

Canon-McMillan School District
314 Elm Street Extension, Canonsburg, PA 15317
Voting Meeting -Thursday, October 22 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Ms. Darla Bowman-Monaco with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Joseph Zupancic, Bernard Price, Pete Moniodes, Mike Caporizzo, Mary Beth Kline, and Zeffie Carroll

Others present

Michael Daniels, Superintendent; Brenda Rupert, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary; Scott Chambers, Assistant Superintendent; Timothy McCullough, Human Resources Director, Joni Mansmann, Director of Business and Finance/Board Secretary; Jocelyn Kramer, Solicitor; Matt Harding, Director of Support Services; and Grace Lani, Curriculum Director.

Ms. Amie Bolewitz, 1028 Windance Drive, McDonald, PA announced that she is filming/recording the meeting.

Executive Session Items

Ms. Bowman-Monaco announced that there was an Executive Session for personnel and legal matters.

Mr. Daniels addressed the citizens and stated that the ultimate goal is to get the students back to school physically five days a week. He also stated that the situation regarding COVID19 is monitored daily and we are in the process of preparing to share with the board, at the November 5th board meeting, a plan for a revision to the return to school plan. A plan has been offered and approval has been granted for chorus. Art music and drama may be forthcoming.

Adoption of Agenda

To adopt the agenda, as presented.

Motion by Bernard Price, second by Manuel Pihakis.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Citizens' Speak (Agenda Items Only)

none

Recognition

Canon-McMillan School District has earned the EVERFI Champion Seal, awarded annually to North American school districts who've made an exemplary commitment to whole-child education. This recognition acknowledges our dedication to transformational change in the interest of equity and the well-being of all students. This honor is provided by EVERFI, a digital education organization focused on helping educators address the most challenging issues affecting society, including financial literacy, social-emotional learning, health and wellness, inclusion, and college and career readiness. Mrs. Paige Linnert, Canonsburg Middle School Family and Consumer Science Teacher, has been using Everfi's Future Smart program for a few years now.

Congratulations to Mike Evans for being selected as the winner of the Steelers High School Coach of the Week for his Week 2 victory over Mt. Lebanon!

Canon-McMillan's Ryan Angott wins fan vote as Pa. high school football player of week for performance in win over Hempfield.

Wylandville Elementary School is being honored on November 13, 2020 at a virtual ceremony by the Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support Network (PAPBS) for meeting the criteria for Implementing School-Wide Positive Behavior Support at both Tier 1 and Tier 2 during the 2019-2020 school year. This honor is a building-wide achievement led by a Core Team consisting of Brian Anderson, Shannon Balch, Olivia Bost, Kristy Chavez, Jennifer Ford, and Heather Leister.

Administrative Reports

Scott Chambers gave his administrative report regarding enrollment updates. Total student enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is 5,326. For the first time in twenty years, the total enrollment has declined (45 students). The high school and middle school shows an increase in enrollment. Total number of students enrolled in Cyber Charter School is 188 which is a 44% increase from last year. Homeschooling is up 52%. The parochial schools have decreased in numbers which is attributable to St. Patricks closing. This information is used for staffing purposes. Currently, class sizes for many grade levels is a little larger than what is ideal but is possible due to students utilizing the remote and hybrid method of learning. There are a few that are below the goals for class size.

Joni Mansmann talked about the AFR (annual financial report) which is due by next Friday. The cafeteria budget was also discussed. The hybrid system of learning this year has had an impact on our school lunches. We keep track of the count on a daily basis. USDA and the state extended the waiver for free breakfasts and lunches beyond the end of the year. Cafeteria revenues are based off of sales and how well the program does. The counts are down and due to this, the district is overstaffed and a recommendation is on the agenda to reduce hours. Every recommendation is based off of data and not emotion. We should have served 31,036 breakfasts to date; however we have served only 15,996. We should have served 89,330 lunches; we only served \$33,382. We are short 55,948 lunches across the district. The district lost an anticipated \$205,889 in revenue. This year, the general fund will have to pay the cafeteria \$193,000 for last year. The money is not budgeted; therefore a recommendation has to be made to offset and curtail the costs. The cafeteria staff will be at thirty-one (six member staff reduction) which equates to 44.75 hours (which is conservative). The positions, by building was presented. There is coverage for all buildings.

The district was audited by the auditor general in the year 2007. We needed to come with an action plan and remedy developing a path moving forward to build, recommend, and approve budgets that were deficit. Therefore, it is important to know moving from that point on (during Ms. Mansmann's tenure), the budgets were carefully thought out knowing that the district needed to be fiscally responsible.

