



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Connecticut

Board of Education Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2021 via Zoom

I. Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Ms. Rivera.

Attendees: Present: : Ms. Yesenia, President; Mr. Matt Wilcox, Vice-President; Dr. Edward Joyner, Secretary; Mayor Justin Elicker, Dr. Tamiko Jackson-McArthur, Mr. Darnell Goldson, Mr. Larry Conaway, Mr. Fiore.

II. Pledge of Allegiance: Dr. Joyner led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of the Board Minutes: **On the Motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Wilcox to approve the Minutes from the January 11, 2021 meeting. (Motion Withdraw)**
1.11.2021

Mr. Goldson requested the minutes have more details regarding the discussion as well as included failed motions.

IV. Public Participation:

Name * Christi Sargent

Email * christisargent@gmail.com

Comments * Maybe this has been made clear already, if not, I hope it will be made clear. Why wasn't it okay to send students back for the November date but it is okay now? The numbers are higher now than they were in November. It is hard for me to support a return in January without this being made clear to me.

Name * Kiana Webber

Email * mcajigas72@gmail.com

Comments *



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Hello,

My name is Kiana Webber and I currently attend Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School in New Haven. I am honored to have been asked to share my experience during this uncertain time, everyone has been affected and it is essential to have hope. When my Junior year took an unexpected turn, I was happy, happy because I could sleep in, happy because I didn't have to wake up early anymore, and happy because I could finally catch up on missing assignments and prepare for the SATs. Those two weeks turned into two months, then 6 months, and then suddenly I was entering my senior year in my bedroom through a screen. Time and time again I've heard, "don't stress, things will work out eventually!". When is this "eventually" coming? I've waited and waited for things to get a little better but I continue to be stressed, and I get mounds of homework that soon consume me to the point where I can't do what I love to do. Since online learning has started, I haven't felt as confident as I used to be in school and I am always second-guessing myself. This pandemic took so many things away from us, lives, happiness, the ability to freely see our family, and countless more, I truly hope one day we will get back to the way we were. I want to go back to school more than ever with the right precautions because now that I've been out of school, I truly understand the amount of happiness I get from attending school and seeing my friends. Remote learning has sucked the fun out of learning and for me, the feeling of enjoying my time. I am always stressing about something I don't have time to relax or enjoy my time, it's always "Assignment 5 is due tomorrow", I want to feel the enjoyment I had from before more than anything in this world.

Name * Sofia Carrillo

Email * Sofiaisawesome@icloud.com

Comments *

My Remote Learning Testimony

By: Sofia Carrillo

Date: 1/11/21

Hello my name is Sofia Carrillo and I go to Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School as a junior to study theatre. As many students are, I am also remotely learning currently. And in all honesty, it sucks. The only bright side I can think of is not waking up early to catch the bus. Only one bright side? That will definitely motivate kids to continue remote learning. Do you know how many kids are so unmotivated to do anything after school related and more homework and screen time won't encourage them to get motivated. I am still struggling to get into the habit of remote learning. Of course you can think well she's a high schooler she should adapt. I understand that yet I'm still a human being with needs and disadvantages as well as many other students. Remote learning is very taxing being on a screen for 6-7 hours while still having to do homework after and doing extracurricular activities outside of school, which I state is also online. I have a problem with my sight and being on the computer for so many hours is not helping my eyesight. All this homework isn't either. There are things I want to do with my family that have to wait because oh I have homework to finish. It comes to "save me the food I have to finish



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homework” and “don’t watch the next episode without me let me just finish these few equations” School is not all there is in the world. Remote learning is a solution to a problem but it is leading to other problems as well. Kids not wanting to do the work which is allowing them to fail. Teachers applying more homework to grade. The mental health of students AND teachers. Mental health is extremely important. One thing that caught my attention was when teachers would say please care about your mental health and then give us so many essays and worksheets like what mental health were you talking about exactly? I know it’s not the teacher’s fault because they have a curriculum to follow. It’s the curriculum’s fault. Obviously it should be altered because this is not a normal school year and we can’t continue saying that it is. It’s not. It’s different. It’s harder. But that’s not an excuse to learn either. There should be less screen time and less work and more time to go outside, do extracurricular activities, talk to the family and friends. I really don’t want to look at my years in high school and think, “Wow they couldn’t do anything” You tell us kids that we can do anything and nothing is impossible yet there’s something contradicting your words. If we can do anything about things that are important to us, then you should be able to do anything to help us.

