

## Public Comment Responses Received During the WPS BOE Meeting on 4/2/2020

Below is the public record of public comment responses received during the 4/2/2020 BOE Meeting.

### Agenda Item #1 - Update from the CMS Building Committee

No public comment responses received during the live meeting. Three test responses submitted.

### Agenda Item #2 - Response to the Board of Finance's Budget Decision

No public comment responses received during the live meeting. One test responses submitted.

### Agenda Item #3 - Update on Distance Learning Plan and Grading Policies

Public Comments posted exactly as submitted.

| First and Last Name | Physical Address              | Please state your comment/question regarding agenda item #3.  |
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| ashley farrar       | 6 dogwood lane<br>westport ct | in my opinion grading is super important tool for motivation of students. It helps focus them on the importance of continued learning. This is especially true at the high school level. This is not just the opinion of me as a parent but the opinion of both my high school students who think it is unfair to change the grading system. They said teachers have already changed the weighting of different assignments to incorporate the changed environment which in their opinion is working. If you aren't going to grade there is no point in teaching new material as it won't be absorbed in the way it is meant to be anyways. Clearly everyone recognizes that distance learning is not the same as instruction in the classroom but if you change the grading you risk diminishing the actual learning that goes on even more. |
| Marco Caggiano      | 16 Compo Pkwy                 | Comment / Question 1:<br>Comparable neighboring districts like Darien have live classes for middle school and up.<br><br>Why do we have no live classes?<br><br>Even below middle school, some other districts have live check-ins in the morning to officially start the day and have at least some recorded lessons (recorded by their own teachers).<br><br>Why do we have no recorded classes?<br><br>We have received multiple video messages from Staples Principal, Bedford Principal and Bedford Vice Principal. Why can't the teachers record classes, lessons or homework direction in a similar fashion?   |

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|                   |                              | <p>Greater structure and more video contact with their own teachers would be very beneficial for the students to feel connected and to provide structure.</p> <p>The state's approval of Zoom is very encouraging. When can we ramp up live classes using zoom?</p> <p>Comment / Q2:<br/>When some students select pass / fail, how will that impact classes graded on a curve? Will classes be graded on a curve?</p> <p>Thank you for the time you devote to the BoE</p>   |
| Kristin Schneeman | 276 Main Street,<br>Westport | <p>Hello all, thank you so much for everything you're doing under these exceptionally difficult circumstances! I'm writing in my capacity as a parent and not as an elected official to express my concern about the plan to go to a pass/fail system for the 4th quarter. We've all seen how challenging it is to maintain children's engagement with learning in the remote environment, and I feel certain that will be even harder in a pass/fail scenario. Leaving aside the issue of whether letter grades are inherently important, how will students, teachers and parents know whether and how well they're progressing in their knowledge and understanding, what metrics will be used? On the high school side, I'm not sure I understand why it makes sense for students to choose how their performance is measured. And with a junior at Staples, I am concerned about how pass/fail will be perceived in next year's college admissions process. I think everyone across the country knows and understands what is going on everywhere this spring and that letter grades will automatically be accorded a bit of a mental curve. But without a uniform approach across the country, I can't help but believe that students with pass-fails on their transcript will be at a bit of a disadvantage. I absolutely understand the concerns that inspire this conversation, but it's not clear that it's based on data about whether and how students' performance has actually been suffering. I know it's unfolding so quickly it's hard to have good information to operate on, but if a decision can be delayed at least until we have a better picture of what's actually happening in terms of students' performance, that might be more desirable. Thanks for your consideration!</p> |

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| Gery Grove | 20 Crooked Mile Road | <p>It is important to note that while YES, the teachers and administrators are doing an excellent job pushing the work out. The learning going on at home is NOT typical learning. The parents are not educators, in many cases they aren't even familiar with the technology platforms. We are in an unprecedented global crisis and we cannot be searching for the best data on pass fail. We need to think about the way to get the basic needs of our students met, educationally, while allowing their families to stay afloat emotionally and practically. On another note, I just read an article that the state of NJ is offering some elementary class time on public access TV. For staying engaged, this seems way more appealing for elementary schoolers and even early middle schoolers. Might be worth investigating. It was a new announcement today.</p> |
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