

Central Bucks School District
School Board Briefs
June 23, 2020

At the June 23, 2020 School Board meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board met in Executive Session on June 22 to discuss personnel matter. The Board met in Executive Session on June 23 to discuss the ACT 44 School Safety Report and transportation negotiations. The Board received information updates from Dr. Kopicki on June 11 and June 18 regarding COVID19 plans, and no deliberation or voting took place at the information updates

Approved the minutes of the June 9, 2020 School Board Meeting

Heard Public Comment: Public Comment was collected using an online form, and President Darcy, Vice President Suits, and School Director Smith read the submissions aloud. Please see attached for the complete packet of Public Comment submissions.

Heard the Superintendent's Report:

- Athletics Health and Safety Plan presented by District Athletic Director Danielle Turner
- PDE Health and Safety Plan Update presented by Assistant Superintendents Nadine Garvin, Abram Lucabaugh, and Alexis McGloin
- District Planning Family Survey Results presented by Communications & Public Relations Administrator Angela Linch
- 2020-2021 Final Budget presented by Business Manager Brian Loftus

Reviewed the School Board Reports:

- Curriculum Committee
- Finance Committee
- Operations Committee
- Bucks County Intermediate Unit
- Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Approved the Accounts Payable Check Disbursements Report

Approved the Treasurer's Report and Summary of Fund Disbursements

Approved the Designated Depository Bank Listing for the 2020-2021 school year

Approved a BoardDocs PRO PLUS Contract for the 2020-2021 school year

Approved Food Service Meal Prices for the 2020-2021 school year

Approved a Food Service Contract with Aramark Inc. for the 2020-2021 school year

Approved a 2020-2021 Budget Resolution

Approved the Homestead and Farmstead Real Estate Tax Discount for the 2020-2021 school year

Approved the 2020-2021 Annual Tax Levy Resolution

Approved an interactive presentation contract with Pear Deck in the amount of \$18,000.00

Approved a learning platform contract with Canvas in the amount of \$103,067.40

Approved an internet filtering contract with LightSpeed in the amount of \$52,400.00

Approved an infrastructure contract with Nutanix NX Hyperconvergence in the amount of \$186,574.80

Approved the CBSD Flexible Instructional Days Application

Approved a quote from PlayPower LT Farmington, Inc. for playground equipment at Barclay Elementary School in the amount of \$73,451.08

Approved the low bid from S&G Water Conditioning for neutralizing tank equipment at Buckingham Elementary School in the amount of \$21,495.00

Approved the low bids via DGS COSTARS Contracts for vehicle replacement vehicles for the FEMO Department in the amount of \$171,649.00

Approved an Agreement for Compensatory Education involving a student in the amount of \$9,560.00

Approved a Contract with Melmark, Inc. for Educational and Residential Services in the amount of \$648,646.00

Approved Personnel Items with clarifying language regarding Item 7F that if there are not enough student participants to run a team, that coach will not be compensated

- Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
- Leaves of Absence
- Appointments
- Assignment/Classification/Status Changes
- Fall Athletic Points List
- Extended School Year Updated Staff List

Approved a tuition student for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$13,522.00

Approved the Athletics Health and Safety Plan presented this evening



Public Comment

JUNE 23, 2020

Katherine
Abbott Cutler

New Britian

Thank you CBSD for making available the survey to family members regarding the status fo school in the fall. You are encouraged to continue to get input from not only families, but from teachers and support staff and from trusted medical experts so that you are able to make the best decision moving forward regarding the health and safety of our community. I also encourage you to parents know from the get go (i.e. in September) what the plan will be when school shut down again when (not if) we are in the throes of a second wave. Thank you.

Pam and Frank
Masciotro
Warrington

We would like school reopened, on time, with as few "safety measures" as possible. Recent studies (like the JAMA article attached) have shown that young people are very unlikely to contract or spread Covid, and that school closures throughout the world haven't actually had an effect on the spread. In fact, this JAMA paper states that school closures would be more effective for flu outbreaks, yet we don't close the school for flu season every year. Many of our high school students have worked throughout these past 3 months in direct daily contact with the public, and have not gotten sick. Many have been seeing friends and going to parties for several weeks, and have not gotten sick. Masks must be optional. Australia, Italy, and other countries have children back in school without masks. They have reported minimal covid cases in the schools, and those few positive cases have been traced to in-home spread, not in school, which is more evidence that transmission among young people is not common.

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Pam and Frank
Masciotro
Warrington

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Extra-curricular activities such as band, choir, theater, sports, and clubs must continue, as these are VITAL to secondary students in developing their interests, relationships, and are often a much needed outlet from their rigorous academic schedule. Not to mention, they are incredibly important to college bound students' resumes and scholarships. We understand that some families have been working from home with minimal public interaction and are concerned their student will bring the virus home. We feel there should be a choice of cyber school for parents and students that are uncomfortable with in-person learning. Our students NEED to get back to school, and it should look as normal as possible. They have been through enough.

Respectfully, Frank and Pam Mascitro
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2766114>

Lindsay Granson

New Britain
Township

We have a kindergartner. I would rather these kids stay on distance learning until we can go back to PreCovid. I do not want my kids traumatized by a bad experience.

Amy Smiley

Doylestown
Township

I'm all for the complete re-opening of schools in the fall. I have full confidence in the Central Bucks School District to implement safe and effective procedures to execute this plan.

Nicole DuMond

New Britain Twp

I am interested in guidance on in-coming Kindergarten children. If brick and mortar school resumes, I am concerned about the expectation that a child that young can consistently follow the health and safety guidelines. Developmentally, it will very tough for them to adhere to it all and has the potential to disrupt social learning. Since this is their first school experience, I am wondering if there is any willingness for the district to be creative about holding classes outside for half - day Kindergarten (when weather permits) or being flexible with on-line resources if necessary. I am fully aware of the level of complexity of this process for District leaders. With that said I want to make sure that I am advocating for the littlest learners. Thank you.

Dawn Olsen

Doylestown
Township

I am very disappointed with the proposed plan for re-opening schools. Masks should be required. It is outrageous that the school is not following the guidelines set forth for other businesses. Requiring parents sign a liability form with barely a trace of precautions are being taken is completely unacceptable.

Jeannie Redner

New Britain
Township

I believe that there is enough data to show that this virus has little effect on kids. Currently our kids are suffering on so many levels. There are other countries who have restarted schools with little change to structure because of how little effect the virus has on Youth. This should be our driving thought. In addition, case numbers should not dictate our reopening- but more so death rates. With all that being said- I know that CBSD has done an amazing job communicating plans and supporting their community. There is no situation where everyone will be happy. Thank you for doing your very thankless job.

Amanda Smith

New Britain

The petition circulating for opening schools with little to no restrictions is selfish & irresponsible. Our school board owes it to our students & staff members to open in the safest most responsible way to ensure a safe & equal education opportunity for all students. To ignore CDC and other health guidelines is teaching our kids that adaptive attitudes & sense of community well being are not important. The current situation stinks absolutely but this is our world right now and it is our duty to teach children that we have to adapt to changing environments. While not being able to completely eliminate risks there are ways to mitigate the risk and make a return to in person learning possible.