If I had a personal choice to go back or not, I would definitely go. But it’s still my parent’s choice. They wouldn’t let me go. However, that doesn’t mean I can try and let change the view so others can go back to school. Like many other people should, I put others before myself. I care for other people’s well being and life. So please I ask that this year not go to waste. I’m a junior and I want to enjoy this year before I have to start to apply to colleges and start applications and my future (even though I already started). Thank you for your time and take consideration in this dilemma :)

Name * Kevin Langstaff

Email * Kevin.Langstaff@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments *

Every educator can agree that kids need to be back in school, but NHPS dropped the ball in the summer which was the correct time to open. As an NHPS educator, I do not feel confident in my ability to keep kids and the community safe. That is my #1 job as a teacher and with the protocols and planning from Dr. Tracey, I do not believe schools can do that without proper planning or times to plan! Additionally, making the hybrid K-5 add such unnecessary problems. Most NHPS schools have a 5/6 team so now as a 5th grade teacher, I am in a very difficult split. I do not think 5th grade should be included in the first phase of hybrid.

Name * Sheree Nkata

Email * sheree.nkata@gmail.com

Comments *



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I am a parent of a 10 year old in the district. I know she wants to go back to school in person more than anything. I am also a teacher in the district and I miss seeing my students. However, this is not the right time to re-open. Vaccines are finally being given out. It seems only prudent to wait just a little longer until our teachers and staff can be vaccinated because as much as my daughter and I want to return to school, I do not want to endanger my high-risk husband's life to do so. A year without in person learning is having an effect on my child, but not as much as video-calling her daddy in ICU because we as a community could not wait just a little longer. I think we should wait until our teachers and staff have received both doses of the vaccine.

Name * Sherrie Herbert-Oliver

Email * sherrie@wboliver.com

Comments * To the board, this meeting is zoomed because it is not safe to gather together, so what makes you think it is safe for us to be together in a class. You are smart people, really just think about it. This decision is causing a lot of stress, for myself and I'm sure lots of people. Please see that this is not a good decision.

Name * Amanda Moreno

Email * mandi21378@yahoo.com

Comments *

I am saddened by the thought that there is no regard for human life. The thought that people who feel they have power over people is sickening. The thought that staff and children are being put at risk to save the food/ meal money deficit if we don't return!! We are told that Covid rules go out the window for fire drill/ lockdown. So we are to go to are usual area of refuge with 10+ students in a single bathroom in our classroom until we get the all clear. That we have to cover other classrooms for lunch and be exposed to other students for 30 minutes aside from our own class as they eat with no mask on, that is a total of one hour between two classes "we are sitting ducks." When is the possible loss of one human life going to out weigh in person learning? Why are meetings still being held on ZOOM if it is deemed safe to be in person? Why do I have to explain to my own children though neither are going hybrid that the district says it's safe for my younger child to go back but not their sibling? All for one, One for all!! As parents we don't even know what's going on with buses! As parents your children are going back to a building you are not even allowed into!

