

**Central Bucks School District**  
**School Board Briefs**  
**September 8, 2020**

At the September 8, 2020 School Board meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

**Approved** the minutes of the September 2, 2020 School Board Meeting

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

**Heard** the Superintendent's Reports:

- Health and Safety Plan Review
- Food Services Update

**Reviewed** the School Board Reports:

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

**Approved** the Accounts Payable Check Disbursements Report

**Approved** an Educational Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$101,020.00

**Approved** a Tuition Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$45,000.00

**Approved** a Tuition Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$122,615.20

**Approved** to Move to Table for First Read the following School Board Polices: 811, 812, 813, 814, 817, 818, 819, 820, 822, 823, 824 and 833

**Approved** Personnel Items:

- Retirements and Resignations
- Leaves of Absence
- Appointments
- Assignment, Classification, and Status Changes
- 2020-2021 Fall Athletics List

NAME	MUNICIPALITY	COMMENT
Frank masciotro	warrington	Reopen all of our schools with in person teaching IMMEDIATELY. If not we the people demand a tax refund and please stop telling us that in Novemeber the schools will be reopened. We already know most teachers will be off for the rest of the year. It is time to stand up to the teachers union and make children our number one priority then number 2 should be the tax payer and finally number 3 should be the teacher. WE THE PARENTS AND THE TAX PAYERS HAVE HAD ENOUGH. REOPEN OUR SCHOOLS NOW !
Richard Nimchuk	Bucks	I would like to know what steps are in place if a child/ren start to have severe headaches and or eye problems that are associated with TOO MUCH screen time?? Or is this something the parents are gonna have to suck up and pay to have the child/ren get glasses or see a neurologist?? Did the school board or even the Teacher's Unions think about this???
Amber Cichon	New Britian township.	Children need in person education. It is an important part of their development. Is there a definitive timeline as to when they will return? Most importantly, Bucks county Covid cases are down, especially in the CBSD. Is the district actively working to hire more teachers to make in person learning possible soon? Thank you.
Christy Booth	Doylestown boro	OPEN THE SCHOOLS. These numbers DO NOT support the harm this is doing to our children. Virtual learning is NOT healthy.
Pam Masciotro	Warrington	<p>It has been sad as a parent to see my once very enthusiastic daughter approach her senior year with a feeling of ambivalence. Keeping the schools closed is literally changing who these students are as people, and it's shameful.</p> <p>It is well past time for our children to be back in the buildings. You have mulitple saftey precautions in place. The information parents have been given is that as soon as enough staff is hired to cover teacher leaves, the kids will be back in the buildings, with the idea this will happen well before November. I think our community deserves a projected date as to when that will be. It would help us encourage our kids to stay positive. It has been exactly 6 months since buildings were closed with the purpose of "flattening the curve." This whole thing is beyond ridiculous at this point.</p>

April Showaker	Warrington, Central Bucks	<p>Never in my lifetime have we been faced with such a struggle for society. It boggles my mind that with such minimal impact on the health of the major population, we are willing to impede on the future of our youth. The numbers, the facts presented show that we HAVE and Continue to flatten the curve. We are at th lowest rate of hospitalization, outbreak of cases that show zero detriment with only a very, VERY small percentage of the rather small cases resulting in a need for treatment. We have learned a great deal about this virus to the point where only 1 in about 100 people even have concern for for the possibility of testing positive, and even then we've learned that a majority of positive tests are proven to be wrong and based on magnified testing methods yielding false positives, yet we continue to stagnate our children's lives. For what? Where is the option for the mass majority to opt for continuation of normalcy? Why are many other schools and sports able to offer involvement face to face with no negative results, yet some such as Central Bucks continue to hang on unprecedented fear and reservation? We are supposed to be one of the best school districts in he country, yet we as tax paying families are at the mercy of poor planning, fear-run decisions, and continued uncertainty for our children. It's time to look at the REAL facts, the REAL numbers, and allow our children the education they need, to play sports that so many of them NEED to build their bright futures, and push for normal in their lives. Our childrens' futures are in jeopardy and opportunities are being minimalized or depleted for no reason. It's time CBSD. It's time to get back to normal.</p>
Tony Saldutti	New Britain	<p>The most disrespectful part of delaying the school year was that you didn't listen to the people you work for, the parents.</p> <p>You took a vote and the overwhelming majority wanted to open school in some fashion and you failed us.</p> <p>Why? Do you think you know better? Do you just not care about what we want?</p> <p>We are not children, we can make decisions and accept the risk. Stop making decisions that go against the will of the people now!!!</p>
		<p>Hello School Board and Dr Kopicki,</p>

Since you disseminate so little information I thought I would give you some items that should be on your list.

