



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – July 21, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Mrs. Yesenia Rivera, President. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Members 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, L. Arouna, Mr. A. Fiore,

Staff Present: Dr. K. Redd-Hannans, Attorney E. Alexiades, Dr. Paul Whyte, Mr. Gage Frank, Mr. Michael Pinto

Absent: None

Dr. Edward Joyner led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent’s Presentation

Dr. Tracey present to the Board and the community the drafted approach to the Reopening Plans for the upcoming school year.

Dr. Jackson questioned the fees associated with the Telehealth clinic available to students. Ms. Sue Peters stated the clinics will remain the same operations wise, other than the video visits, and will discuss with staff regarding the 7-day billing period for such visits.

Dr. Jackson raises concerns regarding who is responsible to clean the classrooms during school. A response from Mr. Barbarotta stated that the maintenance would be cleaning the classrooms after the classrooms are emptied, but disinfectant wipes and other cleaning supplies will be provided to the classrooms for teachers and students to clean their workspaces and touch points in the classroom. Dr. Tracey included that the discussion regarding the cleanliness of classes regarding will be discussed and explored further with her staff.

Dr. Jackson questioned the seating arrangement for the transportation of students on the buses, if the seating will be similar to the proposal regarding one child per seat. Mr. Pinto states that the photo displayed was the original plan when the transmission rate was moderate to high, but if the transmission rate is low enough the buses will be at full capacity, but will adjust as the transmission rates increase.

Dr. Jackson commended Dr. Tracey and her team on implemented professional development for staff members. A question was raised regarding if the trainings were required by the staff to attend and what they were trained on. Dr. Tracey answers that the two-week Google live instruction course was provided to the administrators to provide staff with the tools and skills for online teaching that the teachers will be trained on in the coming weeks; in the event the district or state is shut down occurs.

Ms. Redd-Hannans added to the discussion of teacher development program that the Summer Institute had an attendance of all the school principals and at least 3-5 teachers were present from



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each school as well. For staff who were not able to attend the Summer Institute the sessions were recorded and be available for those members who were not present for review.

Superintendent's Presentation (-Continued)

Dr. Joyner asked if the aerosol disinfectant can be used in the classroom prior to students entering the classroom. Dr. Tracey said she believes based on the research it may be possible, but need to look into further.

Dr. Joyner asked who the district plans to handle non-compliant individuals who may be against wearing of facial coverings or other points of the plan in place for their safety. Dr. Tracey responded to the question stating that the school would have to handle such individual if they are misbehaving and not following the instructions to keep their peers safe during this time.

Ms. Rivera questioned what does the district's plan regarding internet access for students as there was difficulty with access last School Year. Mr. Penn discussed the Mesh WIFI network that is being implemented that will include placing Antennas on the schools to boost the signals to the surrounding communities to increase access, with the hope for it to be in place prior to starting school.

Ms. Rivera questioned if the universal signage that will be placed in the school buildings if it will be available in other languages such as Spanish, Arabic etc. Dr. Tracey stated that the schools will be gauged on what languages the staff and students speak when in school and the appropriate signage will be placed and available based on that information. Mr. Barbarotta added that the ADA compliance flyers will have the same information and are available in other languages as well.

Dr. Goldson asked when the first day of school officially would be. Dr. Tracey stated that it was postponed due the information from the State detailing information regarding adding 3 days to the teacher's calendar prior to the reopening of schools for preparation for their students; either August 31st or September 3rd will be the first school day for students excluding Pre-K students which will be the following week staggered.

Dr. Goldson inquired if the State will be commenting on the district's proposal or if they will want each district to mimic each other's plans, or if they are allowing the districts to personal cater the plans based on the transmission rates in the cities we occupy. Dr. Tracey expresses her understanding that the presentations for each school district will take place and believes that the School boards will give feedback based on the presentations. She continues stating at this time we do not know if their intention is to have, the districts mimic one another's guidelines and that the finalization of such guidelines is to be completed by the first week of August.