Board Meeting Minutes

To approve the minutes from the following meetings:

1. Regular Board Meeting - September 17, 2020
2. Buildings & Grounds - October 6, 2020
3. Policy - October 14, 2020

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Pete J Moniodes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

FINANCIAL APPROVALS

Wage Tax Report

To approve the wage tax report as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Bernard Price.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Treasurer's Report

To approve the September 2020 Treasurer's Report, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Pete J Moniodes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Bills for Ratification and Approval

To approve the bills for ratification and approval as follows: Bills for ratification for the month of September - General Fund \$8,693,310.85; Cafeteria Fund \$39,546.30 / Bills for approval for the month of October - General Fund \$860,991.61; Capital Project Fund \$677,051.26.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Pete J Moniodes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Budget Transfers

To approve the following budget transfers for the month of October:

1. For Approval: \$1,135,814.00
2. For Ratification: \$748,000.00

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Manuel Pihakis.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Transfer of Surplus Money

To authorize \$1.1 million of surplus from the 2019-2020 general fund to the district capital reserve fund and leave remaining surplus monies in unassigned fund balance.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Pete J Moniodes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Sheets and Substitute List

To approve the Superintendent's personnel sheets and substitute list, as presented.

Motion by Manuel Pihakis, second by Joseph Zupancic.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic
Nay: Zeffie Carroll

Tax Collector Bonuses

To approve the tax collector bonus, as follows:

- Rob Maceiko in the amount of \$5,000
Don Progar in the amount of \$5,000

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Manuel Pihakis.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Fundraisers

To approve the fundraisers for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented.

Motion by Manuel Pihakis, second by Joseph Zupancic.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Revised Athletic Safety Plan (COVID-19)

To approve the revised athletic safety plan (COVID19), retroactive to October 9, 2020, as presented.

Motion by Manuel Pihakis, second by Joseph Zupancic.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Resolution amending the Debt Ordinance of the District

To approve a Resolution amending the Debt Ordinance of the District enacted on November 17, 2016, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Bernard Price.

Ms. Mansmann explained that this recommendation is for the purpose of the construction project -to broaden the definition so that we can utilize the residual monies for that project.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Application's Authorization for Agent to Apply for HOP (Muse Elementary School)

To approve the application's authorization for agent to apply for an highway occupancy permit, as presented.

Mr. Harding explained that the purpose of the recommendation is to start the process to expand the drive way where the post office used to be.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Manuel Pihakis.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Stipulated Adjudication - Student A

To approve the discipline recommendation for Student "A" of the 2020-2021 school year on the basis of a Stipulated Adjudication.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Bernard Price.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Policy Revisions/Adoptions

To approve the following policy revisions/adoptions:

REVISIONS:

- 1) Policy #122 Extracurricular Activities
- 2) Policy #123 Interscholastic Athletics
- 3) Policy #202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students
- 4) Policy #217 Graduation
- 5) Policy #233 Suspension and Expulsion

ADOPTIONS:

- 1) Policy #829 E-Signatures
- 2) Policy #103 Discrimination / Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
- 3) Policy #104 Discrimination / Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff

RETIRE:

- 1) Policy #103 Nondiscrimination / Discriminatory Harassment - School and Classroom Practices
- 2) Policy #104 Nondiscrimination / Discriminatory Harassment - Employment Practices

Motion by Manuel Pihakis, second by Mary Beth Kline.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Lot Consolidation - First Street Elementary School

Motion to approve the lot consolidation plan as filed by Miller Valentine for the former First Avenue Elementary School property. Currently the lot consists of two parcels of land which must be consolidated into one parcel to facilitate the planned development of the property.

Motion by Bernard Price, second by Joseph Zupancic.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Disposal of property for the playground equipment at First Street Elementary

To approve the resolution regarding the disposal of property for the playground equipment at First Street Elementary School, as presented.

Motion by Manuel Pihakis, second by Joseph Zupancic.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Tax Assessment Appeals

To approve the following tax assessment appeals:

- 1) Stipulation to resolve Washington Apartments, LLC appeal to the Washington County Board of Assessment, being Parcel No. 520-010-00-00-0001-00, as follows: Tax Year 2021; Assessed Value \$ 19,231,400.00
- 2) Stipulation to resolve PA Meadows appeal to the Washington County Board of Assessment, being, Parcel No. 520-011-00-00-0016-02, as follows: Tax Year 2021; Assessed Value \$ 22,540,400.00
- 3) The Board authorizes Peacock Keller, LLP to enter into a Stipulation to settle 1024 Properties, LLC v. Washington County Bd. of Assessment, et. al, at No. 2019-6785 of the Court of Common Pleas of Washington County, being Parcel No. 520-006-00-00-0044-0, as follows: Tax Year 2020; Assessed Value \$ 925,000.00
- 4) The Board authorizes Peacock Keller, LLP to appeal the Board of Assessment decision in Iceoplex Operating, LLC, being Parcel No. 140-01-00-0000-0008-20, to the Washington County Court of Common Pleas.

Motion by Bernard Price, second by Pete J Moniodes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Middle School Appraisal

To allow administration to work with Tony Barna for appraisal services for the Canonsburg Middle School.

Motion by Bernard Price, second by Joseph Zupancic.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Contracts / Agreements / Proposals

To approve the following contracts, agreements and proposals:

- 1) Addendum and extension to the agreement with Frank Vulcano for the Powerade Christmas Wrestling Tournament, as presented.
- 2) Agreement between the School District and the Frank Sarris Library, which shall serve as an amendment to the January 22, 2002 Agreement regarding the School District's annual contribution, as presented.
- 3) Agreement for virtual learning school-based peer support groups for grieving students with the Caring Foundation, as presented.

