and then move up? For example, start with the special ed kids, then open it up to those with IEPs, then to those who are in danger of failing classes/who don't have access to steady internet, then to everyone? It doesn't necessarily have to be all students going back at once. Can we consider a different phased plan? - **Alia O'Brien**

Since you might plan to return to school earlier than the original estimated date of October 5, could you include an option for parents to have their child(ren) remain online for both A and B until they feel comfortable with their offspring returning to in-class instruction? This seems like a possibility if the in-person classes could be recorded. - **Suzanne**

I'm concerned for the health and well-being of our students and our staff in the Westerville City School System. Just two days ago the CNBC reported cases are on the rise in the Midwest specifically the state of Ohio again. It would be responsible for our school system to open up with these transitions happening. I am also concerned that there have been zero guidelines shared with the public on what happens in the schools if there is an outbreak. - **Courtney McEwan**

If children are required to wear masks, at any point throughout the day, please provide specific medical data that supports this mandate. Furthermore, please provide detailed response as to all the negative side effects of children wearing masks being considered, while weighing the cost benefit analysis of such a mandate. Thanks - **Aaron Stitzel**

Will Kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades have an orientation day in the buildings before blended learning begins? Thanks so much! - **Krista Jaynes**

While I applaud the district's desire to return students to classrooms, I have concerns about doing so before the originally scheduled timeline. The coronavirus situation is fluid and ever-changing, and will not be under control in the next few months. Children need stability and routine. What I do not want to see is a situation where we yo-yo back and forth between virtual and blended learning with the rise and fall of coronavirus cases in Franklin County. I feel it would be wiser to wait until the originally scheduled date to ensure that numbers do not begin to rise again now that some schools and universities have returned to in-person learning. There is always the lag in cases after reopenings, as we saw this summer. This course of action would prevent returning to blended instruction and then having to quickly go back to all virtual, and allows the district sufficient time to prepare for all needs-such as transportation to the YWCA after school care program that was not provided for when the first return to instruction plans were released. So much is uncertain, let us maintain the certainty that we can. - **Catherine Papai-McMillin**

I'm concerned for the health and well-being of our students and our staff in the Westerville City School System. Just two days ago the CNBC reported cases are on the rise in the Midwest specifically the state of Ohio again. It would be responsible for our school system to open up with these transitions happening. I am also concerned that there have been zero guidelines shared with the public on what happens in the schools if there is an outbreak. - **Courtney McEwan**

My 2 children are currently enrolled in the blended program. I would like to commend the teachers for their hard work and preparation in transitioning to the virtual model. It is clear that enormous amounts of time and energy went into this. With that being said, I strongly believe that it is in the best interest of my kids to be in the classroom. Between technology mishaps, parents working and not able to give enough support and the lack of social interaction, my kids are suffering. They are needing to act like adults and balance a calendar that frankly is not fair to ask of them. I feel strongly that if we went to the blended schedule it would at least allow some balance to this craziness. They would get the interaction (understand it might not be the same as the past) and the education. My kids have handled with grace but this is taking a toll on them and frankly on our family. The stress this is putting on our children and the parents is not healthy. Covid is real but it presents low risk to our children. If you signed up for blended then you signed up to having some element of risk by sending your children back to school. We have all had to learn to adapt during this pandemic and this is no exception. This is no way for our kids to

live and I fully support them being back in the school. I hope to see the board vote this way as well. - **Lindsey Stout**

I write to thank you for your continued leadership during these challenging pandemic times and trying to find the right balance between student and staff safety and the interest of many parents. Those decisions are not easy ones to make. I also write to thank you for the comments from Monday's Board meeting related to the School's SRO Program. More specifically, after the Board's comments, to encourage you to formally initiate an External Program Evaluation and have it on the September 14, 2020 Board agenda. After listening to the comments at the meeting, it is clear that a majority support such action. While I understand and appreciate that some may have had good experiences with this program and policing in the District, that is unfortunately not the case for many others. And as the events of last week have shown, white people and people of color often have different experiences with law enforcement. Asking for a data driven external evaluation does not discount good individual experiences. Instead, an external program evaluation provides assurances that WCS takes equity issues seriously and also highlights where the program is providing the most benefit to students. Much like the District will not make pandemic decisions on returning to school merely because an individual has not had Covid-19, the district should not evaluate a program based merely on its micro experiences. The Board and District should use data decisions to help it make responsible decisions. As such, I urge you to follow up on your comments from the August 24th meeting and place this matter on the September 14, 2020 agenda and adopt a resolution for an external program evaluation of policing in Westerville schools. Thank you for your continued consideration and support of this important issue. - **JON WALDEN**

Our family thanks you for getting our kids back to school in a blended environment. We think this is the best option right now for our district. While our sons are doing alright in the remote learning environment, we are all anxious to get back to some face to face learning with the great teachers/administrators at Westerville Central. As a family, we are committed to safe learning. Our boys will wear their masks at all times and keep their distance from the teachers while at school. We know you have a hard job, and it's often a thankless job. If there is anything we, as Westerville residents, can do to get the schools ready, please reach out. Many families want to help during these difficult times. - **Karen and Mike Radecki**

Mr. Kellogg, I am sure I am not the only one that has complained to you as I am representing many parents, kids and teachers, who feel the same way I do.

I have 3 kids in virtual learning in Westerville- 2 at WSH – Sophomore AND Senior and 1 at Heritage -6th grade. First, I am not blaming you or the teachers, but the workload these kids have is almost impossible to get done in the time frames they want it done and the work is so much that if they get behind, they stay behind. There has to be some leniency in the grading and

participation of the students. I am working from home and that is from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. It is very difficult to help them when I am working and by evening, me and the kids are in tears and I am left feeling like we are setting up these kids for failure. Please tell me that there will be some understanding with the students if they do not get stuff turned in on time or are missing some assignments. This virtual learning is very hard and what makes even harder is that the teachers do not do everything the same, there are different websites and different places that they post work. I feel that the teachers need to give us feedback as to what may be due soon or what was missed. I am getting emails that stuff is missing but never saw where it was supposed to be done. The assignments alone are enough but then they add homework to it and it is not feasible to get it done in the time frame for which it is due. These kids cannot possibly live up to the expectations of these courses and expect to be successful. I know this is a rough time for all, but again, something needs to be done about the amount of work given and the deadlines as well as over stimulating these kids. I truly hope you take the time to read this and also go out on social media where you can see I am not the only Westerville parent feeling this way. Go to Families of Westerville on facebook and you will see endless posts from parents and teachers that describe the hell our kids and us parents are going through. On top of having 3 kids in virtual school, I am also coping with elderly parents. My mother is in the final stages of Alzheimer's at age 73 and My dad is suffering from congestive heart failure and other serious heart issues that cannot be operated on because of his age of 87. I am divorced and my ex-husband has the latter stages of MS. He cannot walk, he does not have hardly any memory, he forgets things often, he is not able to help my youngest because he suffers from headaches and has eye issues all caused from the MS. My kids spend a week at my home then a week at his home. It is not likely that he will get much done on those weeks as my youngest in 6th grade needs help navigating and figuring out where things are and has assignments that may need better instruction and their dad is not able to do that. Please find a way for these students, parents and teachers to find some common ground and ease up a little on deadlines and assignments, at least until the students get a better grip on what they are doing and supposed to be doing. It is not fair to them, the parents or the teachers at this point. Something must be done to ease the burden. Respectfully, Melinda Nolen McKnight -
Melinda mcknight

I would like to see the district honor their statement to keep students learning remotely for the first nine weeks of school. I was under the impression that this was a commitment from WCS and it was a deciding factor in my families decision to choose remote over virtual for our two high school students. It is in the best interest of our staff, our students and our community to allow more time to watch the trends with Covid 19. We need to see that our area can continue to decrease the spread before it is safe to reopen. - **Katie Smith**

We ask that when making future decisions on school (i.e. in school or remote) that you make these decisions based on school district specific data on case numbers, etc. Please do not allow decisions to be made with county numbers that include numbers from one of the largest

universities in the country, Ohio State University. Our children need consistency. They can not be going back and forth between in person school and 100% remote. They need in person school as much as possible. We trust that you will do what is best for the children. Thank you. - **Julie Cunningham**

Understanding we are only a few days in, I am still very much questioning whether the WVA Kindergarten curriculum is developmentally appropriate and aligned with what a Kindergartener would be doing in a half-day classroom. I did not feel comfortable sending my child yet in to the building, but wish that we could have been at least offered the Remote Learning Model (that the blended learning students are getting right now and will continue to once they head back half of the time.) because we wanted the school's curriculum & direct communication with school teachers. Is there ANY way that this could still be an option for students who wish to be entirely remote but the WVA curriculum isn't working? As I believe the teachers are still developing a virtual lesson/curriculum for those that are at home each week anyways. It is not working because I don't believe and have heard from other educators as well, that the Kindergarten curriculum is NOT developmentally appropriate for a Kindergarten student. - **Kiko Johnson**

we are all for blended learning and going back into the school. The children need to socialization. - **Teryn Washburn**

The school district needs to move at least to a blended model asap and soon thereafter, if not immediately, to the traditional in-class approach. I am writing from a grandparent's perspective after observing parents and students struggling under the current situation.