Dr. Goldson asked if the local transmissions rates will be gauged by either the State Health department or Local Health Department. Ms. Bond states that the State Health Department has developed a metrics system that will be used to gauge the transmission levels by local Health officials of the district. He adds to his question asking when will that information be available, as to where we stand in the district in regards to transmission rates, so the decision isn't made the day



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Superintendent's Presentation (-Continued)

before school starts to provide parents adequate time to make arrangements. Ms. Bond states that periodic meetings are convening between local and state officials regarding such matters and once they are made available to them, she will forward it to Dr. Tracey for discussion and brought to the board thereafter. Dr. Tracey added that with the proposed plan presented it allows for the district to be flexible during this time, once the Health information is available and the local transmission rates are available.

Dr. Goldson responded he is hopeful that the information will be available soon as he confers to Dr. Jackson point earlier in regards to the transportation information being provided to parents in advance of school in the event neighborhoods have multiple buses coming for students. He also adds his concern of the costs incurred for the additional buses that would have to be purchased. Mr. Penn discussed the deficit and the monies that was provided to the district in the CARES act that was passed, so the outstanding portion that needs to be funded, they are currently looking into alternative avenues for those funds.

Dr. Goldson asks if Google Classroom training will be available to Parents also. Dr. Tracey states that there are Google Classroom videos that are available to parents as they learn to navigate the program, as well as possible training available but no timeline is available in regards to that at this time.

Dr. Goldson wants further clarification regarding the loading and unloading for school buses and what the front to back, back to front method is to accomplish. Attorney Pinto clarified stating that loading and unloading in such manner will limit the transmission of passing by other students unnecessarily. Dr. Goldson responded if a Bus Monitor will be present for the unloading of students after school activities commenced, as the unloading at the school staff will be present. Attorney Pinto stated that although additional bus monitors will be available their will not be one present on every single bus.

Dr. Goldson expresses his concerns with the long term affects some of the chemical cleaning and disinfectant products that will be used around the surfaces and facilities of our staff and students. Mr. Barbarotta stated that the District follows a State mandated green cleaning program. Most of the chemicals that are used are hydrogen peroxide based, the state lifted some of the provisions once Covid came about and some bleach cleaning products were used at that time. But at this time we are going back to the green cleaning program as we approach the school year.

Dr. Goldson refers to Dr. Jacksons point of the responsibility of the cleaning of the classrooms during school hours and has asked if the Teachers Union was brought to the conversation regarding if that falls under their duties, as well as asking if such information was provided to the principals. Dr. Tracey states that it is currently not outlined in the plan as they are still discussing such matters at this time.

Ms. Conway provides a suggestion that the Parents and Teachers wear scrubs and it be part of the PPE materials. As well as stating that he believes August 15th is an appropriate cutoff date



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Superintendent's Presentation (-Continued)

from Health that should allow ample notification time to parents regarding guidelines based on the transmission rates provided from health dept.

Dr. Goldson asked if another special meeting would be called prior to the finalization of the plan for the District prior to reopen. Ms. Rivera stated that a Special Meeting should be called once the plans are being finalized to be presented. Dr. Goldson adds when schools reopen if the committee meetings will continue to be via zoom or resume in person meetings. Ms. Rivera stated that when schools reopen the committee members would resume their meetings in person. Dr. Jackson asked if possible to do a combination of in person and electronic for members who wish to. Dr. Goldson states that the bylaws allow members to be present electronically so a combination of the two should not be an issue for such members.

Dr. Joyner stated that he believes Dr. Tracey and select staff should have a community meeting to address some of the questions the community has regarding reopening. Dr. Tracey states that two family meetings have taken place and that another one may be in the future. She notices that some of the questions that pop up are repetitive and she is in the works of implemented a FAQ that includes such questions in a Family Guide.

Dr. Jackson expresses some concerns regarding the committee resuming in person meetings and wants to further discuss what some of those precautions may be including but not limited to: temperature checks, masks being required, public access be limited to electronically etc. Dr. Joyner seconds this and wishes to further discuss it due to his high-risk status.