Motion by Joseph Zupancic, second by Manuel Pihakis.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bernard Price, Zeffie Carroll, Mike Caporizzo, Manuel Pihakis, Darla Bowman-Monaco, Pete J Moniodes, Mary Beth Kline, Joseph Zupancic

Other Items of Information

Donations Received:

American Heart Association	Hills-Hendersonville	\$60.00	PE Equipment
Thomas & Maria Keller	District Wide	\$50.00	Delinquent Cafeteria Accounts - Students
Jameson's Army	Hills-Hendersonville	\$150 value	games and coloring books
American Heart Association	Muse Elementary School	Gift Certificates	PE Equipment

Mr. Zupancic stated that the tax assessment appeals are being recommended for approval by the solicitor on behalf of the district. The Meadows (racetrack) has filed another tax assessment appeal which we are not sure what the turnout is going to be.

Citizens' Speak (General Items)

Letters and phone calls received from parents wanting their children physically back in school five days:

Kristen Woods, Karen Taczak, Kala DeJuliis, Chelsey Smith, Beth Chatlak, Teresa Votodian, Justina Howell, Wayne Koenig, Jason Orsini, Becky Price, David Ledger, Shawn Shuman, Kristen Ferrera, Julie Foberg, Jamie Cooper, Melissa Pisarcik, Kiley Turner, Billie Labutis, Mike Binni, Angela Downey, Ryan and Stephanie Pabls, Kristy Kauffman, Kimberly Kelly, Lisa Marie Brinson, and Anne Degerolamo.

Letters and phone calls received from parents satisfied with the current hybrid method:

Sara Botkin, Amy Slayton, Heather Evans, and Briana Maczko.

Citizens physically present expressing their desire for their students to physically attend school five days:

Jane Worthington, Zach Erdeljac, Donna Spina, Kacy Jobkar, Amie Bolewiltz, Karen Taczak, Renee Mead, Jennifer Berry, Shannin Pettigrew, and Krystal Landsittel.

Adjournment-time being 8:15 p.m.

Joni Mansmann, Board Secretary

Good evening,

I'm sure you have received several emails regarding parents concerns and the fact that they want their kids back in school full time. I do as well, but at a better time! I myself, and my husband have been content with the hybrid option and our kids are doing great. The teachers have been phenomenal and we feel under the circumstances, it's working. I feel with the size of CM district, I don't know how it will be possible and safe to have all of the students and staff in the schools at once with the Covid cases on the rise again. Not to mention we are getting into Flu season as well. I hope that continuing hybrid/remote learning for the time being will be taken into consideration at the upcoming school board meeting. I know that most of the emails you have received have probably been the opposite of why I am emailing but I wanted both sides to be heard.

Thank you!

Briana E. Maczko

Hello,

I understand the school board is taking parent comments for the board meeting on Thursday, October 22.

I currently have two children in district. One at Muse Elementary and one at Cecil Intermediate. We have been very happy with the start of the school year. The teachers we have are working hard to make the current solutions work for all of the students.

We are content with the current options and would like to see them continue. Hybrid has worked very well for us to provide a balance of in person instruction while also feeling that the schools are able to take the necessary precautions to keep students and staff safe.

We appreciate the efforts the district, schools, and individual teachers have put into making the best of a difficult situation. There are some improvements that could be made to the current system that may be better for everyone - such as standard live instruction time for core subjects across the district. But we also recognize that a lot of thought and considerations were made when designing this plan.

As numbers throughout the state and country continue to increase for the virus, I hope the district will continue to make decisions based on how we can both be safe and educate our students. In short, I'd love to see us work to improve what is currently in place, rather than rushing to bring all students back.

Thank you,
Heather Evans

I'm writing to express my concern about kids returning to school 5 days. It makes NO NONE ZERO sense to me. Why now? The spikes are all trending upward toward more cases — so why on earth would anyone think going in person 5 days a week makes any sense?! If the schools have successfully not seen outbreaks it's probably because the hybrid situation is working. And typically normally Dec Jan Feb March are seth pool months anyway for stomach bugs, flu, bronchitis and overall winter colds. So let's throw a pandemic in there and have everyone back in person! This is absolutely crazy to me and would ask if that is the direction the vote goes toward, that those HS students currently doing 2 days in person 3 at home continue to be allowed to do that. We are not comfortable sending our student back in person 5 days a week.

Please let me know if there is anything else I need to do to have my opinion at least shared, for what it's worth I'm not entirely sure.

Also this article, whyyyyyy would we think now is a good time to send our kids back?! The risk is not worth it over convenience.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/18/health/us-coronavirus-sunday/index.html>

Thank you for reading this.

Amy Slayton

I am writing as a concerned parent with 4 children in the CM school district. I submitted comments to the board in September and I am following up this month as there has been no communication with parents regarding consideration for resuming in person instruction full time.

The current options available to families are not sustainable options. They present learning challenges for my children and others in the district. We are a family with 2 full time working parents. This makes managing home school for 4 children very difficult. My children's grades have declined. I question what they are actually retaining and how this will impact their future education. They are in front of screened devices for excessive amounts of time which has been unacceptable and not recommended in the past, but is now somehow acceptable.

