

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12, 2020
6:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING
LIVE STREAM**

English: <https://youtu.be/JZKLZc7-Ptc>

Spanish: <https://youtu.be/euhUimxtHJ4>

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairperson, G. Cooper, called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Joseph DaSilva, Rachel Chaleski, Kate Conetta, Gladys Cooper, Richard Jannelli, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino, Kathleen Molinaro, Loren Daly (left early)

Absent: Joseph Britton, Kathryn Hodgdon, Kim Thompson

Also Present: Dr. Pascarella, Courtney Leborious, Kelly Truchsess, Dr. Casimiro, Kevin Walston

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Teresa Chamber
 - Can you clarify the need for the permanent early dismissal? Is this regardless of hybrid, distance learning and in the event they ever go back in person ?
 - I heard computers will be distributed for high school students. Is this still the plan?
 - When should we expect updates from special coordinators with regards to emails/requests, ie PPTs/accommodations for plans chosen.
 - Are there any updates on how many students will attend the highschool for hybrid? Same for teachers.
- Stacy Smith Brown
 - Can you tell us how snow days will work?
 - Is there a way I can select the group my children will attend? I really need to have them in the Thurs/Fri Hybrid group because of work. I need to monitor them for Distance Learning and I can't afford childcare or a tutor.
- Alison Benincasa
 - I am not supportive of delaying the opening of school. Children have been absent of an educational environment since March and are lacking academics and social interaction. They are isolated. Delaying till September 8th doesn't help the students. Frankly, we should be starting September 1st. Taking one additional

week to “prepare” only hurts the kids. Delaying a week due to a storm four weeks prior is not a viable excuse or reason.

- I would like to see full time options for families that desire to have them. Our children are suffering academically and socially. Elementary students should be afforded this option. They are not like high school and middle school students that can independently use computers to complete assignments. Now more than ever, this young age needs the amazing teachers that Danbury has to offer.
- I recommend altering plans based on age, allowing for full time options.
- If Hybrid is the only in person option, parents need to know cohorts/groups ASAP. It’s not fair to delay and further impact plans and accommodations families need to make. Many work full time and need to work. We need to know well in advance to adequately plan for our children.
- Reilly723
 - Can you please address which types of face coverings & masks are acceptable for when school opens? I see a lot of local people with the masks that have a vent which defeats the purpose. It should be made clear that those are not allowed. Are bandanas going to be allowed? What about neck gaiters? I think it needs to be clear what is and isn’t allowed in time for people to be prepared.
- Amy and Ron Hutchins
 - We appreciate all your doing to ensure a safe and productive year of learning in a pandemic. Our son will be in the second grade at South Street. He requested to attend school in Hybrid this year; having the option was wonderful for our family. During our introduction to the district in first grade, where we were told we could not see the classrooms. It was a minor frustration to not be able to see the classrooms in advance of our son’s first day or have access to any class list to contact other parents to say hello. We understand privacy and safety concerns. Yet this year, with student-private-emails established and a heightened awareness of who we all come into contact with, is it possible to provide families the ability to opt-in and sign necessary waivers to access two things:
 - 1) pictures of, at a minimum, the student’s classroom and cafeteria to feel comfortable that our children are in a safe environment.
 - 2) class list of students and parents with phone numbers.This can help provide transparency and accessibility that our family, and likely others, could benefit from and bring together the community in times where we need to stay at a distance.
- Terry Sachs
 - In accordance with the need for transparency, I would like the results of the first survey, in particular for K-5 students: what % of parents opted for full time school, what % opted for the hybrid choice, and what % opted for total online learning or homeschooling.
 - For the most recent questionnaire, again for K-5, what percentage of parents opted for the hybrid choice, and what % opted for total online learning or homeschooling?