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Ms. Rivera stated to now begin public participation portion of the meeting, and will hold an hour for questions.

Public Participation (1)	
Name:	Jessica Light
Comment:	<p>Hello, I am Jessica Light a New Haven Parent, Teacher and Resident. Thank you Dr. Tracey for your incredible leadership during this time. I can tell from your communication that you have been very thoughtful and inclusive in all facets with a focus on safety learning and inclusion. Every day before my students enter my room, I look them in the eye and welcome them in. This is not just a greeting but a contract with my students and myself. I will only welcome them into a room that is safe and ready for them. If there is a known danger I would never tell them to enter, I request that you look at the reopening the same way. We all have pressures on us from above. Students have pressures from teachers who are pressures from administrators who have pressures from the central office who have pressures from the state. Right now, Lamont has put pressure on you to reopen fully because Lamont has people above him putting pressure on him.</p> <p>But regardless of what plan, the state tells us to use if you think it is unsafe to enter that room please do not welcome me or my students in. Do not gamble my life on compliance, if we do not have the funds to create a safe physical environment right now it is okay we can still teach and learn remotely. One life lost for inperson instruction is too many. Again thank you for your leadership and let me know if there is anything I can do to help in our shared goal of a safe environment for school.</p>
Public Participation (2)	
Name:	Melody Gallagher
Comment:	<p>My name is Melody Gallagher, I wanted to share an expert of a statement as of today 44 NHPS teachers signed and will be sent to the state to address some reopening concerns. As educators, we would like to first acknowledge the hard work that superintendent, Dr. Tracey and the TIGER Team have done to create the plans to reopen our schools as mandated by our governor. Some of our concerns with returning 100% in person teaching as follows:</p> <p>First, we strongly feel that the lack of outdoor recess, cooperative play group work, talking sharing supplies the confinement of students to one room all day, etc. will do more harm than good.</p> <p>Second, the state needs to provide full funding to all of the funding streams for public schools. New Haven schools remain underfunded to set up for a safe and healthy year ahead.</p> <p>Lastly, equity is an issue students at NHPS are disproportionately affected by high-risk conditions for Covid therefore they should not be in school buildings where they are more at risk. They have caregivers that are essential workers at a disproportionate rate to their peers and other towns therefore caregivers should be financially compensated by the state to stay home with their children during this global pandemic. They are disproportionately without high speed internet access or devices in the home.</p> <p>Therefore, the state should provide high-speed internet access for all and devices with processing speeds high enough to handle remote synchronous learning. Funds should be used at this time to create a robust online learning platform to train teachers and remote teaching. To provide students with high-speed internet and devices and caregivers with the funds to stay home with their children. We can get back a year of academic learning, but we can't get back someone's life. We understand that the district must comply with the state and therefore we are submitting</p>