Rachel Thierolf

Warrington

I fully appreciate the careful and deliberate process that CBSD is undertaking to ensure a safe reopening for students, staff, and community. Your decisions are difficult and the fluidity of scientifically based information regarding this virus requires many plans of action be considered and ready for implementation. I am in favor of open communication about school district plans with the knowledge that plans are fluid and will not make everyone happy. I am completely opposed to an "all or nothing" approach to this situation as that demonstrates a selfish, close minded, and exclusionary mentality. Thank you for your careful consideration and hard work.

Cassandra Brown
Plumstead

Please return our schools back to normal!!! If people don't want to send their children back normally then there should be an option for cyber school. Do not make our children suffer because some are afraid. Be strong, be brave, don't be a sheep.

Marlene Pray

Doylestown
Borough

Good evening. Thank you for volunteering as Directors of our school district. I am a parent of a Linden and Lenape student and incredibly proud and deeply concerned about the well-being of our students and staff as we contemplate the coming school year. While our commonwealth has had some of the best outcomes in the country in preventing the spread and reducing deaths related to COVID19, we have a long way to go until we are safe to return to business as usual. Following the recommendations of scientists and medical professionals including wearing of masks, social distancing, temperature taking and other safety measures, is the only responsible choice to make.

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Marlene Pray

Doylestown
Borough

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I am also concerned about the long term consequences of curriculum choices that impact how our students understand the history and their own role in a democratic society. The suggestion that Core Knowledge would be adequate as a choice for our Social Studies curriculum is disturbing given the peer-reviewed reviews of it citing its bias, prejudicial and offensive perspective on a wide variety of topics. It uses problematic language throughout, including describing some white supremacists who owned human beings as property as “the kindest and most unusual slave owners.” Now more than ever, it’s time to adopt curricula and texts that support critical thinking, accurately reflect the history of our nation, and build a foundation of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and a better future for all of us. Thank you.

Debbie Cicchiello

Warrington

I appreciate everything the administration, teachers, and staff have done since March to make the best of the difficult situation we were all put into. When planning for next year, I am hopeful that the administration and board will keep the safety of ALL students and staff in mind as they make decisions for the opening of schools. I hope they look carefully at recommendations driven by science when coming up with the opening plan that will allow for the best and safest options given the situation covid 19 has put us into.

Courtney
Robertson
Plumstead

I understand that people are anxious for answers about what school will look like this fall. I hope, however, that people also understand that this is a dynamic situation, and that even the most well thought out plans may need to change. I also hope that science and best practice recommendations are used to guide the return to school. We all want what's best for our children, but equating public opinion with what *should* be done (based on science and recommendations from the CDC, WHO, etc.), is a dangerous precedence.

Sandra Hill

New Britain

I am commenting today in hopes that the board will understand that I am one of many Central Bucks School district families that wish to return to school, but with safety provisions in place. Please consider a minimum of 6 ft social distancing within the classroom as has been the recommendation of many renowned scientific organizations such as the CDC. Please consider utilizing plexiglass desktop shields to provide protection from airborne illnesses to students and teachers. Please consider the use of face shields or face protection when proper social distancing is not viable. Please consider keeping students to limited groups to reduce cross-contamination and for easier contact tracing. Please consider limiting time in classrooms as longer-term exposure promotes the spread of airborne transmission.

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Sandra Hill

New Britain

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The Central Bucks school district was recently rated number five out of 494 districts for safety. In maintaining this excellent record, I along with many other CB families, hope that you will view the Bucks County Department of Health recommendations as the very minimum requirements and actually expand upon these to provide more safety than what is recommended in typical CB strong fashion. The board must consider all members of the Central Bucks community when making decisions to protect the safety of the whole. This includes the immunocompromised students and family members, the special needs children of the district, as well as the teachers and support staff within the schools. In order to provide a fair and equal education to all, safety measures must be taken and taken seriously. Thank you.

Barbara Grimes

New Britain
Township

I have are only two comments. First, I'm not comfortable with testing being done by parents; there are a percentage of people who will send their children into school regardless because they feel they have to or because it's easier; that's nothing new. Also, unless there's a good reason provided, the students in the upper grades of 4, 5 and 6 should wear masks when feasible. They are mature enough to understand why they should wear them: to protect others in school as well as their families. Like King Solomon, let's "split the baby".

Ann Ambolino

Warrington

Central Bucks needs to go back in September. Take a pole. Democracy at its best. Parents with issues and we know there are always a few can do home schooling or PA cyber school. Don't allow a few parents to bully the school board into doing something 98 percent of us don't want. It is infuriating listening to these parents. Kids can't live in a bubble. They need structure and sports and socialization We should not all suffer because of a handful of people who like to complain and love drama. The kids need to go back to school!

Tamra Adams

Buckingham
Township

Please consider implementing safety precautions for school reopening to include: 1. limited class sizes (even if this means attending class in person 2 days/week and online classes the other 2-3 days/week)--this will allow social distancing of at least 6 feet (3 feet as suggested as a minimum by the Bucks County DOH is not distant enough to significantly lessen airborne transmission) 2. masks/face shields to be used whenever 6 foot social distancing is not possible 3. plexiglass barriers at each desk if possible 4. windows open/outdoor classroom time as much as feasible 5. shorter school days to limit time in enclosed spaces 6. for close contact sports, practice outside if don't already, and maintain outdoor conditioning programs if the sport is not able to proceed due to the impossibility of safety precautions and the nature of the sport 7. if distance learning is needed, offer recorded lectures by teachers with live, small group sessions where students and teachers can interact, ask questions about the lessons, and see each other

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Tamra Adams

Buckingham
Township

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8. create a distance learning model that can be incorporated easily for children who need to quarantine, are sick, or if schools need to close again and/or relax the attendance policy (i.e. if the child feels well enough, let them "attend" school from home) Appropriate safety measures will open up the in person school and school sport experience to those children who are immunocompromised or live with immunocompromised or high risk family members. Without sufficient precautions in place, many families will not be able to send their child to school, and those children should be afforded the same opportunities as other children. We all hope that these precautions can ease as we develop treatment/vaccine for the coronavirus. This is an impossible situation, and I thank you for doing your best to ensure our children's and our community's health and safety.

Erica Mumford
Warrington

Although the teachers do their best, DL is NOT a viable option! Our children cannot afford to miss a year of in-person instruction(end of 2019-20 and beginning of 2020-21). They need to go back with safety precautions in place! Thank you!

Tim Walsh
warrington

I am 100% against distance learning. The high school students need to have in person instruction for these more rigorous courses. There are safe ways to return to school for high school aged children.

Rommy Driks

Doylestown
Township

Why are we considering curricula that came in last through our teachers' evaluations? Why especially are we considering something with an obviously prejudicial and biased slant on U.S. history? While I'm sure the Chair of the Curriculum committee has their reasons for favoring such questionable material, they must serve the community over their own internal whims. Considering it came in last, I ask that the Core Knowledge curricula be dropped from consideration.

Stacy Bowen

Warrington

I know we are living through some challenging times . However it's very important to put the numbers into perspective. I feel it is important for our kids mental health to have a regular school day . These kids need the socialization and they are at such a minimal risk that they have a greater chance of being struck by lightning which was recently cited in an article from UPMC medical director . Additionally if you do the math of 120k (I'm inflating the number) deaths of the population divided by 325 million the risk is .0003 of getting this and dying . If you extract the nursing home patients who are at the highest risk the risk drops to .00012 And if we further extrapolate kids it's far less-

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Stacy Bowen

Warrington

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but I wanted to do general population to include teachers and those involved with the school These kids need to get back to normalcy - I just signed a waiver for my kid to train with her club team for basketball - we will sign whatever waivers you need for the district for COVID liability - our kids deserve normalcy and deserve to play sports and have lunch in a cafeteria with their peers and to be able to learn in person with live instruction ... If this is not going to happen - they need to give options to have kids repeat and encourage it as the cyber education is not anywhere near up to standards for in class learning and these kids are being robbed of their school experience which will have a huge impact in their development .