Name * Sarah Raynold

Email * sarahwendell@mac.com



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Comments *

"The New Haven Public Schools' proposal to reopen schools for in-person learning amid the highest rates of COVID-19 so far prompts deep concern. Two months ago, public health officials determined it unsafe to hold in-person school with a 7-day average of 22.6 cases per 100,000 residents in the City of New Haven. As of Thursday, we face nearly triple that rate, 63.7 per 100,000. The public has received no new information on critical readiness measures, such as access to testing and vaccination; building preparation; safety and hygiene supplies and protocols; mechanisms for physical distancing; breakfast and lunch procedures; and transportation procedures. What changed to suddenly make in-person school safe in the middle of the highest peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with a more transmissible variant of virus now circulating?" -From the NHPSA statement

Name * Anne Rhodes

Email * anne@annerhodes.net

Comments *

Like many others, I am alarmed by the timing of this opening. In late October, we received a communication indicating that schools would not open for in-person learning on November 9th, citing high Covid rates and stating that "we need to follow the science." According to Covid Act Now, cases in New Haven county are currently at 81.3 per 100,000. This is more than 8 times the cases in late October, and is considered a "severe outbreak." The transmission rate is also well over 1%, which is considered high.

Given these facts, it is unconscionable to open schools at this time. It is hard to believe that the wellbeing of our community has been considered foremost in making this decision. And once again, the concerns of teachers about their safety and the safety of their families seems to be falling by the wayside. The Quinnipiac and West Rock communities were told our schools were safe throughout the fall, despite the inadequacy of the HVAC systems being well-known to many of us since August. Now, we are finally being told the buildings are unsafe. This does not engender trust in the statement that other schools in the system are safe. Much has been made about cleaning protocols, even as data emerges about the unlikelihood of surface transmission, while we have received little information about whether there is adequate space for social distancing to mitigate airborne transmission. Given that the state seems to want our system to open no matter what, I not have a lot of trust that there is any oversight to ensure sufficient safety protocols are in place. This decision comes at a time when a new, more transmissible strain of Covid is occurring in our state. This strain has so far been shown to result in higher rates of hospitalization in children. It is also a time at which a vaccine is finally in sight for teachers. So, I ask the question many others have already asked: why not wait? Remote learning has been challenging for most families and students, to say the least (I am currently struggling to write coherently, with the brain-scrambling chaos of a first-grade class in the background), not to mention for teachers. But we have made it this far and a major step towards safety is no in sight.

Regarding communication about this opening, and the closing of the Quinnipiac and West Rock school, I understand that the



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message was sent out on New Year's Eve so that families and educators would learn the information directly rather than through word of mouth or the press. However, in sending out incomplete information, more harm than good was done. It was not clear from the letter whether remote learning would still be an option. As a QSTEM parent, I was initially glad that we were finally receiving truthful information about the safety of our school building, but WITHIN AN HOUR AFTER RECEIVING THAT MESSAGE, I AND MANY OTHERS HAD LEARNED THROUGH WORD OF MOUTH THAT THOSE CLOSURES WERE LIKELY PERMANENT. This was a full 4 days before teachers were informed and 5 days before parents would receive official word. During this time, we were unsure whether finishing the year with the same teacher in remote learning would be an option. When the news was finally shared with teachers on Monday morning, it was reported in the Independent by the afternoon, still more than 24 hours before parents were officially informed. This is a small city, and it is to be expected that folks will share information with those affected by it; providing only partial information on decisions that have already been made is not an effective strategy. New Year's Eve 2020 was a time when many families were struggling to muster the will to celebrate in some small way, but instead many of us spent that time and the following days in a state of uncertainty and anxiety – and for some of us, tears of grief at the closing of our school. It's difficult to imagine that there could not have been a better way to inform stakeholders of these decisions, and it is frustrating that these decisions were made without warning or any prior public discussions. To close any schools at this time seems counter to providing adequate space for safety protocols, and at the very least questions about alternative spaces should have been answered and discussed.