As good as the online curriculum is and as committed to their profession as most teachers are, the current approach is an inadequate school experience for the vast majority. It seems the emphasis of ""no child left behind"" has been largely replaced with the reality of "each child left behind".

It is becoming increasingly evident that science and our collective experience best supports a return to on-site schooling while maintaining safety precautions and offering special accommodations as needed. The alternative is going to have long-term academic, emotional and social consequences negatively affecting students, parents and families, as well as our larger society. - **Stan Sanger**

The Westerville South Marching Band has been informed that we are not allowed to practice inside, whether that be in sectionals (individual instrument sections), groups (woodwinds v brass), or as a whole. If the 12 clarinets aren't allowed to practice inside because the risk is too great, how do you plan on dealing with classes of 30+ band kids? - **Alia O'Brien**

I have a concern about returning to the classroom too quickly in regards to safety concerning the coronavirus and that the board is being influenced by a vocal minority in favor of re-entry rather than the community as a whole. - smith.4916@osu.edu

For context, I'm an 8th-grade student at Genoa. Can you explain to your students why we didn't start sooner? The students who care enough about school will follow the safety procedures and do what they can to make it safe. For in-person have good weather for a few more months and having lunch and/or classes outside is an option we should consider. You should consider some kids have terrible home lives and school is where they can feel good about themselves. Being out of school this long pushes kids back academically and mentally, and both can make life SO much harder for them and anyone who is around them. Other schools have started hybrid learning and it shows us it's possible to have school in person and online. For everyone start hybrid or in-person learning soon. - **Carys Behnen**

I would in support of the school district of Westerville finding a successful way of restarting in person classes with students as fast as possible. This is taking a heavy toll on many aspects of family life, including student learning and anxiety levels. - **Paul Owen**

I was under the impression that the first quarter was to be completely online and yet it seems like we aren't respecting that decision and are hoping to get students in the classroom more quickly without being more deliberate about the return to the classroom. Furthermore, the students (including my children) are just getting used to the online format and we need to give them time to ameliorate to that situation before putting them into something new. - smith.4916@osu.edu

I would like to have clear guidance on how the district is going to make decisions about online, hybrid, and in-class learning. It seems that these decisions are being led by parents rather than scientific data. I feel that I am unable to make clear decisions about my children's safety and that of the community at large when I don't know when and how the students may or may not be returning to the classroom. My biggest concerns are for the safety of the community and those seem to be taking a back seat to people willing to speak out more loudly in favor of returning to the classroom. - smith.4916@osu.edu

I feel like there is a big difference as far as safety is concerned when the positivity rate is below 1% or when the positivity rate is above say 3%. For me I would prefer we don't have in-person classroom when the positivity rate is above 1% and preferably I would like to see no new cases in our school district within the last 2 weeks before classes begin. However, I don't know what the criteria is for the district and this makes decision making difficult for my family. I would also like to know if the district is using data from other states and countries to inform their decisions. As of now I don't see a lot of good decisions being made in the United States surrounding

COVID-19 and I want to ensure that Westerville is making good decisions as opposed to being overly influenced by politics or vocal minorities. - smith.4916@osu.edu

I have some concerns with Westerville City Schools returning to in-person learning. While Franklin County is no longer red, case numbers are not where they should be for safe in-person learning. This is especially true considering the about of safeguards required to keep all students and staff safe. What will bussing look like? According to your website “Guidelines establish that any interactions less than 6 feet apart should be kept to 10 minutes or less.” While this sounds well and good, how many students will be on each bus? What will the seating arrangements look like? Will they be 6ft apart or greater? If not how will Westerville make sure student interaction on the bus is 10 minutes or less when the average bus ride is greater than that? Recent sport field trips did not follow these recommendations? Do they not apply to sports teams? how will Westerville make sure they are following these recommendations if they are allowing busses crammed full of students not 6 feet apart for the sake of sporting events? What about compliance of mask wearing among transportation staff. As a parent in Westerville it is easy to drive down Walnut street and see staff congregating close together without masks- is this okay? How will parents be alerted when positive cases start showing up in the schools? What is the risk/benefit of returning to in person learning with a virus that can carry a high viral load in children without symptoms? <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/08/looking-at-children-as-the-silent-spreaders-of-sars-cov-2/>

I truly hope Westerville is able to that these concerns into consideration to keep ALL people safe. - **Jane Doe**

I am concerned about starting the students back in the school buildings too soon. There could be another spike in COVID cases after Labor Day like after July 4th. - **SUSAN A. SHIPE-GILES**

School Board Questions

Coronavirus numbers in Ohio are increasing again. Governor DeWine was recently quoted as stating he believes this increase is due to colleges and grade schools returning to classroom learning. How do you view sending our grade schoolers back to classroom learning in light of these comments?

Will the district be notifying parents if a student tests positive for COVID-19 in their child’s class? What happens if another child in the school tests positive? What is the plan of action if a staff or faculty member tests positive in the school building, for example is school canceled, do all families need to quarantine, etc.?

What is the protocol when a child comes into the classroom/calls in sick with a fever of unknown origin? Will that child be required to get testing in order to continue school? If test results take days to come back, what will be done for other children during that time, i.e. will all exposed children be asked to quarantine? If the febrile child and/or their parent chooses not to get tested

for COVID, will parents of other students be notified? Will the febrile child be required to stay home for a certain period of time?

Coronavirus infection is most often not accompanied by a fever in children, but infected children may exhibit other respiratory symptoms. Children with common upper respiratory tract infection symptoms will likely find it difficult to wear a mask in class. Will these children be required to wear a mask? If they are unable to do so, will they be required to stay home? Such children will likely be constantly removing their masks to blow noses, cough, or sneeze in class. Are we going to ask teachers to ensure that these students are distant from their classmates and sanitize their hands after each time they cough, sneeze, or blow their noses? Do you believe this is realistic?

What are the COVID Safety protocols that you will be using in the elementary schools?
Do you have tangible numbers regarding COVID cases/case trends at which you feel it is acceptable to open the schools and case numbers/trends at which you will choose to close the schools again? - **Jack McEwan**

What percentage of the student body enrolled in the Westerville Virtual Academy? - **Roberta Chops**

Question: Would gifted learning classes that only have 14 students be able to meet full-time?
- **Paul Owen**

So if data worsens before blended model starts on Sept 21 and you then pull the plug on it, is that what will happen our entire school year? A yoyo of being given dates to start and then having them ripped away and then doing it over and over? Families and students can't function that way. At some point, we have to be given the chance to actually try out the blended model. -
Thomas Cunningham

How are the schools handling children that have COVID like cases...
If the child isn't confirmed positive?
If the child is confirmed positive?
How are each to be permitted to return to school?
How are the buses being handled?
Are temperatures being taken?"
- **Ami**

How much interaction with the remote students have with their teachers during any given week? Understand the teachers are attending to the in person students however the remote students need attention as well. - **Ami**

This is a medical issue how are we going to keep everyone healthy. - **Lisa Hamburger**

For children that are in the gifted learning program at Emerson and have a very small class size would you consider placing them in full class to attend full time. - **Renee Owen**

Will students be changing classes or will they remain in the same class while teachers change rooms? - **Ami Latham**

I want to understand why the board gave us a specific date to start the planning transfer back to a hybrid model. I understand from staff, PTA, and parents alike that it was due to parent pressure. What about us parents who don't feel safe? We were pressured to choose academics over health and we're watching the board to succumb to pressure instead of hold original timelines. Why is this? - **Satin Hurlbut**

Teachers have stated that parents will need to send kids back with chromebooks... what is the expectation if parents who didn't borrow a chromebook? I know that we use an abundance of tech to learn and understand that we have a deficit in schools... but to be frank, I am not sending my children to school with \$300 computers, when the school accepts no liability for stolen or broken items. What is the official plan for the return and chromebook needs? - **Satin Hurlbut**

Dear Superintendent Kellogg and members of the WCS Board of Education,
Thank you for considering the return school. After one week in the remote learning environment, I will be happy to have my high schoolers return to school. Missed assignments because of so many places to submit, overwhelming desire to drop classes and general frustration from both parents and high-achieving students in my house. If good students with involved parents are having difficulty I worry so much for those students who don't. Let's get back to the classroom!
- **Heidi Snow**

I want to know what factual data was used to make the decision to push the hybrid date up? I get that the county is in Orange. But what shows that we're okay to start this in school. I am prepared to provide enough data if families who said they are "living life and only wear masks if they have to." This is who will be in our schools. Kids who understand that they don't have to wear masks and bring their high risk lifestyles into our schools.
Again, we had to choose to have real Curriculum and classes for my gifted child vs staying healthy. Had the district been upfront and said "Oct timeline is subject to change at any moment," we would have chose to stunt his academic growth. - **Satin Hurlbut**

What is the districts official stance on quarantine when we see positive cases or exposure? This is not in writing anywhere - **Satin Hurlbut**

1) What will be the guidelines for transitioning a classroom/building/or district back to Virtual?