For the school board: By now you probably realize Dr Kopicki is not suited to lead the district through this crisis. He does not possess the abilities that are needed. He may have been a good administrator during times of when things were going well. If you knew this virus was coming and what his response was going to be, would you have hired him? Time to get someone capable of leading us through this. And Dr Kopicki, do you think you have done a good job and have the skill set that is needed right now? I grew up in western PA, and no offense to them, but this is not Altoona. It's probably too much for you and you are putting the children at risk. Not an indictment, just a pretty much consensus statement. Where have you been?!?!?

School Board: you need to start handling this like a business. Can non-union educators be hired? Explore that. The union is definitely a complicating factor, not part of the solution. There was a court case in 2017 involving teachers and union dues. Some teachers in the Commonwealth are opting out. Worth exploring and making this known to teachers. I'm sure the union rep knows this information, but I can supply that information if requested. Many teachers express a strong desire to return to their classrooms. Nothing should be off the table. What is union going to do? Shut the schools down? Haven't they already done that? Now is the time for change. The old way is not the new way.

You need to start sending surveys out with who is coming back to school if you reopen hybrid and full time. You need to survey the teachers and find out how many will put in for leave after the first wave comes back. Isn't that why you shut down your voted upon plan?

Seek guidance from others. Talk to other school boards and consultants. Look at other websites from school districts, see how they conduct their meetings, answer parents questions. Maybe hire a public relations specialist. Your lack of information is causing residents to dislike teachers and driving a wedge between parents/educators/school board members. It will soon get to the point of irreparable damage and it will be your fault.

Rich Walker	New Britain	<p>This is not 2019 and much has changed. The public school system is undergoing a huge amount of adaptation. It will never go back to the way it was. You need to determine how the future will look. The longer the kids aren't educated properly, the worse this will get. Your job will get harder everyday.</p>
		<p>Start by getting a capable superintendent. One who has a vision, wants to charge forward with educating the children appropriately. One who exzudes confidence and calm. CBSD is very close to becoming the example of what is wrong with the school system and covid response. You're the 3rd largest district in PA and still hiding under your desks?</p>
		<p>Rich Walker</p>
		<p>Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>
		<p>It's hard to put into words just how embarrassed the Central Bucks administrators and board ought to be. As the largest district in Bucks County, Central Bucks should be leading the way through challenges. Instead, the district leadership is pathetically cowering away from its responsibilities.</p>
		<p>The Board President sends her own child to in-person kindergarten, but won't give Central Bucks children the same opportunity.</p>
		<p>The Board Vice President inexplicably tries to make jokes on Facebook about virtual schooling, apparently completely unaware of the academic disadvantage that virtual schooling causes.</p>
		<p>The Superintendent, along with the teachers union, continues to put unwarranted personal fear above professional responsibility. If they are so scared, then they should resign their jobs and let someone step in who will put the children FIRST.</p>
		<p>From top to bottom, the leadership of Central Bucks should be ashamed. While the district continues to disadvantage the students, other local districts are already back in school and the sky is not falling. In fact, across the country thousands of schools have been open for over a month now and no apocalypse has happened.</p>
		<p>A recent study conducted by Public Health England determined that students and teachers who went to school had the exact same rate of infection as those who didn't. This confirms previous research from Sweden, where children never stopped going to school and their rates of infection were the same as neighboring countries who shut down.</p>