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	this for them and their consideration. Thank you very much.
Public Participation (3)	
Name:	Mindi Englart
Comment:	<p>Hello I'm Mindi Englart, I am a parent, teacher and on the TIGER Team. Thank you to the mayor and superintendent I have so much respect for you and the board members tonight for all the really good questions. My main concern is I feel that Covid 19 is not an individual health issue it is a public health issue. So it seems to me that OSHA per original CDC Covid related guidelines for return to school building should be the arbitrator of the decision as to when requirements have been met, to keep both children and adults safe.</p> <p>For example the New Haven Health Department restaurants in the city. When a restaurant has failed a particular health code requirement it is shut down until the owners of it have remediated the issues. I think it should be the same for schools at this time, as each school has met objectives and science based requirements they should reopen and people will accordingly have the confidence to return. If schools do not adhere to strict health code requirements of this time I hear the district will be opening itself to lawsuits by students and adults who meet with bad health outcomes that they believe were preventable. At this time, teachers who fear for their health must actually fill out ADA disability forms, but many teachers have health issues that are not disabilities but has health issues such as diabetes and hypertension do not get in the way of teaching. Therefore, it doesn't really make sense for individual teachers to fill out a ADA form and for a team of people to decide if they pass. I think this would cost unnecessary time, money and stress. I think it's the wrong model because I do think that OSHA should be guaranteeing that each building is safe for anybody to enter. I also think that and listening to you tonight if theres members of the Board, which is a very small group of people who don't feel safe to meet together in a small group and some that will not send their children to schools. It just says so much and I also think that parents can opt their children out and board members can opt themselves out of meeting. I think that teachers should also have the right to opt out themselves out of in school learning and teaching until they are sure the buildings are safe. Thank you.</p>
Public Participation (4)	
Name:	Kirsten McFadden
Comment:	<p>I am both a parent and a teacher I advise the Human Resources department to devise a separate form for those with co-morbidities the ADA form and FMLA form are inadequate. I don't have a disability, and I don't want to file for FMLA. I want to work. I realize a Covid form does not exist, and neither did it a ADA form years ago. It is not in my best interest health wise and in fact could very well be what could cause my death to enter these buildings were some cases children and staff may not have to wear a mask due to their own health issues. I wish to work with the distance learning program will there be a process for teachers to apply for distance learning programs for their building and will they returned to their buildings when is the next deemed safe for all to return. In addition to the above, I encourage everyone to join us at our caravan this Thursday July 30, 2020 at 10a.m. in Hartford details can be found on Facebook at NHPS advocates city wide parents team and New Haven educators page. Thank you.</p>
Public Participation (5)	
Name:	Marie Ackerman
Comment:	<p>Good Evening everyone my name is Marie Ackerman and I'm a para in New Haven Public Schools and have been employed as para for 25 years. I feel great concern for the teachers and the parents, and I want to thank Dr. Tracey and Dr. Jackson, the mayor, and all the members of the board for your support. We as paras assist our teachers lovingly, carefully, academically and in every way possible. We need to have the same feelings that Mrs. Light said that her concerns were have of accepting our students into a safe place. Many teachers I have spoken with and many teachers through the years that I've assisted are very fearful of coming back into the classroom, they want. We all want to go back, I want to go back so badly. But I fear for my health too and for the health of the students and the family and staff and my own family at home. So I'm hoping and I thank you for considering, and I wonder what it would</p>



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	take for us to be able to make that decision to begin to work to start off with distance learning; because this virus is such an uncertain virus since the state is not even opened up into phase three yet we don't know how much more that's going to spread. So I thank you very much and I hope we all stay safe, God bless.
Public Participation (6)	
Name:	Liz – Fair Haven Resident
Comment:	<p>Thank you for providing this platform and quickly I wanted to comment on a question. My daughter attends Quinnipiac School, she will be entering 5th grade in the fall, the school does not have a formal gymnasium or cafeteria nor do they have air conditioning last winter before schools were closed the heat stopped working completely in our children were bused to Jepson for the rest of the day. What if this happens again?</p> <p>In addition, what is an NHPS doing to address the issue of lack of technology, especially for families with multiple children in the district. Will online learning be available for snow days. Lastly, how will food distribution work as I plan on not sending my child back to school this year. What will the hours be and will we be able to go to the school closest to us as the Grand Avenue Bridge is closed due to restoration. Will I have to purchase a webcam for live instruction. We do have a desktop computer. However, it does not have a built in webcam. Thank you very much.</p>
Public Participation (7)	
Name:	James Brochin
Comment:	<p>I had a couple short questions, one has to do with social distancing I was paying very close attention to all the questions about this and I wasn't sure whether if I heard a clear answer about maintaining six feet apart for buses, going to the school, leaving the school, lunch time. I hear. I'm not sure if the answer about one kid per seat really answers the question about whether that is in fact six feet apart, that was my first question.</p> <p>My second question I'm not sure if this is the right place to ask it in a few places in the documents that I just read a clear statement about what kind of learning was going to go on. It said standard based learning or standard based grading or something like that. That has never been done in the school where I work. And if that is going to become the only thing that is being done in the schools its something that I believe will need to be discussed and trained on how to do it to me that would be a big change. Those are my questions.</p>
Public Participation (8)	
Name:	Eileen Aiello
Comment:	<p>Thank you Mayor Elicker and the board of admin for the New Haven Board of Education and administrators our superintendent Dr. Tracey. Thank you so much. I just have a couple of questions that were sort of raising by some comments that were made earlier. As far as cleaning up in the classrooms are teachers will they be required to clean up after class and will extra time be allowed for that and the materials like someone mentioned the effects of the materials being used have those been tested for prolonged use and ingestion by people over time. Since we have closed system and we can't open our windows those materials will be circulated constantly by every classroom over the day. I want to make sure that as a cancer survivor that those materials don't have any detrimental effects for people.</p>
Public Participation (9)	
Name:	Nicole Brown
Comment:	<p>Hello Good Evening, I just have few questions. What is the plan for children who need to catch the bus, or for parents who are afraid to put their children on the bus. What will the city do to ensure that those children are able to get to school. Will there be additional buses that will be provided, I may have missed that portion of the meeting.</p> <p>The second thing I will say is although my children are not going to go to school. I am going to opt out of in person learning, I am happy that schools are opening because, as we know school refuge for many students.</p>