- Will there be a notice period?

2) If there is a positive case in a student, teacher or staff member will there be notification to families?

- What about in a family of above?

3) Can you clarify the air filtration changes made to the schools mentioned by Scott Dorne in the July meeting in more detail?

4) How will restroom changes/cleaning be updated with the return to school?

5) Will there be changes to the arrival patterns by grades/classes to prevent congestion at buildings?

6) Are there any changes to school supply requirements with the transition back to the buildings?

7) With personal chromebooks/devices/laptops coming into buildings, any requirements or considerations to consider? - **Sarah Evener**

I am excited that we are considering the return to blended learning. But i am very confused as to why we don't have a plan in place to execute? Do we have a plan in place for 100% in person school? If not we need to get one ASAP. I don't understand what our WCS leadership has been doing? In a huge majority of jobs this would be unacceptable. - **Edward Bame**

Thank you for updating your previous statement on opening schools on October 5th. While teachers and staff are doing an amazing job adapting to virtual teaching, the emotional impact on my children is taking its toll. Let's get these kids back to school ASAP!

My child's classroom with a blended model will be less than 10 children. We can safely go back to school. - **Adrienne Shonkwiler**

It is a relief to be at level 2 in Franklin County. Given the promise of October 4 as the earliest date for starting back, I ask that WCS stick with that date and prepare for an October 4 return to in-person, blended learning. This will give families, teachers, and building staff time to get ready. It will also allow us to see if the numbers of COVID-19 cases stay steady, increase after in-person school/college has begun, or even drop further. The next four weeks will go quickly, and we can spend time preparing our children for their in-person responsibilities, such as masking for long periods.

I am concerned if we are the first to rush back, we may be rushing home again if it doesn't go well. It is better to exercise a little, reasonable amount of caution, and have stability for families, students, and school staff and faculty. This request to wait for October 4 is coming from a parent who would prefer we stay home through the Thanksgiving or winter holidays-- October 4 would be a compromise for our household on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration. These are difficult decisions, and I appreciate your position is not easy. - **Jackie Barton**

I understand that you are talking about opening schools earlier due to Franklin dropping to a level 2. I would like to take this time to voice a somewhat unpopular opinion that it is in the best

interests of our CHILDREN and families to stay remote until at least October as previously scheduled. Bouncing children back into the classroom, and then home again when numbers inevitably go up again would be harder on both the kids and working parents. Kids are just now getting adapted to online. Throwing them in the fire with possibility of having to go back to remote will be damaging. - **Samantha Vargo**

We asked wcsog to consider vanishing this year through virtual classes - **Ali shegow**

1. Will there be a full time nurse at Walnut Springs Middle School?
2. Are temperatures of students and staff being taken each day on arrival?
3. How will physical distancing be maintained throughout the school day?
4. Will masks be required for students and staff?
5. Will hand washing stations or hand sanitizer be available throughout the school and will students be required to wash their hands? Are their barriers in the bathrooms?
6. If a teacher or student has to stay home, what strategies are in place to support remote work or learning to ensure students don't fall behind?
7. What guidance for contact tracing, testing, and isolation is in place in the event that teacher or student contracts Covid-19?
8. How will transportation change when school reopens? Will arrival and dismissal times be staggered?
10. Will portable air cleaners with HEPA filters be used in the classroom or other relevant spaces in school?
11. Will outdoor ventilation be increased and be adequate?
12. There is asthma in our household, can my child switch to the Westerville Virtual Academy if I feel the risk to too great for our family?

Apologies for having more than just one question, these are all important to me.

Thank you for responding - **Marque Rupert**

Thank you for listening to parents and considering return to blended learning earlier than October 5!! It's a huge relief for us working parents and our children's mental health. Let me ask what the criteria is to fully return to school 5 days a week? What data/numbers/resources/goals that will have to be met so we can return to our actual normal? Thanks again!! - **Luci Farris**

Rather than trying to transition a few weeks in wouldn't it be in the best interest of the students and parents to transition in at the end of the quarter or end of 1st semester? Students are just getting into a routine and now it will change. What if we have to change back if things get worse again? They are going to be asked to change again. Let's not jump the gun on this. It's too important for everyone. - **Carl Foulke**

I feel that we should stay with the original date of October 5th as the beginning of hybrid learning. Cases are still high in number. Also, this is an excessive amount of work to program online and hybrid learning and we are stretching our teachers too thin. - **Mary Rogers**

Dr. Kellogg and WCS BOE- First of all, thank you for your hard work and diligence in finding the best plan possible to keep our children safe. As a parent of a 4th and 2nd grader, I feel strongly that my children will benefit from classroom interaction with their teachers. Their education is of the utmost importance to us, and while I know the teachers are doing the best they can, learning in the 100% remote model has been difficult for them. Furthermore, the emotional toll this is taking on our children is difficult to witness. They crave interaction with their teachers and their peers, and time away from home where they can learn to be more independent. I understand that we all need to be flexible and that conditions may change again which make it unsafe for our children to be in schools, however, based on current health conditions I urge you strongly to send our children back to school in the blended model as soon as possible. We trust that with social distancing, masks, and lower numbers of students, our children will be safe in WCS and we desperately want them back in school with their teachers and friends. - **Joanne Garcia**

Thank you for realizing that the students can go ahead and start the blended model earlier than originally anticipated. These children need to be in school and are losing so much emotionally, socially and from an educational standpoint every day that they are forced to work from home.
- **Kristie Borders**

I cannot stress to you how important, and beneficial, it will be for my children to get back in the classroom. It is very hard to see my 1st grader struggle with technology lessons while having my wife pulled away from work and not be able to do her job because she is helping 2 elementary school children complete online learning tasks. It does not sit right with me that I can drive by any of the high schools in the evening and see hundreds of kids, not socially distanced, very few with masks on, participating in practices and events, and my kids cannot go to school. The message you are sending is that these sports and extracurriculars are more important than my child being in the classroom. Activities of all kinds are taking place in our community, and state, and have been proven successful. At the very least, a blended learning schedule should be adopted, if not an every day model. I know that Big Walnut, just a community away, is going every day, and have not had any set backs. Olentangy is also beginning in person classes, in a hybrid model. The importance of my kids being in the classroom, after missing last spring, and losing social interactions and development, as well as face to face time with a teacher has set my kids back and it needs to change ASAP! Close the school for a week to allow some training for your teachers and bring the kids back. It time!!! - **Luke Moore**

I appreciate all you have done. Im sure you are all parents yourselves and the decisions you make are in best interest of our community! Thank you. Will there be a option to go 100% instead of hybrid? My kids say my teaching style is awful!! - **Erin keller**

I'm imploring you to return to hybrid learning. This is not a "change." This is simply going back to the plan that was anticipated. Please do not waste time with this. Please implement as soon as possible and not weeks and weeks down the road. - **John A Brooks**

I respectfully request the Board approve Dr. Kellogg's recommendation to transition to a Blended Learning model of instruction ASAP. I further advocate a return to fully open, full-time, in person instruction as soon as feasibly possible. Thank you! John Michels
614-273-9026 - **John Michels**

I respectfully request the Board approve Dr. Kellogg's recommendation to transition to a Blended Learning model of instruction ASAP. I further advocate a return to fully open, full-time, in person instruction as soon as feasibly possible. Thank you! John Michels 614-273-9026 -
John Michels

Why wasn't there a plan already in place for blended learning? So that as soon as Franklin County dropped to Level 2, we could immediately implement the plan instead of dragging things out even longer. Also, what, if any, is the plan to return to full in person learning? Is there a plan? Or will things get dragged out again? Are we waiting for the presidential election to be over? - **Michelle Bame**

Dr. Kellogg and BOE Members

In this crazy time we're all faced with during the pandemic, I can only imagine how difficult it is to be sitting in your position, responsible for so many people, jobs, and decisions. As a parent in this district, I truly appreciate the time and effort that has been put forth to work through all of the issues regarding school this year. I feel you've done a great job of making sure information and tools are available for us parents and for our kids.

As you approach more conversations regarding the blended model, I'm asking that as a district, we stand strong and follow through with the plan you all so thoughtfully put into place to get our kids back into school safely. I am fortunate enough to be able to stay at home with our 5 children: 4th grade, 2nd grade, Kindergarten, and 3 year old twins. And while we have all the tools our kids need to be successful and our elementary school has been amazing, there is no replacement for the physical school: the building, being greeted by the Principal and teachers every day, walking into an environment that is meant for the purpose of learning and being near your peers. As a parent who has also been a weekly volunteer in my children's school and worked closely with kids in the classroom, I have had continuing concerns about many of the families in this district that I know don't have these same advantages. While I totally understand

that there will be a ""new normal"" with all of the safety measures in place, my kids are really struggling socially and emotionally not being in school and face-to-face with their teachers. They love school, they miss it immensely, and even as a capable parent, I cannot possibly fill in for all of the things they have been lacking since March.