Lindsay Mitchell

Warrington

I can honestly say that as a former student of Central Bucks (class of 2008), I am disappointed at the education I received in relation to American history and other social studies. Standardized test scores are all that really matters so they can justify the increase in school taxes and receive more funding.

Producing well educated, questioning young people is their last priority, if it even is one at all.

Cadence
Masciotro
Warrington

Hi! My name is Cadence Masciotro and I am going into my senior year at CB South. Knowing that you are discussing the plans for next year, I would like to provide some input from a students point of view. Ideally, I would like next year to be as normal as possible—no masks, normal classes and schedule, time with friends at lunch—but I know that may not be possible due to our current situation. Realistically, I would like there to be only necessary precautions. Watching my friends struggle with mental health issues that have developed/worsened over the last couple months due to being stuck at home has really upset me; those that struggle with depression and anxiety NEED school and a schedule to cope with their mental illnesses. Canceling school/ having large restrictions cause more damage then it would stop. Also, Myself along with many friends have worked 5+ days a week at local grocery stores throughout the last couple of months and none of us have gotten sick. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Cadence
Masciotro
Warrington

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At work, I come in contact with twice the amount of people I would at school from many different areas. We have all stayed healthy at work, so why wouldn't we be healthy at school? I really hope you consider keeping after-school activities this year aswell. Being a member of choir and the musicals at South, I, along with many others, would be devastated if they were taken away our senior year. Sometimes, these activities are the ONLY thing that get us through the school day. Without these activities, as I have seen over the course of the last couple months, many of the participants have felt depressed and have had trouble feeling happy. PLEASE CONSIDER OUR FEELINGS THROUGHOUT THIS. Health is very important, but along with physical health comes mental health. If we are all physically isolated from each other at school and the aspect of social interaction is taken away, far more cases of depression and anxiety will develop than cases of COVID-19 that will be prevented by the attempts of social distancing.

Emma Cicchiello

Warrington

I am a rising senior at CB South. I think we need to make sure we have proper safety in place for opening school in the fall. My mom is a breast cancer survivor and is immunocompromised. I want to be in school to get the proper experience for my last year in the district before college but for me to be at school there has to be precautions. Even with safety precautions in place I will have to distance from my mom when at home to make sure she is safe. If we go back to school like nothing happened I won't be able to be in the building to finish out my last year in this district. Please consider students like me who need to help protect their family and ensure we can follow proper cdc guidelines at school this fall.

Marilyn
McMunn
Plumsteadville

I am confident the district will make the best possible decision to accommodate the greatest number of students. I would like to respectfully request that regardless of the plan for resuming school in person, that there is a high quality online platform available to students who are for various reasons not good candidates to return to school onsite. I would also like to see a formalized plan for students that may have Covid related absences so that they are able to stay as engaged as possible with their peers.

Gayle Sutterlin
Buckingham

The School Board of Central Bucks, specifically the Curriculum Committee, should in no way consider Core Knowledge's curriculum as part of our children's education. It was called "biased, prejudicial, and offensive" in how it portrays parts of history by a CBSD teacher who was part of a review committee, and the teachers involved placed it last out of 4 programs reviewed. To learn that the Curriculum Committee chair, Sharon Collopy, is actually promoting this as a possibility that should be reviewed is absolutely unacceptable. CBSD has always been a "leader" in our eyes; something for other districts to look to and learn from. This, however, goes completely against that. Now is not the time to move backwards. We urge you to NOT consider the Core Knowledge curriculum; our district is better than that, and our children deserve better.

Margaret Dator
Buckingham

My 4 children are proud well educated graduates of CBSD. Never would I have guessed that this great school district would accept anything but the best for our children. Do the right thing for these children and only accept the best books and curricula. Your community expects nothing less.

Richard Nimchuk

Central Bucks
School District

I would like to know if the School District and the State are going to allow our children to actually attend school or not? I for one like many parents want our children back in school to get the structure they need along with being able to properly socialize with their friends. The whole online distance learning in my opinion was flawed from the start and you put so much pressure on not only the students, but the Teachers as well who had to put this together so fast and I think quite a few students struggled as I know my child did. Are they going back to school full time??

Amy Goldstein
Buckingham

We will not accept curricula that has a biased slant on American history. Cor Knowledge Curriculum is outdated and biased. We ought to be teaching our children the truth, and not "history" based on white colonial values and perspectives alone.

Meg Griffin

Newtown

As a teacher and a Registered Nurse I would like to thank the school board and Dr Kopicki for the careful, purposeful planning for the fall 2020 school start. I appreciate their care and concern for the students, families, and staff with compromised immune systems. We all would like nothing more than to be able to safely return to a "normal" school experience. The reality is that that may not be possible this year. Thank you.

Deborah Kerman
Doylestown

Please don't pick Common
Knowledge curriculum, our kids
deserve unbiased education .

Mary Ellen Smith
Doylestown

I urge the committee to consider other options for CBSD's curriculum. We will not accept curricula that has a biased slant on US history. The curriculum being considered is prejudicial, biased, and offensive as to how it presents part of history. We have a responsibility to teach our children full history so they grow up with empathy, open minds and to be active anti-racists. Especially in this day and age I implore you to take the appropriate steps to provide our children with accurate and unbiased teachings.

Sharon Thomas

Warwick

Dear School Board Members, I am writing to you urging you to start the 2020-2021 school year with our children attending school full time. The COVID crisis is something that is not going away and something we need to learn to deal with during this time. We need to educate ourselves and our students of managing the health of one another. We need to take the proper precautions to return to an enriching school environment. While COVID-19 is a health risk, so is my children's lack of getting a proper education. The mental health affects of being home learning has been quite a frightening, isolating and damaging period. We as a community need to make the best choice for our children. Not only are they missing out on the benefits of being taught by our outstanding group of teachers, but they are missing out from the lack of physical activity. These losses have taken a serious toll on my children to the point I feel I am choosing their medical health over their mental health. This is something that I do not feel I need to do. The loss of education, physical activity, and social interaction is taking a greater toll on my children. It is with this that we make a mindful decision about our future.