- What percentage of students will use school busing and what percentage will be walking or transported by their families?
- For the proposed new calendar, during the first nine weeks, there are four weeks with no school on either a Monday or Tuesday. During those weeks will the A group have in school classes on Wednesdays, so that all students receive a minimum of two days in school each week?
- Children with ADHD or other learning disabilities are required by Section 504 to receive special accommodations. Those students should be allowed to attend school four days per week to fulfill this requirement and meet the terms of their plan. If not, what accommodations will be made for them, as required by law, since online learning programs are difficult, if not impossible for them to keep up with?
- What percentages of K-5 students participated in the March - June online learning: 0 - 25% of the lessons; 26 - 50% of the lessons; 51 - 75% of the lessons; and 76 - 100% of the lessons. for grades K-5.
- What is the rationale for sending K-5 students home 60 minutes early, when they are only in school 2 days per week to begin with? Shouldn't we be maximizing their in school opportunities while they are there? Do you really expect those students to be able to do work on computers when they return home from school?
- Finally, what preparations are being made for the transition from the hybrid to full time classes, and what would be the criteria for that transition to occur?
- Peter S
 - For parents who work, what accommodations will the district be providing for the three days a week the student is not physically in school? Will there be full day ELP?
- Judy Andreko
 - Why do you keep pushing this start date back weekly? What are the benefits in pushing back the start date for students, staff and parents? Why have you not considered starting this year off with all distance learning so that you have more time to safely prepare the schools for the return of staff and students? If it is true that the health and safety of staff and students comes first then why are you still pushing for in-person schooling? With immune systems being compromised this fall from stomach bugs, fever cases, common colds, seasonal allergies (or allergies in general) and flu cases this will cause more cases of Covid-19 as well. There have already been instances in day care with the current stomach bug. For instance, a child has been sent home with a stomach ache and a fever, they were also told they had to quarantine for 14 days even though Covid-19 was eliminated as the cause by a doctor. How will this be handled in schools? Are the school age kids going to be required to quarantine with their families for 14 days as well? What about allergies that have fever symptoms

or runny eyes or nose? There are many illnesses within the community that mimic the symptoms of Covid-19. How will you be able to tell the difference? How will you keep everyone safe? There are many unknowns of how this is affecting children and how they are spreading this. The health and safety of the school communities is the most important. If you can't open safely then you are not ready to open.

- Mini Santosh
 - Now that the parents are part of the teaching team and have our students with us for three days of the week, is it possible to train parents to have the skill set?
 - Will the teachers be doing live sessions, class specific through the entire 7 hours a day when they are distance learning?
 - Please have a conversation about equity in education.
- Dayna Gartland
 - What will happen if a teacher is out for any reason and there is not a substitute?
 - Will classroom teachers be provided with extra masks for kids? How many extra masks will teachers be provided? What's the procedure when and if the teacher doesn't have a mask for a student who for any number of reasons can no longer use the mask they came to school with?
- Erica Girardi
 - I am a mother of two DHS students who play football. My boys have been happier and more motivated since they started practicing with their friends and teammates in June! They were just given their fall schedule and now you are telling them that this may not happen until the Spring!! Stop the insanity and all the politics that go along with it!! This should be a parent's decision whether they want their child to play sports just like they have the option to send their child to school or distance learn from home!!! If we can let all these kids and teachers back into classrooms and hallways together in VERY close proximity, then I believe being outside on a football field with 21 other players is not going to affect anything! If we do not allow this to happen then you can be absolutely sure that it will affect their emotional and social well being!!! Just recently the football coach asked his players to put into words what football meant to them....This was my son's response..... "All football players can agree with the statement that football is way more than just a game. As much as we want to play, many of us even need to play! Football keeps us on the right track, and headed towards a bright future. It forces us to stay out of trouble and maintain good grades. I use football to relieve any stress or emotions from my day to day life, and it has turned me into the man I am today. I honestly can't imagine a fall without football. We need football!" My son has many friends that he talks about that would not even go to school or care about their grades if it wasn't for football. These are the kids that we need to be thinking about when we want to take sports away from them!!! It is so much more than just playing on the field!!!!!!!!!!
- Wendy Paulin
 - My son will be attending King Street Intermediate school. Will there actually be six foot distancing in the classrooms? If not then the kids should be solely

distance learning. Will the students be having lunch in the classrooms? I do not feel that the cafeteria will be safe with too many kids.