Joshua Hogan	West Rockhill Township	<p>Simply put, the entire free world already understands that schools are not a driver of transmission in this pandemic. Every single nation on Earth is sending their kids back to school, and most are doing it without masks or social distancing.</p> <p>And then there's Central Bucks, where hypocritical and out-of-touch officials are embarrassing themselves. The community deserves better than weak and failed leadership.</p>
Trisha M Kitchen	Buckingham	<p>I am a parent of 3 adult children that went through the CB School System. We should not keep our schools closed for a virus that has a recovery rate similar to the seasonal flu and rarely severely effects children and young adults. The education that these children get remotely is in no way a substitute for an in person one. As a current tax payer of these schools and a parent whose children reaped the many benefits of a CB School District Education I implore you to open them up fully.</p>
Kim Cenci	Warwick	<p>Gov. Wolf is allowing 50% capacity in restaurants as of Sept 21st. I believe we should allow 50% capacity at our indoor and outdoor sporting events as well. (Outdoor football stadiums are safer than inside a restaurant) As of now, the indoor sports and football, marching band and cheerleaders are not being treated fairly.</p>
Howard Schargel	Plumstead	<p>Last meeting I commented and asked the board to consider turning their cameras on so we can see who is talking and experience what you are having our children experience. Mrs Vlasbom brought it up at the end and there was silence from the new leadership. How can we get a vote on this? I'd also like to once again ask for a townhall where we can ask questions of our elected board, superintendent, union rep Erin Corrigan and Dr. Damsker. A response at this point would be appreciated since there have been so many requests for this. All it takes is one board member to make a motion on this and the camera's. Who's up for re-election in 2021 and wants to run on transparency? Perhaps it's time for a clean slate.</p>
		<p>To the Central Bucks Board members from a concerned parent,</p>

		<p>I have watched the anxiety for all three of my children at the thought of virtual learning increase exponentially as today approached. Not to mention my wife and I as we've dealt with various technical issues and childcare decisions. I've also followed the rates of infection and hospitalizations in our County drop to new lows and yet my children are locked out from school. I would like a public statement on exactly how this occurred and how the decision was made. Certain board members expressed in my opinion clearly politically divided views of the pandemic, instead of focusing on our local challenges and making safe decisions as a community. I've also observed many private and parochial schools be able to open. I feel badly for all the CBSD teachers that want to be in school teaching our children and have been labeled as part of the reason our kids are not there. Full transparency and a complete Explanation of how this occurred would go a long way to reclaiming the trust of the CBSD Families, so impacted by this 100 % virtual decision. We may be angry and upset, but at least we will be informed.</p>
		<p>It also may ensure that similar mistakes do not continue to occur. I understand that full disclosure may result in some being identified as carrying varying levels of blame, but that is accountability and necessary. As of now we as parents do not know how this happened or where it goes from here. I feel certain had everyone responsible (Board, Administration, Teachers and Bargaining Units) worked together, we should have found some version where enough teachers willing and able to work in this new environment could have provided some in school instruction to those most needing it. Identifying families with special needs, those where both parents must work, first responders, the youngest children which this is most harmful too. Smaller groups of Hybrid, virtual, and traditional, based upon need and what could be provided. What that would or could have looked like I am not sure, because I have no information. Unless you educate us with something different we can only assume that there was not a cooperative, collaborative approach among the responsible parties to find consensus and a way forward. Instead all of our children and families have been harmed and people have been left to base their frustration and ill feelings on assumptions and opinions, instead of the facts about how we got here. This has created a harmful divide in the community.</p>

David Scirrotto	Warrington township.	Our children deserve to be safely back in school. The Board must provide the leadership to ensure that those responsible for making that happen are working towards that goal together, while providing alternatives for those who are at risk or uncomfortable returning at this point. I currently do not have faith that will occur based upon what I have seen so far. CBSD you have lost my trust, what will you do with that knowledge is the question I leave with you.
George	Warrington	Please Open the schools in person !
Elyssa Nemeroff	Warwick	you need to look into a School voucher Tax policy so that we are able to Pick where our tax money goes if CB will not be opening this year.
Tatiana Arutyunov	Warrington	First day of virtual school is over and it looks like this is going to be bad. I doubt that my 2nd and 3rd graders will be able to learn a lot this way. The online format is not appropriate for small kids. They need to go back to school in person ASAP!
Theodore Kosin	Warwick Township	Thank you so much CBSD. I just love having to monitor two kids on live lessons, watch a 1yr old and deal with computer issues on your school district issued laptop. Thank you so much!
		K12 (which my daughter is taking cause she has no IEP) is great no issues just CBSD.
Brittany Kosin	Warwick Township	What is your covid exposure policy?
		How many teachers have been currently hired to address the staffing issues?
		How many positions still need to be filled?
Jennifer schurer	Warminster	My son was very anxious about starting cyber school. He needs an IEP and I am at work all day. He is 15 years old. I was very impressed with him today. He got up on his own and "went to" all of his classes on time. He even took a walk on his lunch break! I just hope he keeps it up.
Laura Kuhnle	New Britain Twshp.	Butler kindergarten teacher Miss Patterson did an outstanding job engaging the kids and adapting the curriculum to online learning. The online format is slow and distracting. Background noise from microphones that are not muted makes it very difficult for kids to focus. This is less than ideal for providing a quality education that kids need today to survive in this complicated world.



