



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Mrs. Yesenia Rivera, President. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: Mrs. Y. Rivera, President; Mr. M. Wilcox, Vice-President; Dr. E. Joyner, Secretary; Mr. D. Goldson, Dr. T. Jackson- McArthur, Mr. L. Conaway, Mayor J. Elicker, Mr. A. Fiore

Absent: Ms. L. Arouna,

Mr. Conaway led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**587-20
Approval of Board
Minutes, 8/10/2020**

On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was voted by roll call to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of August 10, 2020. Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Ms. Arouna, yes; Mr. Fiore, yes

Dr. Joyner expressed his condolences to the James Sorrentino Family. He remarked that James Sorrentino was a captain in the NHPD and his daughter was a teacher in our system. He was on a lot of boards and he did a lot of work in the community. Mrs. Rivera expressed condolences on behalf of the Board.

Public Participation

Name * Jeff Ostergren

Email * jeffostergren@gmail.com

Comments *

To the Board:

I thank you for all of your service and your thoughtful efforts over the past months. It was with great concern and disappointment that the recent vote to delay the in-person start of school was received, for the following reasons:

- 1) Current rates are low in New Haven, thus this is the time to start school in person, pending presumptive shut-downs during the winter flu season
- 2) There are a great number of students that will be left behind in this situation - at least starting the year in person could be a great help to set a solid year in motion
- 3) The District has has all summer to plan, and from I can see, has made reasonable accommodations for the COVID situation

Finally, to you point that there are not the financial resources necessary - it is YOUR job to make them happen. You have a whole city of constituents here. Mobilize us. We are ready to fight. If you need \$5 million to reopen safely, let's get that money. From the city, from the state, from the federal government. It isn't that simple, but it is. This is a time of crisis and it is time to act like it.

I urge you to reconsider your decision and take advantage of the current situation and facilities in New Haven and Connecticut to reopen schools in person on September 3, as originally planned. Thank you for your service.

Jeff Ostergren, New Haven

Name * Ryan Boroski

Email * ryan.boroski@new-haven.k12.ct.us



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Comments * I am hoping that the board of education will stick with their decision to start the school year via distance learning. I am not confident that safety procedures and protocols will be followed.
Exposing students and adults to this virus can be deadly. I want to be back in class with my students, but only if we are all safe. How will schools prepare in the event of a student death or teacher death? We would need resources to counsel students and adults for something so traumatic. I plan on teaching in New Haven for a long time, but I cannot do this if I die or become seriously ill.

Ryan Boroski

Email * rboro2@unh.newhaven.edu

Comments * One of the points that seems to be forgotten is students and their families may be returning from a vacation from out of state, possibly from a hotspot. Do these students' parents need to inform the schools and have their students quarantine? What if the family refuses? What if they refuse to quarantine? There could be hundreds of students returning from a hotspot and spreading Covid because they are asymptomatic.

Name * Karen Robinson

Email * karenb519@hotmail.com

Comments *

Dear BOE members, I thank you for all of the time you have dedicated to this impossible situation. I especially thank those of you who are considering teachers' lives to be invaluable, not just a means to an end. We are not expendable. We are not babysitters. We are not martyrs. I find it sickening and appalling that Dr. Tracey, and anyone aligned with her position, would allow those who do not work in the classroom (or a school building, for that matter) to sway her decisions. Yes, ideally, we would be in our classrooms. But, realistically, IT IS NOT SAFE. Had teachers and staff been a priority in the past, perhaps we would have more trust in those above us whose responsibility it is to keep us safe. In the beginning, it appeared that Dr. Tracey was on our side... That she cared about us. But, in time, it would now appear that she cares much more about public opinion and pleasing parents. It's a shame. I am a teacher. I would put my life on the line to protect my students if it were necessary. But, this is unnecessary. Have you ever worked with children? Have you ever worked with teenagers? Cell phones are supposed to be banned in schools. Hoodies are supposed to be banned in schools. Those rules can not be enforced! How do you expect new guidelines to be enforced, especially in the long run? To open schools again, just to close them again when an inevitable surge happens will just put us back at square one and could be just as detrimental, if not more, to the social and emotional aspect. This is ludicrous. We tell our students to be leaders, not followers! Perhaps, anyone who feels teachers' lives are expendable should be forced to sit in our classrooms when we return so they can (re)learn these lessons. What a shame.

Name * Rhonda Roumani

Email * rhondaroumani@yahoo.com

Comments *

My name is Rhonda Roumani and I am a parent at Worthington Hooker School. I was the past PTA president, but I am speaking as a parent here and in no way represent the PTA, which does not take a position on this issue. I want to thank the Board of Education and Dr. Tracy for considering the safety of our educators and our students in their last board of ed decision to hold classes online for 10 weeks. I know the decision is a difficult one. And I definitely want our students and teachers back in school as soon as it is safe to get them back. My husband is an ER doctor in New Haven and I believe we owe it to our first responders, our teachers and our students to open up safely. And I hope last week's vote will put the onus on our governor and state to properly fund our schools so that we can open up safely. We have good numbers in CT. But students have not yet returned to New Haven. We are not in the clear yet. We need more testing, smaller classes and more safeguards for school nurses and teachers so that they can go back to work knowing that they are not in danger. We are not there yet. But your decision to slow down last week showed real leadership. Thank you for taking the time to slow down and really come up with a viable plan that will protect our teachers, nurses and students. Thank you



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

Name * Peg Oliveira

Email * peg.oliveira@yale.edu

Comments *

Name * Anne Rhodes

Email * anne@annerhodes.net

Comments *

Dear New Haven Board of Education Members,

I am writing in support of the BOE's recent decision to begin the school year fully remote. I am a parent of a 1st-grader at Quinnipiac STEM, and my spouse teaches at ECA. My support of this measure is largely based on my belief that we need to trust and support NHPS educators, who are overwhelmingly calling for fully-remote learning. I know that teachers would like nothing more than to be back in the classroom with their students, but they know first-hand the limitations posed by the resources and facilities in our schools.

Much has been made about "parent choice" in support of the hybrid model. I am dismayed at the degree to which this disregards our educators' right to make choices for themselves and their own families. There has also been heated disagreement that has unfortunately taken on a tone of "parents vs. teachers." This is a false dichotomy. Many teachers and school staff are parents themselves, and the hybrid model threatens to effectively rob them of their own choice as parents. A teacher who must be present in the classroom is likely to be forced to then send their own child or children to school as well. For each child, this adds an additional involuntary point of contact for that teacher's family. These families will face an extraordinary challenge under the distance-learning model, in that they will simultaneously need to teach their own classes and facilitate their own children's schooling. It is telling that most teachers would rather face that challenge than run the health risks, or submit families to the health risks, of teaching in person.

One concern that has also been raised is children's' social-emotional wellbeing, and the opportunities for interaction with other children that will be missed if in-person learning is not available. But the rigidity of social-distancing (in as much as it will even be enforceable) does not stand to allow an emotionally nurturing environment for our children. Unlike in the Spring, children are now freer to have social interactions outside of school, particularly outdoors. The relative feasibility of playgroups, outdoor programs, and small childcare settings will set our children's experience in the Fall apart from the extreme isolation of the Spring.

Many families, including mine, were not happy with the distance-learning provided in the Spring. However, I believe it is unfair to make judgements and decisions based on that particular situation, in which everyone was blind-sighted by the need for remote learning. This Fall, teachers will have had training and time to plan online curricula, and families will also be better-oriented.

I understand that online learning has the potential to exacerbate the already stark socioeconomic disparities in our city in terms of technology, access to childcare, special education, and other important factors. However, I believe healthcare disparities are far more dire. In-person learning disproportionately poses a life-and-death risk to the most vulnerable members of our communities, made even worse by the lack of sufficient ventilation and space. It is also concerning that most of the community conversation focuses solely on death rates. It should go without saying that just a few deaths are too many. But we also need to consider the as-yet unknown potential for ongoing health issues caused by COVID-19. Some patients who are considered to have recovered have been left with chronic health problems, and many have been repeatedly hospitalized. At this point, we don't even know whether asymptomatic children might suffer health problems in the future.

I do not suggest that we wait to open schools until the virus is completely eradicated, but only that for the time being we continue the conservative approach that has resulted in blessedly low infection rates for New Haven. More time before in-person learning begins would help schools to better plan and prepare, increase the chances that better treatments for COVID-19 are available before we do start, and help us gage the potential upticks in infection that might be caused by colder weather and the return of more than half of the Yale student population.

Many thanks to the board for your thoughtful consideration under these extremely difficult circumstances, and for your willingness to hear the perspectives of stakeholders.

Sincerely,
Anne Rhodes

Name * Polite Wilson

Email * politewilson@gmail.com

Comments *



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

Hello,

I am a teacher and a person with a lot of family members with different conditions. I know the decision to reopen or not to reopen is not up to me. I just had some questions that are stuck in my mind as we think about the near future for schools. I know the rate of infection in CT is below 2% at the moment. I'm curious how many of those tested are students and families of NHPS and the surrounding schools. The infection rate may be low but can be skewed if we don't account for who is not being tested. How many students and families are asymptomatic? Did we really give Distance Learning the best shot? I believe there are ways to help families and students become more engaged. It may take workshops for all to participate in. Or maybe meetings by appointment with schools and teachers. I think we should strengthen the Distance Learning program to prepare for the worst if the second wave hits. With rising cases nearby (in RI) we cannot be sure if we will be able to come back for the full year. If we do return to school I think we should figure out how to keep students safe on buses. We should also figure out how to compensate teachers that are sick without Covid, but are forced to remain home for issues like the common cold. I'm concerned about the consistency for children also. Just wanted to offer thoughts that may help in decision making.

Name * Katie Darr

Email * katherine.darr@gmail.com

Comments *

My husband and I implore you to please choose to allow schools to reopen as a hybrid model. We both work remotely full time, and we have three young children in New Haven Public Schools. I have absolutely no idea what we will do if we can't at least send our children to school part-time. Let parents who can afford to do so opt-out and keep their kids at home--but in the absence of money from the state to help us pay for childcare, we must let kids go back to school. Now is the time--CT has worked HARD to get our infection rate so low, and there's never been a better chance to let at least a portion of children return to school (especially our PreK4 twins and first-grader, who really need foundational learning that happens in these early years). If left to distance, there's no way we can support the remote learning process while doing our own jobs. Please, please, please let schools open hybrid. I urge you--don't let the loudest, wealthiest, most well-connected voices be the ones heard. We can't afford to lose the beginning of the school year when our numbers are so low!