I completely trust that the district and its staff will do the necessary things to keep our children and staff safe while still providing the education and environment they need to grow this year. As parents, we had the choice whether we wanted to do blended or switch to another model of learning and having made the choice for blended learning, I did so in good faith that the intent was to have our kids back in school, continuing to live life and learn in a new way.

Thank you for the time and consideration while weighing the switch back to a blended school year. I know you cannot make everyone happy but I hope you hear from us families who fully support and encourage the district in this decision. - **Erica Blasiman**

WVA has been a significant amount of work for countless individuals within Westerville City Schools and I would like to extend a HUGE "Thank You" for everyone involved. As a parent of three children in the district, we have had many questions and concerns about the WVA. All of which have been answered promptly and professionally by many individuals. The district should be proud of all of those involved in this program. - **Meghan Blackford**

"Given the current guidance we have received from health officials, along with the need to provide at least two weeks advance notice to families, the earliest we foresee any chance that we could return to a blended learning model is October 5."

This is what the board told families back in July. All that I ask is that you stick to this plan. - **Jeff Kupko**

I feel rushing these kids back into school is a horrible idea we just dropped down give it some time. What do you think is going to happen as soon as you rush them back in? We have to have a transition period and see what happens! - **Shelby Miller**

When we were given the chance to chose from remote learning and virtual academy my family chose remote learning. Our reason is because we were told the earliest we'd return is October 5. My concern is that we are transitioning sooner then expected and the confusion that has on students and parents. My child suffers from anxiety and when I gave her the plans she was comfortable with that. Now she's worried about when she'll go back, etc. my worry is that if we go back to soon and Franklin county goes to a level 3 again then we go back to 100% remote. The confusion that has on kids is so hard. Right now kids are getting used to remote learning with their teachers and now we are about to change that. How many times will we have to go back and forth this year. Is it worth it? How are the teachers supposed to constantly change their plans. If we want quality education then we need to stick to

one plan and do it. I want my child to go back but I don't think we need to rush it before October 5. It makes it very hard to plan for families. Please let's wait to go to blended until October 5! Thank you!! - **Megan Burke**

I fully support the AB cohort weeks and a return to in person as soon as possible. Young learners are not learning from a screen like they would in person. - **Kelly Walk**

Would we be able to learn more about what the protocols will be for when a student experiences any COVID symptoms while at school? Then, will there be any updated procedures or policies in place for how long a student should be kept home if they experience symptoms? As we approach cold and flu season, I can imagine it will be difficult to distinguish coughing and runny noses from allergies and what could potentially be COVID symptoms. Will students running a fever be asked to stay home longer than 24 hours fever free? How should families/schools manage absences while supporting public health? Thank you for your time. - **Jennifer McCullough**

While I will be one of the ones that would be very happy to have my kids back in the classroom, I feel that this move may be too soon. The teachers have done a phenomenal job at transitioning to an all online platform. While not ideal, there is daily interaction and it is very easy to get in touch with the teachers. Other districts in the area have decided to go back to the blended model - why not wait to see what their experiences are with regard to any increase in infection rates? We had already prepared to be in this fully online model until at least October. I do think in person is best, but why rush into this when we can observe what happens with these other districts? - **Beth Kuschner**

I am not a teacher! My first language is not English! Kids need to back to school and get education! Parents can't do it! Because they have jobs! - **Brigitta**

As much as I want my kids in school, I'm worried this is too soon. OSU's numbers are rapidly increasing. I feel that the kids could be virtual again in a few weeks and that will hurt them. Also, many families have turned their lives upside down fo accommodate the current schedule. We can't flip back and forth. - **Lindsey Nicholson**

Parents, students and staff need to know the date as soon as possible for going back to Hybrid. I see no reason why it can't be Sept 14. That is two weeks after the announcement that was made on Friday afternoon. Staff should have a plan in place and has the two weeks to get final details ready. Will the first week be A or B so parents can plan when their kids go back to school? We thank you for all your hard work but the announcement Friday should have included the date we were returning to school for planning purposes for staff and parents. Fully remote isn't beneficial for students to learn. I have a senior and he's just doing busy work. He has one teacher going above and beyond teaching live each day but only 1 out of 5. At the conclusion of this board

meeting, a date should be provided to the community so bus drivers, food service, all staff, parents and students can plan ahead and I assume it's no later than Sept. 14. Thank you -
Tracy Curran

Why are we having a virtual meeting making sure to stay within state mandate for mass gather is about sending our kids back into a daily mass gathering? - **Kolin Hurlbut**

Why are you meeting virtually about CHILDREN going to school in person. If there's no risk, why are you social distancing and not in the same room? - **Satin Hurlbut**

I personally emailed not only our Superintendent, but also our entire Board August 24th with a specific timeline thinking forward prior to Franklin County being downgraded from Red to Orange along with both Columbus Board of Health AND Franklin County Public Health making their statements on August 27/28th. That was effectively planning ahead if I were the Superintendent/Board knowing this would happen at some point. Unfortunately, as in past instances, the response received from the Superintendent was thank you, but it means nothing as we are not changing the date. If there was a true plan already in place, as good leaders will have a Plan A-Z anticipating what is to come all ready to enact, then when Franklin County Public Health made their statement on August 28th, our leadership would have had their plan already activated and their comments that afternoon would have been here it is and when the Blended Learning Model would take place and how it will work. Instead, unlike their peers in at least the Hilliard School system, the first comment was "we are finalizing a few logistical details on a phased-in return to Blended Learning for students who are not enrolled in our Westerville Virtual Academy", which means there was no firm plan in place when there should have been. This possibility has been known for weeks and the fact that no plan was activated on the 28th one, and two, the fact it takes 5 days to discuss, vote and release this information shows a lack of leadership and decision-making which does a disservice to the thousands of parents and especially those who are far more dependent on in-person classroom instruction, like my own child. I pray that a formal apology is made to all parents for the lack of true transparency, truthfulness and honesty that was said and not done (lack of integrity) and that this rollout to the Blended Model originally announced July 23rd (knowing that leadership was going to remote learning all along as confirmed by one board member who contradicted their own superintendent) occurs starting September 8th. Or will it be all talk, no depth, and like the 75% who responded in favor of how a blended model would be like (all grade levels in unison), in the words of our own Superintendent..."interpreting the (survey) results as "which model did the parents vote for?" is "a misrepresentation of the results". Insult to our intelligence. If need be, will be more than happy to email to leadership my plan that simply needed to be rolled out on August 28th and not September 2nd. Families deserve better from our leadership and instead have gotten runarounds, empty words, and double talk. Thank you. - **Todd Lotz**

Thank you, members of the board, for considering public comment. I have four children in the district in grades 2, 4, 7, & 9. We are in the blended/remote learning model and have been adjusting to remote learning, assuming that the possibility of going back to the physical classroom was at least 8 weeks away. I do want my children to return to the classroom, but I do not want to have to keep switching back and forth between fully remote and blended because the numbers in the county keep changing. It seems - based on data from other areas of the country where school has been back in session for a few weeks - that the numbers in Franklin County are very likely to worsen in the coming weeks as OSU and several K-12 school districts begin in person classes. Is it possible that Franklin County could go back to red in the next two weeks? Yes, it is possible. So when considering when to return to the classroom, it would be wise to me to wait and see how the numbers change in the next few weeks. So many things are happening right now. It would feel very unsteady for our students to return to the classroom after only two or three weeks of fully remote learning, only to have to return to fully remote after another two or three weeks. Please consider waiting a few weeks to allow for more information for how in-person schools will affect the numbers before returning to the physical classroom. This will also allow for students to fully adjust to the fully remote learning for a period of time before requiring a new transition. - **Emily Mowery**

My daughter has to go to the remote learning academy because of health reasons related to Covid 19. She is a senior this year and planned to take her 4th year of language in ASL. She has been told because of the remote learning she cannot take her fourth year of language. We were also informed this week that her only choice for her fourth year of science is either AP courses or physics. She does not have the same opportunities that any other senior would because she has to do remote learning. Also her only choices for certain subject areas are either AP courses or courses that will not apply to her college educational needs. I have not been contacted by all of her teachers for remote learning and have no direction as to the expectations for the year. This is truly setting up any student for failure. I want the same opportunities that are offered to every other senior student at WCHS to be offered to my daughter as well. I feel as though we have been told to pretty much wing it even though she has been a student at WCHS sincerely her freshman year, we are on our own. How do I go about obtaining the same educational rites and opportunities that any other senior is getting for my daughter? - **Lynn Laube**

Thank you for allowing our children to get back into the classroom earlier. They need to be back in school. My question is why weren't we prepared to start once we got the go ahead from the health dept.? (Do we get 2 weeks if we have to go back to all virtual?) Parents dont need two weeks. Multiple school districts are getting it done. I am disappointed in this school district, which when we moved here I thought was one of the best. - **Alisha Buchanan**

Thank you so much for considering going to the hybrid model earlier than October 5th. I agree with the Franklin Co health department and Pediatricians that now is the time to get them into

school. Students need personal interaction for mental and physical health. Our household has been having trouble with Schoology meetings, The system kicking them off and missing important “live” teaching. - **Rachelle Kinkead**