Colleen S	Warrington	Thank you for the effort of the many teachers & administrators who worked hard to have a great first day back to school. Today had it's challenges and I believe that if the kids were in school there would have been less challenges. Please put these children back in school. In person teaching as well as socialization with their peers is so important for our children's physical and mental well being. Stand up for the many who want to be in the building...teachers AND students. Start loosening restrictions even if it's a small thing like senior night or parent spectators at events. Show our kids hope and support the way many surrounding school districts have to their students. This district has always spoken of having GRIT - well let's show some & get these gets back to some normalcy. Thank you.
Megan S	Warrington	Our first day was fantastic! (8th and 12th grades). Thanks to all of the administration, teachers and staff that worked so hard to make this a seamless transition for the kids! Looking forward to a great year, whatever that may be!
Alison Landis	Warrington	While overall my three children's day went smooth and the teachers did a great job (much much improvement over spring!), I am unhappy that my 9th grader who is taking drawing/painting now has a long list of REQUIRED supplies we must have plus a RECOMMENDED list of supplies, just for this one class. In year's past, this class only required a 9x12" sketchbook- why is the long list of supplies needed for the class now put on me?
Kayla Ottey	Warwick	Please please open our schools for our elementary kids. They need to be seen, heard and connected in person .
Tracy Dufner	New Britain twp	My son is a 9th grader at Tohickon Middle. His day went well - no technology issues, enjoyed his classes. However, his usual pleasant & happy demeanor flipped to sad and anxious after his first few classes. The realization of his normal hit him like a brick. Please bring our kids back to school. This is a critical time for their mental well being.
Jen Burke	Warrington	I kindly request that CBSD update the Athletic Health & Safety plan to include spectators, specifically parents, at games for Fall sports. I appreciate the administration and board for preparing and approving the plan to allow the secondary schools to compete in Fall athletics but I am disappointed that we have not yet seen an updated plan to allow parent spectators. Thank you for your time.

		Can the board please comment on the district's plan for reopening. There have been countless comments and emails that have gone unanswered. Are schools virtual because of staffing, or because some believe it's unsafe? The messaging is unclear, and parents and teachers are left in the dark because of the lack of transparency.
Cheryl Giacomelli	Buckingham	In addition, what is the district doing to support at-risk students? Remote learning only furthers the academic divide between at-risk and privileged students. I cannot imagine how difficult this must be for single parents, parents who work out of the home, elderly caregivers, etc. What is the district's plan to support these students as classes remain remote?
		I want to thank the teachers for all their hard work today. My children did not have technical issues and had a great day. Yes I do wish they could have been in school today instead of virtual at home.
Laurie Stevens Mirsky	Buckingham	There has been discussions about the start time for Jr and Senior high school students being later. Why is that not being done now? The school day is being shorten already for this calendar year. They could easily be starting the day at 8 am and finishing at the normal 230 pm.
Kelly carr	New Britain	Please, please let our kids come back to school. These kids are so lonely. They need interaction with others. I'm really concerned about the kids emotional well being.
Christine Harper	New Britain/Chalfont	Please let our kids go back to school they need to carry on with real life
Holly Eaton	Warrington	As hard as it is on every teacher, staff member, family member and student... Thank you Central Bucks for looking out for the community and trying to keep everyone safe and healthy. We all need to try to keep a positive mindset and support one another. It is so heart breaking all the teacher bashing there is on Facebook. We are all in this together. This is temporary and it too will pass. We are going to hit bumps and hiccups along the way but please try hard to stay as positive as possible. Verbally abusing others is not going to help. Kids see and hear what some parents are doing and it is not teaching them anything good by some of your words and actions. This is not forever.
Andrew Eckhoff	Doylestown	This has become a political matter instead of health matter. It's time to open up schools.