Name * Andre Delgado

Email * aldelgado1978@gmail.com

Comments * I feel that there was political influence at play in the decision to amend the Board's initial decision...first, the unnecessary meeting with the state, when the decision was always in the hands of the district. Next, the Mayor posting a Facebook video in his official capacity pushing for hybrid. This is a blatant disregard of the democratic process of the Board. I think the Board should have stuck to their initial decision, and utilized state resources to ensure all schools are ready within the 10 week period.

Name * Jennifer Drury

Email * jennifer.drury@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments * Greetings. It has been observed that COVID is present in sewage. I was wondering if the city monitors the sewage for signs of COVID. If so, what has the city noticed? If not, is this possible?

If the sewage is monitored, can the sewage of each school be monitored the first month or so to give us baseline data? This would give us very concrete information as to the rate of the virus and a clear indicator if the virus is present in our community and we can take appropriate action.

Thank you, Drury

Name * Diane DiGioia

Email * diane.digioia@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments *



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

Dear New Haven Board of Education Members,

First off, thank you for keeping the safety of all of New Haven's children, their families, staff and our families, at the forefront of your decision making during this unprecedented time. As a 37 year veteran teacher in this great city, 3 days before school is scheduled to open, things have never been so unsettling. I hope you will stand strong in your commitment to protect all of New Haven's people.

We need UNIVERSAL safety protocols and procedures for all schools which I don't believe we currently have. If other districts can provide these, why can't we. It should NOT, in my opinion, be left up to individual schools to determine which basic safety protocols and procedures will be implemented. Busing protocols, PPE protocols, mandates for all to wear masks including prek since they board the busses with other grades and are often silent carriers, entrance and dismissal procedures, cleaning and sanitation protocols and approved products, 6 foot distancing requirements within classrooms, use of plexiglass, etc. the list could go on and on. If these universal protocols and procedures are not put into place in EACH and EVERY building in our city then we are only furthering the divide between the "haves" and the "have nots". How can it be justified that a particular school or schools within our district with greater resources provide appropriate safety protocols and procedures when another, without the same resources, can not??? As a current preschool special education teacher who has worked with students of all ages in this district, 3-21 over the years, I fear for each and every age group, their families, teachers, staff, and all of our families.

We need UNIVERSAL protocols and procedures and we do not have them. According to recent research it is suspected that young children ARE often the silent carriers. I implore you to please STAND FIRM in your decision to go remote until the district can get it's act together and assure ALL that ALL will have access to and will follow the same protocols and procedures based on the most current SCIENTIFIC based recommendations and evidence. I Thank you all for your dedication to the children, families and staff of this city.

Diane DiGioia
ECAT Preschool Special Education Teacher

Name * Kathleen ODonnell-Moss

Email * ceilidancer5@yahoo.com

Comments *

Dear Board of Education Members,

We are now two days away from the start of the new school year and in my 35 years of teaching in the district I have never felt less prepared. The information on what the hybrid plan will actually physically look like is causing a tremendous amount of anxiety for myself and my colleagues. While I appreciate the support of the BOE members who voted to allow us to begin the year remotely I fear that the initial vote will be revoked and we will soon be instructing our children in person. I do not believe that this can be done safely despite the good intentions of the SDE, the NHBOE, Dr. Tracee and the administrators. There are too many variables and unknowns. I anticipate that the number of students who are reportedly returning will be more than reported on the surveys; the classroom space in many of our buildings is not sufficient to safely social distance in all areas; the staff needed to supervise students in smaller groups is insufficient at best and I anticipate that a vote for in-person learning will force many of our veteran teachers to retire, apply for leave or quit the profession (we can't get substitutes on our best days and NO ONE is going to apply now); the ventilation in our buildings is inconsistent and the "climate control" is not accurate (I have been in buildings where on the coldest days the windows must be left open as the classrooms were above 80 degrees and others where it was so cold I had my students wear their jackets); the ordered supplies are typically backordered or in short supply and I anticipate we will quickly be back to purchasing supplies out of pocket (if we can even find them) just to keep ourselves and our students safe; having done bus duty for years there is no way the drivers will be able to monitor the children in terms of remaining in assigned seats nor should they have to and students will inevitably arrive to school ill as they do every year and there is no set temperature checks or covid testing protocol for staff or students.

As a preschool special educator there is literally NO WAY to socially distance the population I service. The nature of toddlers with disabilities literally requires HANDS ON to keep them safe. I consider myself more than adept at my job and there is not a chance I can safely supervise, instruct and prevent covid spread in a classroom full of special needs students. The board members were presented at an earlier date with a petition signed by district preschool educators outlining the many nuanced needs of this population and requesting half day cohorts which includes our many concerns.

My list of what ifs is endless at this point and unless and until I know what I am walking into I do not wish to risk the health of my students, myself or my family. I urge you to stick to your guns and roll out this school year remotely and allow the staff to physically get in to the buildings to assist with the logistics of a gradual in person instructional model that works in their respective classrooms and schools. Having served on my town Board of Education for many years I understand the pressure you are under from all sides and I thank you for your time and service.

Kathy O'Donnell-Moss, Special Education Preschool Teacher, ECAT



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

Name * Melissa Davis

Email * melissa.davis@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments *

To the members of the BOE,
I am a preschool paraprofessional and I have never felt so unprepared for an up coming school year as I do right now. I usually by now have a class list, have our sign in and sign out sheets done, but I don't even know how arrival and dismissal is even working yet or have a class list. Will we be responsible for in person and remote learning? How? My students are 2.9 months to 5 years old. How will I keep them engaged and following protocol while teaching online too? Not to mention, if I use a students name to remind them to follow a direction, is that allowed?!? Not ONCE has early childhood reached out!!! We just got NAEYC accredited last year, are there protocols they want us to follow? For remote teaching will we be using, bloomz like we did in March? I was very active in helping in my classroom teacher but had to use my cell phone to do so. Will I be provided with a device? Will preschoolers be required to wear masks since i know i will be helping tying shoes, helping with toileting, helping at breakfast and lunch times, trying to console a child on their first day will not be able to be done from 6 feet apart!!!! Speaking of lunch times, we have a fridge in our classroom, can students still store their items in the fridge or will they need to have ice packs in their lunch boxes?

So many unanswered questions that I NEED answers to before I feel comfortable and confident to start the year of safely. I know I am forgetting a ton of them! I have not slept because all I do is think of all the unknowns. Will I be held accountable if someone in my room contacts covid-19. Will I be paid if I have to quarantine because I was exposed at work? My role is vital in my classroom and I very much want to be at work, but after I have all the answers to my questions. After I know we will be provided with the cleaning products we need. Last year I purchased a lot of things for my room, cleaning products, soap, paper towels, printer paper, copier paper, construction paper and Tissues. Basic daily things that were not always provided to us. So I don't have much confidence that we will be supplied with what we need.

The time from March until now could have been used to pass out more devices to students, trained teachers, paras, students and parents how to work remotely and effectively.

Please stand your ground and start off the year remotely! My three children who attend new Haven schools will be starting remotely no matter what the decision. I just don't think we as a district are ready and there are too many unanswered questions to be in school yet!

Thank you for your time! Melissa

Name * Elizabeth Hart

Email * beth.hart@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments *

Dear Board Members and Dr. Tracey,
I have carefully read the detailed plan for our return to teaching and learning, and appreciate the great amount of thought and work involved. One of the main tenets of a safe return involves creating cohorts to minimize the opportunities for infection and to maximize social distancing. This is, of course, most wise. I am the Library Media Specialist at Worthington Hooker School with 22 years service. Even though the libraries in my two buildings have been repurposed to accommodate cohorts, I will continue my lessons nonetheless. I have never served to provide a prep period for teachers, because at my school we embrace a collaborative model, according to best practices. However, this year, specialists will be "pushing in" to cohorts to deliver instruction and to provide preparation periods for classroom teachers. This means I will be exposed to all the students in two buildings, and they to me. This obviously defeats the purpose of having cohorts and increases my risk greatly. I am 63 years old. I truly believe I can more effective teaching virtually, being able to interact with students, show them the book I am reading with my document camera, having them read along. I embraced distance teaching in the spring and received many compliments from my administrator and from parents. I respectfully request that you consider the safety of specialists in our return to school plans. I believe the current plan falls short and will not keep me, my specialist colleagues, and our most precious students as safe as we deserve to be. Thank you for your consideration.

Name * Mila Venek

Email * milavenek2021@gmail.com

Comments * Please please board reopen schools as soon as possible! Families in New Haven who don't have a lot of money deserve the same



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

chances at learning as the rest of CT and families that are going to private school in New Haven. Please do the right thing and let our kids go to school.

Name * Jessa Simpson

Email * jessasimpson@zohomail.com

Comments *

In this study published a week ago, they investigated what happened when 1 million students went back to school in the UK in June (in areas with often higher rates of covid than CT but sometimes comparable rates):https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/911267/School_Outbreaks_Analysis.pdf Overwhelmingly the study shows that, out of the 1 million students going back, 70 children and 128 staff were infected. The by far highest infection ratio was between adults, i.e. from one staff member to another. To a much lesser degree, there were some infections from adults to children. Very few between children, and almost none from children to adults. You can read the results for yourself, no need to take my word for it. This is what the scientific assessments show repeatedly, again and again, the same patterns. I know you have not so far been terribly invested in the scientific evidence around covid in terms of weighing that into your reopening decisions, but please do try not to sideline the scientific data available. Reopening is, to the vulnerable families of New Haven, a far less risky choice than to keep schools closed.

Name * Nicholas Ryan

Email * nicholasrya@gmail.com

Comments *

I write to urge the Board of Education to rescind its decision of August 5th in favor of a reopening plan that includes the option of in-person learning full-time beginning on September 3rd.

As the state's experts presented on August 18th, the public health conditions in CT with respect to Covid-19 are currently very favorable to full in-person reopening. The State is willing to assist with PPE purchases, with assessment of building conditions and with ongoing monitoring of public health conditions. New Haven is standing alone on keeping its schools fully closed.

At the same time, New Haven's performance with remote-only learning in the spring was abysmal. The 30% rate of student participation in the spring is unacceptable. At this rate, 14,000 children in New Haven were not fully participating in remote learning. The problem is not only a lack of devices but that remote learning is inappropriate for young children, English learners and students with disabilities. The full educational cost of remote learning will not be clear for years. However, it is clear now that remote learning is especially harmful for students who are already disadvantaged.