- Cheryl Radachowsky
 - Chris Murphy's proposed legislation to remove SRO's in our schools would put our students, teachers and staff in danger. His agenda is to defund the police rather than to keep our students safe. As a parent of two students at DHS, I would have serious concerns if this is allowed to happen.
- Amy Kalleberg (*submitted after public participation, not read during meeting*)
 - For the Monday/Tuesday cohorts, there are multiple Mondays as holidays. In these cases, will the kids be going into school on Tuesday/Wednesday instead? Or, are Wednesdays a 100% distance learning/cleaning day?

Dr. Pascarella will look at Q&A and get answers out to families. Some answers aren't known yet. It was announced on 8/12/2020 that athletics will go through with fall sports. Other questions will be addressed during tonight's meeting. Planning on sending out a letter to keep families informed as well.

ACTION ITEMS

Revised Calendar 2020-2021

MOTION: K. Conetta moved, seconded by J. DaSilva that the Board of Education approve the revised Calendar for 2020-2021 in accordance with 20-77 (pg.2)

Dr. Pascarella stated that the recent storm presented some real obstacles. The survey forms have stayed open on the website for families that were not able to submit their answers due to power outages. He has grave concerns for students, particularly primary, with the amount of hours in school with masks on. This calendar will meet the minimum hours and days of school needed.

Dr. Casimiro stated that the proposed calendar starts on 9/8/2020 with staff due back on 8/26/2020. New Teacher Orientation will be held on 8/24/2020 and 8/25/2020. Tentative last day will be 6/18/2021. Otherwise the calendar stays relatively the same. Hybrid model requires extensive planning and intricate balancing. Teachers need additional time to reach out to students who are at home who may not be connecting in school. At the elementary level, time was reduced by 60 mins versus secondary which is at 90 mins. Gives educators time to reset the room each day. The delayed start of the school year also allows district to reach out to the rest of the families who have not filled out surveys yet.

J. DaSilva stated that the dismissal times on the calendar are 90 mins for secondary which is not the same as the presentation from K. Walston several meetings ago. Dr. Casimiro stated that it would be too long of a day for students to be wearing masks. Secondary will get a grab and go lunch at the end of the school day. Pushed to the greatest extent possible.

R. Chaleski stated that the new start time nears other districts regionally and many of them are also pushing their start dates back.

Motion Passed at 6:29 pm

INFORMATION

- K. O'Dowd presented the following:
 - New guidance from the State is expected next week regarding proper masks in school. Masks with valves will not be permitted. Not effective and can spread viruses. State will be issuing guidance next week about gaiters and bandanas.
 - How to determine whether a child has allergies or Covid-19? Specific guidance has come from the State. Main symptoms the State has asked to focus on is fever, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills and loss of taste or smell. Will be asking parents to screen children at home in the morning for any symptoms.
 - Event 1- Individual has Covid-19 symptoms but has **not** had close contact to a person diagnosed with Covid-19:
 - If at home, stay home and notify school immediately.
 - If at school, individuals will remain in an isolation room until picked up. Consult a healthcare provider and get tested.
 - If the test is negative, may return to school once there are no symptoms for 24 hours.
 - If the test is positive, the individual is to remain home, notify school immediately.
 - If not tested, stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever. Can return to school earlier if obtains a note from a healthcare provider with alternate diagnosis.
 - Event 2 - Individual has Covid-19 symptoms and **has had** close contact to a person diagnosed with Covid-19:
 - If at home, stay home and notify school immediately.
 - If at school, individuals will remain in an isolation room until picked up. Consult a healthcare provider and get tested.
 - If the test is negative, stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever.
 - If the test is positive, the individual is to remain home, notify school immediately. Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever.
 - If not tested, stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever.
 - Event 3 - Individual **does not** have Covid-19 symptoms but **has had** close contact with someone diagnosed with Covid-19:

- If at home, stay home and notify school immediately.
 - If at school, individuals will remain in an isolation room until picked up. Consult a healthcare provider and get tested.
 - If the test is negative, remain home in self-quarantine for 14 days from last exposure to the person diagnosed with Covid-19.
 - If the test is positive, the individual is to remain home, notify school immediately. Stay home until 10 days have passed of the positive Covid-19 test.
 - If not tested, Remain home in self-quarantine for 14 days from the last exposure.
- Isolation = when you are experiencing symptoms or have a confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19.
 - Quarantine = when you have been exposed but you are not experiencing symptoms.
 - If a student or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, the school nurse will notify the principal and K. O'Dowd. Dr. Pascarella, K. Walston and Dr. Fong will then be notified. K. O'Dowd will then consult with K. Prunty at the Health Department. Based on criteria (the amount of community spread at that time), they will collaborate and make the decision if classrooms or the entire building needs to be closed. Communication will come from the Central Office to parents.
 - K. Molinaro asked how this whole presentation will be communicated to parents. K. O'Dowd stated that it will be posted on the website. Dr. Pascarella will also add a hyperlink of presentation in the letter to parents.
 - K. Connetta asked what will be done if there is a class with a student who is suspected of having Covid-19? Would you have to close the entire school if he was on the bus? K. O'Dowd stated yes if there was 15 minutes or more of contact with a person in less than six feet of distance. If there is an elementary class in a cohort and someone is Covid-19 positive, but a class down the hall that never had contact, you wouldn't have to close the whole school. Will need to look at if a child rode the bus versus being driven by a parent.
 - K. Connetta asked if there is a timeline for how long it would take to figure out contact tracing? K. O'Dowd stated that the decision could be made on the same day. You could make the determination in 2-3 days if there was a presumptive case. If the individual in a classroom is positive, that would be an automatic 14 days closure. If it's a suspected case, can close just for a few days until results come back.
 - If it's allergies or a stomach bug and a doctor provides a note with an alternative diagnosis (strep, ear infection) the child does not have to stay home and quarantine.
 - A. Spallino asked if this presentation will be available in Spanish and Portuguese on the website. K. O'Dowd stated that it came from the state in English but she will ask for it to be translated.
 - R. Jannelli stated that 104 fahrenheit is the Covid-19 temperature but what temperature would a parent not send their child to school? K. O'Dowd stated that the district sick day guidelines have always stated a fever of 100 or more is to stay home.

- R. Jannelli asked if there is a way to get parents to have proper preparations and emergency contacts. K. O'Dowd stated that the sick day guidelines (which will go out to parents in English, Spanish and Portuguese) informs parents that they need to keep their contact information up to date and provide alternate people to pick up their child within 30 mins if they are to get ill at school. If a child at school is identified to have Covid-19 symptoms, they will wait in an isolation room with adult supervision until they are picked up. District will emphasize the importance of
- K. Connetta stated that Danbury Public Health sends alerts out for reminders to monitor. Do we have a similar service? K. Prunty stated that they use that for their City employees and she will look into that with K. O'Dowd.
- Dr. Pascarella stated that we should send these protocols out to additional organizations in Danbury so that no one is missed. G. Cooper stated that we can do the same as K. Walston did last year with the community contacts for POG.
- K. Connetta asked if an adult will be supervising students in the isolation rooms, will that be a designated person such a nurse? K. O'Dowd stated that it will vary building to building depending on the location of the room and staffing.
- K. O'Dowd stated that part of the return to school training for staff will include a checklist of symptoms to check for every day and the procedure for notifying immediate supervisors if they are ill. In terms of testing and how long they have to stay home for will be the same as it is for students in presentation.
- Dr. Pascarella stated that substitutes have always been a challenge for us. This will be an even greater challenge. Hiring interns. May be difficult to recruit subs based on Covid-19. We will work on it.
- K. Prunty stated that even if someone tests negative for Covid-19, if they were exposed to Covid-19, they must quarantine for 14 days if asymptomatic and 10 days if symptomatic.
- K. Prunty spoke about metrics for community spread. They are receiving that information from the State and monitoring it very closely. Making sure that levels are still within the safety zone. Monitoring national level and within our own community.
- Dr. Pascarella stated that we make decisions with the data and with the professionals. Until we have an event and something happens, that is when you make these producers and they can change depending on what you discover. Lucky that K. Prunty and K. O'Dowd are so proficient, capable and communicating constantly. Comfort in knowing what they are doing will keep our kids safe.