Sara Gift	Warrington	Please do whatever is necessary to provide our children with in person learning. If there is anything parents can do to make it happen, I would love to help. Virtual learning is not working.
Jennifer Richards	Warrington	Are other options for in school learning being explored? Can schools operate at 50% capacity? If so, I would like to suggest A and B weeks. Half the class goes in 5 days one week while the other half participates virtually and the next week the second half goes to class 5 days while the first half participates virtually. The kids need to be in school! The curve has been flattened. There are 3 people in the hospital in Bucks County related to Covid. Please help our kids.
Pattie Livezey	Doylestown Township	Please move forward with opening our schools. Today was not an optimal start to what many children need for a successful school year. Under this model, students are not able to receive in-person help and assistance, some teachers were at home teaching which was very distracting, connections were not the best, and students are not able to have the electives they requested. Our Numbers are at an all-time low and continue to maintain a this manageable rate. Yes there are positive COVID cases, however, these cases are not making it to hospital level which is strong indicator that we are ready for the next step. Please start the move forward to in-person instruction. Thank you, Pattie Livezey
Brie Livezey	Doylestown Township	My senior class of 2021 has lost so much. Please help us to be successful and move back to in-person schooling.
		We need the structure and the hands on work to help us be successful! Thank you Brie Livezey Class of 2021
Bill Rolland	Warrington	As part of recognizing the seniors this year can you put a plan in place to have parents physically greet their child on senior night? With all the difficulty right now, It would be a great moment, and testament to how we overcome challenges. As somebody who misses a lot of the evening activities due to work, senior night is one night I'd like to be Together with my wife and daughter as A lasting memory.
Tanya Pastor	WARWICK TWP	Please let parents know if they are needed to assist CBSD will distributing the pack and go breakfast and lunch. The community wants to help those who need the delivery assistance.

Ninette Harvey	Jamison	<p>Happy to report that our first day of 4th and 2nd grade at Jamison Elementary went off without a hitch! We hope the level of engagement and interaction continues!! It was also great to see the kids get a chance to chat and giggle during the last moments of their breaks to help ease them into the new format. While it's not the same as in school learning, I have to say our teachers made the first day a great one! My kids are already looking forward to tomorrow and I'm trying to keep that level of enthusiasm going! Huge thanks to Mrs. Mee and Ms. Unger!!</p> <p>Best wishes to all!</p>
Jamie walker	new Britain	<p>Dr. Kopicki you have officially failed Central Bucks. Please step down so the damage can be undone before its too late. Dr. Bolton was the acting superintendent before you and his district is in school. 18,000 kids sat home alone today. Ate lunch alone..if they had food. How will teachers know if a child can read? How will a math teacher check the mathematical process through a computer screen? How will science labs be conducted? CB students have not been with an employee since March. What is even your role anymore? Explain to everyone the covid exposure policy for employees. Tell the residents of the district how you have no intention of starting school in November. School board speak up. Time to make a change. You have kids in the district not everyone is fortunate to be able to afford private school like certain board members. Covid rates are low in Central Bucks. Our health department, who you refuse to speak to or take advice from, achieved containing the virus. You look foolish. Districts all over Bucks are listening to Dr. Damsker and opening their schools. You are hiding behind your computers. You have failed. Every comment on fb was what a disaster today was for their child. I don't know how any of you sleep at night. Especially Dr. Kopicki. My daughter asks why she can't go back to CB. I tell her because public school no longer exists in CB. Its the truth. Remember the children are watching.</p>

Denise C.	Bucks	It is fascinating to me that Dr. David Bolton, the superintendent of Penridge School District has successfully opened his schools, conducted live video school board meeting to over a thousand parents. All the while being open and TRANSPARENT. And yet our district and School Board Members passed on Dr. Bolton to hire Dr. Kopicki as our next CBSD Superintendent ....Seem's like Bolton took CB's moto with him.... Look who's "Leading the Way" now.... #openourschools
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