In planning for my children's educational needs, it would be helpful for the board and district to communicate with families. What metric is the board using to determine when in person instruction can resume full time? What needs to happen in order for this to occur? Is this based on virus confirmed cases; is this based on a case percentage increase; is this based on an available vaccination? Is there a plan or is this an arbitrary decision not based on any metric or benchmark?

7 months ago, the students were sent home for 2 weeks in order to flatten the curve. And 7 months later, there is no communication from the district and no plan. The district needs to consider 5 days in person instruction while maintaining a 5 day per week remote option for those who cannot return to in person instruction. This would follow suit of other large districts in our area.

I encourage you to please communicate with families regarding a plan. Again, the current format is not sustainable and the educational needs of many children in this district are not being met.

Best Regards,

Karen Taczak

Members of the Board,

Good Evening. I implore you to vote to return Canon Mac students to school. Our children deserve a quality education and it is our responsibility to ensure that they receive one. I commend our teachers for their hard work and dedication during this unprecedented time. However, our children are not learning like they should be. Online learning is challenging for all ages, but specifically our younger children. This environment of in school and online is confusing and frustrating for all. Parents are becoming the primary teacher, while the educated and certified teacher is secondary. I did not attend college to be an educator, I would be lying if I said I was even remotely qualified. Our students deserve more than we can offer them at home sitting in front of a computer screen.

Our neighboring districts (Peters Twp., South Fayette, Trinity, Ringgold) have either voted to return to, or have been attending, school in person 4-5 days per week. We need to do the same. If a family decides that they wish to continue remote, then that is their decision. But for those of us that wish to have our children return to the classroom, we should be given that opportunity.

For our teachers, assign one teacher per grade to be solely responsible for the remote learners. That way our teachers will not be so overwhelmed and the students, both in person and remote, will benefit from an engaged and attentive teacher.

Moving towards returning to in person learning is not only in the best interests of our students educationally, but also emotionally. Children need consistency, they need to feel safe and secure. This ever-changing environment will have lasting consequences.

Please, listen to the voice of the people and send our kids back to school!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kala DeJuliis

Dear School Board,

I understand the ongoing community frustration around remote/hybrid school despite many school districts returning in person, however I have many more concerns that need voice regarding children in the district with special learning needs. How do we meet specialized IEP needs that are specifically related to learning environment if a child is at home for the majority of their education? I have been investing in my child all day to try to meet his learning needs but the home environment, despite adjustment to try to meet his learning needs, has been a fail (8:30am-4:30 PM). I have learned through parental community decision and social platforms that some children have already been allowed back with specialized learning needs to best support their IEP within other areas of the district. If one area of the district allows children back how is it ethical to not let children in all areas of the district also return. I have reached out the school (NSIS) about having children with more specialized learning needs come in person to meet needs and was instructed that only children with autism are allowed to return or be in person.

I propose to allow children to be allowed to come in person on Wednesday, the district "clean" day as children will be socially distanced due to not all children being in school. My child has appreciated the help and support on the days that he is remote learning but no home or parent could possibly provide the structure and environment that the classroom teachers and the school building provides. For a child with attention and focus issues, this provides an enormous obstacle to overcome. Having him try to learn from home is a disservice when there is teaching staff that acknowledges the struggles that this inconsistency provides. The daily stress and strain that this form of instruction is putting on parents and students is ridiculous. Most parents are loving and supporting but not trained in education. For children that have typical focus and concentration, they may be able to complete their work and assignments with little parental assistance. My son has an IEP for a reason. He has specialized educational needs that you are expected to meet those needs. This format and level of support is an embarrassment. Teachers can only do so much when they see the children two days a week in person. The issue here is not one that stems from the teachers or building, it is an issue with the format of instruction. Young children need to be around their peers and teachers for so many reasons. I strongly consider the board consider my request to at least have these children back 1 extra in person day.

With Appreciation,

Chelsey Smith

Good Evening,

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting due to my work schedule, but that in no way takes away from my concerns. I am writing in regard to the schools opening 4 or 5 days per week for all students who choose this option. This is coming from a parent's point of view and I am in no way trying to claim a professional opinion. My family is fortunate in the fact that one parent or grandparent can be home with our children during the day, however this is not the case for many parents.

My son is a 3rd grade student at Muse Elementary and we also have a 4 year old, who will finally begin in person learning through the preschool program at the highschool in the next week or so. In my experience, the teachers and the staff have been amazing through this chaotic time. We have personally chosen the hybrid model, simply because something is better than nothing. If online learning and homeschooling was so successful many more people would choose to do this prior to Covid-19, it works for some but not all. These children need interaction and structure in order to thrive.

Why are there not more solutions? Such as at a minimum, the elementary and intermediate schools be open for the children 4 to 5 days a week. This is not to say that the middle and high school students should not have full in person learning, they are in a different part of their education and solo learning may be more functional for them. While the full online learning model to remain available to those who choose it. This is just a suggestion.