Name * Karlen Meinsen

Email * kmeinsen55@gmail.com

Comments *

Dear New Haven Board of Education,

First, I want to thank you for your dedication at the start of this unimaginable school year on behalf of the safety and well-being of our students, families, and teachers. Determining full-remote was a very appropriate strategy to protect us from the ravages of this virus. In typical New Haven fashion, you did what was best for OUR community. New Haven has been a trailblazer over the decades on many issues and this is no exception. There is no easy answer here, but know that there is no place your teachers would rather be than in our classrooms with our students. The question before us is: is this the right time to send us in? What is the science informing us? The current spike is the highest we've seen since last March. The numbers today in New Haven are at triple the levels than November. There is a new strain which is present in New Haven County and showed up in a young person between 15 and 25 years old. Children do carry and transmit the disease. This disease has struck and in some cases killed young people and those who did not have predisposed medical conditions. More recently, there is yet another new strain overseas which will certainly present a new and dangerous challenge for all of us. Other districts have had to close because of lack of staff coverage; will we be able to safely staff every classroom given the threat of teachers contracting the disease, needing to quarantine due to exposure or needing to care for a loved one? Finally, how can we honestly send teachers back to the buildings without vaccinating them?



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I believe New Haven has been able to avoid a worse outbreak partly because our schools have been closed. What kind of an impact will this opening have on the spread of Co-vid 19 in New Haven? So, is this truly the right time to send us back to the buildings? Please consider all of these points when making this all important decision. Thank you again for your service to New Haven Public Schools and stay safe.

Respectfully yours,

Karlen Meinsen, teacher, parent, and community advocate

Name * Dennis Wilson

Email * dennisinamerica@gmail.com

Comments * I would like to voice my support for the opt-in, hybrid reopening of schools in a safe and systemic way. I work with many young men and women - mostly English Language Learners - who are languishing with remote learning as the only option. The current situation has taken a big toll on their academic and mental well-being. I trust that there is a way forward for NHPS to take the necessary steps to keep teachers and students safe while bringing them back for in-person learning. Thank you so much for your efforts.

Name * Sean Reeves

Email * seanjreeves@gmail.com

Comments * I think that the school system should wait before opening schools back. There is currently an uptick in covid cases as well as a new strand of the virus that has been found in multiple locations throughout Conn. I believe that the school system should wait until the teaching population has received the vaccination before planning to reopen schools. As I understand the need level of many of the parents and students throughout my local community I also understand the fear level of being vaccinated and the lack of finances when it comes to additional problems that may arise within a household.

Name * Eddie Cajigas

Email * ecajigas_99@yahoo.com

Comments *

We applaud the district's opening plan for the K-5. However, the New Haven schools should be open to ALL students so that learners may receive the full compliment of an excellent public school education. As supporters of a hybrid model, students



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that desire to attend in-person learning should be given the opportunity to do so. Students who seek a virtual setting instead should be given equal footing as well. We ask for courage by the Administration (like many on other districts in Connecticut) to afford every student excited to attend school (in a hybrid model), the opportunity to learn in an environment with our caring, wonderful and valorous teachers.

Submitted by parent of a rising senior - Parent, Eddie Cajigas

Name * Veronica Givan

Email * veronica.douglas-givan123@gmail.com

Comments Please share with all parents the plan for the Opening of School, so we can open responsibly.

*

Name * Pamela Mouzon

Email * exec_p@yahoo.com

Comments Hello,

*

I am a guardian with a 2nd grader that attends Wexler Grant doing remote learning. I am online with her everyday and the teacher is doing the best she can, but it does not replace in person. The numbers are low enough for them to return. The emotional and psychological toll on our students is too much. Parents have option to not send kids to school and stay remote if we go back; but right now we are all forced to stay home. Please reopen schools with current plan.

Concerned Guardian,

Pamela

Name * Monica Moore

Email * ourmojofamily@gmail.com

Comments *

I have two areas of concern that I would ask the BOE to consider and hope will be addressed.



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Instead of continuing to argue over reopening, there needs to be a focus on developing a truly equitable alternative to in-person learning. It is my strong belief that additional resources need to be added for the remote learners to have a similar experience to our current remote learning environment and not be penalized for choosing a remote option.

While Quinnipiac and West Rock schools may have building issues that make them unviable during this pandemic and into the future, these school communities need to remain intact and are more than just brick and mortar. The students and the staff are the school. NHPS, BOE and the City of New Haven need to find a way to relocate them into a new physical space instead of displacing them into other already crowded NHPS. I ask that the BOE think creatively to find a new space for these predominantly black and brown schools.