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Sharon Thomas

Warwick

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are we willing to sacrifice our children's mental well-being? I feel this is too risky as it is. We have had too many mental health crises in our school district to ignore. I do not feel like we can handle any more. While I understand every family has a variety of diverse needs and risks, I feel it is important to give the parents a say in full time participation in education. Just as we would make any modification for our special education students, these modifications should also apply to families with at-risk children. I would never suggest a family jeopardize themselves and be uncomfortable, but I do feel that those that are comfortable be able to return to school as normal as possible. I am proud member of the community and the progress and communication that is being done in the Central Bucks community as we are leaders for the surrounding school districts. It is imperative that the school board listen to the voices of the community to make the decision to move forward with starting the new school year with full day school. We owe it to our children to have this opportunity to return to as much normalcy as possible. Thank you, Sharon Thomas

Shannon Harris
Buckingham

Over 725 residents have indicated that they would like CB schools to reopen as normal without masks including sports and extracurricular activities. A second option of a Central Bucks Cyber school is needed in order to retain tax dollars
<https://www.change.org/reopenCBschools>

Emma Loving
Buckingham

Hello School Board Members, We hope you are all doing well and staying healthy. Our names are Emma Loving and Sierra Mills, and we are recent graduates of the University of Pennsylvania. As CBSD alumni, we are writing to address the shortcomings of the CBSD curriculum to accurately and effectively address systemic racism and the truth about American history. We both attended Central Bucks schools for the entirety of our primary and secondary educations, and across all grade levels, we were taught an overly optimistic, inaccurate version of the foundations of our country, The effects of slavery that pervade today were completely ignored. CBSD cannot prepare students to be leaders in the world beyond Central Bucks if we do not equip them with the truth about the real world. We hope that this comment helps encourage and drive the reform that our curriculum needs, and we know that ourselves and many other CBSD alumni would be extremely happy to take part of this change. We hope that this is just the beginning of the conversation. Thank you for your time and consideration, Emma Loving and Sierra Mills

Shannon Harris

Buckingham

The guidelines put out by the Bucks County Health Director were encouraging as he advocated for optional masks or no masks inside the school setting. However, it is disturbing that Bus drivers and students will be required to wear them. I strongly encourage the school district to test the O2 levels of these bus drivers with masks on. I would hate to see their O2 levels drop as they drive our students around potentially putting themselves and the students at risk for accidents. In the Journal of American Medical Association April 17, 2020 article "Masks and Coronavirus Disease": "Unless you are sick, a health care worker, or caring for someone who has COVID-19, Medical Masks (including surgical face masks and N95s) are not recommended." If this is the case, no one should be required to wear them. If they are wearing them and could potentially be driving kids, their O2 levels should be checked to make sure there is no issue with the ability to perform their job. If they don't want to wear one, especially if they have a health issue, they should not be required to wear one. They can sign a waiver if there are liability issues. Athletes on their way to sporting events should not have to wear a mask. Wearing masks will affect their health and performance. Masks should not be worn during practice.

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Shannon Harris
Buckingham

Taking temperatures by anyone but a school nurse or doctor violates HYPPA laws as this is medical information and is not covered under medical privacy statutes. The school district just received a Cares Act grant. Please let us know what that grant will be used for. The freshman baseball team at CB East was removed from the next school year, even though a paid coach was allocated and paid for and there were 60 students who tried out for the team. Please explain why this team was removed and where the money allocated for the coach has gone.

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Shannon Harris
Buckingham

CB East and CB West advocated for a summer reading list on the following link: <https://sway.office.com/CoBfGIL33bEiZIlm?ref=Link> I previously reported my alarm and complete awe of the level of books with violence, age level inappropriate and depressing themes. I continue to be appalled at the books that are also in this list, and my call for morals and a level of decency in the literature that is given to our children. Please remove this list immediately and at least add normal books to bring a more balanced list. There are plenty of books that can teach the themes.

Lisa Walsh
Warrington

For fall 2020, I would like my son to attend school in person not distance learning. There are safe avenues for them to attend in the high school. I am opposed to distance learning for high school. The curriculum for high school students is challenging and needs in person instruction. Distance Learning was not successful in the spring. Thank You.

Sheri Pargman

Plumstead
Township

I'm the proud parent of a rising junior at C B East and a 2017 alumnus of C B East. As the Board draws up its Health and Safety Plan for reopening schools in the fall, I ask that it closely adhere to the latest CDC recommendations on COVID-19 mitigation in schools. These recommendations call for students to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet and to wear face coverings when physical distancing isn't possible. The guidelines recently issued by the Bucks County Health Department, including the guideline that students maintain a distance of only three feet in classrooms without mandatory face coverings, are completely inadequate per the CDC's guidelines. The CDC also recommends a hybrid online/in-person model or staggered/rotated scheduling to ensure adequate physical distancing between students. The Philadelphia School District is considering the implementation of such measures to keep its students and staff safe in the fall, and I ask CBSD to do the same.

Rebecca Logue-
Conroy

Warrington

I am writing to encourage you not to adopt the Core Knowledge curriculum for our elementary schools. I have two rising sixth graders whom I am actively working to raise in a house that embraces anti-racism. I have noticed that the Core Knowledge curriculum was reviewed by a committee and was found to be biased in its presentation of some history, especially in its use of racial tropes. The teachers chose it as a distant last, so I am not even sure I understand why it is being considered as an option. I would hope that a school district that prides itself in being "one of the best" in the state would pay closer attention to the ways in which it is teaching history. I would hope that we would be on the front lines of teaching an anti-racist curriculum. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Nancy Tegano
Buckingham

Good evening, my name is Nancy Tegano. I am writing you this evening to urge you to allow school sports to resume this summer. I have two boys in CBSD and my seventh grader is so excited to try a couple of new sports this upcoming year and some of those sports require training to begin in the summer months. My 12th grader is considering joining track, (my husband and I are thrilled, as he has a small friend base-we moved here when he began 6th grade and his age is younger than most in his grade) so it could mean more socialization for him and the benefits of that alone are enough for me to argue that I trust his immune system as he does too. Please consider opening summer school team sports, it is important on many levels for children, emotionally, psychologically and physically. Thank you. Below is a link to an article that helps to describe the many benefits of team sports.
<https://pediatriccenterofroundrock.com/the-physical-emotional-and-social-benefits-of-school-sports/> Nancy Tegano.

Krista Brigidi
new britain twp

I felt that the program put forth from Souderton Area School District was very good and would love to see something similar from CB. They will do their best to return to school as normally as possible while trying to incur as little extra expenditures as possible. They will offer a cyber school option or a brick and mortar option. This is what I feel is the best compromise. I think that since there were only 2 choices on the last survey, either fully on-line or a combination of in person and online you were missing those who would prefer in person learning only and I feel very strongly based on talking to lots of fellow parents that most would prefer online only or in person only and no one would like a combination of the two.

Tabitha
Dell'Angelo
Doylestown
Borough

I am writing to address the consideration of the Core Knowledge curriculum. This movement is led by E.D. Hirsch. Hirsch is hugely successful and very appealing, especially to parents. His curriculum is well structured according to traditional "scope and sequence" concepts. It feels like the product of a lot of thought....which it is. But, make no mistake, it represents an extreme stance, which is hard to imagine that CB would be comfortable. I understand that the Core Knowledge folks know how to speak to parents and offer the comfort of a very structured and comprehensive curriculum. But, I hope the Board will also consider the experience the students will have within the curriculum. And, in the case of Core Knowledge, that experience will be lacking in several ways, including the possibility of dimming student motivation for learning history and presenting such a shallow depth of knowledge that it would be easy for learners to walk away with misinformation and misunderstandings. Briefly, it is E.D. Hirsch's foundation, in the curricular typology of "breadth vs. depth" he weighs in on the side of breadth. That is to say that children will be introduced to a lot of dates and facts and there will be a lot of information but not so much thinking about that information.