DISCUSSION

- Danbury Public Schools Reopening Plan – Update on Facilities and Safety
 - K. Wanzer stated the deadline for the survey was due 8/9/2020 at 11:59 pm.
 - Looked at demographics and took that into consideration to create cohorts.
 - Cohort Blue will be by last names A-L. Cohort Orange will be by last names M-Z
 - Cohorts determined on Powerschool enrollment and verified with pre-registered students.

- Pre-registered students are in data and they are receiving the same information that registered students are.
- Cohorts/DL are identified in PowerSchool. Cohort Blue will be in school Monday and Tuesday (DL Wednesday, Thursday and Friday). Cohort Orange will be in school Thursday and Friday (DL Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday).
- Demographics by cohorts. Discrepancies seen in Hispanic/Latino where there is a 6% difference and well as White students with 5% difference between cohorts. If we were to swing those cohorts, it would change the amount of students drastically by the 100's.
- As of 8/10/2020 morning there were over 8,387 survey results.
- If parents recorded multiple responses for students, the district took the most recent survey response.
- As of 8/10/2020, 68% selected hybrid and 31% selected DL.
- Grades K-5 total responses were 3,822.
 - 32% for DL and 68% for hybrid.
- Grades 6-8 total responses were 2050.
 - 29% for DL, 71% for hybrid.
- Grades 9-12 total responses were 2,472.
 - 31% for DL, 69% for hybrid.
- Seeing an uptick in DL for those who are answering the survey after the original due date of 8/9/2020.
- Robocalls have been sent to families who have not completed the survey. Individual calls are being made by each school to families who have not completed the survey. Staff is helping families fill out the survey. 703 additional survey submissions since the original deadline of 8/9/2020. Of those, 246 are planning on DL which equals 35%.
- Next week, individualized letters will be sent to families. Letters will identify each individual student, school, program chosen, cohort and any other additional information on attending school if the student is receiving ELL or SPED services.
- Of students that are planning hybrid, 67% plan on using bus transportation. Some elect not to use it and some are within walking distance.
- K. Truchsess stated that students with special needs will be informed along with others on which cohort they will be in. There is a group of high need SPED students that will be given the opportunity to enroll their child in both cohorts. These are students with significant disabilities, primarily in the self contained population.
- Regarding 504s and IEPs, the State just released those guidelines. Team will meet on 8/13/2020 to work through it. Will make sure students receive services regardless of what model they selected. Priority is to make sure all needs are met and students continue to make progress in individual programs.
- Dr. Pascarella stated that we have about 10% more than other districts in DL choosers.
- Secondary coverage will be difficult due to certification.
- R. Jannelli asked with media publicity to the opening of schools and statistics of children having the virus, do we anticipate changes from survey of hybrid to change mind to DL? K. Wanzer stated that it's a challenging time for parents to

discern information from media and other sources. Everyone is trying their best to make the best informed decision for their families. Unique to family circumstance and perspective to data in public. For most part, changes have been to DL.