Just like we have all had to adapt to a new way of life, so should the schools in order to get all of the children the best education possible. These are their formative years, they are learning the basics of life and this style of learning is not conducive to this type of learning. Many of my fellow parents and I are not equipped to spend hours per day helping our children to focus and truly learn, when we as a nation have the education structure that we have in place.

I have heard from many educators over the years, that children act differently when they are in the school environment as opposed to when they are in the home environment. Personally, we have set up different areas of our home for learning. This is in full effort to try to come up with what works best for our family. A typical "school day" at home consists of frustration, tears and lack of focus for too much of the time before any actual learning can begin. We keep trudging through because I want my child to learn and know that we can overcome any obstacle. I know I am not alone in this sentiment.

There are other districts which have figured out a way to make the full in person model work and come up with solutions when something arises. Why are we not there yet? What will it take to move to a more structured, 4 to 5 day a week model? What solutions are you working on to try and get to full in person learning? What can I do as a parent?

Thank you for your time and hope you are truly considering the children, first and foremost when making your decisions.

Sincerely,

Beth Chatlak

Dr. Daniels

I hope you are doing well in these crazy times. THANK YOU you for your time and what you are doing for our kids, I know it must be a thankless job at times. I'm grateful for how the staff at Borland and the High School have been from what I can see.

I wanted to reach out to see if there is any way you might look in to having the upcoming meeting and all meetings moving forward live broadcast for the families, especially with covid and wanting to social distance, etc.

Any consideration to this would be greatly appreciated. This is something that was going to be brought up at our PFO meeting at Borland so I did copy our principal too to be proactive there.

Again, thank you for any consideration on this. I believe it would really help families and fill that gap that might be there between the school district and families.

Again thank you to you, your staff and all of the teachers!

Teresa

Hello. My name is Justina Howell. Although I cannot make it to the school board meeting...I feel the hybrid/virtual schooling needs discussed. As every district is returning to full time or at least four day school around us, I feel our children continue to be at a huge disservice and are not getting the educational experience they need. My son is in third grade and I feel is lacking both educationally and socially not being able to be at school full time, as I am sure many parents feel.

I feel our children need to return to school at a 4 day minimum as their education was greatly effected at the end of last year and now is continuing into this year and I feel they will never be caught up.

Thanks
Justina Howell

Some area schools have successfully implemented an in-person 5 day school week. When will CM follow suit?

The hybrid-online schooling is not working and failing our children.

Regards,
Wayne Koenig

Hello, my name is Jason Orsini. I have kids at NSIS in 5th and 6th grade.

I have serious concerns over the district's COVID policy for the 2020-2021 school year. Kids need school, they need the structure of a classroom. They need to socialize with other kids. They need to be able to ask a teacher a question and get an answer in person. They need to interact in the classroom. I am watching how remote learning is causing my kids to fall behind vs kids who are at school full time. School at home for young kids is not the same as working from home for adults, not even close.

I understand the seriousness of COVID, and i appreciate the Board putting out an option for remote or hybrid learning. I respect people's decision to keep their kids home. However, the vast majority of parents i speak to throughout the district want their kids to be in the classroom. The majority of residents and tax payers who have kids enrolled in a CM school want their kids back in school. Why? Because that is where kids learn.....where they interact, where they grow.

If we as a society can play youth sports, go to the grocery store, fly on airplanes, ect, we can get our kids back in the classroom.

Dont follow or wait for other school districts to make decisions.....lead! Make a decision based on the majority of voices from your taxpayers, residents, neighbors, and students.

Sincerley,

Jason Orsini

To the CMDS Board Members:

My son is in 10th grade at CMHS and is currently attending school under the hybrid plan. On the days he attends school in-person, he is able to have his own seat on the bus and the majority of his classes have less than 10 people in attendance. I believe that the administration and staff at CMHS are diligent in making sure our students are practicing social distancing and following the rules. I feel confident that it is safe sending him to school using the hybrid model.

I understand that the school district is under pressure from parents who want their children back to school full time. I would like to voice my concern that it will not be possible to keep the kids socially distant with more students each day attending in-person. I know everyone wants life to get back to normal, but new COVID cases are on the rise and other area school districts are in the news, having to shut down because of COVID exposures. I think it is too soon.

I know this is a difficult decision and I understand that both sides have valid concerns. I ask that you please make the decision that you feel is the best for the health and safety of our children, educators and staff.

Thank you,

Becky Price
Administrative Assistant
McDonald Police Department

DAVID L <davidledger@comcast.net>
To: rupertb@cmsd.k12.pa.us

Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 5:59 PM

When are students returning to school 5 days a week? Other schools are returning. Please let parents know what your plans are. Thanks

Sent from Xfinity Connect Application

Dear Canon-McMillan School District Board of Education,

I would like to thank you for your leadership and commitment to our school district and the children of Canon-McMillan. Today, I write you to reconsider the modified education plan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am imploring you to reconsider and offer an option for our children to return to the classroom five days per week. This is not something that I take lightly as a healthcare executive and feel that our children are at risk of falling behind and being at a disadvantage. The safety precautions that are in place have shown that children can return to the school buildings safely as other districts have already done so.