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Tabitha
Dell'Angelo

Doylestown
Borough

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That is troubling to me for several reasons. But, the one that gets me in the gut is that, I think, if you ask most people what they remember about schooling, they remember more about how school made them feel and less about nitty gritty facts that they learned. It seems that the time of teachers and students is better spent on digging deeper into history, thinking critically and learning how to apply that knowledge to other content and real life situations. The Core Knowledge foundation aligns more with academic traditionalism -- which isn't as always as bad as that sounds -- but Hirsch is really a bit on the conservative side of the "Canon" debate. His most famous book is called "Cultural Literacy" but he does NOT mean "culturally relevant pedagogy" by any means. His view centers around American exceptionalism. There would be no room for students to consider multiple perspectives on controversial issues in social studies. Not only is that problematic in terms of philosophy, it is just not good preparation for life.

Marina Basin

Warwick

I would like an option for our kids that does not put a strain on the parents and kids alike. Wearing masks for prolonged periods of time has negative health implications, potentially worse than COVID. If you cant open schools as you normally would, keep them virtual until it is safe. Better to have virtual instruction for kids via zoom or teams with teachers actually teaching kids, not just emailing back and forth.

Elyssa Nemeroff

Warwick

I would like to stress my concern with the thought of my children not receiving a proper education if school does not resume in person. If this happen, our family will Be looking to move out of Central Bucks.

Meredith
Digiuseppe
Chalfont

My name is Meredith Digiuseppe. I am the proud mother of (2) Central Bucks South student athletes. My daughter was a Titan student-athlete all four years during her time at CB South graduating last year. My son will be entering his junior year this fall. While I certainly understand the concerns and precautions we have taken during this unprecedented time. I firmly believe it is in the interest of the student body physically, emotionally, and socially to return to the campus full time this fall. While I believe the district did their utmost to provide some semblance of education during this time, I do believe that much was lost in the last semester between course content, technical difficulties, and the ability to monitor our children's progress. Many of us were double challenge as we were required to work throughout the pandemic.

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Meredith
Digiuseppe
Chalfont

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As an active parent of a Central Bucks South athlete for many the loss of a sports season and the potential loss of future seasons is of great concern and stress presently. Many of our student athletes have long term goals they have worked multiple years for. They are pursuing their future with the intent of competition beyond their high school years. These years are critical in their development. I strongly urge the school board to move proactively towards a return solution which includes not only the ability for the student body to participate in class daily to the benefit of their academic future. but for athletes to be able to return, train, and compete as a Titan student athlete in their remaining and equally important high school and junior high years. This support should also extend to the youth programs in our community which so many of our tax paying residents participate in year in and year out. These Community programs have long relied on school facilities for practice fields and competitions.

Barbara Tantum

Chalfont

Thank you so much for considering all of the public comments. I know this decision is a difficult one and thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully consider all of the options. I for one do not believe it is an either or proposition as some parents have suggested. There are different options that can be considered, including some creative ways to educate our students AND keep everyone healthy. I also believe that it is important to consider the science, and the many things that have been learned since the pandemic started. One aspect that concerns me the most are the people who are asymptomatic and presymptomatic. This is real. I work in health care and personally know of a specific instance where someone has gotten COVID after being in contact with an asymptomatic person (only found out through testing.) Another is the simple act of wearing a mask and how it protects others. As my wise child commented during this pandemic, "Wearing masks is not scary, Alice drills and worrying about a shooter is scary." (Note we have asked our children to live that fear for about 8 years.) All of my children have agreed that wearing a mask to protect others is something they can do and still allow them to go back to school (which they really want to do.) There may be other options that work just as well. It is important to remember most of all - this is temporary. We can do hard, especially for only a short time. Again, thank you for the time you dedicated in making this decision.

Jennifer
Ventresca
Doylestown

As a mother to a rising freshman who is biracial. I am calling on our school board to critically look at our school districts' anti-bias and anti-racism education for students and faculty. This is long overdue. I will not go into any detail right now on the both subtle and blatant biases and microaggressions my child has experienced. From teachers, to store owners and customers in our community, to friends, and to random strangers. This is the reality of Black lives in our community and in our schools here in Central Bucks. This is racism. Systemic and institutionalized, conscious and unconscious, engrained and learned and taught racism. As Dr. Kopicki mentioned in his letter emailed to all of us in our district “ ..We cannot ignore the racism that we witness and instead need to stand beside our African American community members and demand better. It is the uncomfortable conversations we need to engage in to truly understand how we can deliver real equality, equity, and social justice. It is time we all stood together and shouted, “ENOUGH!...” So I ask Dr. Kopicki and the Board, what do those words actually mean? What constitutes “Enough”?

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Jennifer
Ventresca
Doylestown

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What are all of you, and we as a CBSD Community, what are you going to do? What are the actual concrete action steps CBSD has planned? What are the next steps? Timelines and milestones? I urge all of you to critically look at these 4 specific areas as a start: K through 12 curriculums to include anti-bias and anti-racist education, mandatory anti-racism training for all faculty, school assemblies to address racism, and the hiring of more teachers of color. The Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera recently stated "...Our education system is not without fault in perpetuating the systemic inequities and institutional bias that many of our communities have accepted as normal. Education is an institution rife with historic inequities in resourcing, inequities in discipline and inequities in opportunity... These structures must be dismantled." The time is now. Enough is enough. And we demand better. Thank you.

Jamie Walker

New Britain

As of June 22 Dr. Kopicki still has not taken a stance on whether he wants our kids back in school. Summer school is allowed to open for in person instruction. Why isn't there a plan in place to get the kids that are entitled to ESY and offer classes for kids to catch up since they missed school for three months? Dr. Kopicki should be a leader in this fight to educate our kids. Other districts have plans they sent to their residents. When school starts in the fall my children will only be going back to the same wonderful education they have received for the past 9 years. We will not accept anything less. My kids will not social distance or wear a mask. My kids will go to school 5 full days per week for at least 180 days. My kids will play sports, eat in a lunchroom, attend assemblies, and field trips. My kids will not receive less of an education because other people do not feel comfortable. My kids will not be forced to stay home for 14 days because maybe they were exposed to someone with a virus yet do not show one symptom.

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Jamie Walker

New Britain

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I feel enraged that it 2020 and I have to fight for my kids to get education in a top notch school district. CB should be developing an alternative option for parents who do not feel comfortable. There is a petition that many residents signed that is advocating for the same thing. Parents need to know the district's plan soon. We need to make plans to educate our kids. If school isn't going to be the same many parents will be looking for alternative schools, homeschool, cyber school, hire a private teacher with a group of kids, or relocate. What was thought of as an inferior education in another state would be a better option than the distance learning that occurred since March. Dr. Kopicki and school board members do you want to be remembered as the people who destroyed public education in Bucks County or who saved it?

Rich Walker

New Britain

Another two weeks have gone by with no new information from the superintendent or school board on what is going on in the fall. The lack of information is remarkable. No meaningful communication has been the standard since March so I don't know why I would expect that to change. If you are waiting on other school districts to determine your stance let us know what those school districts are so we can follow their updates.