We just started online, please wait until at least October to return to hybrid model, my daughter is just getting settled in and learning what she needs to do, going back short of October is confusing and unsettling for kids - **Bonnie Meier**

Please proceed with blended learning. Mine and my kids mental health is suffering. Lots of parents are trying to work from home, or work in general, and keep kids on track with school is incredibly hard. - **Jennifer Holdren**

I feel as though elementary students are missing foundational elements by not being in an in-person environment. Could the board consider sending elementary kids first and if everything goes well with that transition moving to middle and high school students next? - **Stephanie Garee**

I feel it is too soon to return to onsite learning with the blended learning model. Other schools in the country that have reopened saw positive covid19 cases within the first week of school. My questions are, what are the criteria to return to blended learning, what are the criteria once back onsite to return to fully remote, and what is the quarantine policy if staff or students test positive? - **Kelly Welch**

It is imperative that the board return Westerville’s students to the classroom, even if only in a blended model, as soon as possible. Each week that goes by is another week in which students’ education is suffering, as well as their developmental and mental well-being, and perhaps more. Supposedly, these plans were worked on all summer, so there’s no reason why this change can’t be made quickly, no later than Sept. 14, reverting to the original reopening model. Other districts in central Ohio are returning students to the classroom earlier than that – why would Westerville offer its students anything less? - **Rebecca Seum**

You are meeting virtually tonight to discuss the school buildings opening up. This meeting should be in person if that is your expectation for your community. Also, Ohio State returned to school last week and already has a positive test rate over 5%, other districts are quickly returning. Why can we not wait a few weeks to see what happens to the numbers. That would ease the stress of everyone, it would also avoid the chaos of going back to virtual if the numbers increase again. - **Molly**

I strongly recommend the Board resume in-person learning. As a working parent household with two elementary children, we are unable to provide the adequate support and education our

children need during school hours. School not only provides hands-on instruction, but offers structure, emotional, social, and physical support and engagement. My children are struggling to understand their work, and as working parents we are struggling to provide the support they need. They are missing out on the qualitative aspects of school and desperately want to return in-person. We should continue to offer a virtual option for those who are uncomfortable attending in-person, but for those of us who desire in-person, we have been left with no choice or say in the matter. If a parent can opt into virtual learning, I should have the opportunity to opt into in-person learning. - **Amie Jackson**

Since blended was the original plan, we should have the expectation of quicker transition?
- **Kevin Kinlin**

I want to express my opinion on making sure the students are back face-to-face, even hybrid, as soon as possible. Those that are hesitant that there might be cases on the rise once face-to-face begins have the option of keeping their children at home and learning virtually. There is no difference in face-to-face beginning in September or beginning in October for those fears. Cases have been down trending for several weeks now and I am concerned about my child's mental health and his education! - **Kim Denney**

We need to go back full time in person ASAP all surrounding schools are, and our children are stuck at home while all my coworkers are back at work because their kids are in school. My son is struggling with virtual . Kids need to be in school! - **Kristen Nardone**

Dr. Kellogg and members of the WCS Board of Education,
Please consider bringing students back into the building as soon as possible. Families that want to remain virtual have been provided a curriculum for online learning, which can cover the entire year if they wish.

As a hospital employee, where we have been caring for confirmed patients with CoVid 19 since March, I know the fears of going to work and wondering:

Will I get CoVid 19?

Will I bring home CoVid 19 to my family?

I also know that we have worked hard to change our policies and procedures so that we can continue to do our jobs. We have been able to avoid major outbreaks among employees and patients in our buildings. We are emotionally and physically exhausted by what we are asked to do everyday, but we push forward.

I believe WCS staff can do the same. I believe our students, especially our middle and high school students, can learn a new way in the buildings

My observation of the first week of remote learning is that we are asking middle school students to operate like college freshmen. They attend each class twice a week (80 minutes total per class) and are responsible for managing all the remaining classwork on their own time. Office hours are

available, but students are expected to initiate that contact. My middle school student is not comfortable reaching out to teachers she does not know well. My middle school student is spending up to 12 hours a day online and falling behind. My student is struggling to get organized, focus and complete assignments in a reasonable time frame. I am concerned that even a blended model will not be enough to help her this year.

My student is learning valuable life lessons in this time of personal and world crisis, but she is not getting a quality academic education. I would like to see students that can and want to be in the buildings, be allowed to return as soon as possible. I would like 100% in-person learning to be considered as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Lara Chapman

- **Lara Chapman**

I am 100% in support of starting the blended model of learning as soon as possible. I have confidence that the district is doing everything they can to keep our kids safe. There is so much more benefit to school and in person classes than just academics. My kids have had nearly everything taken away from them in the last 6 months and if we can get back to some sense of normalcy with school I know it would do wonders for their mental health. - **Kim Haaser**

Returning to school before the original start of blended learning (October 5) would not be a wise decision. Teachers have made lesson plans for the next month, as well as parents. Other schools and colleges doing in-person classes have just started or are about to start, and this will likely increase community spread. I do not think October 5 is too long to take a wait and see approach to Franklin and Delaware County's numbers. It is very likely that we will see a return to school and then have to shut down again because of increases in positive COVID cases.

To be honest, having a consistent schedule (all in school or all online) would be better for students than one week in and one week out. It minimizes the amount of time children are in a third environment (daycare or with a family member), which slows community spread. The students can communicate with their teachers daily, whether online or in class. And there is less concern about leaving an important item at school that you need for the week off classes. -

Laura Fortman-Jones

Kids need to return to school ASAP 🙏 % would be even better. - **Eva Saunders**

As parents we were given the original date of returning to blended model (Oct 5) and that should be upheld. A premature return to school could result in an increase in cases and causes the need for shut down. We are prepared for our children to be virtual through then. Do not create an environment of instability for children. Flip flopping from blended to fully remote will be too much for them to handle. - **Kelly Ocheltree**

In regards to the transition to the blended learning model at Westerville City Schools, I believe any decision to return students to a classroom setting before Covid daily case counts are below where they were in March 2020 is short-sighted and potentially dangerous.

In May and June as restrictions were eased across the country, we saw an explosion of cases. Despite best intentions to follow social-distancing measures and wear masks as conditions for easing those restrictions, people just didn't comply. And those were adults. We're talking about children here.

How many times is a teacher going to have to remind students to put on their masks? How many times is a teacher going to have to remind students to keep 6 feet apart? How is that not going to disrupt learning? How is that not going to cause anxiety for everyone involved? While case counts are still elevated, there are going to be outbreaks. We've seen this at colleges already. Do we really want to yo-yo between blended learning and all-online? That seems like it will also lead to disruption and anxiety as parents, teachers and students have to continually shift logistics. The online system that the school has set up seems to be going very well. There's daily interaction with her teacher and she sees her classmates and that is keeping her engaged. We had our concerns about online learning, but those concerns have been mitigated by the effort that the school has put forth.

As parents, we ALL want our children back in classrooms. From comments I have seen online, it seems some parents want their kids in school just because they can't handle having their kids in the house anymore. They need their free time as adults. This seems a dangerous line of thinking. It's our jobs as adults to adjust and adapt and make sure others stay healthy. "We're all in this together", right? We're all tired. We're all stretched thin. But let's stay strong and safe.

If a teacher gets sick and dies, is it worth a life to return to kids to school when daily case counts are nearly three times as high as they were when we initially shut down and brought kids home? That math simply does not add up. Is it worth a illness and possibly death just because someone wants a quiet lunch? Despite politicians saying it's OK to put kids in school, let's look at the actual case counts and make decisions based on data so that we don't unnecessarily risk lives. When daily case counts are higher than they were in March, it simply does not make sense to send teachers and students back into the classroom. - **Jason Paquet**

The remote plan is not serving teachers, students, or our community in the best possible manner. Is it an improvement over spring yes. That being said, there is a long way to go and the price to pay is quite large, the children are not learning and are stressed. I ask that the board work diligently in getting our children back in the classroom safely but at the same time as soon as possible. Please advise on the plan of action that gets them in the classroom prior to the October date. Additionally, please advise on the plan for when there are positive cases in the school so that order can be maintained. We know that positive cases will happen and need a solid procedure for how it will be handled so that there can be a process and not an over-reaction.