Please reopen schools for in-person learning starting September 3rd.

Name * Rosa Perez

Email * rosaperez33@gmail.com

Comments * will you let kids go to school please? i dont now what to do if you dont so i beg you to do it,

Name * Alexa B

Email * alexabarnstorm@yahoo.com

Comments * I really really hope you will reopen the schools in September for the youngest kiddos! K-5 would make most sense and has the least risk. They need to be in school so please don't let politics get in the way. We might get shouted down in public meetings because we're not good at the political organizing but we still need to get kids and staff back to school no matter what the memes say. The state promised to pay for PPE and also shared a lot of other information that hopefully you took note of. We have so little time left, please let us get back to



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

planning for reopening in September. Thank you!

Name * Kay Lin

Email * kayw4@gmx.com

Comments *

As New Haven public school parents, we appreciate the hard work you are doing and the attention from the state Department of Education to New Haven’s plans for the upcoming school year. We commend the BOE for asking for more resources from the state and for continuing to work with Secretary Cardona and his staff. We were glad and relieved to learn from Mayor Elicker’s public letter this week that the district will have an opt-out process for teachers who are high risk to opt out of in-person teaching. We thank all of you, and all of the NHPS teachers and staff.

We came away from this week’s meeting hopeful about a reopening in September, following some version of a hybrid model.

Here is what we learned from the meeting, which deepened our concern about 10 weeks (at a minimum) of remote-only school:

Only 30% of NHPS students participated in remote learning last spring.

60% of students have a barrier that prevented full participation.

The district has no remote-learning plan to support the thousands of students with IEPs (15% of the student body). As Special Education head Typhanie Jackson said, many children are nonverbal or have other significant cognitive needs that require robust face-to-face instruction.

The district has no remote-learning plan to support the thousands of students who are English language learners (17% of the student body). Dr. Tracey said, “Special education students and English learners ... are impossible to teach remotely in some cases.”

The district has ordered laptops and tablets for students in early grades, but does not know whether they will be here in time for the start of school.

We also learned several things that made us more confident that you have succeeded in getting the help from the state that NHPS needs:

The state promised to pay for masks for teachers, students, and staff. “Facial coverings will be funded. We can take that off the table,” Secretary Cardona said.

The state will cover 100% of the cost for PPE and cleaning supplies. (NHPS can only get these resources if it holds in-person classes.)

The state construction office has inspected New Haven schools, found that the schools have better than standard air filtration systems, and expressed confidence in school readiness.

Connecticut’s rate of coronavirus infections is 2 per 100,000, which is on par or lower as European countries that have successfully reopened schools. Schools that have successfully reopened have succeeded by keeping students in small groups, or pods, of 10 to 15. That is crucial for preventing the spread of the virus and for social distancing. Because New Haven expects only about half of students to return, and they will not all attend every day, Secretary Cardona said there would be adequate room in classrooms and school buildings for social distancing.

We ask you to vote to reopen the schools, following a hybrid model that allows for social distanced, in-person learning, in small and safe groups, and in well-ventilated classrooms and buildings. We suggest starting with elementary school, and other groups of students for whom remote learning is particularly difficult, to reopen incrementally. If certain buildings that are not well-ventilated should not reopen, we understand that consideration. We also wonder if it’s possible to use tents and outdoor spaces, as Gustavo Requeno Santos suggested in a recent piece for the New Haven Independent. We know there is concern about buses, and we hope they can be reserved for the families that most need them.

According to the district’s new survey results this week, 7,200 families want their children to learn in person some days of the week. Please respond to their needs as Dr. Tracey has advocated and trust in her experience and leadership. It is essential that we spare students the serious costs of a fully remote start to the school year, especially since Connecticut’s public health experts have determined that offering our students safe in-person learning is possible.

Name * Ime Barrakh

Email * imanibarrakh93@gmail.com

Comments *



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

Were so tired of fighting for this please just reopen the schools so people can live, I don't think you know how badly well do if you don't reopen. my kids cant get tuters or pods and how can we keep our jobs! you think covid is riskier right now in CT than keeping schools closed then you live in a dreamworld for people with money. if schools don't reopen then my kids will be in four different groups every week while we work. that's so much worse then school for risk! lots and lots of people are in our situation. if they open 4 days then we can maybe keep them home the rest and stay safe. i'm not ashamed to say we are desperate.

Name * Lanessa Berry

Email * lanessaberry07012013@outlook.com

Comments * Dear Board, please rescind your motion from Aug 5. Please let children go back to school as soon as possible. Respectfully, a New Haven parent.

Name * Keith Lamar

Email * Klindenn@Hotmail.com

Comments * hoping you will change your mind. we cant watch the zoom at our house but my son needs school badly. their is a right choice and that is to let him go back there.

Name * Josh Howard

Email * joshhoward@gmx.com

Comments *

As New Haven public school parents, we appreciate the hard work you are doing and the attention from the state Department of Education to New Haven's plans for the upcoming school year. We commend the BOE for asking for more resources from the state and for continuing to work with Secretary Cardona and his staff. We were glad and relieved to learn from Mayor Elicker's public letter this week that the district will have an opt-out process for teachers who are high risk to opt out of in-person teaching. We thank all of you, and all of the NHPS teachers and staff.

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60% of students have a barrier that prevented full participation.

The district has no remote-learning plan to support the thousands of students with IEPs (15% of the student body). As Special Education head Typhanie Jackson said, many children are nonverbal or have other significant cognitive needs that require robust face-to-face instruction.

The district has no remote-learning plan to support the thousands of students who are English language learners (17% of the student body). Dr. Tracey said, "Special education students and English learners ... are impossible to teach remotely in some cases."

The district has ordered laptops and tablets for students in early grades, but does not know whether they will be here in time for the start of school.

We also learned several things that made us more confident that you have succeeded in getting the help from the state that NHPS needs:

The state promised to pay for masks for teachers, students, and staff. "Facial coverings will be funded. We can take that off the table," Secretary Cardona said.

The state will cover 100% of the cost for PPE and cleaning supplies. (NHPS can only get these resources if it holds in-person classes.)

The state construction office has inspected New Haven schools, found that the schools have better than standard air filtration systems, and expressed confidence in school readiness.

Connecticut's rate of coronavirus infections is 2 per 100,000, which is on par or lower as European countries that have successfully reopened schools.

Schools that have successfully reopened have succeeded by keeping students in small groups, or pods, of 10 to 15. That is crucial for preventing the spread of the virus and for social distancing. Because New Haven expects only about half of students to return, and they will not all attend every day, Secretary Cardona said there would be adequate room in classrooms and school buildings for social distancing.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

We ask you to vote to reopen the schools, following a hybrid model that allows for social distanced, in-person learning, in small and safe groups, and in well-ventilated classrooms and buildings. We suggest starting with elementary school, and other groups of students for whom remote learning is particularly difficult, to reopen incrementally. If certain buildings that are not well-ventilated should not reopen, we understand that consideration. We also wonder if it's possible to use tents and outdoor spaces, as Gustavo Requeno Santos suggested in a recent piece for the New Haven Independent. We know there is concern about buses, and we hope they can be reserved for the families that most need them.

According to the district's new survey results this week, 7,200 families want their children to learn in person some days of the week. Please respond to their needs as Dr. Tracey has advocated and trust in her experience and leadership. It is essential that we spare students the serious costs of a fully remote start to the school year, especially since Connecticut's public health experts have determined that offering our students safe in-person learning is possible.

Name * Paula Zimbrea

Email * Paula.zimbrea@yale.edu

Comments *

Dear New Haven Board of Education,

Please allow in-person schooling to begin on September 3rd in New Haven. Covid-19 infection numbers are low, the buildings have been inspected and ventilation found to be up to current standards, PPE is available for teachers and students, parents and students are aware and willing to use masks and cohort to reduce the viral spread. Not allowing in person schooling will hurt the children for long term in particular those with disabilities and those who struggle with computer literacy. Camps and daycares have been running in New Haven all summer without Covid 19 outbreaks.

There is no reason at this time to withhold education for our children. Please do not delay their life further.

Paula Zimbrea, MD

Name * Danielle La Pan

Email * danielle.lapan@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments *

Dear BOE,

I truly hope that when you vote again about how New Haven should begin the school year that you vote for us to begin remote for the first ten weeks and that you re-evaluate again a few weeks before that timeline is reached. As a teacher, this has been an extremely stressful summer, and I have never felt less prepared to begin a school year than I do right now. I will be starting my 15th year in New Haven next week, and the fact that I don't have a clear direction is really disheartening.

I realize Dr. Tracey and her team are doing their best to alleviate some of the concerns teachers, families, and students have voiced over the last few weeks. I only know this because of a Facebook post I saw with an updated plan, which another teacher saw on the NHPS website. I don't understand why that plan wasn't emailed out for teachers, staff, and families to review. Why is everything so secretive and last minute? At a time when there is so much uncertainty and fear, why is the district not being as clear and transparent as possible?

I still have questions about what I read in this updated plan. The "Reopening Readiness Checklist" states that ventilation and air handling addressed 100%. What does this mean? Where is the proof that these things have been tested and fixed, other than the purchasing of new filters. MBA doesn't have windows that open, so what is the guarantee I'm being provided to show that the air in my building is safe? Plexiglas installation 100%. What does this mean? Where does it have to be installed? Last I heard, the only places it had been installed at MBA were where the security officer sits, around the desk in the main office, and possibly around the cafeteria workers. What about classrooms? PPE for adults in hand, including face shields, masks, sanitizer. Again, what does this mean? Have all of these items been delivered to buildings? How much hand sanitizer? This is an item I usually purchase myself. Will it be installed in the hallway/outside my room or will it be inside my room? Changes in classrooms for physical distancing. What does this mean? Nothing about my classroom has changed yet. I have six tables in my computer lab for students to sit at, so are these being replaced with desks, so I can



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

socially distance my students and have them face the same direction? Is plexiglas being added to divide the tables? Are the computers being removed from my class and stored somewhere for the future? What about my book shelves with books students can sign out for independent reading? What happens to those? Transportation safety protocols in place, including cleaning, capacity, student and driver expectations. Who is making sure the kids go all the way to the back as soon as entering the bus? Who is making sure kids keep their masks on or don't switch seats? What happens if a kid refuses to put a mask on before entering the bus? Does the bus driver just drive away without them? Also, what are backpack sprayers (mentioned on page 83). These are just some of the questions I have based on ONE page of the 83 page document.