With those concerns stated, I would also like to share my confusion over decisions that have been made about reopening schools. While I support re-opening our schools, I question why NHPS would reopen now when rates are higher than they were in the Fall. How were caregivers asked to wait 10 weeks to open when numbers were low, but now there is a rush to open? Why reopening schools prior to teachers and staff being vaccinated? This seems like an easy way to reduce transmissions among adults when a vaccine for staff seems likely in the next few weeks.

Name * Paul S

Email * pj6181@yahoo.com

Comments * I truly appreciate all that has been done to keep New Haven teachers safe during this year! I am asking for a push forward of our vaccine window or delaying the opening until at least the first vaccine is given! This would help make this transition as safe as possible to protect our staff, students, and families! We've been so careful up to this point. Please let's not lose sight of this right now! We are so close!

Name * Susannah Bernheim

Email * susannah.bernheim@yale.edu

Comments *

I want to strongly support plans to open our schools this month – starting with hybrid learning in the elementary schools and then expanding to other grades.

I am a parent of two NHPS students, a physician, and public health researcher.

Schools are critical for our kids academic and social development, for keeping our community connected, and for our



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economic strength.

Importantly, we know from many examples that we can open schools safely, and evidence suggests that schools are not a major source of community spread of COVID-19.

There's lots we need to do to reduce rates of COVID in our community ,but even as we work to do this, given all we know about reducing risk, we should also begin safely opening schools. It's time.

Name * Anthony Pellegrino

Email * apellegrino81@gmail.com

Comments *

Greetings,

Thank you for the opportunity speak to this body again. Last time I addressed this body was in November supporting the reopening of schools at that time. I speak again today to urge for the reopening of in person education and to thank the public officials that have provided leadership on reopening schools. I say this from the perspective of a parent of 2 NHPS students, as a former NHPS educator, and as a certified Infection Prevention nurse who has overseen a large part of the pandemic response of a large local area health system.

To be clear, schools can be made safe from a COVID perspective in the same way that hospitals can be made safe. I say this from the frontlines of the COVID pandemic working within units full of COVID patients. I should add that I have not contracted COVID even though I have been in close proximity to patients requiring ICU level of care because of their COVID. Simple and widely known PPE protocols, when strictly enforced, work very well at preventing the spread of COVID-19 even when in close proximity to people that are symptomatically infected. Outside of the healthcare setting, my preschool daughter attends a large daycare center where she is masked all day. There has been a paucity of cases at this large daycare center, and no clusters at the facility. As an infection prevention nurse, I will add that the vaccine will not be a panacea in the short-term, and most of these PPE protocols will still apply even after a large percentage of teachers are vaccinated. Although I am an infection preventionist and not a public health professional, I will say that parsing out which cases noted in public schools are associated with attendance at those schools is almost impossible. Put simply the contact tracing capabilities which this would require in large part do not exist throughout this country. In the setting of incomplete data, with widespread community-based transmission, attributing case rates to public schools is not a scientific approach. It is a classic mistake to confuse correlation with causation. For anyone besides an expert in public health and epidemiology to state with certainty that schools being open is associated with increased public health risk is clearly a case of conflating these two concepts.

To close, thank you for your leadership on reopening in person learning, and please continue to follow the advice of public



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health experts on this important matter. As I drove home on Grand Avenue tonight, I saw laundry mats and barber shops full of unmasked individuals. With this in mind how can we in good conscience keep schools closed, and deny our children a quality education, because we think this will drive community transmission?

Name * Emily Bazelon

Email * emilybazelon@gmail.com

Comments *

I want to thank Dr. Tracey and the members of the Board of Education, as well as teachers and administrators and staff, for their work in this difficult time. I'm the parent of a high school student at Wilbur Cross. I am very much in favor of giving teachers priority for vaccination. And I realize this is a time of uncertainty about the trajectory of the virus. But as you know, public schools are open elsewhere in CT and I think New Haven can reopen prek-5 safely based on their experience. I want to quote from an article in the CT examiner about how epidemiologists have seen little evidence that infection has spread as a result of school opening elsewhere in our state.