Patricia Carman

Buckingham
township

I fully support Dr Damskers recommendations to the CBSD. I feel that it provides protection for our kids while allowing ALL kids to come back to school. I do feel strongly about masks ONLY when social distancing is NOT possible. I also feel strongly that kids should not be forced to sit in the same classroom with the same kids all day long, and during lunch. They have been socially starved and I strongly urge you to allow outdoor activity and socialization during the lunch hour at least. I started a group on FB with a few parents who want to SUPPORT CBSD and can provide realistic, rational feedback to help our kids go back to school. We are now over 900 members. We are gathering ideas to help support the effort to bring kids back safely. One recommendation we will have is parental volunteer assistance during the lunch hour outside. We will stand there with sanitizer and wipe down swings if it means kids can play! We will not invade the classroom and add potential germs if we are not needed, but we will do whatever is needed to help our kids and teachers. CBSD also needs to provide an online option where kids can attend LIVE CLASSES, like Zoom. I know Zoom has security issues so this needs to be addressed. Having recorded sessions does NOT engage our kids. If the online learning were robust, I feel that parents would embrace it with way more confidence and a shut down would be a lot less frustrating. Kids learned nothing, is what I'm hearing. Thank you so much for your time and efforts. So many of us appreciate all you do!

Jerel Wohl
Warrington

Dear Central Bucks School Board Directors, I am writing in response to what transpired at the recent Curriculum Committee meeting on June 10, 2020. I heard several letters of public comment from the community speaking to the need to address diversity and that a full understanding of historical perspectives from all races should be included with students' studies. Following those comments in the meeting, though, teachers spoke about a flawed process for addressing a new social studies curriculum that was to be piloted next year. Teachers spoke about Core Knowledge, and its inadequacy for our schools. I heard committee members talk about bias, prejudicial, and offensive material in how it presents parts of history, as well as how it reinforces gender stereotypes in that curriculum. Some one even spoke about racist context in the curriculum. The teachers spoke about how the curriculum came in a distant last in the rankings as reviewed by the teachers.

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Jerel Wohl
Warrington

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The Chair of the Committee, Sharon Collopy, followed the public comments with her own commentary defending that program, not at all addressing the very specific comments raised by the teachers. It sounded as though Tracy Suits raised questions in the meeting as to why include Core Knowledge if it doesn't meet state standards, and why to include Core Knowledge based on the negative feedback from the committee members, especially since it scored a distant last among the four curricula reviewed. The question was also raised as to why the current curriculum was not included so there would be a baseline to compare against the other options. Those questions were not answered directly or satisfactorily, and certainly create suspicion as this is a highly unusual process. Overall, I am simply dismayed that Core Knowledge would even be considered in Central Bucks—there thankfully is a reason this curriculum isn't used anywhere in the country by any public school—let's not start that sort of backwards thinking here. Sincerely, Jerel Wohl Warrington, PA

Cara Dawson

Bucks

Our education system has supported systemic racism for far too long. This must change. Ask the leaders of BLM, the leaders of Native Tribes to give us the correct learning material to give our children. And if that's too much, that we teach the truth about our country perhaps it's time for new leadership

Erin Arnoldi

New Britain Twp

While making plans for the year, please keep in mind the utmost value of electives and extracurricular activities. These are an essential part of a child's learning and emotional well-being. They are no less important than math, science, English, e.t.c. Science Teacher, CRSD

Tanya Kovacs

Buckingham

Hello, As the daughter to both a doctor and nurse, boarded in environmental medicine, I have sincere concerns about the overuse and constant disinfecting which is being suggested in the new guidelines. I have had concerns previously, but now I would like to address this very important issue. As we all know, our skin is our largest organ and I want to urge the Board of Education to take very seriously what exactly is being used as a disinfectant for these “high-touch” areas, where our children *will undoubtedly* absorb what is being used – now on a more regular basis. Antimicrobial chemicals (triclosan, triclocarban, quaternary ammonium compounds such as benzalkonium chloride, didecyldimethylammonium chloride, sodium hydroxide, ammonia hydroxide, chlorine bleach, etc) are inherently toxic as they are designed to kill living microbes. Aside from the toxicity, overuse of such antimicrobial chemicals can lead to the development of stronger drug-resistant bacteria in our environment (just the same as we see with the misuse of antibiotics causing “super-bugs”), which will result in bigger issues for our children later on. In addition, these chemicals lead to inhalation of toxic fumes that lead to respiratory irritation and breathing problems. Let us not forget that COVID-19 attacks the respiratory system. Let us also not forget children who are or can become asthmatic or have allergies and who will now be breathing in these chemicals (regularly). Hand sanitizers that use triclosan (which is found in most brands), pose additional concerns as research shows that it is both a hormonal disruptor, and negatively affects immune function (making people more susceptible to allergies and more vulnerable to the toxic chemical Bisphenol A, found in plastics).

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Tanya Kovacs
Buckingham

My suggestion to the board for general disinfecting is the use of accelerated hydrogen peroxide (AHP), which is a commercially available disinfectant that works much faster than standard hydrogen peroxide (HP). The additives improve its ability to kill more types of microorganisms in 1 minute. This product is highly recommended as its nontoxic, very effective, and has one of the lowest dwell times on the market. Regarding hand sanitizers, I would discourage its use completely and unnecessary placement throughout the schools and would instead encourage regular hand washing as the standard protocol. A few other points I would like to address... Regarding social distancing & masks. There is no clear evidence that children transmit COVID-19. With that being said, we are also at a 99.7% recovery rate, which is similar to a flu season. The models from the Imperial College were grossly negligent & were off by 2000% with their estimated deaths in the US. With this new knowledge it is time to change course from our initial & original concern which made sense at the time. It's time to have our children return to normalcy, as we have more than flattened the curve. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Tanya Kovacs
Buckingham

Germs are ubiquitous & we cannot escape them. There is no scientific evidence showing that masks stop the transmission of COVID, in fact the information on the box says the exact opposite. I don't support the use of masks in the school or bus setting. I also have concerns with bus drivers wearing them while transporting our children with impaired oxygen. Regarding the classrooms...children need human to human contact! Brain scans of neglected children show the detrimental effects of children who receive little to no human touch. It is also a developmental need for children to share, take turns, work out solutions to social conflicts with their peers. This cannot be done when all equipment is individual and sharing of equipment is prohibited. Children are proximity seeking and for good reason! It is a developmental need. Physical distance creates anxious, unregulated & even disoriented children...which impacts their mental health and nervous systems. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

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Tanya Kovacs
Buckingham

Lastly, these guidelines are unenforceable and is a recipe for frustrated teachers and children, unjust punishment of developmentally appropriate behaviors and increased behavior problems. Thank you for listening to my concerns & I'm confident the best decisions will be made for our children.

Ed Bowen

Warrington

Based on the risk if the general population and kids - there is no reason to not have school in a normal way - not a 'new normal' . My 7th grade son asked me - am I going to be able to have lunch with my friends ? It broke my heart not to be able to answer him. Then he turned around to my husband and asked - am I going to be able to play football ? These kids have been through so much and their risks are so minimal - I just don't understand these reactions when this isn't effecting kids and the general population has a .0003 risk of getting this and dying . We have a population of 325,000,000 and I know every life is important but so far we have had About 100k deaths - the flu season a few years back caused 87k deaths . While I'm not comparing the two as they are different - however they are both respiratory viruses that can cause death yet complete different reactions - one can argue the flu actually had a vaccine w/ the 87 k deaths - could you imagine if it didn't ? What if we still have deaths with a vaccine ? What if the vaccine never works and we don't have one ? We can argue that the vaccine doesn't work that well with the flu because people still get it - many recover but some die .