Other questions I have don't seem to have been outlined at this time. Can I pass out and collect papers? Can students check out books from the school library or classroom libraries? What is the district procedure for students who don't remain socially distanced or don't keep their masks on? What about staff who don't keep their masks on? I've seen custodians and other adults in my building without masks on. Yes, it is summertime, but if we are saying masks are to be worn at all times, how does that not include right now, especially for custodians who are cleaning throughout the building? Will students be bringing their district provided laptops (high school students) to school every day? If so, when and where will they charge these devices? The likelihood that these devices remained charged while being used throughout the day is very low.

Then I have staffing questions that no one can seem to answer. If almost half of the NHPS families are saying their child/children will be doing remote learning, who teaches those kids? In my building, my principal has estimated that maybe as many as eight teachers will apply to be remote only; that's almost a quarter of our staff. Do those teachers teach only the kids who are remote? But what if those eight teachers aren't from different disciplines; for example, what if three of those teachers are English teachers? Will all the teachers throughout the district who are remote only be divided up and then teach kids from different schools remotely? If so, how does that work when we have unique magnet schools with different themes and grading philosophies? Is that fair to kids who signed up for one school but then aren't being taught by teachers from that school? And what happens to the empty spots left in schools by teachers who are remote only? Who teaches those kids? How are we doing this in an equitable way? And if some teachers receive approval to be remote learning only, do they get to teach from their homes? How are these schedules being figured out? How are we dividing students into two groups for the hybrid model and making sure that there are no more than 9 kids in a class, so they can actually be kept socially distanced?

These are only the questions I have right now, but I'm sure I will think of others as time passes. As you can see, the hybrid plan doesn't make sense right now and isn't well thought out. There are so many factors and variables that need to be answered, and I don't believe they will be answered by September 3rd, when students are supposed to begin school. What makes the most sense is to have us all do distance learning. We should all have access to our buildings but be allowed to teach from home. This is the only way to ensure that we are all safe. The current plan has too many holes and questions that still require answers.

I hope that you take my concerns seriously, and I hope that you vote for the only safe choice, which is to begin the year remotely.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely, Danielle La Pan

Name * Stefanie Acquarulo

Email * stefanie.acquarulo@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments *

Dear Board of Education Members,

We are now two days away from the start of the new school year and the information on what the hybrid plan will actually physically look like is causing a tremendous amount of anxiety for me and my colleagues. While I appreciate the support of the BOE members who voted to allow us to begin the year remotely I fear that the initial vote will be revoked and we will soon be instructing our children in person. I do not believe that this can be done safely despite the good intentions of the SDE, the NHBOE, Dr. Tracey and the administrators. There are too many variables and unknowns. I anticipate that the number of students who are reportedly returning will be more than reported on the surveys; the classroom space in many of our buildings is not sufficient to safely social distance in all areas; the staff needed to supervise students in smaller groups is insufficient at best and I anticipate that a vote for in-person learning will force many of our veteran teachers to retire, apply for leave or quit the profession (we can't get substitutes on our best days and NO ONE is going to apply now); the ventilation in our buildings is inconsistent and the "climate control" is not accurate (In my building, on the coldest days the windows must be left open as the classrooms were above 80 degrees and others where it was so cold I had my students wear their jackets); the ordered supplies are typically backordered or in short supply and I anticipate we will quickly be back to purchasing supplies out of pocket (if we can even find them) just to keep ourselves and our students safe. Students will inevitably arrive to school ill as they do every year and there is no set temperature checks or covid testing protocol for staff or students.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

As a First grade educator, it will be extremely challenging to keep my students socially distanced and keep them in good spirits. Yes, my students come to school for academics but another significant piece is their social/emotional learning which I feel will suffer greatly because they will be restricted from socializing/interacting with their peers. I just cannot imagine how I can safely supervise, instruct and prevent covid spread in a classroom full of young inquisitive children.

My list of what-ifs is endless at this point and until I know what I am walking into I do not wish to risk the health of my students, my infant daughter, or my family. I urge you to begin this school year remotely and allow the staff to physically get in to the buildings to assist with the logistics of a gradual in person instructional model that works in their respective classrooms and schools. I understand the pressure you must be under from all sides and I thank you for your time and service.

Stefanie Acquarulo, First Grade Teacher, RWCSMS

Name * Torstein Sakshaug

Email * torstein_sakshaug@yahoo.com

Comments * As a father of two english learning kids who just moved to New Haven, and having tried remote learning in March/April in Norway (where we come from), I would strongly suggest a model where parents can choose between full in-person schooling, hybrid or remote. Remote learning will not support those who don't speak english very well, and will be a catastrophe for the non-english speaking kids.

Please let us, the parents, decide for our kids, but leave all opportunities open.

Name * Truth Tonic

Email * truthxtonic@gmail.com

Comments * Is someone going to acknowledge the fact that so many students were disengaged from online learning in the spring because they were TOLD that their work wouldn't be graded and that they wouldn't be penalized?

Name * Karen Robinson

Email * karen.robinson@nhps.net

Comments *

Good afternoon. Firstly, I would like to thank you for all for the time and effort you spend doing what you think is best for our schools. And a special thank you, again, to those members who have voted on the side of student and teacher safety. I wish you all a happy and healthy school year!

Now, let's get down to business...

My colleagues and I were lied to and our lives potentially put at risk. And, why? I work at a school that was used as a Covid shelter. We (teachers) were told, in July, that before we came back to the school to clean out our classrooms that several safety measures and precautions had been taken. Things, such as cleaning and updating our HVAC system, cleaning and painting surfaces, sanitizing and taping off our classrooms. We have since found out that this was all a lie. (We learned about the lack of painting and room taping off when we went in last month to clean out our classrooms. We found out about the HVAC system Friday in a meeting with our admin. *We were told that although it was not cleaned/updated when we were originally told it was, it has been since. I TRUSTED the city officials who told us we would be safe when entered the building. But it was a lie.

Also in Friday's meeting, our administration was not able to answer basic questions about our concerns for safety and health precautions. BASIC questions. Teachers asked about keeping students safe during passing time, lock-downs, arrival, etc. No answer. Teachers asked about students using the bathrooms. No answer. Teachers asked about moving to different classrooms and minimizing exposure. (I, myself, am in 3 different classrooms.) No answer. Teachers asked how students are supposed to read class texts without sharing books. No answer. Teachers asked about sanitizing classrooms between classes (especially if teachers are moving classrooms). No answer. Teachers asked about sharing the classrooms during lunch while everyone has their masks off. No answer. Teachers asked where we're supposed to go during our prep. periods. No answer. In fact, the only definitive answer we did get is that our schools will not be getting stationary substitutes, which will allow for subs to jump from school to school, even district to district. How irresponsible! Dr. Tracey happened to come in to the meeting while coincidentally coming in to visit our new principal. Even she was unable to answer these questions without seemingly defensive and evasive answers. Teachers who did feel confident to return to the building on Friday morning, no longer do. There is absolutely NO guidance or plan in preparedness to keep everyone safe in our buildings. NONE.

In my humble opinion, and speaking for myself (although I know other teachers feel the same way), if soap and toilet paper aren't replenished during the



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

school year, if moldy tiles and blown out lights aren't replaced during the school year, how can we trust that necessary PPE will be available consistently throughout the school year? I believe that this is a matter of trust. And finding out that my health was put at risk in July based on a lie, I don't see that trust being rebuilt any time soon. We are not expendable. We are not babysitters. We are not guinea pigs. And we are not martyrs. We are educators. The cases in New Haven and Connecticut, overall, are now on an uptick. The governor has just announced holding off on phase three of re-opening. There's a reason for this. It's. Not. Safe. Opening bars and restaurants to their max capacity is comparable to opening schools in that both are large groups of people in confined spaces. If it's not safe for the public, how could anyone justify it being safe for children, not to mention their teachers and the families of both.

We have known this was coming for months. This time has been grossly misused. In these months, and even now in these weeks, we could have used this time and our resources to build a solid remote learning plan. No, March was not successful. We were thrown into it and we did the best with what we were given. But September could have been successful! Teachers can do anything if given the time, resources, and guidance. We're now out of time, do not have the resources, and have been given no guidance. What a waste. We will now, in the 11th hour, be thrust into another impossible situation and then, once again, be the scapegoats for the failure.

I'm asking you to maintain your vote for a remote first marking period. If it's the wrong choice, we lose nothing. But if it's the right one, we could save lives.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. ~Karen Robinson

Name * Lisa Desfosses

Email * lisadesfosses@yahoo.com

Comments *

Dear Board of Education members,

I read the agenda that was posted for the meeting tomorrow evening. While I am very glad that the plans have evolved enough to move up the date for the start of in-person learning, I underscore that - in my opinion - starting remote only and then planning to switch to hybrid is confusing for everyone (teachers, students, and parents alike). Our family was among the 70% in the spring who gave up because we could not handle the demands of helping young kids with computer learning while maintaining our jobs and meeting the needs of a younger child.

As a parent of two young NHPS elementary students, I ask that you either:

- 1) start hybrid learning on Sept 3rd OR
- 2) delay the entire school start by a week and start hybrid on Sept 10th

Starting remote and trying to switch to hybrid 3 weeks later is complicated for teachers and staff, a logistical nightmare for parents, and incredibly confusing for young kids who are trying to be successful in their early school years. Routines are important for these kids -- and to establish a 'beginning of school routine' to plan to change it 3 weeks later makes no sense to me. With this decision, I feel like NHPS is going to send folks into a tizzy for 3 weeks, not be able to set norms and cultures, and spend too much time on transitions with what is essentially a double-start to the year. NHPS jeopardize a strong start to a year of learning -- the best that can be during a pandemic.

I strongly, strongly ask you -- plead of you -- to start on Sept 3rd with the hybrid model. If you can't do that, delay the entire start by a week to start the year in a clear, strong place.

Thank you for your work on this -- I know it has been a mighty challenge and have confidence that you all, our education leaders, can make decisions that make sense for the NHPS children.

Name * Jennifer Shaw

Email * jenniferjshaw@gmail.com

Comments *

Dear Board of Education members,

My school's planning and management team begins each meeting with a reminder that we should always operate under the Comer Principles of decision making by consensus, no-fault problem solving, and collaboration. This is the spirit in which I write you tonight. I ask that you do three things with teachers



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

and staff before declaring our schools are ready to open for in-person learning.