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<p>My next question is what is the plan around improving distance learning my daughter attends Betsy Ross and distant learning sucked for her. So what are the steps that are going to be taken to improve that for this coming school year for families like me who will make the decision to choose distance learning. That's it.</p>	
<p>Public Participation (10)</p>	
Name:	Kenya Ross
Comment:	<p>I am a parent in the community and I just have a few things that I would like to address. So first I would like to say I appreciate the work and the time and dedication that Dr. Tracey and her team and all those involved have done I appreciate the hard work that you did for our children, with that said, as a parent. I am concerned that there are too many moving pieces to this puzzle too many unknowns are still present some of them really to transportation sanitization. I am concerned that added pressure will be added to the teachers, the bus drivers and the admin staff to ensure masks are worn in an effort to combat these moving pieces. I would much rather have my daughter miss a year of learning than to have to lose her to the Covid virus or for her to lose her mother as I am a parent that is high risk like many others she may recover from the virus but I may not. With that being said if she loses a parent what will her mental state be possibly being exposed to Covid from a classmate. I beg you to reconsider and reevaluate and acknowledge that we are not ready at this point to be back in a classroom. As a parent who has chosen to continue with distance learning I fear for the parents who chosen to send their children back to the classroom. I thank you for all the work you have done, but I believe there is still work that needs to be done.</p> <p>Also my daughter attends Betsy Ross during the school year she did inform me of instances where there was no hand soap for them to wash their hands no paper towels for them to dry their hands. This is concerning for me as we are in the midst of a pandemic, I will commend Betsy Ross for their distance learning as she was able up to stay on her assignments from last year. But I am concerned going into this year in regards to transportation, sanitization, and the hygiene that will be provided at these schools. Thank you for allowing me to speak and thank you for all that you've done.</p>
<p>Public Participation (11)</p>	
Name:	Karen Wilkinson
Comment:	<p>Congratulations, Dr. Tracey on your appointment and thank you so much for your leadership and I am a paraprofessional, I have been so for a very long time. I don't want to go back. I really do not want to go back. But my question is, if I opt out will I be able to go back to the school that I'm coming from; and if I do opt out what days are being used. As far as the schools in the days meaning. Is it my sick days or how that, what would that look like? My other thing is with the schools. How do we know that the schools will be properly cleaned and I say that to say because the school that I was in has so much mold in it. That teachers had to be moved, teachers and students had to be moved from the classrooms. So what is going to ensure us that the schools will be properly clean and it does speak to the fact that maybe OSHA should make these determinations. Thank you for the opportunity</p>
<p>Public Participation (12)</p>	
Name:	Grace
Comment:	<p>Hello, I am a spouse of a teacher at a couple schools and youth events and I have a couple questions. I do want to say that I am really impressed with all the work that done I actually feel slightly 1% safer about the plan than I did coming into this meeting as someone that has my own high risk health issues. I'm concerned with my spouse going into the school and I'm curious about a couple things.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. If teachers choose to opt out to come back to school because of their concern for their own or their families health. What are the repercussions of that. B. Secondly, how will specials be handled in schools, if we are trying to keep kids in the same classroom throughout the day and not share things like for music and art classes. I haven't heard anything about that.