CT EXAMINER ARTICLE

<https://ctexaminer.com/2020/12/27/epidemiologists-see-little-evidence-of-classroom-spread-of-covid-for-connecticut/>

Epidemiologists See Little Evidence of Classroom Spread of COVID in Connecticut

"The Connecticut Examiner analyzed data from the state Department of Education that found that students in Connecticut are nearly as likely to report testing positive for COVID-19 if they study remotely, in person or in a hybrid model.

According to epidemiologists and experts in the state, that data tracks with the lessons they've learned over the fall semester, as students have returned to the classroom in some regions and stayed home in others.

The lack of evidence of large-scale, in-classroom transmission is a testament to risk mitigation strategies, said Dr. Albert Ko, professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health.

"Since we haven't had any large, school-wide outbreaks, it shows us that our interventions have been able to keep classrooms safe," Dr. Ko said. "Face masks, cohorts, and to a lesser extent disinfection have all been able to work."

To recap, New Haven is in a position to learn from what other districts have experienced. I support a voluntary and partial reopening of school for young kids, who are lowest risk, and the English language learners and some special education students, for whom remote learning is most difficult.

Research suggests that children are experiencing significant learning loss because of remote education. Research also



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shows that students who fall behind because of elementary-school closures are likely to have shorter life expectancies, on average. The same may be true of older students as a result of lower graduation rates. There is a serious cost to continuing with remote education as well. And this cost will not be born equally. School closures like so much else will have a greater negative impact on low-income kids.

Name * Carolina Salas

Email * carolina.salas@new-haven.k12.ct.us

Comments * In November the Board of Education determined New Haven was not safe enough to return in person, now with a much higher positivity rate of 13% they say it is. They plan to have buildings reopen Jan 19.

There are conflicting studies many say schools aren't super spreaders and many that say they are. With the science unsettled and the new variant of covid seeming to threaten children more it seems prudent to when in doubt err on the side of caution.

Please Please wait until the vaccine is available for us.

Name * Black and Brown United in Action

Email * blackbrownunited@gmail.com

Comments *

The City of New Haven is in Phase 2 COVID-19 closing protocol, and is currently experiencing a much higher positivity rate in November, reporting a 13% positivity rate. Given this positivity rate and the mutated variant present within the State of CT, Black and Brown United in Action, Unidad Latina en Acción, Hamden Action Now and City Wide Parent Team, groups which collectively represent the black and brown communities, are demanding he following conditions are met by the City of New Haven and New Haven Public Schools:

We, the undersigned demand the City of New Haven pays for A WEEKLY, testing protocol and plan, which is included in the NHPS reopening plan. This testing protocol must include all staff, faculty, maintenance, crossing guards, food service, security staff, students, and First Student bus personnel. We also request the NHBOE not to compare NH Public Schools with private schools that are opening with strict weekly testing protocols as the parameters of COVID19 screening differ between the public and private schools and that is irresponsible and inaccurate data analysis.

We, the undersigned demand that schools not reopen until 80% of the State of CT has received the CDC approved COVID-19 vaccine as two cases of the COVID-19 variant have been recently discovered in CT, and it is medically recognized that herd immunity is reached by way of vaccination.



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We, the undersigned demand that Governor Ned Lamont offers all students, teachers, admin, maintenance, security, food service, bus driving personnel to go to the front of the line to receive any COVID-19 vaccination that has received emergency use authorization by the Center for Disease Control, advising any of those that are not willing to accept the offer of vaccination when it becomes available, must continue to submit to WEEKLY COVID-19 testing, at their expense.

We, the undersigned, demand a mandatory mask for all staff and students, including First Student bus services, provided by the City of New Haven to all students. All masks will be standardized, not bandana's etc. will be allowed.