First, I ask that Dr. Tracey, her assistant superintendents, and ALL board members personally visit each of New Haven's 41 schools. Please ascertain for yourselves that the safety precautions you all have declared necessary and worked hard to procure for our district are in place. Has all extra furniture been removed? Have classrooms with only tables and rugs been newly outfitted with individual desks? Are there floor markings to separate desks as far as possible? Have hallways been clearly designated with signs indicating traffic-flow? Are seats removed or taped off in communal spaces like cafeterias and auditoriums? Are there boxes of masks and shields IN each school, awaiting staff and students? Is plexiglass in place in the main offices? Are the health suites in place for all of the new nurses our buildings will each have every weekday?

Second, I ask that every board member join a representative group of teachers in experiencing a full day of school as students with masks on, face shields in place, and social distancing throughout the process. Let's ride the bus together for 45 minutes, at full capacity. Then we will spend 5.5 hours in our masks, sitting alone at our desks, learning from a teacher at the front of the room. We will experience what it's like for a 6-year-old to sit at the same desk for math, reading, social studies, science, art, music, and PE — as well as lunch, and sometimes recess. I'll invite us all to remember what it felt like to be 6 — hopefully ready and eager to learn, to play, to explore everything — and be asked to sit at a desk for several hours in a row. And then I'll invite us to remember what it's like to be 16 years old and to walk in the hallways after being separated from our friends for 5.5 months and being told not to hug them, not to perform a TikTok dance with them, not to even just bump their fists. We can experience what it will be like to see your crush or your dating partner — that person you're head over heels for for the first time ever — and not be allowed to hold their hand, much less gross out a teacher by kissing them in the hallway.

And finally, I ask that after your inspections and your experience as a student, you guarantee that the risk is worth it. I'm not asking you to guarantee my safety nor my students'; I'm asking you to guarantee that the risk to my health, their health, and thereby our entire city's health, is worth the type of learning that the hybrid model can accomplish.

I want to give you answers and help you come up with scenarios that actually meet each and every student's needs. I can only imagine that remote learning for our preschool aged kids is nearly impossible, that our students who rely on their Special Ed teachers and paras to build routines and coping mechanisms and physical strength for ALL the daily activities we take for granted desperately need face-to-face time with those paras and teachers. But why are we stuck in either/or mode? Why can't we employ and/both thinking instead? If we can't get all of our schools prepared, why shouldn't we focus on getting our most vulnerable students in the safest buildings with teachers outfitted in the best available PPE and empowered by the best tools we can provide to teach those students? And simultaneously setting up the best remote learning that we possibly can for those students who can and do choose to learn remotely? There is opportunity in every crisis; things MUST change and we can choose how to change them for the better.

Thank you for your consideration, Jennifer Shaw, Metropolitan Business Academy teacher

Name * Barbara LeBlanc

Email * barbara.leblanc@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments * I have read the revised plan and found no mention of preschool. Educators who teach in the 25 preschool sites in the NHPS are desperate for information about our unique environments in the event of a hybrid opening. In particular, will preschool students be following the mask guidelines set by the district, or by the state? They are not consistent.

Thank you for your time.
Barbara LeBlanc, Pre-K teacher

Name * Laura G.

Email * lauraann1025@gmail.com

Comments * I am a teacher within the district. It has come to my attention that with about 1 week left until teaching begins, the school I teach in still is not equipped to be able to deliver instruction virtually. Am I then supposed to be using my own device to make this work? How is it possible that I should teach virtually when my desktop computer in my classroom is over 10 years old and has no webcam or mic? The Chromebooks my building does have will be for students to use. How does the district suppose I teach? Also, how am I supposed to live stream for synchronous learning without this technology?



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

Name * Eric March

Email * art@erimarch.com

Comments *

I want to bring to your attention an issue at my son's school, Quinnipiac STEM Magnet School. As has become clear, shared air in an enclosed space is one of the best ways of transmitting COVID-19. Q STEM (and perhaps other schools in the district) has no ventilation system AT ALL (with the one exception of the new Discovery Lab room). Only a few of the classrooms have AC units, but even AC units will not solve the problem of ventilation. AC, while it would be very welcome for all the students and teachers in the building during the warmer months (and would probably result in better learning outcomes) will not resolve the problem once the weather gets cooler. Classrooms have modular heating units in each classroom-which again results in no circulation with outside air.

The windows in most of the building only open a couple inches and usually only a couple window in each classroom open at all-so windows can't be used as a fallback for ventilation either.

This requires an emergency renovation of the entire HVAC system throughout the school building before it can be considered safe for anyone-students, teachers or staff-to meet for in-person classes. I see a duct system of forced air that can be used to filter, exchange and circulate both heated and cooled air as probably the best solution.

If classes start remote in the first quarter that could provide a crucial window for these kind of major HVAC renovations be performed. All schools should start on an equal footing in terms of safety when in-person learning starts. If the Board decides to start in-person, plans still need to be made, of course, to renovate Q STEM and any other school that has inadequate ventilation as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and thank you for all your hard work preparing the district for re-opening this fall.

Name * Eric March

Email * art@ericmarch.com

Comments * Can contact emails for all the board members be made available on the nhps.net website? Rivera, Wilcox, Joyner, Conway and Arouna have no contact info listed here: <https://www.nhps.net/domain/16>

Name * Jennifer Graves

Email * jennifer.graves@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments *

Members of the Board,

I know how heavy the reopening of schools is weighing on you. It isn't my decision to make and my chest is heavy every day. I applaud the decision to keep learning remote for the first 10 weeks, for everyone's safety and because there are so many holes in the reopening plan that I haven't seen discussed, leaving teachers, staff, and parents unconvinced.

1. The disinfectant , Zoono Z71, that the district has purchased 100 gallons of was advertised as, "Zoono Z71 will provide lasting protection against the Covid virus for up to 30 days," Kenn Jones, a First Student senior location manager said last week during an interview with WCPO 9 News.' This disinfectant was falsely advertised and is not on the EPA's list of 475 disinfectants that kill covid-19. This is alarming to say the least. You can see the entire article here:

<https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/i-team/cincinnati-based-first-student-removes-its-claim-that-school-bus-disinfectant-kills-covid-19-for-up-to-30-days>

2. On Friday, Danbury reported having a dangerous uptick in positive covid cases. This morning, Fairfield's statistics rose as well. I keep reading news reports about how "teachers are scared" in a negative connotation. We have a right to be scared, many of us knew someone who transmitted this terrible virus and have lost loved ones. The governor believes it is unsafe to go to a movie theater at 25% occupancy. Several members of the board are scared to meet in person with public participation. The same consideration should be made for the safety of staff and students.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

3. I have heard a compromise may be reached, with 4-6 weeks remote and then a phased in hybrid model would begin. With many surrounding districts not beginning in person classes until mid- September, 4 weeks really isn't enough time to see how smaller and more affluent towns fare with possible transmission in schools. We would just be starting when those cases would be starting to pop up. My other concern is how will the hybrid model be phased in? If some grades begin in person while others are still full remote, that is a huge inequity in safety for staff and students.

4. The Hybrid Model: When you met with the state last week, Commissioner Cardona misquoted our hybrid plan. He said that about 50% of our students have reported that they prefer full remote learning, and then only half of those students would come to classes on any given day in their AA/BB two day a week cohort. That is not correct. Pre-k through 3rd grade does not have an AA/BB cohort plan, all of those students will be coming to school every day, with Wednesday as a distance learning day. Our rosters will not be split. My school specifically does not have a gym, cafeteria, auditorium, and 28 classes of preschool children will be coming to school each day. How do we socially distance them?

5. Inter-district Students: I have not read one thing in any of the reopening plans or strategic plan about our students from out of district who attend the magnet schools. My children have attended Jepson for 8 years as inter-district students. Their bus home to North Haven stopped in East Haven, Wallingford, and North Haven. If one of those students was exposed to covid, we are now spreading transmission to several different towns. If there is an uptick in cases in East Haven, are those students not able to attend in person classes in New Haven Magnet Schools? Are they able to be bused? What is the plan?

6. Teachers aren't feeling confident. As a teacher in the district for the past decade, I cannot tell you how many times there has been no soap, no tissues, no gloves for diapering. We have been given rations of food service gloves to clean up vomit and diarrhea. Many times administrators have said, "It's only a dollar at the dollar store". That is during a regular year, and that is not our responsibility. It is clear that the district has never planned for supplies accordingly for every teacher in every building, how will we be confident now that our supplies will be there and we will not run out. With a classroom of preschoolers with significant special needs, between giving hand over hand instruction, wiping noses, feeding, toileting, I would probably need 1-2 boxes of medical grade gloves a day. With an increase of hand washing, we will need a wall refill of soap every 2 days. What is the procedure when there is none? Who do we contact if it continues to be an issue? If there is no PPE/soap/sanitizer provided when a teacher walks into school on a Monday, are they required to work in an unsafe environment?

6. Mayor Elicker, you went on social media the other day and claimed that teachers are "essential workers". Teachers are essential, but please do not compare us to health care professionals. We are not trained in health emergencies. You went on to talk about everything children are missing with schools being physically closed. Schools cannot be the only place within our community where children get meals, see the dentist, get well checks and vaccinations. The idea that some students still don't have adequate broadband internet is astounding to me, since we've known this has been a big problem since March. Good on the state for providing another \$5.3 million to NHPS to reopen safely, however we have the issues we have in the city because we have been grossly underfunded for forever. I do not see that \$5.3 million going very far to make our schools safer for reopening in class instruction. I certainly hope that I am wrong, because lives are on the line.

To conclude, I wanted to share my huge disappointment with the focus on remote learning in the spring during the meeting last week with the state. There was no discussion about how we are improving our remote learning plan, all of the technological extensions and programs that the district has purchased, that we can now instruct live small groups with Google Meets, and all of the work the district did over the summer to reach out to disengaged students. Instead, Commissioner Cardona spat out statistics pointing out how limited engagement was and how many ELL and students with disabilities we had who were going to struggle. Ms. Typhannie Jackson did not talk about how teachers, including myself, were able to deliver district purchased supplies to assist in learning at home for ESY this summer, how special education teachers are making individual task boxes with activities linked to individual IEP goals and objectives. We DO have a plan, and it wasn't shared to the state accordingly. We were in a worldwide crisis in the spring, and regardless of what people think, we still are.