My daughter is in 2nd grade at Hills-Hendersonville Elementary School and due to our professional obligations is currently doing the 2-day hybrid model and spending two days in daycare and one day at home with a private sitter every week. She is struggling with this model and is pleading to return to the traditional school week daily. I also have concerns for other students and families that do not have the resources to have alternative plans and feel that their struggle is great as a result of the modified instruction.

I finally ask you in the best interest of the student population that you consider a reopening plan for a five day per week option as quickly as possible. As our elected school officials, I am confident you will consider my request and return some normalcy to our children's lives during this unprecedented time.

Thank you.

Much Appreciation,

Shawn

Shawn M. Shuman, MSN, RN, CMCN

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kristen Yerman. My husband Mike and I presented to a prior board meeting to discuss the reopening of schools. It was quite eye opening to say the least. We have two children at Wylandville ages 6 and 8. We had presented CDC guidelines as well as American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations for re opening of schools at that time. I am again writing to please consider the re opening of schools to 5 days per week. It is very sad to see pictures of students on our sport teams on the district website high fiving and in huddles not social distancing and not wearing masks while in turn our kids are unable to be present in the classroom 5 days a week and get a proper education. It is frankly outrageous. To think that sports are more important than an education is appalling. I am all for sports and allowing our kids to have socialization and comradery however this should not take precedence over education. Our kids will be leap years behind academically. I know I do not stand alone. Please please do what is right.

Kristen and Mike Yerman

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of my daughter, Norah Prex, who is a kindergarten student at Wylandville Elementary School. While I appreciate the efforts the school has made to meet guidelines and teach the children, I have several concerns about how this is affecting our daughter's education.

1. Research shows that the average attention span for a 6 year old is 12-18 minutes. It's a challenge to keep the children in this age group focused on learning when it is done virtually. I routinely hear that school is boring. School should be anything but boring and I would like my child to have a positive experience starting out her education. <https://blog.brainbalancecenters.com/normal-attention-span-expectations-by-age>
2. Writing is being replaced by typing. My daughter can recognize letters and words, she can even type them but her writing is not progressing.
3. Teachers are stressed about having to manage the workload of teaching hybrids - unable to accomodate a simple request of writing a date on the papers in addition to the day of the week. I made a simple request to add dates on papers sent home (instead of save for Wednesday, it would say save for Wednesday, 10/21). There are 52 Wednesdays in a week and papers cluttering up backpacks. Which Wednesday? Your guess is as good as mine. The teacher is unable to accommodate my request because she is losing her student assistant. One date x 12 students would likely take 2 minutes to complete. If this isn't doable, then the school should staff appropriately to help the teachers.
4. Screen time should be limited to <2 hours. This is something that doesn't always apply to "homework" however there's more work to be done on understanding the long-term effects of too much screen time. <https://newsroom.osfhealthcare.org/screen-time-for-kids-how-much-is-too-much/#:~:text=The%20Centers%20for%20Disease%20Control,day%20in%20front%20of%20a>
5. Added pressure of working and "teaching" for parents of younger kids. Let's face it, kindergartners can't read well enough to guide themselves through a half-day of online instruction. Norah lives in a household (actually 2) with working parents. We need to accommodate her virtual learning through a family member and a third party in order to give her the help she needs to get through the day. We're paying double taxes to the district and getting less than half of the return.
6. Kids are together outside of school participating in extracurricular activities.
7. Elementary students are in a controlled environment (no changing of classrooms)
8. YouTube cannot replace in-person instruction and I already pay for an ABC Mouse subscription.
9. Teachers are not tech-savvy. The school system should give the teachers (and students) the necessary tools and professional development to be successful.

I understand the possible COVID risks associated with a full-time in-school instruction however I am willing to accept these risks in return for a solid education that will shape my daughter's future.

I can be reached via email for questions, concerns, and comments. I'm also willing to brainstorm ways that things could possibly work should you need assistance. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Julie Prex

I'm writing this email to express my concerns with our current hybrid school schedule. I currently have a 1st grader & 2nd grader in Borland Manor. My 1st grader, Emilee is struggling tremendously. She missed out on her last 9 weeks of kindergarten where they seem to catch up/catch on to the concepts of learning. During her spring google classroom she had zero interaction with her teacher, with the exception of a recorded session of her reading a book. There was not a day that we didn't have tears, tantrums or fits of anger. Fast forward to now & it has snowballed & she's even further behind. I've reached out to the Children's Behavioral Dept who suggested she be seen by a therapist. Emilee was seen last week & in the hour session her biggest & only thing she expressed was her frustration with school. She is behind, she can not read or do what her peers are doing because she needs more than 2 days in school. She needs more than 2 hours a week with her reading specialist. Fortunately I'm home with my children & can give them the time/setting they need for the virtual, live sessions. However, even with that, her mental struggle & the difficulty she's facing is more than I can provide.

In addition to the struggle she's facing my son, Cooper struggles with the interruptions Emilee causes while at home. His learning ability & willingness to learn in a home setting is completely different from hers. With that being said, it's unfair to him that I can't offer him positive attention or provide him with that atmosphere he should be in because of the struggles we face with Emilee.