Thank you,
Leslie

- lperrini@noabrands.com

I understand there is lots on controversy, but as a health care provider I feel school is best for kids. Is there option for 100% in or all at home? I think sooner we go back, like asap, the less the kids fall behind, as many are probably behind. School also a safe place for many children - **Erin keller**

Thank you for updating your previous statement on opening schools on October 5th. While teachers and staff are doing an amazing job adapting to virtual teaching, the emotional impact on my children is taking its toll. Let's get these kids back to school ASAP!
My child's classroom with a blended model will be less than 10 children. We can safely go back to school. - **Adrienne Shonkwiler**

Thank you for your emails and time dedicated to this challenging school year. I am drastically hopeful for our kids to be back in the classroom as soon as possible. Having 2 parents that work outside of the house and managing 3 primary aged school children (K, 2nd, and 3rd grade) has been more challenging, frustrating, and simply unimpressive. My 3rd grader is on with his teacher for only 20-30 minutes out of the entire day. No teaching has been present, and has only included talking about how to find the materials they need for the day. The first recorded lesson occurred this week and was difficult to hear and understand the teacher, you could not see the visuals displayed on the whiteboard, and the instructions were very unclear. I have been very impressed with Westerville City Schools until this year. I am simply in awe at the lack of direction, attention to the kids, and significant decline in learning capacity. I am strongly encouraging that these kids be back in the classroom. The state and health department have made it very clear that children should be back in school. Please consider the recommendations and return the kids to the classroom as soon as possible. I also strongly encourage return to 100% in school as soon as possible. Thank you. - **Ashley**

I would ask that the district consider keeping the original date of October 5th for the return to a blended approach. As a parent of a child with asthma, I chose not to enroll him in WVA because he could potentially lose his seat at Whittier, and I felt the instruction would be stronger with his assigned Whittier teacher. I felt comfortable with the October 5th date because that would give us time to see how the numbers trend once students return to school across the state. I am very concerned with sending him back in September when we have not seen the impact of the blended districts and the COVID numbers. If you look at the universities, it is a matter of time before our district numbers go up. By waiting until October, we can learn from other districts and what to expect when students attend in a blended or full time model.

I also have significant concern in the inconsistent learning model should Westerville or a school have to shut down. We are just now getting into a routine with live interaction from teachers.

Going to a five day on / five day off schedule removes that structure and limits any live interaction on those five days off. Should we return in September and a COVID outbreak occurs, we will have to shift back to full remote and restart the routine. How does this provide coherent instruction? As it stands now, the teachers are doing an amazing job providing live meeting schedules, daily expectations, and virtual office hours. Teachers and parents have planned for a full remote schedule until October 5th (or later). Please consider this commitment that was made to ensure our students are provided rigorous, cohesive and coherent instruction.

Thank you,

Sherry Birchem

Westerville South (9th and 10th grade) and Whittier (3rd grade) mom

- Sherry M Birchem

I appreciate the willingness of the WCS district to reconsider the initial timeline for a hybrid learning model and strongly encourage the Board to weigh the potential pros of getting our students back in-person in some capacity vs the cons of continued online only learning.

I truly feel that we are doing our children a disservice by further postponing resuming in-person learning via a hybrid-model. Given the fact that nearly every other business is open to the general public, it seems hypocritical to tell our children that their in-person education isn't as important as someone's "right" to eat a meal inside a sit-down restaurant or meander through the aisles of the local shopping centers. The fact that many other surrounding districts and private schools have also resumed in-person learning also sends the message to our children that WCS doesn't value their academic, emotional and social wellbeing as much as other communities value their students'.

Per the Centers for Disease Control, "COVID-19 transmission and illness are not the only risks to consider when making decisions about sending children back to school. Schools provide important services and supports for children's academic, social-emotional and physical health. For instance, social interaction among children in grades K-12 is important not only for emotional wellbeing, but also for children's language, communication, social, and interpersonal skills." Aside from a child's home, no other setting has more influence on a child's health and well-being than their school, and the lack of services and routine that school provides has the potential to widen existing disparities and cause long-term effects on children's educational outcomes, health, and the economic wellbeing of families and our community.

I strongly support the plan to move forward with a thoughtfully-developed in-person / online hybrid plan and remain hopefully optimistic that WCS chooses to do what's best for its students and resume in-person learning as quickly as is safely possible. We appreciate WCS teachers and staff for their continued dedication to our students and community! - **Sara Krauss**

I am in full support of Westerville schools going to a blended learning model earlier than 10/5. I have two kids in 2nd grade (Hanby) and I feel they will be able to maintain a higher level of academics in the classroom setting. - **Sarah Jorgenson**

I am deeply concerned about the rush to bring kids back to school, even in a hybrid model. We have seen numbers going up quickly at OSU, within just a little over a week. I don't understand why we wouldn't wait and see how other districts do. We all want our children to be back in school. It is absolutely exhausting trying to help our children with their home schooling while trying to also be successful at our jobs. I can't wait for this to be all over. But it's not....it's just simply not done yet. What happens when the numbers inevitably go back up? Are you going to keep yo-yoing are children back and forth, or are you just going to keep them in a dangerous situation? This is unrealistic and unacceptable. You cannot keep making changes like this. Why are we rushing with our kids safety in the balance? If I had known that you were going to start rushing them back, I would have just enrolled my child into WVA. Now I don't have that option. You originally said that the very earliest the students could come back was October 5th. While the date of October 5th was speculative, it was communicated that this was the EARLIEST possible date that any student would be returning, so we all made child care plans based on that. I'm guessing that political pressure has urged you to go in a different direction at the expense of what we all planned for, and for the safety of our children. I'm expecting the board will honor the original October 5th date that was clearly communicated as the earliest our children would return. If not, I would expect an option to be given to us to enroll our children in WVA as I will have lost any and all confidence in the decision making process of our district. - **Jamie Rollo**

Please consider staying the course with the original plan to stay all remote learning through the end of first quarter (October). Do not transition to blended learning sooner as was recently announced. The cases are still fluctuating with today's statewide cases the highest since late July. With colleges coming back and some private schools coming back in person, it seems prudent to wait a few weeks to see how cases change (up or down) before transitioning Westerville schools to blended. To rush kids back in person is not responsible. If responses are too quick right now, we could find ourselves going back and forth as this pandemic plays out this fall/winter as cases spike and drop. I strongly recommend a slow and thoughtful approach that allows for minimizing changes to students daily routines. Please stay with original plan of all remote learning through first quarter. Thanks - **Cotton Randall**

As a parent of a first-grader, this time is particularly important for not only my child, but all students' ability to grow and learn. After all, fostering childhood development is the mission of the school district. Anyone who has, or has had children, knows there is no substitute for in person learning from teachers in an actual school with peers and extracurricular activities. I applaud this effort to return kids to school - albeit in a blended model.

We are certainly concerned about everyone's safety, but there are essential businesses that have to get work done. Educating our kids is essential. I hope that full-time in-person learning is the next step to restoring our children's education - both socially and mentally. Children must come first.

Question: During in-home virtual learning many parents - myself included - had to form group 'learning pods' with friends and family. As the next step in returning to school is a blended model, parents will still rely on these 'learning pods' during off-weeks. How, and through what tools, will parents be allowed to request the Group for their students - as to ensure the viability and continuity of our children's education? - **Matthew Teismann**

I would like to request that the district wait until no earlier than September 21 to open school buildings. Waiting until two weeks after the Labor Day holiday will prevent the spread of covid among students, teachers, staff, and their families due to expected holiday gatherings. The governor warned today about a spike following the holiday and we already saw a severe spike after July 4, which led WCS to move toward remote learning in the first place. It seems reasonable and rational to anticipate a similar spike in the two weeks following Labor Day, so to move back into the buildings ahead of a two-week quarantine afterwards is unnecessarily dangerous.

I also reject the need to open school buildings when the governor still has a mass gathering ban in place. The conflict between those two decisions cannot be reconciled against the risk. - **Julie Mujic**

I am the parent of a new kindergarten student at Robert Frost. I am also a teacher at North, but it is as a parent that I'm writing today.

As a parent, I strongly feel we should not be starting the ""blended model"" yet. Yes, my wife and I wish our little five-year-old daughter could have a better, in-person kindergarten experience, but the health and well-being of our students and our community as a whole should take priority. ""Days in seats"" and testing calendars shouldn't have any consideration -- no one rightly expects schools to hold to those ordinary expectations during these times that are anything but ordinary.

I have little expectation that students will ""social distance"", no matter how much we try to enforce it. My fear is that, by coming back too early, we will cause a spike in COVID-19 cases in the community. This would be bad for the physical health of our students and community, and the subsequent reclosing of schools would also hurt the mental health of our students as they are whip-lashed back-and-forth between remote and blended models.

Westerville should not lead in returning to in-person instruction. We have an opportunity to watch what happens as other districts returned this week -- Hilliard, especially, could indicate what our experience would be like. If, after three or four weeks, they have managed to keep COVID-19 cases down, that would be the appropriate time to look at our own return.

Please stop this plan to transition ""sooner than expected"" to the blended model.