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Ed Bowen
Warrington

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H1N1 had far greater impact on kids and we didn't think to do any of this . Please put this into perspective - look at the numbers - and think about our kids and the psychological impact this can have long term is you continue to force isolation on them it's devastating for many of them . My son also did not thrive academically - I would like to see if we have an option to repeat especially if we don't have a normal school year - I do not want my child robbed of his middle school experience - he deserves a normal school - they all do and if people are afraid and don't want to do a basic math computation then they can stay home . I am for protecting the elderly - but most elderly don't want the youths life to stop . So for people who have concern about loved ones - continue social distance with elderly & masks . But for the vast majority of the population - they will do just fine . My mother is a nurse ; my dad had open heart surgery recently - they are living their lives - My dad fills ATM's in Philly - my dad wants to watch my daughter play basketball again and my son play football . We can't keep denying our kids the right to live their lives . The evidence is not there that you are protecting them - if we have to sign a waiver - I am all for that . I am pleading - please let these kids live ; learn ; play sports ; play music; and socialize ! They desperately need their lives back .

Michelle Yencha
New Britain Twp.

I would like to again urge the school district to open our schools with as little restriction as possible for our children. They have been through enough. I reject this new normal. We are not healthier wearing masks. If you are immunocompromised and feel more comfortable wearing a mask then by all means do so but to normalize these masks in school for children who are healthy is very disturbing. There is absolutely no scientific proof they work at preventing viruses. Also asymptomatic spread is basically non-existent. The survival rate for this virus is 99%. And kids are the age group least affected. I will seriously consider pulling my children from the district to homeschool or move out of the district all together to a district that has kept in person schooling in tact if CB requires social distancing, vaccines and masks. I believe a lot of these suggested restrictions are politically based and not scientifically based.

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Michelle Yencha
New Britain Twp.

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I know that no matter what decision you make there will be some who will be unhappy. For those children and parents who don't feel comfortable With in person learning they can decide as a family their course of action. But if I live in this district and pay taxes I expect school to be in person with all the social interactions in tact. Specials, recess and lunch. We should not be teaching children to be afraid of each other with social distancing and wearing masks. We build healthy immunity by our interactions. Of course teaching them to wash hands and have good hygiene is important too but anything more than that is unreasonable. As I have said before children need fresh air, sunshine, clean water and healthy food (fruits and veggies) to build healthy immune systems. They also need social interaction with other children. Please don't take that away from them. Thank you for your time.

William J Kelly Jr
Warrington

I believe we need to get the kids back to school and back to the sports programs. The lack of involvement for some of these kids is worse than the pandemic. Stress to the kids and parents that if you are sick, stay home. Stay clean, stay healthy and get back to work! Thank you

Kara Liples
Doylestown
Township

I feel the district will make the best possible decisions to accommodate the greatest number of students. I am requesting that regardless of the plan for resuming school in person, that there is a high quality online platform available to students who are for various reasons are not good candidates to return to school onsite. I would also like to see a formalized plan for students that may have Covid related absences so that they are able to stay as engaged as possible with their peers. A clear plan with ALL COVID-19 precautions must be in place in order to return to in person school this Fall. This includes masks for students, teachers and staff as well as Social Distancing of 6ft apart. All CDC Guidelines must be in place. Anything else is reckless and irresponsible for the safety of everyone involved. What the Bucks county DOH is suggesting scares me. Why would there be more restrictions on a hair salon, than in our schools. Please protect our children and our community.

April Sedutto

Doylestown
Township

You may not get a lot of these comments, so I want to share that I felt our teacher did a great job with distance learning, especially given the short notice and technology/tools available. We felt it was easy for our family to keep pace with the assignments since the workload was designed for half-day kindergarten. We had good resources available through the school - recorded phonics lessons, online book readings, math/phonics worksheets, interactive SeeSaw lessons, writing assignments, team meetings/games, optional recorded public speaking assignments, etc. Assignments for the next day were posted the night before. It was helpful for me to see first-hand my child's abilities and developmental needs. I would like the district to capitalize on lessons learned to improve and expand on any full-time or hybrid distance learning approaches next year. Having worked in the Global HR and Learning departments of a Fortune 500 multinational, I can unequivocally state that distance learning will continue to have a tremendous impact on our kids' futures. Remote working technologies are so widely accessible now - it is easy/cheap to live-stream training to global teams on Hangouts, Zoom, WebEx, etc. In some organizations, self-paced tools like Degreed.Com are becoming a key source of on-the-job training materials with curated learning content and custom learning pathways. Our kids will need to demonstrate they are capable online communicators as well as productive and collaborative members of a distributed workforce - whether they work in Science, Medicine, Marketing, Sales, Engineering, etc.

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April Sedutto

Doylestown
Township

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Our family even conducted most doctor visits and music lessons in the shutdown using FaceTime and Skype. Plus, as the workforce becomes increasingly specialized, nearly everyone becomes a teacher/trainer at some point. We should want CBSD kids to be well-suited to design and produce quality remote learning materials from the wealth of their own personal experiences. Though this virtual transformation may have come quicker than we wanted it to, I feel like the district has an unexpected opportunity to pivot in a new direction. We can't predict the future - we may be dealing with this virus for one year or many years - and we don't want any lost time through missteps or inaction. I believe making intelligent investments in distance learning resources, teaching techniques and support staff in 2020-2021 will continue to pay dividends into the years ahead. I get it - change is tough and sometimes painful. There are certainly days that I feel like a homeschooling failure. Plus there is no replacement for the ad-hoc peer-to-peer social learning interactions that take place in the classroom. However, my Chief Learning Officer was fond of the quote, "Today, now, this very moment, is the slowest pace of change you will experience in the rest of your life." Technical innovation has accelerated at an exponential rate and will likely continue this way in the years to come. It's hard to imagine the world my little kindergartner will graduate into...but I don't want him to be left behind in the midst of all the technological and macroeconomic forces reshaping our world. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michelle
Kennedy
DOYLESTOWN

I agree with the published plans and guidelines. Our kids need to go back to brick and mortar school. Thank you.

Lindsay Crozier

Doylestown
(Buckingham)

Our family supports students returning to school with as much normalcy as possible- to be clear, we are speaking of the old normal, not the “new normal”. We do not support the wearing of masks on a school bus, in a classroom environment, on the playground, or anywhere for that matter with the only exception being around frail, elderly people. We hope to see full use of the cafeteria and school music, arts, and sports programs implemented with little, if any, restrictions when the new school year begins in the Fall. Our children deserve this. Please look long and hard at the data out there. The CDC website clearly shows that this virus has caused zero deaths among children under 18 in PA. On CDC graphs, national deaths among those under 18 is depicted as a flat line, hovering at zero, from the time they started tracking this virus until now. In our neighboring state of NJ, where many more residents have died, just one of those deaths involved a child under 18. It is clear that our children are not at risk in terms of losing their lives from this virus. Wearing masks is not healthy, not from a physical, mental, or social perspective. Masks can reduce oxygen levels to the brain, force people to inhale bad air that they expel, and instill anxiety and fear in people. They are also very ineffective unless of medical grade.