I know what my two children deal with on a daily basis. What is happening with the kids that aren't in stable environments? What about the kids that struggle or are behind, but their parents aren't seeing it or concerned with it because the child's well being isn't their priority. Will these kids just continue to fall through the cracks? If shopping centers, restaurants, sporting events etc can be patronized than our children deserve to have the education that's conducive to their learning.

I'm concerned with my children's all around well being & I can guarantee what's happening on a day to day basis isn't good for their mental health. It truly saddens me to think of the other kids in our district they are having it far worse than our household. Please consider making our children's education/learning a priority & open up our schools 5 days a week. Or, give families at least the option of a 5 day week or 100% remote. If other districts are making it happen, it's possible for CM as well. Thank you for your time.

Jamie Renschler

Just wanted to stress the fact that school returning for our kids would be a huge benefit to everything right now. I understand the concerns and you could still give the option of full remote... but for us parents who want and need our children back in the classroom we need a better option that we are given now.

Melissa Pisarcik

Also, if our kids are having a few days at home... it should not be the teachers who are teaching the kids in school to have to do the live sessions as well. They are doing their best and I am not criticizing them for their hard work... I believe it is just unfair to them and the children. If you can find a way to have a teacher dedicated to just in line children I feel that would be more beneficial to everyone.

Thank you again...

Several of our neighboring schools have now gone back to 5 days a week in person instruction. I believe I speak for the majority of parents in saying that the hybrid option is NOT working. It is NOT sustainable. Kids are NOT learning. Sitting in front of a computer screen for 5 plus hours a day is hardly As getting an education. In my case specifically, my husband and I work full time. We have two elementary age children who are not independent enough to be left by themselves. They need their hands held all day while trying to navigate Google classroom, access the internet for certain classes...the list goes on. Most virtual days end in tears. My children are suffering mentally and emotionally at the hands of Canon Mac. I had to resort to hiring someone to help both of my children with their virtual schooling and have also considered sending them to a private institution so they could be taught in person, 5 days a week. We desperately need the option to send our children back to school full time. There needs to be a re-evaluation of the current hybrid plan and different options need discussed. Parents and kids are at their breaking point. We need some relief. Everyone should have a choice in their children's education. I understand our children's safety is a top priority, but their educational needs should be at the top of the list as well.

Kiley Turner

Hello all! I'd just like to express my concern, as I'm sure a lot of other parents have!

My daughter is attending Hills Hendersonville/ Hybrid.

We are struggling. Immensely. She currently has an IEP and online schooling is not in her best interest. She can not focus due to her ADHD/ADD and online work is a constant fight to the point that we both are in tears by the end of the night. She is not able to watch the lives during school hours as I work full time and she attends daycare. This is so incredibly difficult for not only my daughter but all of these kids. We have worked so incredibly hard to get her up to speed and she was doing so much better with the school's help and now it's all going down hill due to less in school instruction. She is starting to seem depressed, she misses learning in a school setting. She misses her friends, she needs a routine. I would like to see some sort of plan set to move forward with the return to school 4/5 days a week!

Thank you for your time!

Billie Labutis

This board need to explain how Peter's township and Trinity Are able to send their kids 5 days a week while Canon McMillan had made no effort to do so. Pediatrics says if kids are wearing mask the the 6' of distance can be reduced to 3'. If this board is not going to put our kids first then they need to resign and we need to vote a new board in.

If the board thinks hybrid education is working and our kids are learning just as if they were in school 5 days a week then you are wrong and need to resign.

Thank you for your time.

Mike Binni

Hello,

I would like to express my concern on the ongoing school situation that we are all experiencing. For my children in particular.. I have never seen so much negative aggression towards their schoolwork. They are mentally suffering from the situation, I have never seen them cry and be frustrated so much in their lives. They are not getting a proper education!!! We do not get the correct work sent home consistently, so we cannot participate in the lives because we don't have the work!! My other child is done with her work by 10-11am. What education is that??? We need to go back to school!!! The other schools are finding a way and if parents don't want to send their kids then keep them remote. My husband and I work full time ...we have not a lot of support and this is ruining our family dynamic. There is a lot of stress and bad attitude is our home from this situation we are in with school. So save our kids futures and education they need to be tonight properly. I am a health locate work and I signed up to help people , teachers signed up to teach. We are all responsible in many ways. Teachers and schools need to realize that this is something we need to get through. My child is seeing a therapist due to her severe anxiety of school personnel thinking she may be sick and send her home. She is afraid to sneeze or cough!! Enough is enough!

Thanks

Angela Downey

What is the School Districts plan to get our kids back to school 5 days a week?
What is prohibiting us from going back to school 5 days a week now?
What needs to happen for our kids to go back to school 5 days a week?

As parents we want our kids to go back 5 days a week, there are other big school districts that have figured it. I have confidence that Canon Mac can figure it out too. Our children deserve to be in school with their teachers and peers 5 days a week.

Thank you,
Ryan and Stephanie Pabis

Dear Canon McMillan School Directors,

As the proud parents of 4 Canon McMillan students (6th/4th/kindergarten x2), we are in awe of and beyond grateful for our children's teachers and principals at Wylandville and NSIS and all of the creative ways they've found to teach students in person and at home at the same time.