- R. Chaleski stated that originally cohorts were to be divided by neighborhoods with research. Will siblings with different last names be taken into consideration for cohorts. K. Wanzer stated that in the letter being sent out by Dr. Pascarella, that will be addressed. There will be an opportunity for family circumstances to be addressed. Will be done at building level.
- K. Molinaro asked if teachers are expected to teach in class and the DL at the same time? And how are we preparing teachers to teach that way? Dr. Casimiro stated that it was challenging for everyone. At the 6-12 level, students will be assigned to their teachers as they normally would. Teachers will live stream lessons in class and at home at the same time. Will be utilizing blended learning. Mixture of in-person and at home learning. Can produce asynchronous material for students to use at any time. Can also produce videos and teach along live with students online and in class. Students in the classroom and at home both experience lessons similarly in the same time and space. There are ways to have collaborative activities at home and in the classroom together. Students at home can even collaborate with students in school. Series of modules will be used with teachers particularly useful for blended learning and social distancing as well. Super user teachers will take the lead and develop some videos to help model how best to do this and give strategies and examples for teachers to have access during the training period. At K-5 level a little bit harder to navigate, particularly with K-3. Separate DL teachers for those students. Will determine the need for staffing for the number of students who selected DL. Students may not be associated with a particular school who selected DL. If 40 second graders need DL, the teachers will be selected and students will be pulled throughout the district. May need to be some rebalancing across grade levels.
- Dr. Casimiro stated that we will be able to provide the core program for DL kids in K-5. There is no way you can replicate everything that happens in a typical school day in DL, given the staffing challenges, to make this happen. Will do best to provide as many services as possible and typical programming. If the district were to convert to full DL for everybody, staff will be more accessible.
- K. Conetta asked if there is there a limit to the size of DL classes? Dr. Casimiro stated that we have to look at configurations. Looking at 15 to 20 students. Have to be prepared if a student shifts from DL or Hybrid. Students who go from DL to hybrid will go back to home schools to the best of the district's ability. Expecting to experience some challenges to problem solve.
- A. Spallino asked what happens at secondary level if you can't find a teacher to teach a certain certified class (chemistry teachers can't teach biology). Dr. Pascarella stated that courses are specific to certification. K-6 certification can teach all grades at that level. Can not do that in secondary. May have to drop a course if needed. This is a bigger challenge. K. Wanzer stated that we still have about 2,700 outstanding surveys. Assuming those are hybrid, that can swing the numbers.

- A. Spallino asked what number of teachers are interested in DL or Hybrid? Dr. Pascarella stated that it is complicated and working through that with HR. Around 50 have requested to stay home for various reasons so far. First you have to accommodate those who have asked for various health reasons. Beyond that, there is a procedure that HR will work on to make those assignments. Will be difficult for everyone.
- K. Truchsess stated that 48 certified staff and 25 non-certified staff have asked for those accommodations.
- K. Truchsess stated that her team is working through figuring out the number of students who selected DL. Will try as best across the SPED Department to assign to be DL teachers only. Certification for most SPED teachers are K-12 in CT, preschool is separate. A few who only have K-3 only. Also have to take into consideration the special population. There are certainly more staff experienced with working with certain types and populations than others. Want to make sure to utilize the expertise of those individuals to provide services to students. Will try to make a DL for certain populations, may need to do a blend. Highly dependent on numbers but will mean some shuffling of staff along the SPED Department.
- K. Truchsess stated that the new preschool is located on Granville. It may not be open in time. The builder is working as hard as can to get things moving. Delaying the start to the school year will be helpful. Preschool starts on 9/15/2020. Builder is working seven days a week. Shooting for Mid September but will open in October at the very latest.
- A. Mead stated that her department has put together a Family School Agreement that talks about things the district is doing ahead of time and what we expect families to do. Having children practice wearing their mask during the day and spend time talking about washing hands during the day. Family School Agreement will have the presentation from K. O'Dowd and will be emailed to families with expectation that they sign it and send it back. That will be our notification that they understand the policy. Upping the ante with family parent partnership as well as district expectations in DL and monitoring student school work. Signs with the new start date will go out to the community.
- A. Mead stated that she is working with the Data Department to see what days students are enrolling in school. Will be able to slot pre-registered children for ELP at their own school, using the same cohort model to the best of their ability. On the three off days from school, it will be difficult. Working with outside agencies and two potential locations in Danbury to be able to run full day programs. Will work with HR to staff ELP and the community to staff those full day programs with social distancing and enough internet access so students can do their work.
- R. Chaleski asked if the district can support parents in partnership with DL. Dr. Casimiro stated that the greatest gift to give parents is good communication on what we are doing. Continued use of Google Classroom but with expectations for more organization and methodology for communicating through that platform. Tools are being created to support parents and will be shared. Similar tools are still being used like IXL and ABC Learning so students will be familiar. There are

also tutorials on the district website in multiple languages. Great success with weekly letters in the Spring, would like to continue doing that.