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Lindsay Crozier

Doylestown
(Buckingham)

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masks can trap higher concentrations of the virus and anytime the wearer touches the mask (which can be often) it can be spread onto anything the person touches. And, OSHA, in many states, does not recommend the wearing of low grade masks as a means of self-protection. We are hoping that the school district adheres to the traditional school schedule at full capacity. We are opposed to a full online as well as a Hybrid model in which students alternate between in class and online work. We feel that both of these methods do not allow students to reach their full learning potential when compared to in class learning. As many of us learned through distance learning, Online learning provides too many opportunities for distractions and many parents are not available during the day to provide proper supervision. That being said, if there are parents who are not comfortable sending their children back to the classroom, we would support a second alternative to tradition schooling such as an optional home-based school with live stream classes. Parents would then be able to choose from one of the two options. This model would help reduce the number of families who choose to remove their children from the school district altogether, either because they do not want their children to be in an overly restrictive school environment or because they fear sending their children back to school. Offering two options would allow school districts to maintain tax dollars and also protect home property values.
Sincerely, Lindsay Crozier

Denise Hall

Doylestown

As a former CB educator & parent of three, who graduated from CB, I am shocked and totally disappointed that CB is considering the adoption of a social studies program that is prejudicial and totally biased. I have always been proud of CB, but this is terrible, especially now. This is not leading the way. The many diverse voices that have been speaking out in protest across the country indicate that we need major change. Change begins with education and that education must be an accurate, truthful, and all inclusive portrayal of the facts. Take a stand CB for what is right.

Margaret Bryant
Plumstead

I would like to voice support for the school doing whatever is needed to keep students and staff safe. Distance learning seems to be the most viable option to do that, from what we know currently. Distance learning may only be needed for a couple months, and the district can re-evaluate as conditions hopefully improve. If conditions worsen in the fall, then we will already have a safe option for education in place without major disruption. It is better to prevent the problem than to deal with the consequences of an outbreak. This would also give the school more time to prepare a safer environment to eventually return to the building. The school did a great job this spring with barely any time to plan, so I think distance learning would be a very different experience now with time to prepare a more dynamic program. Another difference is we would likely not be as isolated as we were in March. Thank you for all your hard work.

Elizabeth Dooley

Buckingham
Township

In light of the worldwide movement to dismantle systematic racism, I'm looking through my son's Buckingham Elementary yearbook and noticing that all 71 faculty and staff pictured are white. What has the district done to actively seek a diverse pool of job applicants and to ensure that clear pathways exist to bring people of color, and specifically Black, teachers and staff to our schools? How will you enhance these efforts for the 2020-2021 school year? Our kids can read about racism all day long, but if their own district isn't placing people of color in leadership positions then the reading lists are purely performative.

Shannon Sticker

Buckingham

I am concerned about our districts ability to prepare our students for a diverse world and to be equipped to help create that. Now more than ever we need to teach history in a way that is accurate and inclusive of inequities perpetrated against black and indoginous people as well as their perspectives and contributions. I would like to encourage the board to make an effort to create a more diverse faculty and staff. It is important for our children to see people of color in positions of influence and leadership in our schools and community. Currently there is a series lack of diversity among the faculty and staff. Please make increasing diversity a priority in our district.

Melissa Smith

Chalfont
borough

A strong, unapologetic anti-racist curriculum and culture in CBSD is imperative from both a moral and educational perspective. I strongly encourage the board to adopt a much more progressive approach to supporting diversity than the Core Knowledge curriculum, which consistently rates poorly among similar curriculums in terms of a full spectrum, anti racist approach. Our children deserve better.

Lisa Spring
Warrington

I am concerned the the guidance from the Bucks Country DOH may not be strong enough to ensure a successful opening to school this fall, in particular, the suggestion of 3 ft vs. 6 ft. and only recommending masks, not making some kind of barrier required. In order to reduce the spread of the virus, it takes commitment from everyone to implement various safety precautions as outline by the CDC and CHOP. We must work together to protect each other; it is not an individual effort. It is true that this virus is going to be here for awhile, and a vaccine will not be available for quite some time. And it is important to have some return to normalcy. However, that does not mean we should not take precautions to protect our students, faculty, staff and community. My biggest concern is that we will rush to open the schools with little to no precautions and within a month we will have to close down again.

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Lisa Spring
Warrington

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People talk about the emotional effect closing the schools this spring had on the children, but I think to open and have to close rather quickly again, would have a worse effect. I would rather see precautions put in place, students attend school, extracurricular activities be offered, and if things go well or recommendations change, we can relax some of these precautions. Some have suggested that children, teachers, staff, and those with at risk family members be relegated to distance learning, but this is not an inclusive option. It is often our most vulnerable population that is most in need of face to face instruction, and all students deserve a high quality education. If we can implement appropriate safety precautions, we may allow more children and staff to safely return to school and receive the quality education and experience we have come to know and expect at CBSD.

Gwendolyn
Stoltz
Plumstead

Please consult medical professionals when making health safety decisions concerning Covid-19 for the upcoming school year. While it was nice outreach to ask parents their opinions, please do not let parental opinion dictate safety decisions.

Melissa Smith

Chalfont
borough

I, like many parents in CBSD, strongly oppose the “dual option” school reopening petition. I encourage the board to continue to gather the scientific data needed to make decisions about the fall- decisions based in fact rather than opinion. Please weigh health and safety concerns as heavily as educational, and do not consider relegating our most vulnerable children to distance learning as their only option. Please uphold the mandates of FAPE and take a common sense, science-based approach to this complicated situation.

Erin Corrigan

Hilltown (but
employee of CB)

CBEA, without question, fully supports diversity and inclusion. This should be of the highest regard when developing curricula and vetting materials used with our students. Professional staff who were asked to review four potential social studies programs for pilot sometime next year have noted that one of the four programs, Core Knowledge, not only fails to meet state education standards, but also presents biased and prejudicial historical information. This is unacceptable, and we request that Core Knowledge be removed from consideration as a program for use in Central Bucks.

Courtney Leaf

Doylestown
Township

I understand the decision of how Central Bucks School District resumes educational services in the fall is complicated. However, the district must prioritize the education of students and the safety of staff and students. I recognize this situation is in flux and there is still a lot not known about the virus, but I believe the school district must, at minimum, follow the guidance the Pennsylvania Dept. of Health and the CDC. Guidance from these organizations may change in the coming weeks as we watch other countries resume education and, depending on our own case rates. The school district should consider: 1. Social distancing of 6 ft (the guidance from Bucks County DOH is based upon a WHO document from March, which is outdated given all that is now known about his virus). This may require limiting class sizes and doing a hybrid of in-person and distance learning. 2. Temperature screening for all staff and students and symptom screening for all staff daily

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Courtney Leaf

Doylestown
Township

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3. For any distance learning – using a consistent platform across the district (or at minimum a consistent one within each school), as well as “live” classes. 4. Mandate masks or face shields for all staff and students when 6 ft of social distancing is not possible, such as in hallways or buses. 5. Look into alternate barrier options for desks so that students and staff don’t have to wear masks and/or shields at all times. 6. Prioritize face-to-face education for the most educationally at-risk students – students with IEPs, special needs, etc. and if this is not possible, these students should be receiving extra support for distance learning. 7. Resume sports, but only outside, limiting close contact. If not possible, teams should still be allowed to practice for conditioning. 8. Look into alternate settings to hold classes – maybe outside with tents until the weather is too cold. 9. Loosen attendance guidelines and provide all families with a distance learning option to support students who cannot safely return to school due to underlying health issues or the health of an immediate family member



Public Comment

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