There are no good decisions; people are going to be irate no matter what you vote tonight. But, in saying that, there are SAFE decisions. Thank you all for your continued hard work for the staff, students, and families in the City of New Haven. Please, vote for a 10 week remote start. Prove to teachers, parents, and students that we are ready and we will be safe at that time. It isn't about my classroom, or my child. We must create and follow a plan that is best for the most vulnerable citizen, because we are a community. We are ONE New Haven.

Name * Minnie Evans

Email * evansminnie@yahoo.com

Comments *

Good Morning,
The Board has been talking mostly about the little one's.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

What about our adolescents Grades 7th-10th? Their in a dangerous situation, The streets aren't safe for them. They are mentally and physically Worn out. The board of education should consider sending them back to school at least 3 days a week. 13.14.15 . a very hard age. They know everything. Hormones are all over. Their bodies and decision making are not clear. They really need our help. I say these grades. Because 11th and 12th are trying to get their credits together. Their more mature. What about our special ed young adults. Who have work in the life skill programs. That have until their 21. Make them accountable for wearing their mask. No mask no school. Period. Hopefully we can believe in our children. That they will do the right thing. We need support them in this. This is a scary time. If not we will have more gangs. They need our protection from the streets and the Police. I talked to a lot of teenagers and parent's. The kids say they have nobody to help them with their work. The parent's say they don't listen to them. Most of them live with their Grandparent's. Its hard for them to do the work when you have someone standing over you calling you stupid. Then comes the anger and shut down. That anger goes outside which they have control over and their you go. Please before you make a final decision think about our teenagers. These kids where riding down exit 8 popping wheelies on their bikes 3 o'clock in the afternoon. On a Friday afternoon they where throwing trash in car's that where sitting at the light. With their windows open. Yes I'm fighting for the children. This is only 2 incidents I live in the middle of the inner city. I see a lot more than this. It's called survival.

Name * Darla Lank

Email * darla.martinez@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments *

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a public comment. I have been a teacher in New Haven for 19 years. My fellow educators and myself have always gone above and beyond to make our student's educational experience the best possible both financially and emotionally. But now we are confronted with a plan for safety that cannot be fully implemented and will put our health as well as possibly our careers in jeopardy. Students' parents have been given a choice between distance learning (for safety) and in person learning. Educators do not have the same choice, even with medical documentation. There is no plan, that I am aware of for teachers who apply for an ADA exemption from in person learning. What will happen to these teachers? Will they be given the same rights as students who choose to return to the classroom? In the simplest terms, schools are not prepared! There is no way of knowing what is actually being done behind the scenes, from air filters and PPE resources to testing and quarantine exemptions. I am very scared for us as a community if safety measures are not met because of financial constraints or based on what is feasible. I hope that you will maintain your stance on safety for ALL until we all KNOW without a shadow of a doubt that everything that can be done is being done. Distance learning is the safest course of action for the time being. Thank you for your determination to keep us safe!

Name * Jessica Light

Email * jessica.light@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments *

When school buildings are closed, employers are more understanding when parents need to work from home. When buildings open and parents choose not to send their children- employers are less understanding. If you truly want parents to have the choice to stay safe at home with their children you can not reopen schools.

Yesterday I received a parent link reporting half of parents "wanted" hybrid. But that was not the question asked on the survey I filled out. If we go into the hybrid model, I would send my kids to school because I would become one of the many parents whose employers had become less understanding of the need to stay home for safety. You would have taken the choose to stay safe off the table for me and my family. This is not what I want.

I am essential, but not disposable. If in person instruction begins the city has a moral obligation to purchase additional life insurance for all of us to make sure staff's children are taken care of when inevitably some of us die from exposure at work.

For in-person instruction to be safe we need

- All classes to have access to outside classrooms
- a network to confidentially whistleblow unfollowed safety measures without fear of retribution
- All adults -not just teachers, to be able to take any day off without loss of pay anytime they have a symptom - so we do not push our selves to make it in when there are early warning signs



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

- a system to guarantee quarantining for families entering from hot spots or in danger due to contact tracing.
 - contact tracing
 - Assurance all cases within the school communities are communicated quickly and systematically, so we can all make informed daily risk assessments
 - proof that the HVAC systems have not just been checked but updated- simply changing the filters is not enough
 - staggered specials teachers so that no one cross contaminates grades k-8,
 - free onsite testing periodically for all adults and students
- To Name a few of the needs not yet met.

Name * Melody Gallagher

Email * melody.gallagher@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments *

Thank you to the NHPS Board of Education and to Dr. Tracey and her team for all the hard work you all have diligently put in on the issue of the reopening of schools.

At this time, I am hoping that you will continue to consider a ten week, Q1 remote start in order to get everything safely in place.

I desperately would like to get back to teaching in my classroom, in person, with my students. However, this is a public health issue and must take precedence at this time.

Our immune compromised staff and students and their families deserve this at the very least.

Thank you again for your continued commitment to NHPS, Melody Gallagher, Mauro Sheridan Art Teacher

Name * Jason Schneider

Email * JasonArthur.Schneider@gmail.com

Comments *

My name is Jason Schneider. I live in City Point New Haven and am a Grades 7 and 8 Social Studies Teacher at Wexler Grant in my 20th year of teaching, my tenth year in New Haven. I hope to return to in-person instruction as soon as possible, but at the moment, I do not feel we are ready.

First, Thank You to EVERYONE involved in facing these enormous decisions. Whether we agree or not, I know that we are all doing our best to balance all of the valid concerns and demands. A particular thanks to the Board Members who have taken the very difficult position that until the Schools are prepared for safe in-person learning, we had no choice but to continue Remote Learning.

One thing we do agree on is that we are all advocates for students and their families. We understand that before any teaching or learning can occur, we must feel safe and feel that our basic social, emotional, and practical (food, housing, clothing) are being met. In March, when schools were closed for everyone's safety, a first priority was food distribution, closely followed by addressing students' social and emotional needs as the crisis unfolded.

As things stand today, I do not think that any of us, students, families, and staff are safe enough to return to in-person instruction. In my many years of teaching, despite regular supportive and informative phone calls and emails from my principal and daily contact with colleagues, I have never felt more alone and unprepared. I am scared and facing a terrible decision should we end up returning to in-person instruction before we are ready. My partner and I are both over 60 years old, and my partner has a medical condition that places him at even further risk. If we return to in-person instruction before we are ready, I will be faced with three choices: 1. Retire, and since I am just beginning my tenth year in New Haven, forfeit my pension; 2. Apply for FMLA and lose my salary during my leave; 3. Return to school and live apart from my partner and isolate myself from friends and family.

I strongly support the current Board Decision for Remote Learning until an agreed-upon set of criteria are met that will help me feel that students and faculty, and all of our family members can return to our classrooms and be safe. Thank you.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

Mrs. Rivera reminded everyone to raise their hand to be recognized.

The following speakers participated in this session via Zoom:

Ms. Epiniki Velezis, parent, member NHPS Advocates, read the section of their list of requirements for PPE; Ms. Sarah Miller, parent, NHPS Advocates, read the section of their list for distance learning; Ms. Rebecca Mickelson, read the section of the list regarding supplies; Mr. Dan Kinsman, read section of the checklist regarding bathroom and hygiene; Ms. Jessica Light, teacher, parent, cannot reopen schools if they want the children to stay safe.

At this time, Dr. Whyte announced we are at capacity; this meeting is streaming on YouTube at New Haven TV. Any attendees listening and people who want to get on, they can follow on [youtube@youtube.com/New Haven](https://youtube.com/NewHaven).

Ms. Melody Gallagher, read the ventilation and use of outdoors portion of the NHPS Advocates back to school checklist; Mr. Nick Drake, Sheridan band director, read requirements for classroom equipment and practices; Mr. M. Steinberg, talked about his wife being a teacher in New Haven and what she found when she went into her classroom and none of the precautions were in place; Ms. Valerie Horsley, parent, scientist at Yale, gave statistics black kids vs. white kids vs. Hispanic kids; Ms. Lauren Anderson, read the section of the NHPS Advocates checklist on physical distancing guidelines; Ms. Akimi Nelken, Wilbur Cross teacher, talked about instructional strategies; Ms. Maritza Spell, read the section of the NHPS advocates checklist on COVID testing and transportation; Ms. Nijija Ife Waters, parent, President, Citywide Parent Team, remarked that she was told by a district leader that she was creating a firestorm; Mr. David Cicarella, president, NHFT, thanked the Board members that voted 100% remote learning and he went on to tell of the checklist of things that would be done that have not been done; Ms. Lori Duane, could not speak at this time; Ms. Sonya Marie, ESUMS parent, she remarked that every one of them have touched their face during the last 20 minutes, she talked about Mayor Elicker allowing UNH to utilize our ESUMS building in the evening; Ms. Kathleen Morrison, parent of a rising Kindergartener and incoming preschooler at King Robinson and a teacher at Worthington Hooker, talked about her reiteration four times of some sort of childcare for her boys and the fact that they are again changing the plan; Ms. Julia Miller, NHPS teacher and parent, spoke about rushing into the hybrid model of teaching; Ms. Jennifer Graves, read section of the NHPS Advocates safety checklist in the area of communication; Mr. David Low, 20 year teacher, for the record, pointed out the only people with full-time experience as educators in schools have been on record to vote against the plan for students to return anytime soon and he explained why; Mr. Andre Delgado, parent, addressed the Board's previous meeting for making the decision for 10 weeks remote, he talked about the Mayor going on social media to make the push for hybrid learning; Ms. Nataliya Braginsky, high school teacher and resident of New Haven,



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

explained why the hybrid model would drastically decrease the quality of education; Ms. Kirsten Hopes-McFadden, ESUMS teacher and parent, expressed her thoughts about the agenda and is very disheartened by it; Ms. Jennifer Sarja, HSC English teacher, she understands their genuine attempts to try to meet the needs of everyone involved, however, they take their jobs very seriously and to think that they can just pivot this quickly is unrealistic, she told about the roof leaking, the elevator not working, etc.; Ms. Teresa Johnson, commented that she thought a decision had been made and she read the staffing section from the NHPS Advocates checklist; Mr. Kaye, parent, physician scientist, commented that he has been listening to all the comments that have been made and noted that public health officials throughout the country have encouraged areas that have low COVID risk, like Connecticut, to be open if at all possible and he gave the reasons why.