Thank you,

- **David Johnston**

Thank you to the board and Dr. Kellogg for the emergency meeting regarding the transition to a hybrid schedule. Due to the recommendation of FCBH, I hope you will move our October 5th date so that students will have an earlier opportunity for in-person instruction. I am aware that a two-week notice was recommended for parents/teacher for planning and transition. This was a generous recommendation, but one that I don't believe is necessary. The value of in-person education outweighs the ability of parent and teacher planning. Like the students, the parents and teachers will adjust. Westerville students need to be in the classroom. Many students are disengaged in their Google Meets and lessons. Many students are sad and lonely. Many students are crying daily because they just want to be with their teacher. Teachers and parents are doing the ultimate best, but it is NOTHING like going to school. Most teachers are working their hardest each day to provide instruction, but in the end, it is NOT what is best for kids. Nothing out there can be a supplement for school. Finally, I am aware that some parents want to keep the October 5th date because "they are just getting used to remote learning". It is my understanding that remote learning was never supposed to be a better option than hybrid learning/schedule. When the district could move to hybrid, we, as a district, would. These parents that want a little bit of both scenarios, being at home and having the opportunity to eventually go to school, should have selected the WVA. Most parents who opted for the hybrid or back to school option, want their kids with in-person instruction as soon as possible. In conclusion, like many other districts in Franklin County, Westerville needs to move our hybrid date so that is comparable to the other districts, Dublin, UA, Hilliard, Worthington. Our students DESERVE it. Thank you for your time. - **Molly Fisher**

This is my 14th year teaching in Westerville and I have never had such a long, stressful week as I did our first week of remote learning. Trying to balance planning, grading and answering questions every five minutes (literally, I'm not exaggerating) was overwhelming to say the least. Throw in technology problems on my synchronous day and my week was probably the hardest week I've ever taught.

The planning for remote learning is very time consuming. For example, I teach ASL and one of the first things we do is teach numbers and the alphabet. If I were in class I could immediately check and see if they are understanding and signing everything correctly. It would take about 2 minutes of class time and I could make corrections on the spot. With remote learning, I have to make the instructional video and then several different practice "quizzes" to assess them. Don't get me wrong, I love Schoology and the features it offers, but making a simple quiz takes about 30 min because I have to insert videos and you can't just copy and paste the questions. Then I have to go back and actually check and see if the students are understanding.

Remote learning also impacts the ability for students to practice the language together. Most of my class is built on interaction and it makes it very difficult to do this virtually, even in a Google Meet. Gone are the days where teachers simply lecture all period. Kids need to be together and interact with each other to learn, even if they are 6 feet away from each other.

I have huge concerns with the impact that remote learning is having on students. I had one senior text me and say, "I'm going to fail if we're not in school." Another told me "I wish were just back in school" after going back and forth with me several times with questions. This is a student on an IEP who wants to do well but needs things spelled out to him very clearly. We can't keep these kids out of school until Oct.

PLEASE send us back within 2 weeks as originally stated would happen when we first went remote. The numbers from the health department and new info about the spread of the virus from the CDC indicate that it is safe for us to return. Do it for the students.

Do it for the teachers.

Do it for the families.

I am an essential worker. If a Kroger employee has to work, then so do I.

One last thing. I am also a parent of two high schoolers - a freshman and a senior. Both are pivotal years in a student's life. Please let them be able to look back and say it was a great start/finish to their high school career. - **Judith Mair**

I am eager for the kids to return to school in person in the blended model but I would encourage the school system to wait until the county has been orange for at least 3-4 weeks with data showing yellow as being imminent. I feel like it is detrimental to the kids, parents, and caregivers to "ping pong" back and forth between blended and completely remote. It seemed extremely hasty to me that 24 hours after the county shifted from red to orange WCS announced the shift to blended. I want them to go back and have the closest to normal school experience possible but I also don't want to do so at the expense of student, teacher, and staff safety.- **Sarah Simpson**

Would the school district consider accepting peer models at the ELC once the county hits a yellow level or lower? I would love for my daughter to be able to return to preschool, even if it is for just a few months. - **Sarah Simpson**

Dimension 2 of the board states: Learning and working environments are safe, nurturing and efficient. Please explain how breaking the word of Oct 5th to come to school early is providing a safe school environment? - **Kolin Hurlbut**

Can you address why this board meeting is not being held in person? I heard that it was due to worries about the ability to control distancing with visitors present. Please explain how that would make sense when you intend to send our kids back to school with your approved distancing measures? Why weren't they used for this meeting? If the board is too afraid to personally meet in person, why are you forcing our kids? - **Kolin Hurlbut**

Our kids need and deserve to go back to school in person. You are discriminating against children with IEP's /504 plans and children who are economically disadvantaged. No one is

advocating for these children. We are using data that is inaccurate and allowing OSU's numbers to inflate numbers and this is holding us back. This is unfair and reckless. Our children's mental health is also being impacted. Please send our children back to school now. - **Paula Lynch**

I understand that many people rely on school for childcare and that there is benefit to in person instruction, but I would rather we wait until at least Oct 5 before reopening. I would prefer taking a cautious approach and not immediately reacting to the slight decrease in daily numbers by opening earlier. At this time students are still getting settled in to online learning and I would rather they have that solid foundation than switching to hybrid or all in person right away. Communicating a conservative plan and then sticking to it helps our family understand expectations and feel more stability than changing timelines just because other districts are doing so. - **M. Blackmon**

"We all knew what Westerville schools hybrid plan was, and now that Franklin county is down to a level 2, the plan should go into place. It has only been 8 days of total online school, and as a parent I am struggling. I am struggling with a kindergartener who has no attention span to be on a computer for hours. He also cannot navigate it by himself, so I am sitting with him the entire time. Which in doing so, I cannot keep up with my 4th grader. It has also impacted me financially, as I have had to cut down my hours at work so I can be able to do this online schooling with them. My kindergartener needs that real life classroom experience, even if it only is every other week. That atmosphere would help him be interested in learning again. The teachers are great about getting back to us quick if we have a question or need help, but it doesn't compare to that real life classroom interaction. Also the social aspect of school is extremely important. On day 2 of school in my kindergartener's class Google meet she asked them to tell what they are most excited about for kindergarten. One little guy said he was so excited to make lots of friends. It was so sweet and so sad at the same time- these kids cannot make the friendships and connections just seeing each other online every so often. Kids need to be in school, and there are safety requirements in place to do so. Big Walnut schools are in session full time, if they can do that we can begin our hybrid learning. For the sake of the kids education, and mental health we need to begin this. - **Sarah Takacs**

When the decision was made to switch to 100% virtual instruction for the beginning of the year, we were told that the earliest students would return to blended instruction was October 5th. This was the information that families used to make their decisions regarding blended or WVA. Many families opted for blended instruction at this time as they felt confident that their children would be having remote instruction for at least the first 6 weeks of school. It would be unfair to change this policy so soon.

It would be wise to wait and see what impact in-person K-12 instruction and college instruction has on the Covid-19 situation in the area before switching back to a blended model. I think it would be very disruptive to families to switch to a blended model, only to turn around and switch

back again. There has already been a rise in new cases with the start of local universities. -

Allison DeVelvis

Regarding a transition to blend learning: With the 21 day positive Covid-19 case average in Ohio over 1000 per day, we are concerned that placing children, teachers, and support staff in harms way is not wise at this time. While our county is at a level 2, the statewide numbers are concerning and we will likely return to a level 3 in the near future. We are all anxious return to some form of normalcy, however the safety and health of our community is more important at this time. - **Mark Swanson**

It concerns me that the district is rushing to have students return to blended in-person learning without adequate data on how other schools are faring after opening in-person learning. It seems prudent to wait at least until October to learn more about Covid spread among other central Ohio students. I think everyone would regret returning to in-person too soon & having to go back to remote in just a few weeks. I would ask the Board to give it a little more time. - **Stephanie Burkhardt**

Burkhardt

This virtual learning is disastrous. Whether it's the technology or lack of preparation, I am not sure, however you have had ample time (5+ months) to check functionality of the services provided and my children have yet to be on a call for the duration of the time that was set forth and are given apps to fill the day. This is NOT education. You are failing the children. You are failing your responsibilities but still collect a healthy paycheck. School districts across the communities are full go, however you are dragging your feet with this hybrid model. A model that is untested and really doesn't make sense. I vote no confidence in Superintendent Kellogg and demand his immediate resignation for lack of leadership and preparation. - **JR Corbett**

The idea of a "mask break" completely defeats the purpose behind students and staff wearing masks to school at all. Allowing students, even if every other, in a classroom, to remove their masks creates an unsafe environment for fellow students and staff. The ONLY mask "breaks" should be when a student is eating a meal or in a bathroom stall alone. This is just one of the MANY issues that has not been figured out in the slightest and will cause mass chaos if we transition to blended any sooner than October 5. Teachers have spent days and nights planning remote teaching and most of them have posted and organized their assignments on Schoology for the next month. Going back to blended would mean they would have to double-plan every week, and in some cases, completely alter the plans they have already created for now until October 5. The A/B week model does not even allow for an extra planning day, like many districts have implemented in a blended setting, and instead uses a 20 minute-poor-excuse-for-planning-time during the day. Not to mention, what about the extra sanitizing? How are teachers supposed to teach the kids who are at home when they're responsible for kids in school? The list of questions is endless. It would be IRRESPONSIBLE to go back to school in person without SPECIFIC,

SAFE, AND EQUITABLE solutions to these issues and there is no way you will have said solutions prepared in one or two weeks. - **Abbie**

I am very concerned that the district seems poised to move up the time table for blended learning. My son is in kindergarten and I definitely want him back in the classroom as soon as possible but I also want that to be done safely. The numbers in Franklin county have gone down which is wonderful however that was before school started. It seems to me that it makes sense to stick with the original October start date as that will give the district time to assess what is happening in other local schools that have opened. Many of these schools just started on Monday so it could be two weeks before we know if spread in school is a serious problem. It seems to me that the worst case scenario, both for the students and from a logistical point of view would be if schools opened and then had to close again. - **Laura Hickman**