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I'm curious about the plan there. Thank you.

Public Participation (13)

Name: Julia Miller

Comment: Hello, my name is Julia Miller I am a teacher at New Haven Public Schools and parent and I'm so grateful to work in this district with such dedicated educators and compassionate leadership under the guidance of Dr. Tracey. We need a safe trauma informed and fully funded return to school the unfunded state mandate of a full five-day return for all grades K-12 is capricious and cruel. There's knowingly putting the lives of students and their families and educators and their families at risk, we must resist it. I teach in a building just as many others where the windows, do not open. I teach at a high school like many others where each student has their own individualized schedule of eight classes, making it impossible to cohort. To make learning meaningful and active, I teach like so many of my colleagues using strategies that center student voices through small group and full class discussion and collaborative hands on project based assessments. Again, an impossibility to do while attempting to follow the guidelines that will keep us safe guidelines, by the way, that will be impossible themselves to achieve. How can one effectively socially distance with so many students in the room.

With cases surging across the country knowing full well the likelihood, there will be another outbreak and school more outbreaks and school was will have to once again shutter. Why not spend the short and valuable time we have left making full remote leaning and or at least the safer hybrid plan work really well. It's clear that after tonight. That is what NHPS preferred way forward would be. If the State has paused phase three not allowing more than 25 people indoors at a time. Why is it okay for schools to open with hundred of people's inside them for many hours a day, or our lives but invaluable. We have seen that Covid 19 is disproportionately affecting communities of color, I've already had students lose loved ones. How can we consciously enter this into this knowing that more life can be lost in that district like ours which has historically been underfunded will be impacted the most, we need to rally together and make the state change course and allow and fund a more humane approach. Thank you so much.

Public Participation (14)

Name: Eddie Blue

Comment: Thank you again, I just have two quick things I want to touch on. I'm connected to Head Start and we have kids that catch the bus. Our bus age actually puts the kids in car seats and then take them out the car seat. So that's a concern for me if that persons going to be in contact with our kids, four times in a day. To put them in the car seat at the bus stop unload them at school and the same thing at pick up. So theyre not going to be passing each other on the bus, but again, becoming a direct contact with the bus aid that's going to put them in.

The second thing I want to briefly touch on is Dr. Joyner spoke about dealing with challenging people I'll say it that way. Are we going to have a increase in a security presence in the school. I knew the school that my children went to, we didn't have the same guard more than 6 or 8 weeks at a time. We seem to be in a place where people that want light duty landed at into they got better to provide to their school; and because we are a Head Start it was perceived that didn't necessarily need security well unless you've ever pick the kids up from pre k at two o'clock. We need security, just as much as anybody else.

So those were the two things I wanted to touch on, at the security in the school is to help other people that may not be compliant and again our bus aids temperatures things of that nature. Their ability to keep themselves clean and between touching kids and how will that impact our time, were getting kids to school on time because we use the same bus for both tiers, Tier one and Tier Two drop off and pick up and coming back. So I don't know if we can really squeeze that in. Okay thank you for the time. I appreciate it.



