



Public Comment Responses Received During the WPS BOE Meeting on 8/31/2020

Below is the public record of public comment responses received during the 8/31/2020 BOE meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - No public comments were received on this item. One test response was received.

DISCUSSION

1. Update on School Reopening - Public comments are posted exactly as received.

- Ventilation
- Health Protocols
- Remote Learning
- Sports/CIAC

Andrew Coleman	3 rippling Brook Lane	I have a question for the superintendant: With recent scientific studies showing that the coronavirus can be aerosolized, what air filtration will we be using to remove coronavirus particles from the air in the classrooms? Note that the original WPS Reopening Plan stated that "The district will explore additional air filtration options ...", but the version updated on 8/26/2020 has no mention of any additional exploration or action thus far. My question relates to additional filtration within the classrooms, beyond what is provided by the MERV filters in the building ventilation system.
Andrew Coleman	3 Rippling Brook Lane	A clarification on my previous question: I'm referring to installing air filters as stand alone units within the classrooms, not as part of the central HVAC system. These units can remove particles smaller than the best MERV filter, including the size of coronavirus particles.

Gery Grove	20 Crooked Mile Road	<p>Although the health protocols appear sound with the degree of cohorting at the elementary school level, leaning on hand hygiene, mask wearing and distancing in a middle school where children are NOT cohorted feels that it will become precarious quickly. Recently the decision was made to not even eat snack inside the elementary school classroom with tiny cohorts - and yet we have hundreds of maskless kids passing through the Bedford cafeteria? Our elementary schools have core literacy and math learning and are dismissed, but our middle school is engaging in encores which are being taught outside of their team "cohort." The mitigation efforts (masks, etc.) seem plausible to control for spread in a cohort. In a free-wheeling school of hundreds of kids who are not cohorted or managed as closely in their mask wearing by staff, it feels much more difficult to control the spread of infection.</p>
Michelle Benner	61 Hillspoint Road	<p>Hi, I was driving by Wakeman Field today at 5:30pm. It looked like a part of the Staples Soccer Team (not sure if it was JV or Varsity) was nearing the end of practice on the main field. The area was teeming with people. Parents out of cars were wearing masks but most of the boys on the field were not. There were FAR MORE than 10 people on the field. It looked to me like it was the entire team (?). I was horrified. It seems inconsistent and wrong when Westport citizens are urged to wear masks in public, especially on the beach for instance, our schools are making an exception for sports where kids are not wearing masks while running and walking right next to each other on the field.</p>
Filip Mitev	2 Jennie Lane	<p>Thank you for providing some information on the distance learning program. Can you please elaborate more on what does it really mean half-day schedule? Is it that distance learners will only be engaged for half a day or they will be engaged along while their peers are in class in-person and also with the same group for the second part of the day? Will the distance learning students be assigned two classes - one in their School (in case everyone goes online or the students opts back into the hybrid model) and another group for distance-only at the district level?</p>
Lauren Karpf	10 hunt club lane	<p>I am extremely disappointed to hear that science and social studies will be sacrificed this year. If we can make time for art, music and PE, I would argue that we can find a way to find time for these critical subjects. How can we say with a straight face in 2020 and with the current research about the importance of science and social studies that we should minimize them this year? They should be a priority. Perhaps these materials are taught via recorded instruction during distance learning time? I urge the district to make these subjects a priority.</p>

Athena McAllenney	26 Bauer Place	The typical number of days absent allowed in a whole year is 9 days. Tonight I hear that up to 10 continuous days of absence from school for elementary students is totally fine for this district, and teachers will just send work home and provide no instruction. What if this is the case for 20%, 30%, 40% of a grade across the year? On the back of 3 months of lost instruction in the spring, this will perpetuate the cumulative lost time for children learning to read. We need time for *more* instruction this year. Not less. We will see the ramifications of this in years to come across entire grades. How will students make up this time? Lost opportunity that could have had a simple solution. Weak decision. I'm disappointed.
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2. **Enrollment and Staffing** - No public comments were received on this item. One test response was received.
3. **Calendar of Board of Education Agenda Items September 2020 – June 2021** - No public comments were received on this item. One test response was received.
4. **Update from Finance and Facilities Committee** - No public comments were received on this item.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. **Recommendation on the Use of Carryover Funds** - No public comments were received on this item. One test response was received.
2. **Update from Policy Committee and Second Reading of the Following Policies:** - No public comments were received on this item. One test response was received.
 - Policy 4118.112/4218.112, "Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace" (Revision)
 - Policy 5145.5, "Policy Regarding Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment" (Revision)
 - Policy 6114.82-C19 "Policy Concerning Health and Safety Protocols Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic" (New)
 - Policy 4152.9-C19 "Families First Coronavirus Response Act Leave"
 - Policy 3520, "Green Cleaning Programs" (Revision)
 - Policy 4110, 4210, "Employment Checks" (Revision)
 - Policy 6141.321, "Electronic Resources/Internet Safety" (Revision)
 - Policy 5131.81-C19 "Use of Private Technology Devices" (New)
 - Bylaw 9324, "Meeting Conduct" (Revision)