I am in favor of opening the discussion for a return to school under a hybrid model prior to the originally proposed October 5th date. I am confident that the school system will be following all guidelines to ensure a safe return and properly managing risk with reopening. The benefits of in person instruction are vast and with recent improvements in case numbers, I would support the return of students under the hybrid model with an expedited time-frame. Thank you very much for your consideration. - **Jason Garee**

I have had children or grandchildren in the Westerville school district consecutively for over three and a half decades. I can say for certain that this is the strangest and most challenging start to the school year that I have ever experienced. I would guess that is the same for all of us! I currently have three grandchildren in my home that are navigating remote learning in Westerville. While the senior is sad to be missing out on traditional experiences typical school would offer, she has been, at the end of last school year and currently, able to independently navigate school work. She says that it is not the same standard of teaching and learning she has had in the past. She is still confident that she is learning. The two sixth graders are also sad to be missing friends and socialization along with in person teacher instruction. One is an identified gifted student and is handling remote learning as well as can be expected with only minimal support. She is more efficient than I am with technology. The other sixth grader has an IEP for ADHD and learning disabilities. Spring was incredibly difficult for him. And the daily struggle to focus, engage and complete work is nearly impossible as we have begun this school year. But it is evident that teachers and other staff have been working diligently to provide organization and instruction for our children and our families. And I know this is not the way they prefer to teach any more than the way our children best learn. Making the initial decision on whether to choose the virtual academy or blended learning for our family was difficult. I was impressed with the support I received from principals and other staff when weighing the advantages and disadvantages of both options. While the Virtual Academy would work well for one child, it was not best for the other two for various reasons. Partially because the decision to start remote

through October 5th was announced, we opted to go with blended learning. We have several people in our home that are at high risk for complications if we were to contract Covid-19. While it is encouraging that science and medicine has learned more about Covid and that more treatment options are available, it is still a dangerous disease with many unknowns regarding long term damage, how long immunity lasts, what might happen as flu season hits, etc. We also know that children do get Covid and that they do spread it. Fortunately, they typically have mild symptoms without complications. With another holiday weekend approaching, many people will be gathering together, hopefully most will be wearing masks and maintaining safe social distancing. Sadly, many will not comply. Covid-19 is still extremely contagious and dangerous. Past holidays have been followed by large increases in cases, hospitalizations and spikes in deaths. Due to the incubation period and progression of disease, it will be several weeks before these statistics show up. In the meantime, because of testing shortages, asymptomatic carriers and those who choose to not go to their physician when symptoms start, spread will occur. Please do not reopen our schools earlier than the original date of October 5th. While it is very hard on students and families, including those with learning differences, single parent homes, low income families, and English language learners, our most important task is to keep our communities, students and staff healthy and safe. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Vicki Shepherd

- **Vicki Shepherd**

If a child or teacher, or one of their family members, tests positive for COVID-19 it is important that any people who have been in the same room for more than 15 minutes with the infected person be notified at the very least. I believe that the applicable class(es) should then revert to the all online model until an appropriate amount of time has passed that they would be deemed safe to return to school.

What is WCS policy for notification of students and their families when a person at their school or classroom has contracted Covid-19? Does WCS consider this a valid reason to have that class return to the all online model?

What is the WCS policy for allowing someone to return to school after testing positive for Covid-19? - **Heather Dilley**

Is anyone going to address the fact that we know you're trying to send our kids back on 9/14? What will you do when we do not send our kids that first week. You may choose to let the cohorts be subject to infection over the pressure from prominent white families, but what about the children in our district who live with grandparents? Or those who don't have access to health insurance in case they get Covid? This isn't a joke to some families, as there are socioeconomic factors at play here. You already chose which neighborhoods had chromebook access first, who was worthy to get meal pick up in the spring.... So what is the plan for kids who don't return until that date and only perform on the online weeks? - **Satin Hurlbut**

Does the WCS track covid within it's schools? If so can you share some of those stats? - **Jeff Johnson**

I urge the BoE to avoid rushing into a move to a blended learning environment. A premature move to a blended learning environment is unwise at this time. We have not seen a significant or sustained downward trend in Covid19 numbers. An uptick in Covid19 numbers in the county or an outbreak in the schools could necessitate a reversal to fully remote learning as has happened in others schools. This would cause a severe disruption to the learning process. Further, a seesawing between blended and remote learning is extremely disruptive to the family, causing more stress as parents scramble for ways to accommodate changing schedules. It seems that a more rational approach would be to continue with the remote learning for at least the first 9 weeks of school. The teachers and administrators have prepared well and are doing an admirable job of meeting the needs of students and families. While not the way we anticipated that school would be conducted this year, it is working and children are learning. Things are changing rapidly with the Covid19 numbers, sometimes up and sometimes down. Waiting a period of at least 9 weeks would give a reasonable amount of time to see if there is a significant and sustained downward trend, making it safer for students and staff to resume in person education. -

Patricia Handelman

Community members deserve consistent communication from leadership. It was publicly announced that WCS students would be learning remotely until October. Families and staff planned for virtual learning and were just starting to get into a routine and now there is an unexpected change in plans to begin sooner than October. Unexpected changes result in confusion, chaos and a feeling of disorganization within the community.

Secondly, NOTHING has changed with the Coronavirus pandemic since March. It is still very much a threat to our lives. It would be irresponsible to invite students and staff back into the schools as cases are increasing and since there is no vaccine at this time.

Ohio State University is a prime example. They reconvened in person and had over 1,000 cases on Sunday ALONE. Needless to say, Ohio State is in Franklin County. I am sick to think that there could be a health tragedy within our district due to irresponsible decisions to return back to school. - **Stacy Schneider**

Why is this decision being rushed? We were originally told that the earliest we would return is October 5, but now it seems highly likely that that we will return sooner. Please consider how much work has been put into planning online instruction through October 5 since that is what we were told. - **Kylie O'Ryan**

With all due respect, how can the board expect students and staff to return to schools when the board is still not meeting in person? - **Stacy Schneider**

When schools transit to Blended Study, since we can not predict what will be the number of cases or how the students will be responsible and follow all the PPR and the safety guides specially for elementary schools so, as a parent who cares about our kids' safety in all this situation, can we request for our kids to remain in the remote learning through their schools instead of attending in person? - **Reem**

I am opposed to transitioning to a blended model at this time, due to the fluctuating nature of Covid-19 infection rates. We have seen cases spike in Ohio and across the country when schools have reopened. We've seen sustained cases for a period of time in Franklin county because schools have been closed. This week, infection rates increased in the state. If health and safety are the primary concern it should be understood that returning to face to face instruction too soon could have long lasting, detrimental impacts on the community. Furthermore, beginning a blended model that may result in a spike in cases and then a return to online instruction would pose an even greater disruption to students, staff, teachers, and their families. - **Tiyi Morris**

What is the plan should we see a spike in cases and return to level 3 prior to the Sept. 21st start date for implementing the blended model? - **Tiyi Morris**

Please explain how starting on 9/21 provides 3 weeks of preparation for parents and teachers. Today is 9/2, and this plan hasn't even been announced. Assuming we decide to move forward with this plan, tomorrow is the first work day we will have to prepare. Tomorrow is 9/3. Three weeks from tomorrow is 9/24. Those 3 additional days would be extremely helpful for planning. If we pushed this plan out one more week to 9/28, we would actually have 3 weeks to prepare. Additionally, we would be able to look at data for schools that have returned already and see how the return has impacted cases. - **Kylie ORyan**

Dr. Kellog said that we have less than 100 new cases per day, but NBC4I reported that yesterday we had 1,100 new cases. Where are you getting your figures from? Alia O'Brien
I'm in IB, and I was told by the IB coordinator and the WVA representatives that WVA would not offer any IB classes, yet your chart says they did. When did this change? - **Alia O'Brien**

I am concerned with Labor Day and case increases thereafter. Because of this, I believe we should stick with the Oct 5 date. What if the cases increase? Will the date to do blended be reconsidered? - **Erin Miller**

If the COVID trend starts to move in a improving or worsening direction, for how long (how many weeks) will it have to be going in the that direction to change to Traditional or Remote? - **Greg Woods**

You're making the decision to switch to blended learning based on county-wide public health alert level. Under what circumstances do we return to fully remote? Will it be based on school-by-school cases? District/county-wide? Please explain the justification behind the answer. - **Dr. Francis Gourrier**

What happens if conditions improve or worsen (e.g. a spike in cases) at a specific school, will only that school be impacted or will that impact the entire district when making a change to Traditional/Remote? - **Greg Woods**

When will the kids find out in which Group (A or B) they are? - **Greg Woods**

It is too early to return the children to school when there is no vaccine and COVID precautions are still in place nationwide. An option to change to completely remote learning should be on the table, considering the short amount of time we were afforded to decide and the lightening fast return to school. - **Chante Tibby**