- K. Walston stated that A. Mead has been working to put together a Google Academy to help families navigate Google platforms.
- Dr. Pascarella stated that he has been trying to work with local groups to create daycare for students. A. Mead has reached out to groups to get affordable daycare.
- Dr. Pascarella stated that he hopes to have a full number by 8/14/2020 of students in DL and Hybrid so that he can send out information to families on 8/19/2020.
- G. Cooper asked Dr. Pascarella how to address parents who ask why the district doesn't just stay in DL? Dr. Pascarella stated that right now, we are following the law and manage to do this with a hybrid model. If we get a call from K. Prunty or K. O'Dowd that there is community spread, we will do the right thing and move to DL. It is safer for students to come back slowly. Our major challenge has been space, not community spread.
- We will have to eventually start to think about how to transition back to full time.
- R. Jannelli asked what the policy is for closing schools. Dr. Pascarella stated that the Health Department would determine that. Opening full time would have to work through the Board. If the Health Department said to close down due to community spread, they would have to.
- R. Jannelli asked K. Walston if we could use the same groups that were used in POG to get information out to the public and to also use the City Wide PTO? What are we doing for minority communities to make sure they get all information in appropriate language versus just telling them to go to the website.
- K. Walston stated that he held parent forums with the community to get feedback on reopening plans. Also had additional parent forums in different languages to get feedback. As part of coming back to school, he will use a similar approach to engage those individual communities to make sure we get to every corner of the community. Will partner with A. Mead to get information out to the community.
- R. Jannelli suggested reaching out to former Board member E. Palmares who works with the Tribuna newspaper as another source of information. A. Mead stated that we have been able to run articles in the Tribuna for the last three months. Will send updated information for the September issue as well.
- J. DaSilva asked how many people are we talking about serving in daycare programs? We may be defeating the purpose of why they are not in school with social distancing. Dr. Pascarella stated that some companies have provided a model that they have run successfully. It would be a program with a small number of students. Limited, if we can do it at all.
- Senator Murphy's proposed legislation, "Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act".
 - Dr. Pascarella stated that our School Resource Officers are not in schools to arrest students. They are there to help us. A group of superintendents did meet with Senator Murphy's staff to express their concern that this is not a great path to go. Unfortunately, it is still in his plan to defund. Dr. Pascarella has drafted a letter that the police chief will sign off on and send it to Senator Murphy.
 - G. Cooper asked if this could be further discussed at the first meeting in September once information is received from CUBE with a resolution for support.

- Dr. Pascarella will bring more information from CAGE once it is provided. If we can get CAGE to support it, they can distribute throughout Connecticut for Boards to decide if they want to support the resolution.
- R. Jannelli asked if there is an urgency to pursue this when we have so much at hand? Not imminent in the next month. Dr. Pascarella stated that is up to the Board. The Board also has the opportunity to write to Senator Murphy as a Board member. SROs are so important to us and the City has been helpful in keeping them in our schools.
- A. Russo strongly disagrees with Senator Murphy to defund SROs. They mentor, counsel, and teach our students. Sometimes they act as surrogate parents. Most of all, they put themselves in harm's way for our children. Finds the bill offensive and asks for a resolution. Asks every resident, student, teacher and parent to contact Senator Murphy and tell him you disagree with this legislation. If we do not act and this slips by into a law, then it will be too late and our children will lose.
- G. Cooper requested a Board Meeting to be held on 8/26/2020.

ADJOURNMENT

J. DaSilva moved, seconded by R. Jannelli, that the Board of Education adjourn its Meeting of August 12, 2020 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)