***To hear comments in their entirety, please go to:
“NHPS.net, Public Meetings”***

Mr. Goldson again advocated for 3-minutes instead of 2-minutes for public comments because he thinks that a lot of people were cut off. He also suggested that we should give folks a 22nd warning that their time is coming up, so they don't just get cut off. Thank you.

Students Report

Mr. Fiore reported it is challenging for him to make a decision on this topic because there are so many different factors to it. He took an online poll to see what students wanted to do, remote or hybrid learning. Almost 300 students took this poll and most of them wanted to go to hybrid learning. He personally thinks both options have their pros and cons, but besides the statistics, 65% of students want to go to hybrid learning.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Rivera asked her colleagues to hold any questions until Dr. Tracey finished her report. Maybe while they are speaking some of their questions may be answered.

Personnel Report

Dr. Tracey thanked Mrs. Rivera. She greeted Board members, members of the community, parents, teachers, staff and students. Dr. Tracey asked for approval of the personnel report and asked that the Director of Transportation because we will discuss this in public session.

**588-20
Approval of
Personnel Report**

On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was proposed to approve the Superintendent's Personnel Report minus the position of Transportation Director, which we will discuss in Executive Session.

Mr. Goldson wanted to know if the Assistant Principal at John Martinez is an internal move or external hire. Dr. Tracey said it is an internal move. Mr. Goldson remarked then the only concern/issue he has is about the Grant Writer. He doesn't feel she has enough experience writing grants for non-profits and certainly not for schools, even though she was a teacher. She comes from a private company writing grants for them, so he is going to abstain because he is not comfortable with this hire.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

588-1-20
Approval of
Personnel Report

On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was voted by roll call to approve the Superintendent's Personnel Report minus the position of Transportation Director, which will be discussed in Executive Session. Dr. Joyner, yes; Mr. Goldson, abstained; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Fiore, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes.

NHPS Strategic Plan

Dr. Tracey remarked that Mr. Conaway has gone through this Plan in Teaching & Learning, but we wanted to ensure that the Board adopts this plan as part of the process and protocol, so that we can move forward. Mr. Conaway made the motion; Dr. Joyner seconded.

Mr. Goldson called a point of order. He thought this was on the agenda under Teaching & Learning for adoption, it is not listed under the Superintendent's report for adoption; his question is about the order. Mrs. Rivera asked Dr. Tracey if we should leave it with Teaching & Learning, and Dr. Tracey responded it doesn't matter, it can go back there.

Mr. Conaway withdrew the motion.

Preliminary 2019-20 Fiscal Results & July 2020 General Fund Results

Dr. Tracey remarked that we will now move to the preliminary results for fiscal year 2019-20 and she introduced Mr. Phil Penn, COO, to present.

Mr. Penn noted that he is pleased to report that the deficit has continued to shrink over the duration of the year. As of a week ago, we had worked the number down to less than \$550,000. Mr. Penn noted that when he came on board in November, the deficit was around \$9.5 million somewhere in that range. Obviously a lot of that has been COVID related savings that we've had, but my team, working with the administrators, also contributed quite a bit in terms of bringing that number down over that timeframe. Overall the deficit dropped by almost \$1 million vs. the last forecast we had on June 8th that reflected both the continued improvement in utility costs in the buildings with everything closed to instruction. Some of the revenue that we received came in a little bit higher than we anticipated as an offset to our expenses.

Mr. Penn stressed this next point clearly. Our fiscal year technically remains open until August 31, that's when we end all bookings against that particular year. He expects two things to happen, our final numbers will be a little different than what he has shown here, but in a positive light, and he has a feeling that the final deficit will be very close to zero for the full year, in which case we would have mitigated the entire deficit that we came into the year with. Mr. Penn said that he provided on the next few pages where the deficit lies at this point. He explained in detail.

Mr. Penn commented, at this point, we don't expend a whole lot of out of the general fund in the month of July. Our total expenditures were \$1.8 million, just a little bit below that, so just under 1% of the budget. Typically, 12 month employees are the ones that are working over the summer. We are starting to put up encumbrances, which is very typical as we approve new contracts coming out of the general fund. As you put purchase orders against those contracts, you'll see that we've uncovered somewhere in the neighborhood of just over \$9.6 million. Mr. Penn noted that he has



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

provided a breakout in terms of how that looks, and you get the first sense of how the budget is proposed at this point.

Mr. Penn went on to say that, as he mentioned, we are going to be closing out the full fiscal year for the general fund about a week from today. He expects the deficit to drop to just about zero over that timeframe and when we next present our financial reports in September, we will give our opening view on grants for the full year and the final results for the 2019-20 fiscal year and the results for grants for the 2019-20 fiscal year as well.

Mr. Penn commented that he takes pride in his team in terms of working this down the way that they did. He thinks it definitely puts us in better shape opening the 2021 year than we went into the 2019-20 year.

Mayor Elicker thanked Mr. Penn and his team for some pretty incredible work in bringing that deficit down. Thank you so much, it obviously is very important to the City that that money will go to many important causes.

Mr. Goldson remarked he would like to remind the Board that that deficit would be a surplus if we were more aggressively negotiating with First Student. We have now learned since yesterday that they tend not to tell the truth when they're reporting information to our administrators and this Board. Mr. Goldson remarked we'll talk about that when we get to the school reopening.

In terms of the budget for 2021, Mr. Goldson remarked that he is a little confused by it and he explained his reasons. Mr. Goldson went through each line of the budget and asked how we justify less money for those lines he pointed out. He went on to compare the transportation budget from last year and what is budgeted for this year. Mr. Goldson then went on to ask about contractual services and compared what we spent last year to what is being proposed for this year. He wanted to know how this budget jives with reality.

Mr. Penn explained each item that Mr. Goldson pointed out in detail, how they mitigated this budget to bring it down. Mr. Goldson commented that it was really COVID related activities that reduced the deficit and he continued to express his thoughts to Mr. Penn. Mr. Goldson remarked that we are starting the year with a budget that definitely has a deficit, and asked if that was correct and he continued to present his thoughts.

Mr. Penn responded that we presented the 20-21 year deficit to the Board multiple times and the last time was sometime in June. We talked about the necessary amount that we had to mitigate and, as you may recall, we reflected in that that there was going to be transportation savings that carried on into the 2021 year from 19-20 and we identified that there was some grant income coming in that we had not anticipated and then we took the Board through a number of steps that we were prepared to take in terms of reducing the deficit to the 2021 year that should have negated any deficit that we had. Mr. Penn added that there was a follow-up item that we were not expecting from Local 933 that we will be discussing later on tonight that will present another opportunity.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

Mr. Goldson then wanted to know if Mr. Penn is suggesting that this budget, as it stands with the additional resources that he expects. will be enough to carry us through this year and that we will not run a deficit. Mr. Penn responded that if we execute all the things that are on that list, the answer is yes.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur pointed out that we know we have made some steps to mitigate the budget and some of those steps were on the backs of Paras who received no cost of living increase. She thinks we need to know that and understand that there will be loss of income around some of this mitigation because people did and will suffer. We need to acknowledge and recognize that before we celebrate.

District Reopening Plan Updates, Discussion and Potential Action

Dr. Tracey commented we are at this juncture and everyone is passionate about their side of the story, and rightly so, but there are still voices that have not been heard during these deliberations that we've been having. They are the voices of parents and teachers who have been silent and we have received a plethora of emails expressing that they want to go back to work with their babies.

Dr. Tracey stated that she respects all of her teachers and all of the voices that have spoken up. They have a right to their opinions and different data points that they have shared. What about the ones who are English language learners, the ones who cannot get a word in or the ones who do not speak up. Childcare is important to New Haven families and, yes, New Haven has become a hub for childcare here in our schools, that's the nature of the city in which we live. Parents depend on New Haven Public Schools for part of their childcare help. If it were not for that, they would not be able to work and many of our parents cannot pay for babysitters. Many of our parents are working two jobs to make ends meet. Some of these parents may not be able to help their students academically, getting on websites, etc. Those are voices that are not being heard, so I am going to take this opportunity to speak for those voices.

Dr. Tracey commented some of the questions are, do we need PreK teachers if parents are going to be taking care of their children at home or will parents be doing the teaching for PreK babies at home or special ed children that are challenged severely or English language learners who are challenged immensely.

The question tonight is do we go with ten weeks remote or do we shorten the duration for the sake of all involved. Thanks to the staff and principals for working overtime to get school ready for opening because we were in limbo. In limbo with the State to make a decision on time, in limbo with the Board making the case and limbo where we are right now. Dr. Tracey continued to explain that currently we have over 15,000 families that have responded to the survey, a 50/50 split. All other systems around us will be opening up.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

Dr. Tracey remarked it has been a trying two weeks since we requested a waiver from the State regarding the remote learning option for ten weeks and, when I say trying, it is an understatement. She has been inundated with emails just like the Board for both sides about what we should or should not do. All along we've created three plans we were asked to do, in-person, hybrid, and remote. That was based at that time on the health data. Dr. Tracey continued to explain in detail.

Dr. Tracey noted that all these plans that we developed were contingent upon the health data. The current health data trend would support full in-person even at this time, however, consideration about maximizing social distancing and cohorting would be problematic due to the size of some of our schools. As a result, the Office of Policy and Management came and inspected some of our largest high schools and determined that surely we would not be able to cohort or maximize social distancing; hybrid may seem to be the happy medium.

Dr. Tracey remarked that in the meantime, after we presented our plan to the Board Governor Lamont indicated, at a press conference, that districts that did not subscribe to that hybrid plan, remote plan or fully in-person plan should have a waiver. Our Board was smart enough to put it back on the State and so we asked for a waiver. Dr. Tracey continued to explain that we have been waiting for this decision and it was a letdown, the local Board would make the decision moving forward.

After listening to the Board's and stakeholders concerns, we have put in some mitigation strategies because we are listening. Director Bond has developed a plan which you have in your packet and she will speak to shortly. Dr. Tracey gave a synopsis of what they will be doing to ensure the safety and health of our students and staff. She continued to explain that they are willing to continue to have dialogue about opening safely for staff and students.

Dr. Tracey remarked that Mr. David Cicarella, president of the NHFT, is in agreement that we should require testing. So we are going to do an MO with all the unions to make sure that testing is on point and she firmly believes that we should go ahead and test initially. We cannot maintain testing without working with the unions who value the health and safety of all staff members. Dr. Tracy introduced Director Bond.