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Public Participation (15)

Name:	Eric Yuhas
Comment:	<p>Dr. Tracey, Dr. Whyte, members of the Board thank you very much for having this meeting and for giving me an opportunity to speak. I have two hats on tonight, I am an assistant principal at Sound School and I am also the parent of two New Haven Public School students and I have one question from each hat.</p> <p>My first question is I brought this up in the Q&A but a gentle reminder that we have some schools one that I'm intimately familiar with that do not use for students for transportation for the given students. But instead use CT Transit Buses and also we have inter-district schools that rely on transportation from the sending districts which use a variety of different transportation companies. So my question is it even possible and if so how to ensure that those other conveyances are adhering to the Bus safety protocols that First Student has put up.</p> <p>My second question or my hope as a parent we at home are leaning more toward doing distance learning for the fall as a persona family decision for our two students aged 13 and 14. Because its likely that they'll be doing that totally independently while I'm at school and my wife is an essential worker and shell be at work. I am hoping the protocols for distance learning families like ours that opt for that will be flexible with due dates and you know assignment completion. Thank you.</p>

Public Participation (16)

Name:	Jennifer Sarja
Comment:	<p>Hi good evening, I want to echo. First of all, Dr. Tracey and your team the plan I mean this is such a herculean task. I appreciate as a teach how much work that has gone into it. I wanted to share with the board two thoughts on this summer. Actually, I just finished today week four of a summer program that I've been teaching in New York City in which I teach six classes of second graders and third graders. This particular camp where I'm working has been was 600 kids and its now down to 200, I have fewer than 10 students in a room. I can tell you today that there are never fewer than 3 adults in the room and I counted students I had eight and still I had three girls when my back was turned gathering together whispering in one another's ears laughing and you can see the spit flying through the air. The bottom line is I don't see how its possible to control little kids in this environment at this age. I'm watching it in front of me and I come home every Tuesday and I got through a decontamination routine. So my colleagues who are elementary schools I urge you to consider truly how much we really haven't in our control. The second more personal to me is, is as a high school teacher I saw a lot of my students this spring fall out of their learning through no fault of their own, and their parents lost their jobs and so they went to work. They were responsible for their younger siblings education and making sure that their distance learning was taken care of and as a result they missed their own. We are in a community where we have to be able to support our families, and I'd like us to consider what some out of the box thinking might loko like that would allow these student to also partake in distance learning, while also supporting their families and their siblings and offer evening classes. Thank you very much for the opportunity.</p>

Public Participation (17)

Name:	Jessica Domotor
Comment:	<p>Hello my name is Jessica Domotor and I am a high school, school counselor at one of the magnet schools in New Haven and I just have a couple questions.</p> <p>My first question is will there be full time nurses in all buildings. There was a lot of emphasis on the health aspects and the safety aspects in regards to Covid 19. But I know the building that I'm in as of the last two years, we've only had one Nurse two days a week in our building and I just wonder if that's going to be the same. And if it is, then whose going to be responsible for screening kids, if we think they're sick or who's taking their temperatures and deciding if they need to go home or not that's one of my biggest concerns. I want to echo what some of our other colleagues</p>



