

Town Hall Meeting Notes - January 25th 5-8pm

Session 1

We love the district, teachers, great parents, far beyond expectations. With COVID mask mandate federal judge, appeals mask mandate can go back in place. From an educational perspective, no mask mandate is enforceable, preexisting from COVID, give the choice to parents about whether or not a child can wear a mask. Suggests that Wynantskill lead by giving parents a choice. Mask choice is the quickest way to pivot from COVID. Removal of masks would have the biggest impact.

PTA general council. 2 Court decisions, conflict of court, 4:30 today appellate division issued a stay, the case will be expedited. The decision in about a month.

Can we stop bringing laptops back and forth?

No district has a constitutional right, mask mandate. why aren't children allowed to eat at the lunch table, why aren't parents allowed in the building, on field trips?

Once the appeal has gone through, stay rational and logical when it comes to making decisions about children. Psychologically damaging for children, having to raise a hand to remove mask. Pivot away from restrictions. Can't hear teacher, distracting for the child. School Board held responsible for protecting children.

Allow families to participate in activities at school. Can parents come to boosterthon for more connection with home and school? Can a store-bought item be brought in for a birthday? Recess what is happening while students sit at a desk in recess. Suzann Cornell respond to concerns about recess

Thanked teachers. Grateful for keeping kids safe. When kids leave school COVID does not exist in their life. Wants mask to be parents decision. Missing option to be a school parent. Bring parents back in. Disconnect isn't healthy for kids and families. We can't get the time back.

Indoor recess K, 1, 4 can't get their energy out. Feels guilty as a parent because children can't get the socialization they need.

PTA join PTA participates every other month. See how the community side works with the staff. PTA wants more people to help.

Session 2

Notified community of the mask appeal. As of 4:30 today masks have to stay on in a school building.

Mr. Hurbanek thanked everyone for keeping children in school.

Cutting 4 + years ago of the fun, not concerned about COVID feels COVID is an excuse for taking things away from students, why only a cupcake on the main holiday- dance taken away- it replaces with nothing, children don't want to come to school, every school in the area is open. Do better. Nothing is being replaced.

join the PTA. Difficult to put out and fund activities when parents don't participate. Parents need to fund activities.

Parents are upset that parents can't participate in field trips, holiday shop, holiday concert,

Why do you as a Superintendent still have to follow guidance? Can some of the guidance be lifted? What areas can be lifted? Speech issues or learning difficulties in Kindergarten. If they are 6 feet apart why can't they take the masks off to learn?

problems with struggling students and support for the struggling students. Needs to be prioritized.

STEM club, after-school math club, science, children are struggling with math with quarantines, tutors for struggling kids, help struggling kids get extra help. Homework club with a late bus option. Informational Nights for parents on Common Core Information.

Turmoil in the building, a disservice to teachers saying there are no issues in the building, focus groups, the problem with children not being accounted for during the day, look at attendance policy and fix it. How are children tracked with absences?

Session 3

question on curriculum/scheduling accelerated 7th-grade classroom? Math Enrichment, Science, Real World Science, will enrichment ever exist again for 7th-grade students.

middle school does not have enough minutes in the day to teach beyond basics given the time frame. With COVID the learning curve has changed.

Is the goal to go back to the lab, and other enrichment options that will draw students to want to remain at GD for middle school rather than go elsewhere.

Children going into high school are at a disadvantage, not going into high school with the same advantage as children in the past have. Sports not running buses limits options. Dances, musicals, morning announcements. Please plan for next year.

Dylan is thrilled to be in school, and not have to be remote. Priority is mental health and get to the basics, be grateful for being in school.

What social-emotional learning actually looks like? Behaviors are increasing, kids don't love to come to school right now. How do we help kids get excited to come to school? Their day is jam-packed. What is actually being offered? The middle school schedule is jam-packed. SEL staff is trying to push in. The 6th-grade team is meeting to figure out how to transition into the schedule for next year. Group student pact. Follow up with SEL team.

Dr. Yodis cleans the building every weekend. Suzann helps with social-emotional needs. Thanks to school employees and teachers, and school board. Kyle things can always improve.

listen to what the kids want. Older kids want to feel like middle school students, take more student input.

95 members, barely make a quorum. Children can be members, kids are welcome to bring ideas to the school board. PTA middle school focus group/ student council, Principal lunches to stay on top of student issues. PTA has funds and is happy to support any middle school interests. PTA needs more input for middle school students. PTA needed this communication. Kids need to feel they have some control and choice/

Seen so many wonderful things at the school. COVID is definitely an issue. When the weather improves, bring back some of the indoor activities to the field or outdoors. Riding High Ranch in for a field trip.

The community that came together when XXX got hurt is no longer present. Adapt traditions to work during COVID. Not happy with older traditions disappearing. Bring back the dresses and tuxedos.

When do we talk to the superintendent/when do we speak with the principal?

Separation of what PTA does and what the school does. Relationship between parents and the school. Outline what changes are happening to families before it happens.

Honor Roll.

If parents have more input before changes at school happen. Rubric for 1-6 grade in School Tool. Change occurred through a more inquiry-based approach.

Has GD ever done Jr. National Honor Society? Issue with paying to run the program/builders club made more sense.

Celebrate bus drivers.

PTA needs boots on the ground to make things happen. Need people to chair activities.

PTA supported picnic tables and buddy benches for the playground for mental health. Opportunities for Rensco bike program. Kids don't need to be skilled at bike riding. It is focused on skill-building. FlowRiders RENSCO section ages 4-16. Bike rodeo through NYS PTA.

Shoutout to Darcy and SEPTA. SEPTA is available for parents and children for support.