Director Bond thanked the superintendent and Board members for the opportunity to be able to give a high level overview of our plan for the upcoming reopening of schools. So, as a disclaimer most of this information Dr. Tracey indicated is fluid and evolving so this is as of August 21st.

Director Bond remarked that her goal is really to talk about the COVID mitigation strategies and that schools really understand the COVID case investigation and contact tracing efforts that we will be doing. There is a chain of command and a communication protocol that we expect to be



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

followed across each of the schools consistently and knowing that rules and everyone involved so that we can be able to address everything quickly and swiftly to ensure the safety of everyone.

Director Bond remarked first and foremost she wants to clarify what it means to have a case. A case is an individual who tests positive for COVID 19 and a contact is someone who has been exposed to someone who is a confirmed case of COVID 19. She has been working with the BOE looking at screening tools for families and ensuring that goes out as a packet to families. We have worked out a control of flow of students to work closely as the nurses will serve as COVID 19 liaisons. Strict attendance monitoring, to ensure that school nurses have clearance and following illness so that we can be able to ensure safety for return to school, rapid assessments for isolation of symptomatic students, recommendations to parents and also contact tracing and case investigation.

Dr. Bond showed an example of their contact tracing workflow that is being shared and has been shared with everyone. It's a screening tool for families that will ensure that they monitor for symptoms and what a close contact potential exposure looks like, what they need to do to contact us and be able to know what the travel advisory is for the Governor in Connecticut to ensure that individuals do not travel from or to respective states in what is the return to school from illness workflow. Director Bond continued with the protocols and explained each one in detail.

Dr. Tracey thanked Director Bond for her presentation. Dr. Tracey remarked that the enemy in the room is a virus which we don't understand. She shared with the Board the phase in plan for the ten weeks. She explained in detail the three stages of the plan.

A lengthy discussion, initiated by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, ensued. Other participants included Mr. Goldson, Dr. Tracey, Mayor Elicker, Dr. Joyner, Mr. Fiore, Mr. Conaway, Mr. Wilcox and Ms. Rivera.

It was decided that they would not make a motion to rescind the August 5th motion and begin the school year with a ten week remote reopening.

The discussion continued at length.

**To hear this discussion in its entirety please go to:
"NHPS.net, Public Meetings"**

**President's Report
589-20**

Mrs. Rivera made a motion to postpone the discussion re Tinley, Renehan & Dost LLP, Investigation to the September 28th Board meeting. This agenda item was added at the request of Mr. Goldson as it involves an ongoing investigation of unsubstantiated allegations against someone and moving to postpone this discussion until the September 28th meeting. Upon the conclusion of the investigation it may then be appropriate to report to the Board, maybe in Executive Session under Section 12006A. The postponement will allow for the completion of the investigation for the protection of anyone involved. Dr. Joyner seconded.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

Mr. Goldson commented that he doesn't understand. His lawyer has been contacting your lawyer and no one will tell us what this is about. He continued to explain his dissatisfaction with this action. He commented that he will find out who launched this investigation, for whatever reason, and they will pay the price for putting my name out there in the public, again, in a negative way.

589-1-20
Approve Postponing
Discussion w/Tinley,
Renehan, & Dost

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to approve to postpone the discussion re Tinley, Renehan & Dost LLP, Investigation, until the September 28, 2020 Board meeting. Mr. Conaway, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Goldson, abstained; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mr. Fiore, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes. Motion passed.

590-20
Convene in
Executive Session

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to go into Executive Session at 9:15pm pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-210 (9) re: strategy negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, and ii, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-200 (6) (A) re: appointment of public official. Also invited: Mr. Phil Penn, Atty. Alexiades, Ms. Lisa Mack, Atty. Tom Mooney. Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes. Motion passed.

Mrs. Rivera mentioned that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

591-20
Approval of
Transportation
Director

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was voted by roll call to approve the appointment of Mr. Carl Jackson as Transportation Director. Mr. Conaway, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes. Motion passed.

592-20
Approval to Ratify
Collective
Bargaining
Agreement w/Local 933

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was voted by roll call, to approve to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement w/Local 933 as presented in Executive Session. Mr. Conaway, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes. Motion passed.

Finance & Operations Committee Report

Mr. Wilcox reported that the "For Information Only" items are listed in your Board packet and posted on the website. The committee has asked for a report on change orders for the last three years for not to exceed change orders and hope that information is available at the next meeting. They have also asked for a report on any rented spaces and they have asked Mr. Pinto for an updated list. More information will be available at our next F&O meeting on Monday.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

On the motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Mrs. Rivera, it was voted by roll call, Mr. Conaway, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes, to approve the FOLLOWING FINANCE AND OPERATIONS-RELATED ITEMS:

ABSTRACTS

- 593-20 *Commissioner’s Network Grant – Wexler/Grant Program*, in the amount of \$500,000 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 594-20 *Alliance District Grant* in the amount of \$17,960,436 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 595-20 *Priority School District Grant* in the amount of \$4,531,788 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

AGREEMENTS

- 595-20 **MOU, Adam Kapor & Christopher Neilson of Princeton & Yale Universities** Non-Financial Memorandum of Understanding with Adam Kapor and Christopher Neilson of Princeton University and Seth Zimmerman of Yale University to assist administrators in the implementation of School Choice best practices from July 1, 2020 to June 20, 2021.
- 596-20 **Yale University School Development Program** An agreement with Yale University School Development Program, (SDP), to provide a professional development program on understanding and managing student behavior, understanding race, culture and development for staff at Brennan-Rogers School from September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.
- 597-20 **Invictus Apps, Inc.** An agreement with Invictus Apps, Inc. for the Prepared App for schools to communicate with first responders in real time during an emergency from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$67,500.

CONTRACTS

- 598-20 **EnviroMed Services** Contract #21689-1-4 to EnviroMed Services, Inc. for On-Call Asbestos Management for fiscal year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.
- 599-20 **Cohen’s Key Shop** Contract #505017-1-4 for Cohen’s Key Shop, Inc. for On-Call Lock Smith Repair Services for fiscal year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.
- 600-20 **Pasquariello Electric** Contract #21706-1-4 for Pasquariello Electric Corporation for On-Call Electrical Services for fiscal year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

- 601-20** Contract #21688-1-4 for Eagle Rivet Roof Services, Inc., for On-Call Roofing Inspections, Repairs and Maintenance for fiscal year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.
- 602-20** Contract #21632B-2-2 for Boisvert Plumbing for On-Call HVAC Repair Service for fiscal year
Boisvert Plumbing 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.
- 603-20** Contract #21693-1-4 for Concrete Creations, LLC for On-Call HVAC Duct Cleaning for
Concrete Creations fiscal year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.
- 604-20** Contract #21678-1-4 for Allstate Fire Systems, LLC DBA Encore Holdings, LLC, for On-
Allstate Fire Systems Call Fire Alarm Inspections and Services for fiscal year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.
- 605-20** Contract #21680-1-4 for Allstate Fire Systems, LLC DBA Encore Holdings, LLC for On-Call
All-State Fire Systems Sprinkler Maintenance for fiscal year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.
- 606-20** Contract #21687-1-5 for Sports Construction and Supplies, LLC for On-Call Gym
Sports Construction & Supplies Equipment Repairs and Replacement for fiscal year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.
- 607-20** Contract #21707A-1-5 for Amazon Landscaping Design and Handyman Services, LLC for
Amazon Landscaping Design & Handyman Services On-Call Landscaping Services for fiscal year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$105,000.
- 608-20** Contract #21679-2-4 for CT Controls Corp. for On-Call HVAC Controls for fiscal year
CT Controls Corp. 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.
- 609-20** Contract #21623-2-2 for Filters Sales and Service, Inc. for On-Call Filter Service for fiscal
Filters Sales & Service, Inc. year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.
- 610-20** Contract #21677-1-4 for Hillyard, Inc. for On-Call Gym Floor Refinishing Service for fiscal
Hillyard, Inc. year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.
- 611-20** Contract #21697-1-5 for CT Pest Elimination, Inc., for On-Call Pest and Rodent Control
CT Pest Elimination Services for fiscal year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.
- 612-20** Contract #21683-1-5 for Tri-State Maintenance Services, LLC, for On-Call Generator
Tri-State Maintenance Maintenance for fiscal year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

CHANGE ORDER

613-20 Change Order #2 to Contract #21632A-1-2 with Tucker Mechanical, Inc., to increase
Change Order #2, funding of \$250,000 by \$9,958.07 to \$259,958.07 for On Call HVAC repairs.
Tucker Mechanical, Inc.

Governance Committee Meeting Report

Dr. Jackson-McArthur reported that the SRO committee is starting to assemble. Dr. Torre has sent out the survey and he is going to meet with one of our staff to get the results. He's trying to make sure he can have the best time for everyone to make his meetings.

The finalized facilities naming committee will be at our next meeting. She just wants to make sure that she and Dr. Joyner review it together at the next meeting.

Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting Report

Mr. Conaway reported that we had a very lively meeting. We talked about global warming and we put some structures in place for that. Tonight they would like to approve the 2020-24 Strategic Plan. Dr. Whyte and Ms. Velasquez will be working with students and we'll be talking about how we move forward in Teaching & Learning.

614-20 **On the motion by Mr. Conaway, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to approve**
Approval of 2020-24 **the 2020-24 Strategic Plan for the New Haven Public Schools. Mr. Conaway, yes; Dr.**
Strategic Plan for NHPS **Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox,**
yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes.

Head Start Committee Meeting Report

Mr. Wilcox reported this committee met on Thursday, August 20th. He brought to the Board's attention that one of the requirements of Head Start is that we have to keep our enrollments up and they are going on track for being fully enrolled this year. The Head Start organization is working with us in terms of how those numbers might change based on room densities and district plans. One concern that he got out of the meeting is that we just need to make sure we're bringing on the new health people and the nursing staff is to make certain that they also cover the Head Start students in the building as well. Mr. Wilcox remarked that when it comes to COVID 19 funds, we are allowed carry over funds and Head Start is doing very well as far as that go. As you all know, we have been having a deficiency on active supervision and we have applied for an extension on that and he explained this in detail.

Food Service Task Group Report

Mr. Wilcox mentioned that their next meeting will be on September 9th.

615-20 **On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, it was voted by roll call**
Adjournment **to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Mr. Conaway, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr.**
Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – August 24, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger McHugh

Ginger McHugh, BOE Recording Secretary

“A video of this meeting is available on the NHPS website, NHPS.net, Public Meetings”

DRAFT