We, the undersigned demand NHBOE provide a plan of action to protect the black and brown students from attacks on their personal safety in the event of an uprising against these specific students while school is in session given the recent deadly insurrection that took place on January 6, 2021 consisting of violent White Nationalist seeking to overthrow and take over our nation's government as well as the hate crime which occurred against a black woman at the Hartford Capitol on the same day.

We, the undersigned, demand that NHBOE include the public to review the results of the First Student Transportation OSHA results/safety plan with EPA approved cleaning products.

We, the undersigned, demand NHBOE provide a clear reopening disinfection plan including planned staffing that include CDC requirements.

We, the undersigned, demand NHBOE must provide a contingency plan for medically compromised students which was previously requested in April 2020.

We, the undersigned, recognize that the above matters must be addressed PRIOR TO a decision being made of reopening schools. We, the undersigned, recognize that a failure to address these issues puts the lives of all students, and staff in imminent danger of dying from contracting COVID-19 and or being murdered by radicalized white supremacists.

Signed and endorsed by:

Hamden Action Now

Black & Brown United in Action

Unidad Latina En Acción

Citywide Parent Team



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Name * Lisa Lucatino

Email * lm15468@aol.com

Comments *

Dear Dr. Tracey and Board of Education members,

I am a Kindergarten paraprofessional , it is almost impossible to social distance them from myself and others. The children have never been in school and need a lot of help. Most can't open their breakfast , turn on their devices or zip their coats. I am constantly standing over them at very close proximity and reminding them to pull up their mask! I have never felt more at risk than I do now. The mix of the remote learners and live instruction is a disaster. I have heard media reports that everything is great . I am telling you from the front lines that it is not and I know several colleagues who feel the same . Where is our vaccine and why aren't we a priority? Early childhood should be at the top of the list . It would make more sense for older grades to be in person because they know how to wear a mask , social distance , and fend for themselves . Thank you for your time!

V. Students' Report: No Report at this time.

VI. Superintendent Report: Mr. Goldson inquired if there will be a follow up report regarding the absenteeism, and asked if the CFO will be available at the next meeting for the financial report. Dr. Tracey states she will provide the board with a mid-week update and provide the board with the Fuss & O'Neill report. She will discuss with Mr. Penn on an estimated timetable for return.

015-21 iv. Personnel Report: **On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox seconded by Mr. Conaway to approve the Personnel Report by roll call vote. (Motion Passed)**

Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Fiore, Yes; Mr. Rivera, Yes.

VII. Presidents Report: No Report at this time.



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**VIII. Finance &
Operations Report:**

Mr. Wilcox presented the F&O Report for committee approval.
Abstract #2 for Mr. Wilcox has stated he will recuse his vote on that item

On the Motion by Ms. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was approved by roll call to approve the following FINANCE AND OPERATION-RELATED ITEMS, Abstract #2 Quality Enhancement: (Motion Passed)

Dr. Joyner, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, No; Mr. Wilcox, Abstain; Ms. Rivera, Yes.

On the Motion by Ms. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was approved by roll call to approve the remaining FINANCE AND OPERATION-RELATED ITEMS: (Motion Passed)

Dr. Joyner, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, No; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes.

016-21 Oral Health	Oral Health Grant in the amount of \$26,000.00 for December 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021.
017-21 Quality Enhancement	Quality Enhancement – School Readiness Program in the amount of \$81,386.00 for September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
018-21 Hope House	Agreement with Hope House to provide tutorial services and distribution of supplies to homeless students from December 14, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$3,500.00.
019-21 Focused Schools	Amendment #1 to Agreement #9266584 with Focused Schools to change the funding account number from School Improvement Grant – Truman Program, Acct. #2546-6266-56694-0002 to School Improvement Grant – Truman Program, Acct. #2546-6268-56694-0002 with no change in funding amount.
020-21 Crown Castle	Agreement with Crown Castle Fiber, LLC to provide leased Fiber Circuit WAN Ethernet Services to NHPS from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$507,000.00.
021-21 UI - NPower	Award of six Contracts to United Illuminating to install new LED Lighting at the following six schools: Wilbur Cross, Wexler Grant, Mauro Sheriden, Edgewood, Co-op & Fair Haven, from November 1, 2020 to January 15, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$852,369.16. Installation to be performed by NPower Construction.
022-21 M&M	Award of Contract # 50535A-1-4 for M & M Total Construction, LLC to provide Snow Plowing Services from November 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$261,198.00.