We are here to say that especially for our youngest children, only having two days in person is hurting them more than helping them. We believe it's imperative to increase the number of in person teaching days, while wearing masks, to avoid the continued mental, social and academic decline of our students.

1. Young children cannot focus for long periods online.
2. All children need in person feedback and emotional connections with the teachers who guide them and mentor them in these pivotal years.
3. Children need routine and structure to develop good working habits and balanced mental and physical health.
4. Children need interaction with their peers to develop social skills and help avoid anxiety, depression and other negative conditions that we have all seen increase in lockdown.
5. The impact of not being in school full time is much more dangerous to children than COVID-19 when mask-wearing is mandatory and as many safety protocols as possible are in place.
6. Our oldest child has pointed out to us that a friend a year behind her in grade level who is from Peters Township is actually now ahead of her in math. Our kids are indeed falling behind.

Please address the status of in person instruction with regards to increasing days in school as soon as possible. Please consider all you can do to get at least the youngest grade levels back in the classroom.

Our children's presents and futures depend on it. Please do not let them continue to fall behind academically, regress health-wise mentally and sink further into isolation socially.

Thank you,
Kristy and Nathan Kauffman

Hi there. I wanted to write to you about my feelings on the virtual/in person school model. I applaud the district in trying to do what is right in keeping everyone safe; however, it is past time these kids go back to school 5 days. They are suffering. They are not learning like they would in person, they have no schedule, no structure. They are the smallest age group to get the virus so why aren't they in person? So many other districts around us have been in school with no issues. This is ruining these kids and not to mention the parents who work either at home or out of the home. The risk of contracting this virus is so low it makes zero sense to stay out of school and even if they do get the virus - guess what? They will be FINE - it is not a death sentence! Bring back school, bring back sports, bring back NORMAL life. This has been so blown out of proportion by the media it is complete insanity. They can't go to school but guess what - they are still hanging out, going to trampoline parks, going to each other's houses and living life anyway! Please, please bring them back to school!

Kimberly Kelly

To our Canon-Mac School Board:

In submitting my comment, I trust that it will be presented to the school board in its entirety. I also expect that it will not simply be read, but actually considered and a subsequent plan made to address these issues that should be of the utmost concern to every member of our community.

Our community NEEDS an option for students to attend school 5 day/week, in-person. The failure of the school board to make a plan to return to FULL in-person school with a FULL curriculum is a failure to each member of our community.

- Our Canon-Macmillan school community currently has young students home alone while both parents work.

- We have students who have no safe place to turn apart from their school - their safe space has been taken away from them.

- We have children who rely on food at school who are going without meals - offering meals at the school is not enough - many students cannot make their way to the school on their own to get them.

- We have families who are running on half of their income simply because one parent must be home to monitor online schooling.

- We have high school seniors who are competing for places in universities against students from other states and even local districts who have full in-school instruction, curriculum, and extra-curricular activities. It is unacceptable to leave the students of our community at such a disadvantage against their peers!

- Students at every level are being robbed of a full curriculum of instruction with the restrictions placed on related arts instruction. Restrictions on instruments, singing, and performing are wholly unwarranted! I invite the board and our community to do research by looking at this study out of the University of Colorado that is showing that participation in such activities poses no additional risk to our students. They also offer suggestions on how to socially distance in related arts classrooms which provides a solution to keep our students safe without removing subjects and instruction from their curriculum.

<https://www.nfhs.org/media/4030003/aerosol-study-prelim-results-round-2-final.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qi4x5HDqWqs>

I respectfully ask that when you are reading my comments that you also share the YouTube video in its entirety, as well as share the link to the study findings.

- School was our way to monitor the social health and mental well-being of our young community. We have no way to reach students during this emotional crisis. No way to monitor child abuse. Our young people's mental health is in jeopardy with the isolation

alone. We have stripped them of their main resources for help. We need a plan to mitigate this giant gap in care. School returning in-person 5 days/week allows teachers, counselors, faculty and a whole host of other professionally trained individuals the ability to lay eyes on our young students on a consistent basis - this needs to be done more often than twice/week.

- Families need to be offered EVERY option in order to decide what is in the best interest of their own family. For some, the burden of online or hybrid school places such an increased burden that the risk of COVID exposure pales in comparison.

Our Canon-Macmillan families need (and pay for with our taxes) the option to be able to send our children to a safe, secure place each day where they can be cared for, watched over, nurtured, and educated. These aspects are equally as important as physical health and have been largely ignored on behalf of students in our community since last March!

Please find it in your hearts and minds to remedy the grave disservice being done to our community and our children!

Lisa Marie and Eric Brinson

Hello,

First and foremost, thank you for all you do for our kids and keeping their well-being at the forefront of all your decisions.

I'd like to request that the district considers a 4 day return to school with the option to remain full remote.

My son is a kindergartener and I really want him to be ready for first grade next year. He thrives in the school environment.

Upper St Clair, the district where I teach, is using this model next month.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne DeGerolamo