



Public Comment

August 24, 2020 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Wanted to thank Dr. Kellogg and the board for allowing sports back at the schools. My son is a senior soccer player at Central and we had our first game Friday night and we are very thankful for you allowing us to play! It means more than you could ever know! Thank you so much.

When will we hear about a timeline for getting kids back to school on a hybrid plan? Franklin county numbers are going down and Governor Dewine last week said we could very well be level 2 Orange by this week. My son is a senior at Central and needs to be back in the classroom to learn prior to heading to college in a year. Other districts in Franklin County have plans in place for how many weeks fully remote then when moving onto Hybrid. As a taxpayer, I feel its our choice to have our son in school. If a family wants to keep their child at home, then choose the Virtual Academy. Teachers can also choose to do the virtual academy if they don't want to teach in person. It is completely reasonable to ask for a timeline for when in September we could do hybrid. Thank you

- Tracy Curran

I would like you to please consider to sending us back to a Hybrid model before the Oct. 5th estimated date of return.

1. Franklin County's number have been trending downward and we may even move to Level 2 this week. If this is the case, can we please go back to school? I realize that we need to have two weeks for parents and teachers to adjust, but if the numbers are improving we need to move towards getting everyone back in school.
2. Please ask FCDH for numbers that impact OUR school district. I feel there are parts of the county that have higher number of cases that don't affect us one bit. There has been talk that all nursing homes will have mandatory testing. This could greatly impact the county's numbers. I would hate that our kids' education is put on hold because the numbers are skewed by nursing home cases.
3. Remote learning only increases the divide between the have's and have not's amongst our students. Our students from a lower socio economic status are more likely to have to share devices, be responsible for younger siblings and may even have a job that doesn't enable them to reach out to their teachers during regular class hours. As teachers we are always being tasked at having to close the gap - please help us do this.

Thank you for listening. Please let us back into school.

- Judith Mair

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

I would like to call to your attention a matter concerning my daughter, a Hanby student. Information provided by the district stated that magnet students would be assigned teachers from their home school. When the teacher assignments were posted, we discovered that was not the true for my daughter.

We requested that our daughter be moved into the hybrid learning model. Several emails have been exchanged with Brad Adams, without resolution. Although willing to try and help, his tenure appears to have him a little overwhelmed and is a rate-limiting factor for a timely resolution. We did receive some troubling information from

Brad Adams, stating that none of the Hanby teachers had been assigned to the WVA. Additional attempts were made with the Hanby principle, who was very kind and sympathetic, but also unable to assist as this is outside of her control.

Whether intentional or not, this appears to have been arbitrarily changed without notice to the parents. This is particularly concerning to me because my child gets additional services in reading and math from her Hanby support services teachers. I fear this will severely impact my daughters educational progress and would like to request she be moved into the hybrid learning model.

- Joshua Blackford

I would like to know why the district said that most WVA kids were matched with teachers from their home school (even magnet kids) when that clearly is not the case for magnet kids! It appears that magnet kids are receiving support services from their magnet school but have WVA teachers from other schools. That connection to our magnet school is incredibly important to us and why we chose a magnet school in the first place. I feel as though magnet families were lied to and it was completely unnecessary!

- Jamie Carden

Dr. Kellogg & Board members, understandably contractual challenges and legal liabilities (as outlined in the Dispatch) are going to exist with Covid-19, an administrative nightmare. Could families sign waivers to get their children back in the schools? Are you waiting for House bill 606 to be passed before we head back into the schools?

Please define the parameters and list out the metrics by which improvement needs to be made. Define strong enough sustained improvement. A decline in cases, but to what? By how much? Where do daily case rates need to be? Where do positivity rates need to be? We are part of Franklin County, yes, but our local community is Westerville. Are you considering numbers for just Westerville? And if so, could please share that information with us.

- Jennifer Eby

Understanding how things constantly change, and only 4 of 5 board members and superintendent making an attempt to be "transparent", though to varying degrees, I am wondering why our Superintendent has not once in his words "be transparent and honest" not said one word to those parents he oversees as the leader, stated specifically on the IEP/Mental Health population needing in-person learning/education, if even an ounce of what they were thinking, so that maybe in his mind there would be parents or members in the district may want to get involved. I pray that if the Superintendent and all board members actually do what they say, as stated verbally in the last board meeting, they show their children/grandchildren and quickly not lead by emotion and fear and instead do what 75% of the district wants and quickly switch to the blended learning model and not respond to peer pressure (as in FCPH). Do the right thing your future leaders are watching you.

- Todd Lotz

Could you please provide an estimate of what % of Westerville City Schools students have opted for the WVA for the first semester?

- Dusty Eby

Is there a chance our kids can get in schools earlier than October?

- Christy Leiter

If liability against the school is your only concern, can we have a full in class option with a signed waiver?? I feel like the virus is not a danger to my children, but their continued deterioration of their mental health and learning abilities is. I watched my 8th and 9th graders today during online school and it's an absolute joke. Kids will fall further behind and the damage that was done in the spring will be even greater if we go down this path. Give us parents a choice!!!

- Luci Farris