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**023-21
Tim's Enterprise** Award of Contract # 50535B-1-4 for Tim's Enterprises, LLC to provide Snow Plowing Services from November 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

**024-21
Amazon
Landscaping** Award of Contract # 50535C-1-4 for Amazon Landscaping & Design Handyman Service, LLC for Snow Plowing Services from November 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00.

**IX. Head Start
Report:** Mr. Wilcox stated that the meeting that was upcoming was moved to earlier today. He relayed good news that funding was received \$5.9mil. He also wants to thank all the staff of the program for implemented and ensuring everything is in place.

**X. Governance
Report:** Dr. Jackson stated that the last meeting the Policy 5131 Conduct and Discipline was reviewed and want all to know that this policy has been in the works for about 4 years. The document is very robust and is a long read, and wants everyone to edit and provide feedback when available. School Resource Officer Team has agreed to bring in one as well to the board to review. 6000 Series will be brought as well and is robust.

**XI. Teaching &
Learning
Report:** Dr. Joyner shouts out the Assistant Superintendents in how they are supporting the principals. At the December 16 meeting, principals were present and were able to listen to parents, and used the platform to educate and provide inside into the schools during the pandemic. There was discussion regarding multilingual adults and learners, the welcome center is being run, contributions for the center are for multilingual students.

**XII. Food Service
Task Force Report:** Mr. Conaway stated that the committee is good cultured and is growing. The large portion of the discussion that takes place are the students with life threatening food allergies. It is being monitored closely, as a chain of custody for the allergies needs to be implemented. He hopes Dr. Vazquez will be available to add more in regards to this at the next meeting.

Due to communication lag there were a large portion of families not being serviced, which has changed as of recently and is growing. A bus is being utilized for food deliveries to families, there are 30 locations where families can reach out for food.

It was asked if Students who test positive for Covid would still receive meals or have them delivered. Dr. Tracey stated the principals of the schools keep close contact with the family if infected about their needs.



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**XIII. Facilities
Naming Report:**

The next scheduled meeting for Facilities Naming is April. The renaming of the Columbus School needs to be discussed, and to begin the process on what we can do to honor some individuals connected to Hillhouse.

**XIV. Citywide
School Building
Stewardship
Report:**

Ms. Rivera provided an update concerning the Quinnipiac and West Rock Closures, and added to Dr. Tracey statement earlier about the report that will be available soon. The final piece of the report that we are awaiting is the narrative report that accompanies the checklist provided.

The districts Grant Writer Lauren Strillacci provided the board with details of the Grants available, for the much-needed repairs at Sound School. The resolutions are schedule for review by the Board of Aldermen at the upcoming meeting February 1, 2021 Meeting. Mr. Potocsky provided background on the Foote Bldg. at Sound School and detailed the repairs that need to be taken on the building, aquaculture repairs, and a leaky membrane roof. Due to the HVAC equipment that is placed on the roof, it nullified the warranty of the roof. In addition to that Grant another grant is available that includes Boiler replacements at Wexler Grant and Fair Haven Schools.

**XV. Discussion
Attorney Rossetti
of Tinley,
Renehan, & Dost,
LLP**

**025-21
Agenda Item
Postponed**

Mr. Goldson questions if the items needs to stay on the agenda at all, after the previous meeting where everything was discussed. Where Ms. Rivera stated the board still needs to discuss the reports on the website.

On the Motion by Ms. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to postpone this agenda item. (Motion Passed)

Mr. Goldson, abstain; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes. Motion Passed.

Adjournment:

On the Motion by Dr. Joyner to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was voted by roll call to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes. Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Salina Manning

Salina Manning
Executive Administrative Assistant

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