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	have said our teachers being given the same option that students and families are given as well as board members. In regards to if they are just not comfortable going back to work in the building and they choose, they'd like to choose remote learning um, is that given to them. That's it. Thank you.
Public Participation (18)	
Name:	Ms. Battle
Comment:	<p>I do just want to say that I do appreciate the hard work that Dr. Tracey and her team. You guys have given an attack and you've completed it. And you could tell you work hard at it also to the board member and the mayor. My question is on the things that are shared in school, they share textbooks, they share chrome books and they share different supplies. Are those going to be wiped down, is there going to be a way you know things wont be transmitted through that I know in the last call someone had asked about gym and they said that a ball would have to be wiped down before the next kid touched it. So who's going to be responsible for wiping down things that the kids are going to be sharing from class to class. The last year in our school theyre wandering off textbook. So they were sharing them in class. The other question I have is how many days will schools need to be shut down after a positive test. Who will be cleaning the bathrooms and will they be cleaned throughout the day, like after each kid uses them after class uses it how will cleaning of the bathrooms go.</p> <p>Distance learning for us was not bad this year we were in Betsy Ross, but I do look forward to more creative way more fun it was, you know. So I was very happy to see in the presentation that you do have new ideas for that. The other thing for me is, wouldn't it be counterproductive to not social distance on the school buses and you plan so carefully to keep them apart in the schools. Just to put them back on the bus without social distancing thing that was question I had. The other thing is you have something and to please help with the kids. She a teacher or peer pass away from the coronavirus what the effects of that would be. And if you have something to please handle that. Thank you.</p>
Public Participation (19)	
Name:	Nataliya Braginsky
Comment:	<p>As a New Haven Public Schools teacher, I poured through the states 50-page plan in search of concrete guidance and preparations that would give me a sense of how reopening schools could possibly be safe for our community. Instead, I was confronted with the notion of feasibility, which appears 13 times in the document, reduced class sizes and student cohorts and single direction hallways and staircases are not mandated but rather will be implemented only where feasible. Maintaining 6 feet distance procedures for monitoring students and staff members symptoms and provision of cloth face coverings again when feasible. Bus capacity will not be reduced, but the reopening plan suggests, quote keep in mind the feasibility and availability of alternate transportation by parents and guardians for whom will these lifesaving recommendations actually be feasible. Commissioner Miguel Cardona recently stated reopening will look a lot different in Salisbury, or in Sprog Connecticut, than it will in Hartford or Bridgeport. We know this is true, and we also know why racism and segregation and unjust school funding formula Salisbury schools which are 83% white received \$22,909 per student, while Bridgeport 87% students of color only received \$14,041 per student. In our own underfunded district where we are annually informed of multimillion dollar deficits. We know these recommendations will not actually be feasible for us. Dr. Tracey I understand that this decision is not in your hands, but it is no longer in the hands of a state that is demanding our return knowing full well it will mean more death, especially among youth of color and their families. This decision is now in our hands as educators students and families we need to do what is best to protect our community, we must refuse the states mandate to return to in person schooling and for when we do return we must do the deeper work of fighting for a more equitable and just education system. Thank you.</p>
Public Participation (20)	
Name:	Dennis Wilson
Comment:	Hello everyone, first of all, thank you to Dr. Tracey and Mayor Elicker and the board for your leadership. I am the



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Director of Education Service at Iris and we gathered a bunch of our high school students together a few weeks ago and asked them what they would like to share with the Board of Education in regards to returning to school, so I'd just like to share some of the comments.

They did say that they fear for their health and safety many of us would prefer to go to school online only. But we are willing to go to school in person because as English language learners we really struggled in online classes in spring 2020 we worry we will fall behind if school is completely online and never be able to catch up.

For in person schooling they request teachers use in person days to review assignments and topics covered in online school days so they are not getting new material for the first time online. They request that English learners be placed in online classes for all subjects with teachers or teaching assistants who have use all training. Many of us have different levels of computer literacy and struggle to understand online assignments and instruction without individualized help.

They also request that teachers if English Language learners remember that older siblings have younger students are doing homework and also teaching our younger siblings when classes are completely online. We are glad to help because it means our younger siblings are safe, but we need teachers to take this into account when creating the online course load for Middle and High Schoolers with younger siblings in school.

They have also requested if possible interpreters in online classes for students with very low levels of English. So just wanted to pass those concerns along. Thanks again for your leadership, and this goes without saying but theres Iris and so many other partner community organizations in New Haven that stand ready to help. So please don't hesitate to call us. Thanks.

Public Participation (21)

Name:	Ms. Highsmith
Comment:	Okay so just a couple of things I would like to point out, is there a plan or plans in place for students that have special needs or preschool students that cannot or will not wear a mask throughout the day. What will fire drills and active shooter drills look like with social distancing in schools. Lastly, I'm sorry not lastly, what would a typical school day look like in terms of the hours will the hours be decreased will be similar to half day schedule. And lastly, will you incorporate more substitute teacher in all the school to help with the students. Thank you.



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Adjournment

On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted by roll call to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Salina Manning

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

DRAFT